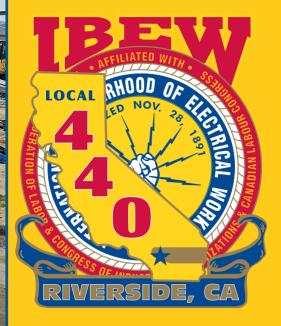
#### ISSUE 35, AUGUST - OCTOBER 2024 3RD QTR











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Business Manager / Financial Secretary – Jeremy Forshaw Asst Business Manager/ Lead Organizer - Bernie Balland President – Daniel "DOUBLE" Luther Vice President - Robert "Bobby G" Granados Treasurer - Colton Torrez Recording Secretary - Lonnie Garza Business Representative – Rick Hockwarth Organizer/Registrar – Venessa Ingalls Organizer – Jorge Esqueda Organizer – Jacob Gray

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Marcus "X" Blackwell Bryan Fromdahl Raymond Martinez Mikeal Stevens Israel Salinas

Editor Janell Wellman Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am pleased to share some important updates and developments with you:

#### **New Building Update**

We are excited to announce significant progress on our new building! The electrical drawings and furniture selections have been finalized. We are now collaborating with the building committee to determine the finishes.

#### **Vacation Fund Meeting**

As some of you may know, a special meeting was called on July 19th to discuss our vacation fund. I am pleased to report that the vote passed unanimously, with all in attendance showing support. American First Credit Union opened the meeting with an insightful presentation on how the vacation fund will operate and the benefits it offers to its members.

#### **Project Labor Agreement Approval**

The Project Labor Agreement has been approved for the Moreno Compressor Modernization Project in Moreno Valley. We will keep you informed on the timelines for this project as it progresses.

#### **RUHS Wellness Village**

I am thrilled to announce that the RUHS Wellness Village jobsite has finally broken ground. The project will consist of six buildings and dry utilities. Briggs Electric and Anderson & Howard will be the electrical contractors on site. Anderson & Howard will handle the dry utilities and two of the buildings, while Briggs Electric will take care of the remaining buildings. We are optimistic that calls for this project will start coming in during the third quarter of this year.

Stay tuned for more updates and thank you for your continued support!

In Solidarity, Jeremy Forshaw A298265 (951) 660-7046 Jeremy@ibew440.org

#### **Easley Solar Project**

Our staff has also been diligently working on the Easley Solar Project in Lake Tamarisk. We have been collaborating with the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to help get this project approved. We are looking forward to providing more updates as this project moves forward.

#### Lobby Day and Legislative Efforts

We also have our lobby day coming up in Sacramento with the California State Association of Electrical Workers. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss vital bills with our local politicians that are essential for bringing more work to Riverside County. Additionally, we continue to work closely with California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) to secure future utility-grade solar and battery storage projects.

#### Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP)

We have had several electrical contractors reaching out to us about having members with the Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) certifications. The Inland Empire Electrical Training Center (IEETC) does offer this course. Please reach out to our training center to learn how to obtain this certification.



## From the President's Desk

To the Brothers and Sisters of Local 440, I hope this letter finds you in a better place than the last one. As I write this, we are smack in the middle of summer, and it has been a hot one. Please remember to hydrate and keep an eye on your tooly. As far as the work picture goes, calls have been coming in daily. The Zone B work is wrapping up and everything in the near future will be in Zones A & D.

We are still moving forward on the new Hall. We are getting plans approved and look forward to getting started on renovations shortly. It is an exciting step for the Local and it will be setting up the members for generations to come. I would like to thank everybody who gave input on some design features and have supported the Officers as we take on this task.

The Annual 440 Picnic @ Rancho Jurupa Park is quickly approaching. The date is Saturday, September 21st. We will have tacos, hamburgers & hotdogs, plenty of frosty beverages for all ages, and of course some awesome raffles. We will also have Kona Ice and La Michoacana Ice Cream. Do not forget the always competitive Horseshoe Tournament.... who is taking home the trophy???? We will also be doing the food/ diaper drive; for every 5 items/pack of diapers, you will get a raffle ticket for a special prize.

In closing, I would like to thank the members who came to the Special Called Meeting on July 19th. This meeting was about enabling the Vacation Fund. It passed unanimously. Look for more information in the coming months as this gets rolled out. REMINDER.... The Vacation Fund is Member Optional. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. We will have another informational meeting when the time comes.

As always, my door is open, and my phone is always on. If you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Daniel "DOUBLE" Luther Card #D861164 Double@ibew440.org (951)204-4098 (cell)



This event will include: Brotherhood | Raffles | Food | Horseshoe Tournament

Saturday, September 21st, 2024 | 10:00am - 4:00pm 4800 Crestmore Rd, Riverside, CA 92509 For every 5 canned goods or pack of diapers you bring, you'll receive a ticket into the special raffle

#### BRING THIS FLYER WITH YOU FOR FREE PARKING

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Easley Solar Project. This 820 million dollar, 1050Mw solar project (400 PV&650 Battery) will be located in Desert Center near Lake Tamarisk and is looking to begin construction in approximately May of 2025. It will require 200-300 electricians and will last upwards of 2+ years. The significance of this introduction is due to the fact that this job will require a Call to Action from the membership. To get this job to the finish line it must pass a majority vote from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. We can do this by packing the house at the Riverside County Meeting when this vote takes place, a notification will be going out to announce the date. The previous General Membership meeting we had letters of support at the front table to sign and we will continue to supply the Letters of Support until that vote. Before that takes place, I will be meeting with each District Supervisor and supplying them with the overwhelming amount of letters we have already received and the stack that continues to grow to show them how important this job is for us. Please be sure to stop by the hall or partake in our next General Membership meeting so we can get these letters of support signed so we can make sure this job gets across the finish line!

Yours in Brotherhood, Jacob Gray #7964612





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## un.ion What is a UNION

#### Definition:

A UNION is an organization of WORKERS whose purpose is to maintain or improve the conditions of employment. This can break down to attaining better wages, jobsite conditions, safety standards and increasing the bargaining power of workers.

#### Notice.... It is made of the WORKERS, by the WORKERS...

A union is NOT an outside organization that comes in to assist when needed.

The point I'm trying to make is that our union is made up of US. Not Me, not any one individual. What we do on a daily basis affects everyone else. We have the power to change lives. We have the power to create better conditions. We have the power to negotiate better wages. No, it is not always easy. Yes, there are people out there trying to hurt us. Yes, sometimes it is easier to JUST WORK!! I can promise you; it will not get us anywhere though.

I encourage all of you to make this union OURS!! Come to the meetings and let your voice be heard! Participate in events, functions, classes, and brotherhood nights. Treat each other like family and lift each other up. Work your 8 for 8 in a Journeyman like manner and teach the apprentices. The power of the people is REAL, we just need to believe in ourselves and do not let the frustrations get to you. I know that is a tough one but nothing worthwhile comes easy.

As always, my phone is always on. Call if you need me at any time and I hope to see you at our meetings, events or at the school or at your jobs. Be safe family!!

Rick Hockwarth #8036825









#### **CONDUIT CLASS**

Many of you know, along with the responsibilities of being a Business Representative of our local, I am also a 4th year instructor at our IEETC. Over the summer break I ran a 10 week, in depth conduit class for those who wanted to learn more or who wanted to dial in their skills.

Over those 10 weeks we started off on the foundation of bending, the math. We then started at the basics: 90s, offsets and back-to-back bends. As the weeks went on, we got into parallel offsets, 3 bends, 4 bends and rolling offsets. This was definitely an in-depth class by the time we finished.

The class-built conduit training boards at the school for future apprentices to come to test their skills and to gain some needed knowledge of our trade. I would personally like to thank all the brothers and sisters who dedicated themselves to not only bettering themselves, but to bettering our union as well. It was great to watch our members come with uncertainty and leave with confidence! I am hoping to make this a regular reoccurring class. Keep your eye out on social media or our school calendar for updates. As always, it's an honor to teach.





## **The BIG Picture**

Looking at a picture of my daughter from not too long ago, I stumbled immediately onto a newer picture of Her, then happen to see the picture I took of the postcard for the special called meeting regarding the locals vacation fund. This made me realize how quickly things change, and how far we have come as a local. I know there are plenty of items that we as a membership need to be critical on, but there are more items for us to be proud of, and focus on, in attempt to move our local forward!

When I first became a member of Local 440 in

November of 1999, I swore in at the old "SHARED" building trades meeting location at 1074 East La Cadena Dr. Our membership was far below 700, our school was still off the Mountain View Exit off the 10 freeway, and our 440 office was also at the shared facility of our Building Trades, Central Labor Council, and part of the Labors facility.

Today our membership has grown to over 1400 members strong, our school (years ago now) has moved to a location that we have already outgrown and are currently in talks to add a new location, as well as update the existing location. We moved into our current 440 facility in 2008, the office as well as the shared meeting hall we use with local 47 are both upgrades to our old location on La Cadena Dr. A few years ago, we opened a satellite office in the Coachella Valley of our jurisdiction. In the last few months, we have been blessed with the opportunity to purchase our new facility, local 440's first ever location that is ours and ours alone. Friday July 19th our membership voted to approve the vacation fund option. Starting January of 2025 our membership for the first time ever will have the option to opt into a vacation fund, which has been a discussion for the whole 25 years that I have been a member.

I say this to bring light to where we were when I PERSONALLY became a member of this great Brotherhood and Local 440 specifically, and how far we have come. There will always be items that we as a membership need to be critical of, and hold the elected and appointed "staff" to the highest standard of effectiveness and efficiency. As we keep in our minds on the items that we want to improve on, we should also do our best to be proud of and enjoy the blessings and progress that our local has made.

With Love, respect, gratitude, solidarity Bernie Balland IJW #A123099





# **STAYING UPDATED**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, I hope this newsletter finds you well. Over the past months we have been busy inviting all non-union certified electricians to know the facts about joining the union. With the help of many brothers and sisters we were able to hit over 90% of the doors. We have had several new members who attended our January industry night and I have been in contact with a few from the door knocking and July industry night. It was very eye opening to see that many of the certified electricians believe that their company is looking out for them by keeping them busy. There was a several doors that we knocked on that ended up being c10 contractors. It is important for us to build these relationships with smaller contractors so that if in the future they need manpower they can think of the IBEW for the sole resource of labor.

If you or anyone you know is a CW6 that has 8k hours please get in contact with me. I have been working with the secretaries and the school to verify hours and grades so that we can move into the next classification. The next step is almost a \$10 an hour pay raise. In order to get to that next step, The individual must be evaluated on the 9th district hands on exam. This exam consists of conduit bending, circuitry and transformer make up. Our elected examining board takes time out of their weekend in order to serve the membership and make decisions on members or applicant getting their appropriate classification. Please keep in mind that as a CE/CW you are responsible for maintaining your ET card active and current. If the training center is going to recertify your ET card, please be sure that you renew it 3 months before the expiration date. This allows an ample amount of time to make sure that it is filled out correctly and that the school can send it out on time. Also, keep in mind that school is about to start. Apprentices and CW's must login to your account and see who your teacher is going to be and what day you will start. I want to remind everyone that apprentices should be turning in their timecards in a timely manner or risk delaying their classification raise. CE/CW's must also turn in hours to the hall in the months of May and December, failure to do so can cause a delay in their increase as well. JW's please check your state certification and me sure you have the 32 hours of continuing education you need to mail your renewal. Do your best to not let it lapse and use our training facility to get your hours.

For our Traveling JW's I would like to remind you that, our medical is covered hour for hour. There were situations in the past where people thought that they were losing medical due to a local not contributing enough to the health plan. That is not the case, if you are working in a local that contributes less than our contribution you will be covered hour for hour. Additionally, if you work overtime, you can bank those hours. Unfortunately, If that local does not contribute the same amount or more you will not derive a benefit on the FSA card. It would be in your best interest to keep pay stubs and know what each local contributes to you on your behalf. Sometimes there is a delay on the hours work and the hours reported due to a lag in the parties using ERTS. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out.

#### Y.I.B Jorge Esqueda 7890114



Union Dues as of July 1st, 2024 ► \$46.90 a month ► Convenience fees will apply to credit & debit card transactions

#### **Death Benefits**

We are currently at death benefit

# 338

Please check the top right side of your dues receipt to see what number you are paid through. For Example DF# 334-338 means you are paid through number 338, so you do not owe death benefits. Each Death Benefit is \$10.

Last death was: #338 Roy D. Bleer #337 Danny Esau

#### Membership

- Dues are due at the beginning of every month. You can pay your dues in advance if you choose.
- If you get behind 3 months, you will go into reinstatement. You must pay the reinstatement fee of \$30 plus all monthly dues and your death benefits to bring yourself current.
- Sign in on our website and pay your monthly dues online!

#### Membershin

24 hr notice for all Travel Letters.

Dues can be paid with: CASH - CARD - CHECK - MONEY ORDER Debit & CC fees will apply

Dues can also be paid on our website IBEW440.org or our App.

Our Palm Desert office is now able to process dues and merch payments. CARD SALES ONLY

App Tutorial



Scan OR Code for on screen navigation.



Have photos you want to share ? Send them to janell@ibew440.org to have them featured in the newsletter and other publications.

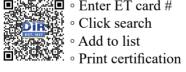


• Keep a folder and save a copy of your last check stub from each employer as you go, that way when it is time to submit your hours for upgrades you will have all documents needed.

► If you renew your ET card BEFORE it expires, you **DO NOT** have to pay the \$25 reinstatement fee. Set a reminder on your calendar 2 months before your expiration date, that way you give your self time for your paperwork to process.

CW hours are accepted at the end of the semester: December and May

To check your status on the DIR website, scan code and: • Enter ET card #



#### Passing's

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Calvín L. Turner *March* 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Danny Esau May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Roy D. Bleer June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Scott Jensen July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Newborn Corner

Matt & Ashley Medvec welcomed their son Maverick Thomas Lee Medvec on April 11th, 2024

If you have a birth announcement please email to janell@ibew440.org for the next newsletter. 0

**IBEW** 440

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### AUGUST 2024

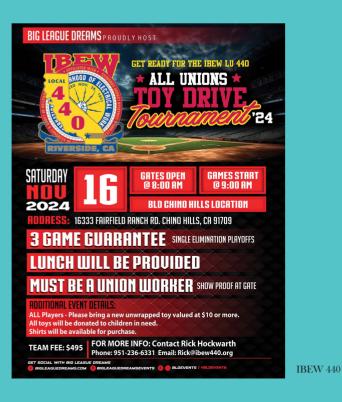
2<sup>nd</sup> - R.E.N.E.W Meeting (5-6pm) General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
10<sup>th</sup> - Code Class
24<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> District Softball Tournament
23-25<sup>th</sup> - 440 Fishing club Deep Sea trip - Spots still available
31<sup>st</sup> - Code Class

#### SEPTEMBER 2024

- 6<sup>th</sup> R.E.N.E.W Meeting (5-6pm) General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
- 21st IBEW Local 440 Picnic

#### **OCTOBER 2024**

4<sup>th</sup> - R.E.N.E.W Meeting (5-6pm) General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
5th - Poker Club tournament (10am at Riverside Hall)





#### Reference Numbers

#### **IEETC**

1855 Business Center Drive San Bernardino, CA 92408 Phone: (909) 890-1703 www.ieetc.org

For information on CA State Cert: Website: www.dir.ca.gov

(type: "electrician certification" in the search box or scan QR code on CW Tips section.)

Phone: (510) 286-3900

#### For information on your health, dental and vision coverage:

IBEW/NECA Family Medical Care Plan Phone: (877) 937-9602

For information on Pensions/ Annuity:

Defined Contribution Pension/ Annuity: Zenith American Phone: (844) 731-7311

Defined Benefit Pension: IBEW NECA Pension Phone: (800) 824-6935



For full list of benefit providers, phone numbers and website links SCAN QR CODE

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# Political Corner

## EQUITY :

As we continue to push for diversity and inclusion in the construction industry, it is crucial to understand the difference between equity and equality. While equality aims to treat everyone the same, regardless of their background or circumstances, equity recognizes that different individuals may require different levels of support or resources in order to truly level the playing field.

When it comes to bringing opportunities to women and previously underserved communities to enter into good union jobs, equity is key. By prioritizing equity, we can ensure that all individuals have the necessary resources and support to succeed in the industry, rather than simply providing them with equal opportunities that may not address their unique needs or challenges.

Fortunately, there is current legislation in place that prioritizes contractors and projects that include diverse components. By actively seeking out and supporting contractors who are committed to diversity and inclusion, we are not only creating more opportunities for women and underserved communities, but we are also positioning our contractors to capture more work in the long run.

It is important to note that this legislation was meant to aid unions, as they are often the most diverse in the industry. However, if we fail to take up these initiatives and prioritize diversity in our workforce, our non-union counterparts may be able to swoop in and capture work from our contractors who are not meeting these diversity requirements.

Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to prioritize equity and diversity in our industry, not only to bring more opportunities to women and underserved communities, but also to ensure the success and longevity of our union contractors. By actively supporting and promoting diversity, we can create a more inclusive and equitable industry for all.

In Solidarity,

Venessa Ingalls IBEW #440 (951)522-7660 V.Ingalls@IBEW440.org





In the latest political corner, IBEW Local 440 has officially endorsed candidates for state and federal races. Be sure to check out the list of endorsed candidates.

Local and regional races are currently undergoing the endorsement process and will be announced later this month. Keep an eye out for mailers outlining our endorsed candidates.

Don't forget to utilize the resources on our IBEW 440 App, where you can register to vote or check your voter registration status. All endorsements will be listed on the app once they have been made.

A big thank you to our new organizer Jacob Gray for stepping up to help conduct endorsement interviews during the 9th district progress meeting. Thank you for your dedication to our union and the political process.

Additionally, you can find information and resources on our IBEW Government Affairs website.

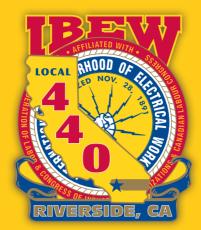


#### Upcoming Statewide Elections • General Election - November 5, 2024

VS

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

1405 Spruce St., Suite G Riverside, CA 92507

#### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (closed for lunch 12PM to 1PM)

Telephone: (951) 684-5665 \* Fax: (951) 369-9032 Job Hotline: (951) 684-7607 Website: ibew440.org Resign Email: resign@ibew440.org

**Coachella Valley Electrical Resource Center** 39615 Washington St Suite G Palm Desert, CA 92211

> Tuesday – Friday 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (closed for lunch 12PM to 1PM)

> > **Telephone:** (760) 999-1078

