

# CONDUITS FOR CHANGE

IBEW Local 332 News | Fall 2022 | [WWW.IBEW332.ORG](http://WWW.IBEW332.ORG)



**INSIDE:** Welcome Blue Arc to the IBEW 332 Team | Nov. 8 Election Voter Guide: VOTE! | Member Picnic



**Tanner Silva, Blue Arc Journeyman & New 332 Member**  
Photo by Brooke Anderson

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Our Condolences

Local 332 honors our members who have recently passed away. We honor their lives and their years of service in the field. Our hearts go out to their loved ones during these challenging times. Please take a moment to remember:

♦ **Matthew J. Ackerman**

D.O.D 3/2/22

♦ **John C. Jochem Jr.**

D.O.D 6/3/22

♦ **Jerry S. O'Neal**

D.O.D 8/19/22

♦ **Thomas A. William**

D.O.D 6/10/22

♦ **Jack F Youngren**

D.O.D 5/18/22

## In-Person Union Meetings Continue

Our in-person union meetings have resumed and are going strong every first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 at the hall. Join us to learn more about union business, political issues, and community service opportunities, while enjoying the camaraderie of union brothers and sisters. For ongoing union updates, go to:

♦ **website: [ibew332.org](http://ibew332.org)**

♦ **facebook.com/Local332**

♦ **instagram.com/ibewlocalunion332**

♦ **twitter.com/332Ibew**

## Local 332 President Javier Casillas: Member Outings This Fall

As the days grow shorter, we know that the holidays are just around the corner. For some that's a happy time, and for others, it can be hard. This season, from Halloween to Veterans' Day to Thanksgiving to Christmas, we have a variety of member social events. While things around us may be difficult, it's always good to connect with fellow IBEW brothers and sisters.

It's also an opportunity to be out in our community. We've been here for 110 years, and through our volunteerism, we've become part of the fabric of the community. That's what the brother and sisterhood is all about. I firmly believe that the more we participate together, the more our union grows. I encourage all members to get involved with Local 332.



## UPCOMING IBEW LOCAL 332 SOCIAL EVENTS: JOIN US!

- **Oct 22: Community Halloween Haunt | the ETA (JATC) | 5pm**  
Friends, family, and neighbors welcome. BEWARE! You will be scared!
- **Nov 10: Veterans' Charity Poker Tournament | the Hall | 5:30pm**  
Benefitting Operation Freedom PAWS to provide service dogs to vets.
- **Nov 19: Putting up the San Jose Xmas Tree | Cesar Chavez Park | 8:30am**  
We'll be hoisting and lighting the 65-foot tree!
- **Nov 25: Turkey Trot 10K (Run or Walk) | Downtown San Jose | Time TBD**
- **Dec 3: IBEW Local 332 Annual Holiday Party | the Hall | Time TBD**



# FROM OUR BUSINESS MANAGER

## Greetings Brothers & Sisters

The economy, rising inflation, and the stock market have been at the top of my mind just like many of you. **My top concern is always negotiating the highest wages and securing our pensions.**

We negotiate our collective bargaining agreements every three years, and in our last two inside wiremen contracts, we won our biggest wage increases in our union's history. **However, that doesn't mean that we don't feel the pinch when the cost of gas, groceries, and housing outpaces our wages.**

Our next inside wiremen contract is up in 2024. Our sound and communication contract expires in November, and negotiations have begun. And material handlers had their allocation vote in August, choosing to allocate \$2.00 dollars to wages, \$.25 cents to health and welfare and \$.25 cents to pension. **There are three things that give us power at the bargaining table:**

1. **Continue our cutting-edge work.** Because of our apprenticeship program and the standards of our mentor journeymen in the field, I believe the value and quality of our craftsmanship is second to none.
2. **Increase market share.** By organizing more nonunion shops and electricians into the union, there are fewer nonunion options to undercut union shop bids. This year, Blue Arc became the largest nonunion shop to go union in our Local's history. Read our welcome to 39 new members in this newsletter.
3. **Strengthen our union.** Our union is only as strong as our member involvement. I encourage you to attend meetings, social events, and political activities. By strengthening the bonds of the brother and sisterhood, we strengthen our position in negotiations.

Aside from the bargaining table, the biggest thing members can do to have a steady flow of high-paying work is to vote in the interest of labor. **Having the right people in office has the greatest effect on our future work.** I urge all of our members to vote and to get your friends and family to vote on or before November 8.

In Solidarity,



Dan Romero  
Business Manager



**Dan Romero**  
**Business Manager**  
**Financial Secretary**

## Our Jobs Depend on Our Votes

Politics often brings up feelings of division. However, at Local 322, our members know that we must unite locally to ensure our jobs are there in the future.

332's growth and work picture depend on electing labor-friendly leaders who will pass PLAs and spending for city and state infrastructure. Our strength lies in our numbers. I invite you to reach out to Will: [wsmith@ibew332.org](mailto:wsmith@ibew332.org) or Alex: [acaraballo@ibew332.org](mailto:acaraballo@ibew332.org) to walk precincts, put up yard signs, and make calls to help turn out the working family vote in our area.

**Most importantly, I urge YOU to vote by November 8! Our endorsements are in this newsletter.**

## **Aisha Wahab | CA State Senate District 10**

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So much is at stake on the state level, with \$50 billion in Biden's infrastructure bill money coming to CA, including roughly \$10.5 billion for IBEW-made EV charging stations. We need an advocate like Aisha to ensure that work is done by skilled union workers from approved apprenticeships. Aisha sits on the Hayward City Council and has been a longtime labor ally, passing numerous policies around wage theft and the minimum wage. Her opponent is not union-friendly at all.



## **Cindy Chavez | San Jose Mayor**

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Electing Cindy would be a game-changer. As the former head of the South Bay Labor Council and an IBEW ally on the San Jose City Council and Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, Cindy has moved policies that have benefitted our members. She helped secure numerous county PLAs and \$6 billion for the BART extension, which is primarily IBEW work. Her opponent is a Sam Liccardo clone who is extremely anti-union. He has voted against PLAs on the city council.



## **Sylvia Arenas | Santa Clara County Supervisor District 1**

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This race is critical because we have an opportunity to elect the first labor ally to this South County seat in a very long time. Sylvia has helped us accomplish some major goals in her time on the San Jose City Council. She negotiated our first PLA back in 2017, and she was a big factor in our recent upgrade here in 2022. She is facing Johnny Khamis, who is one of the most anti-labor legislators in the county. Join 332 in putting an ally, not an enemy, on the Board of Supervisors.



## **Maya Esparza | San Jose City Council District 7**

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Maya has been our closest friend on the San Jose City Council. She is very in tune with the IBEW and reaches out to us for our opinions. She is a tireless advocate on our behalf and spearheaded changes to PLA language for the City of San Jose. Her opponent is hand-picked by Sam Liccardo and serves the interests of big business--not our members. Electing Maya is critical to keeping our majority of labor-friendly voices on the city council.



## **Ronald Robinson (IBEW 332 Member) | Gilroy City Council**

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We have the opportunity to elect Brother Ronald Robinson, an IBEW 332 member. He has been very active in our Political Action Committee and has lobbied in Sacramento and in city council meetings across our jurisdiction. With more of our work moving south, it is critical to have a voice in Gilroy to make sure workers are represented. It is an exciting opportunity to have one of our own making decisions on development in Gilroy. The future of 332's work depends on it.



# IBEWVOTES.COM NOV. 8 VOTER GUIDE

## FEDERAL

U.S. Senate	Alex Padilla
U.S. House of Representatives, District 16	Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives, District 17	Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives, District 18	Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives, District 19	Jimmy Panetta

## CA STATE

Governor	Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor	Eleni Kounalakis
Secretary of State	Shirley Weber
Controller	Malia Cohen
Treasurer	Fiona Ma
Attorney General	Rob Bonta
Insurance Commissioner	Ricardo Lara
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond
Board of Equalization, District 2	Sally Lieber

<b>California State Senate, District 10</b>	<b>Aisha Wahab - priority race!</b>
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California State Assembly, District 23	Marc Berman
California State Assembly, District 24	Alex Lee
California State Assembly, District 25	Ash Kalra
California State Assembly, District 26	Evan Low
California State Assembly, District 28	Gail Pellerin
California State Assembly, District 29	Robert Rivas

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

<b>Santa Clara County Supervisor District 1</b>	<b>Sylvia Arenas - priority race!</b>
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Santa Clara County Sheriff	No Endorsement
Santa Clara County Board of Education Area 2	Tara Sreekrishnan
Santa Clara County Board of Education Area 6	Maimona Afzal Berta
Santa Clara County Board of Education Area 7	Raeena Lari
Santa Clara County Valley Water District 1:	John Varela
Santa Clara County Valley Water District 4	Jim Beall
Santa Clara County Valley Water District 6	Tony Estremera
Santa Clara County Valley Water District 7	Gary Kremen

# IBEWVOTES.COM NOV. 8 VOTER GUIDE

CITY/TOWN	
Campbell City Council	No Endorsements
Cupertino City Council 3 At Large Seats	Claudio Bono/Joseph JR Fruen/Sheila Mohan
<b>Gilroy City Council 3 At Large Seats</b>	<b>Ronald Robinson (332 Member) - priority race!</b> Jan Bernstien Chargin/Joseph Robinson
Hollister Mayor	Mia Casey
Hollister City Council District 2	Hani Mayzouni
Hollister City Council District 3	Dolores Morales
Los Gatos Town Council	Rob Rennie
Milpitas Mayor	Katrina Dominguez or Anthony Phan
Morgan Hill Mayor	Rich Constantine
Morgan Hill City Council	Yvonne Martinez Beltran
Mountain View City Council 3 At Large Seats	Alison Hicks/Ellen Kamei/Lucas Ramirez
Palo Alto City Council At Large Seats	Lisa Forssell/Julie Lythcott-Haims/Vicki Veenker
<b>San Jose Mayor</b>	<b>Cindy Chavez - priority race!</b>
San Jose City Council District 3	Omar Torres
San Jose City Council District 5	Nora Campos
<b>San Jose City Council District 7</b>	<b>Maya Esparza - priority race!</b>
City of Santa Clara Mayor	No Endorsement
Sunnyvale City Council District 3	Murali Srivinasra or Justin Wang
Sunnyvale City Council District 5	Richard Mehlinger
BALLOT MEASURES	
California Proposition 30	YES! YES! YES!
Gilroy Measure D	YES
Milpitas Measure F	YES
Palo Alto Measure L	YES
City of Santa Clara Measure G	YES
San Benito County Measure R	NO
Alum Rock Union School District Measure S	YES
East Side Union High School District Measure N	YES
Oak Grove School District Measure P	YES
*** Visit <a href="http://IBEWVOTES.com">IBEWVOTES.com</a> to find endorsements for other counties and state measures. ***	

## SCHOOL BOARDS/COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

Alum Rock Union School District	Ricardo Garcia/Mike Pham Andres Quintero/Ernesto Bejarano
Berryessa Union School District	Thema B. Boac/Hugo A. Jimenez/Jaria Jaug
Cambrian School District Governing Board	No Endorsement
Campbell Union School District Area 1	Richard Nguyen
Campbell Union School District Area 4	Chris Miller
Campbell Union High School District	James Kim
Cupertino Union School District	Ava Chiao/Darcy Paul
East Side Union High School District 2 At Large Seats	Lorena Chavez/J. Manuel Herrera
Evergreen School District	Jeremy Barousse/Stam Rose/Marisa Hansen
Fremont Union High School District	Rosa Kim/Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto
Gavilan Joint Community College District Area 1	Kathy Chavez Napoli
Gavilan Joint Community College District Area 2	Alicia Cortez
Gavilan Joint Community College District Area 3	Gabriel Gutierrez
Gavilan Joint Community College District Area 4	Jeanie Wallace
Gavilan Joint Community College District Area 7	Irma Gonzalez
Milpitas Unified School District	No Endorsement
Morgan Hill Unified School District Area 1	Nancy Altman-Palm
Morgan Hill Unified School District Area 3	Terri Eves Knudsen
Oak Grove School District Area 3	Jorge Pacheco Jr.
Oak Grove School District Area 5	Taunya Jaco
Palo Alto Unified School District	Nicole Chiu-Wang
Santa Clara Unified School District Area 3	Vickie Fairchild
Santa Clara Unified School District Area 6	Jodi Muirhead
San Jose Evergreen Community College District 2	Karen Martinez
San Jose Evergreen Community College District 3	Tony Alexander
San Jose Evergreen Community College District 4	Buu Thai
San Jose Unified School District Area 2	Jose Magaña

**\*\*\* GET INVOLVED! PRECINCT WALK/PHONE BANK/GET OUT THE VOTE \*\*\***

Local 332 is a powerhouse in local politics because our members get involved in the electoral process and turn out voters for labor-friendly candidates and legislation. Join our Political Action Committee (PAC) to precinct walk, phone bank, and get out the vote! For info, contact Alex at [acaraballo@ibew332.org](mailto:acaraballo@ibew332.org) or Will at [wsmith@ibew332.org](mailto:wsmith@ibew332.org)



# BLUE ARC JOINS TEAM IBEW 332



**Pete Seaberg**  
**IBEW 332 Vice President**

"Organizing Blue Arc Electric into the union is a win for Local 332, for Blue Arc, and most importantly, for the members. It's a monumental win in our history to bring such a large nonunion shop into the Local."

"It's important to grow our union by organizing new members and adding quality contractors like Blue Arc. By doing so, we instantly increased our market share by \$10 million and put numerous members to work. Additionally, the more we control our market, the stronger our position at the bargaining table is to negotiate our contracts. This drives our future success, affecting everything from the ability to build our brand-new training facility, to keeping our pension plans well-funded."

"Blue Arc is the largest and most successful nonunion shop we've ever organized in 332 history. It took five years of building a relationship and negotiating."

"Welcome Blue Arc and our 39 new union members to the IBEW Local 332 Team!"

## **Chet Barraclough & Jared Kroner | Blue Arc Owners**

"2023 will mark 20 years that Blue Arc has been in business. In that time, we generally did a few million in business every year, with \$8.9M as our record. We had always been successful in the nonunion market, but we had to turn down two to three times the work simply because we didn't have the manpower."

"We thought about the business we were losing and forecasted what the overhead expense of going union would be. There was a risk because we'd lose some clients. When we decided to take the plunge, some doors closed, but three times as many opened. Now we have a different problem, in that there's \$21 million of work in the pipeline, and we have to grow really fast."

"Within the first couple weeks of being union, we hired a bunch of members, and went from a 39 to 50-man shop. We have nothing but nice things to say about the quality of the IBEW workforce. We've never had this level of skill and professionalism with new employees. We've had to survive hiring people with very little experience. With the union, everyone who has walked through the door has been stellar."

"Going union is a profound commitment, not just to the contract, but to the culture, and to holding ourselves to the highest standards of work and community. We look forward to a bright partnership with 332 to work as a team and lift each other up."



**Jared & Chet of Blue Arc speak with Pete from 332 on site.**



# BLUE ARC PUTS 332 MEMBERS TO WORK

## Jeremy Quinnett | 332 Journeyman & New Blue Arc Employee

"I entered the IBEW apprenticeship in 2005, and have been with the union ever since. I took the job call for Blue Arc about three months ago, and so far it's going great.

"They are a smaller shop, so they don't have hundreds of thousands of dollars to throw around, but they really take care of their employees. They ensure the small things are tended to so the job is a pleasure to go to. Blue Arc cares about us and has welcomed 332 workers into their family.

"I enjoy the trades and building stuff. I look at it as a craft: you build something, you look back, and it's still there. I take pride in what I do and spend that extra time to do it right. That's the union way.

"My advice to nonunion electricians or people trying to get into the apprenticeship is that if you're not accepted to the union, keep trying. And if you are an apprentice or journeyman, take pride in your install. Once you walk away from your work, it's yours, so get it just perfect.

"I'm so tired after work, so I like to just spend my extra energy on my partner and our two kids. We try to have family outings by going for a walk or even just staying at home to have quality time together. It's a good life."



## Chris Doyle | 332 Journeyman & New Blue Arc Employee

"I've been with the union for 26 years. I was the first Local 332 member to come over to Blue Arc, and I helped with the transition.

"Prior to my journey in the IBEW, I was a high school dropout, working as a grocery clerk and looking for a career. My father was a union electrician and always pushing me to take the test. I finally did, entered the apprenticeship, turned out, and eventually became an instructor at the 332 training center. It's ironic that someone who never finished high school would become an instructor.

"I got a call from Javier Casillas back in February, asking if I'd like to go work for Blue Arc. He thought it might be a perfect fit for me because they needed someone who was familiar with the latest installation methods and best practices, but also understood the culture of being an IBEW member from both the field and office perspectives. It's unprecedented for a successful nonunion company like Blue Arc go union. I've never seen it in my career. For it to work, they have to grow, and the stakes could not be higher.

"In my free time, I like to golf. But to be honest, right now, I am completely focused on getting Blue Arc to where they want to be and doing whatever it takes to move the company forward."



# BLUE ARC JOINS TEAM IBEW 332



**Tanner Silva**  
**Journeyman**

"I'm a local guy: born and raised in the South Bay and live in Santa Clara with my two dogs. I actually went to high school with the son of Blue Arc's owner, which was how I got my foot in the door nine years ago. Before that, I did retail and security.

"I enjoy hands-on work. I build stuff, and it fits into my hobbies and interests of working with my hands. At home I do a lot of woodworking, a little bit of metal work, and I spend most of my time outdoors tinkering.

"When I found out the shop was going union, I was excited because it creates more opportunities for bigger jobs with more manpower. It opens up a window to learn and do work you haven't done before, whereas small jobs can get repetitive.

"So far the union has been great--everyone has welcomed us with open arms!"





# WELCOME 39 NEW MEMBERS

## Nick Ferguson | Apprentice (right)

"I remember in high school, they were pushing college, college, college, but in wood shop they said, 'don't forget about the trades.' I was going to school to pursue a degree in biochemistry, but I couldn't be in school for eight years and needed to work sooner. I love that I ended up in the trades.

"I like that the trades offer a hands-on way of learning; you can use a wide range of skills; and it's stimulating mentally and physically.

"I've been at Blue Arc for three years, and when I heard we were going union, I thought I was getting a golden ticket. It's the opportunity of a lifetime to be in the union, with the standard of living, the benefits, and the brotherhood. It's the ideal future handed to me on a silver platter--not that I don't have to work hard, but it's a good way for that hard work to pay off.

"The union is the idea that we are the working class, we're the people, and we're all in it together. I'm talking not just about the electrical trades, but all union trades. We have a sense of brother and sisterhood, and we have each other's backs on the job, in the apprenticeship program, and in life."



## Tim Albers | General Foreman

"I've been an electrician for 24 years--it's my lifelong career. I like the design aspect of taking a blank set of drawings and detailing it all out. My favorite is building an electrical room and designing how all the conduits leave the panels and switch gears. I also enjoy piping open ceilings and exposed electrical work to make it look aesthetically pleasing. I take pride in installing clean electrical work with all my brothers and sisters.

"I was with Blue Arc for about 12 years before leaving to join the union. As I got older and wiser, I felt that benefits, retirement, and steady pay increases were a higher priority. I stayed in contact with one of the owners, and he asked questions about how the IBEW worked. When they decided to make the switch to union, I jumped at the chance to go back and help the company get to the next level. It was like the feeling of going back to my old home, and I'm happy the opportunity fell into my lap.

"I like being in the IBEW because of the brotherhood feeling, how things are organized, and the security of workflow, benefits, and retirement. My family is growing. My girlfriend and I recently had a little girl, and with our other two girls, our rental feels small. We want to buy a house with some land where we can have horses and space to work on classic cars. Having a union job and the security that comes with it will help us get there."





# IBEW LOCAL 332 FAMILY PICNIC





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**IBEW Local 332**  
**2125 Canoas Garden Ave #100**  
**San Jose, CA 95125**

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
San Jose, CA  
Permit # 1133

Business Manager  
Dan Romero

Assistant Business Manager  
James Williams

President  
Javier Casillas

Vice President  
Pete Seaberg

Recording Secretary  
Ryan Serene

Treasurer  
Craig Tomasello

## November 8 Election Guide Enclosed: VOTE!

# NOV. 8 ELECTION VOTER GUIDE INSIDE

### Voter Registration

- All registered voters will be sent a mail ballot starting October 10.
- Check whether you are registered at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)
- Register through 10/24/22 at [registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov)

### Ways to Vote: In Person or By Mail Ballot

- Find your polling place at [sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place)
- 10/10-11/8: Find early voting & official ballot drop box locations: [caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov](https://caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov)
- 11/8 Election Day: In person or drop off ballot at polling place 7am-8pm
- Via USPS mail with a postmark on or before 11/8/22 (not recommended)

### Key Links

- CA election/vote info hub: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections)
- Track your ballot (pre-election): [california.ballottrax.net/voter](https://california.ballottrax.net/voter)
- Check status of ballot (post vote): [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

**For all counties, visit [IBEWVOTES.com](https://IBEWVOTES.com) to find labor endorsements.**



**Aisha Wahab:**  
**CA State Senate D10**



**Cindy Chavez:**  
**San Jose Mayor**



**Sylvia Arenas:** Santa Clara County Supervisor D1



**Maya Esparza:** San Jose City Council D7



**Ronald Robinson:** Gilroy City Council