

# CONDUITS FOR CHANGE

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



**INSIDE: Political Roundup | Xmas Tree Lighting | Apprentice Contest | 332 Veterans | Halloween Haunt**



**332 Members Assemble the San Jose Christmas Tree**  
Photo by Jennie Smith-Camejo



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Our Condolences

Local 332 honors our members who have passed away during the pandemic. We honor their lives and their years of service in the field. Our hearts go out to their loved ones during the holidays which is always a hard time of year. There have been no deaths since the last newsletter. Always let us know at the hall.

## In-Person Union Meetings

Our in-person union meetings 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 more union updates, go to:

- ♦ [website: ibew332.org](http://ibew332.org)
- ♦ [facebook.com/Local332](https://facebook.com/Local332)
- ♦ [instagram.com/ibewlocalunion332](https://instagram.com/ibewlocalunion332)
- ♦ [twitter.com/332ibew](https://twitter.com/332ibew)

## Local 332 President Javier Casillas: The Conditions We Make (1 of 4)

I want you to ask yourself, "How did I end up here in IBEW 332?" I will bet with some reflection, you will look to the past with fond memories of the mentors that guided you or continue to help along your career. We are all part of a Union community, and the conditions we make directly affect each other every day. During the holidays, we reminisce with our friends, family, and IBEW family about our lives. This is the season we make resolutions for next year, but you can make changes right now.

Running work in Local 332 is the burden of privilege. When asked, I encourage every 332 member to say yes whenever possible. Who else will protect our collective bargaining agreement and working conditions better than our homegrown 332 talent?

You are IBEW first, and we need to keep improving conditions for the men and women who make our jobs successful. Please be open to input; listen to concerns about safety; show urgency when the outhouses are not serviced regularly; always provide clean and quiet rest areas with tables and chairs; and for any questions about our agreement, call the hall. A paycheck is for the work we do--a thank you for a job well done. These are common decencies we need to maintain, and when you take care of your brothers and sisters, they will take care of you in return.



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

- Jan 7: Tear-down of San Jose Xmas Tree | Cesar Chavez Park | 8:30am
- Feb: Family Movie Night | Union Hall | Date/Time TBD
- Mar: Barracuda Hockey Night | Date/Time TBD

# FROM OUR BUSINESS MANAGER

## Greetings Brothers & Sisters

This fall, 332 was really back in the swing of things with our union activities. It's nice to see the members turn out and participate. It strengthens the brother- and sisterhood of the union.

The November mid-term election was a big success for labor, not only on the national stage, but in California and locally, where our elected leaders really have a lot of sway around our members' work. **Out of 80 candidates and ballot measures that Local 332 endorsed, 78 won.** Thank you to our members for precinct walking, phone banking, and most importantly, voting.

Another big thing that happened this fall was that we ratified the Sound & Communication contract. **We won the biggest wage increase in our history with a raise of \$4.50, demonstrating how the contractors see the value of our members' skill and work.** The contract is for one year, and the allocation vote result was as follows:

**\$3.25 for wages, \$.85 went to pension, \$.40 for health and welfare, and starting January 1st, there will be a dues checkoff for the unit.**

I encourage members to spread the word about the S&C NorCal apprenticeship. **We are seeing double-digit growth in that industry, and there's a real opportunity for young applicants.** Our commercial apprenticeship gets 3000 applicants a year with a waiting list of 600. The S&C only has a fraction of that, so the odds are good for people to get in. For more information, go to [norcal-jatc.com](http://norcal-jatc.com).

Looking ahead to 2023, we are focusing a lot on the residential market. Because of legislation passed by President Biden as well as Governor Newsom, there are federal and state dollars coming down the pike to build affordable housing. **We need to ensure that PLAs are in place and that work goes to our members.**

In this newsletter, you can see our members in action this fall. **I hope this inspires you to get involved in 2023 as well.** Happy holiday season!

In Solidarity,



Dan Romero  
Business Manager



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

## EVCS Training Available

With the passage of President Biden's historic infrastructure bill, \$40 billion is coming to California over the next ten years, in part for electric vehicle charging stations. There is also \$20 million being devoted to Santa Clara County VTA's new electric bus fleet and charging stations. I highly encourage members take advantage of our Training Center's electric vehicle charging stations classes coming soon in 2023.

Right now there is a lot of work on our commercial side, but with a potential recession coming, things could change. Having these valuable skills will help secure your work for the next decade in this new industry. Look for information in 2023 at [ETASV.org](http://ETASV.org).

# 2022 MIDTERM ELECTION ROUNDUP

## 332 Members Helped Move 78 Out of 80 Candidates/Measures to Victory!

### Victory for Our Two Most Critical Candidates!

With 37 new legislators in Sacramento, it was important to elect folks who have our backs. Aisha Wahab's CA Senate race was essential to all of the IBEW's statewide work. She has been a champion for IBEW and the building trades for years, and we were thrilled to help her get across the finish line. Sylvia Arenas' opponent for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors race was one of the most anti-union legislators in the county, and with her win, we can safeguard and push for more PLAs.



**Aisha Wahab, CA State Senate & Sylvia Arenas, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, won critical races**

### We Kept Our Pro-Union Majority in San Jose!

With the passage of Measure B in the June election to move the mayoral race to presidential election years and Rosemary Kamei's victory for the City Council District 1 seat, we maintained our pro-labor majority on council and put ourselves in a solid position for 2024. We had two disappointing losses for our staunch allies: Cindy Chavez for mayor and Maya Esparza for city council; but we will continue to move forward. We feel confident that in 2024, with the stronger voter turnout resulting from Measure B, we will have our first pro-union mayor in 25 years. Additionally, our council majority delivered on an appointment process for the two open seats: Districts 8 and 10. We will likely strengthen our majority with a pro-union appointment.

### Victories Across the Region to Keep Our Members Working!

In Mountain View, we kept our pro-union supermajority, and in Palo Alto, we picked up a majority of pro-union councilmembers. With so much 332 work in these two cities, we know we can count on both city councils to ensure that new projects go union. We also got some great, job-creating measures passed at the Alum Rock and East Side Union school Districts which should keep our members working for a long time thanks to our strong PLAs.

### Big-Time Reminder: Every Vote Counts!

One of our endorsed candidates in Sunnyvale, Justin Wang, is up by only two votes. Often it can feel like our votes don't make a difference. However, this race demonstrates just how important a single vote can be.

## Get Involved & Have Your Political Voice Heard!

**Democracy doesn't end at the ballot box. We must now focus on governing and ensure that the people we elected actually follow through on pro-union legislation, PLAs, and a budget that benefits working families. We invite all members to join the Political Action Committee!**

**For info, contact Alex at [acaraballo@ibew332.org](mailto:acaraballo@ibew332.org) or Will at [wsmith@ibew332.org](mailto:wsmith@ibew332.org).**



# MEMBERS ASSEMBLE THE SAN JOSE XMAS TREE





# MEMBERS ASSEMBLE THE SAN JOSE XMAS TREE





# TROUBLESHOOTING TO SUCCESS

## Chris Maag | Journeyman

"Being part of the union, there's good career opportunities, and it's made it easier to raise a family and buy a house. I've been helped along the way, so it's good to give back to the Local. Setting up the San Jose Christmas tree was fun, even though it was also a little bit of a fiasco. The City had put some pieces together, and we had to take it apart and put it back together. Then one of the boom lifts was stuck, and we had to send another lift up to get one of our guys. We persevered and got the job done. And that's how we do things in the IBEW!"



## Edward Wong (Dad/Journeyman) & Jacob Castrejon (Son/Apprentice)

"I've been with the Local since 1999, and this is the first time I did the tree. There were a lot of challenges with the installation. But there's always things that aren't planned for, and as electricians, you adjust and adapt. One of my proudest moments was when my son entered the trades," said Edward. His son Jacob chimed in, "My father sparked my interest in the trades in childhood. When told me they put the tree up every year, I wanted to be there 100% and meet more of the union members. It's pretty cool to say you helped build that tree."



## Timothy & Lilliana Martinez (Husband & Wife)

For Tim and Lilliana Martinez, being electricians and volunteering with the Local is a family affair. Tim turned out in 2010, while Lilliana is finishing up her last year in the inside apprenticeship. She was featured in a previous newsletter. For Tim, volunteering is all about community. He said, "Being involved with the union is good camaraderie, while showing the community that we care. The IBEW is out there and always giving back. It's important for people to see us in a positive light and maybe we can inspire some kid walking by to get into the trades."



## Elvis Paramo | Apprentice

"Putting up the tree is something I've always wanted to do, and it was a great way to fulfill service hours. I'm proud of representing the Local and helping out the community. I was there at 7am on Saturday, and we ran into some problems, so we had to come back again on Sunday. When we hung the lights, I felt really proud of it. I grew up in the area, and since I was a little kid, my mom would take us to Christmas in the Park. Now that I have my own kids, it was my turn to bring them. But now I can say I put up this tree!"



# MICHAEL BROTHERTON COMPETES IN THE



**Robert Chon**  
**ETA-SV Apprentice Coordinator**

"We always tell our apprentices that this is a profession, and you are highly- paid professionals. We encourage them to reach past the bare minimum and strive to achieve. It's an honest industry, and whatever you invest, it'll come back to you.

"You never improve if you stay in your comfort zone; you have to push yourself. We recruit for the Western State Electrical Contest among the graduates and usually get just a few volunteers to train. As the deadline gets closer, we choose the strongest competitor.

"It's a commitment to put yourself out there and invest your time. You reap the benefits as it's a springboard to career success. All of our past competitors have gone on to have excellent careers.

"Next year, we'll be hosting the contest at the ETA-SV. We hope it will be the most successful competition ever, drawing 30 participants. And we'll be hosting at our brand new facility, which is something all the members can take pride in."



**Michael (in plaid) in the residential wiring event**



**Michael in the pipe-bending event**



**The 12 competitors in the contest**



# WESTERN STATES ELECTRICAL CONTEST

## Michael Brotherton | Turned Out in June 2022 & Now at Blue Arc Electric

"Before I was in the trades, I was a part-time mechanic, worked at a grocery store, and was going to school for mechanical engineering. I was looking at pay rates and saw that electricians made the same amount or more than engineers who needed more schooling. I talked to my grandfather, who was a 40-year electrician, and it just made more sense for me to go into the trades.

"The apprenticeship was awesome. You get what you put into it. You'll learn a lot no matter what, but there's a lot more available than just the basic curriculum. You can take extra classes, take advantage of tutoring, and tap into resources you just won't get anywhere else.

"A few months ago, I got a call from Robert Chon at the training center asking me if I'd like to come in and train for the Western States Electrical Contest. There were two other people, but I was the only one available to go.

"The competition was fierce, and clearly the other contestants had really put in months of training. Their practice showed because the events were all about speed, and they were faster than me. The pipe bending was the most fun: you had to be exact, take every measurement, and it got me back into doing things correctly. Though I didn't win anything, I had a great time, did my best work, and I was proud to represent Local 332.

"I think the best part about being an electrician is being able to wire my house and not have to call anyone. There's a lot of opportunity and freedom in the trades. In my spare time, I like to build race cars. It's challenging doing all the engineering and troubleshooting to make your car do what you want. Whether it's cars or electrical work, I like being able to step back and be proud of what I've built. It's really the best the feeling."

**Michael Brotherton in the motor control event (right) in the Western States Electrical Contest. The "heptathlon" included:**

1. **written exam**
2. **residential wiring**
3. **motor control written**
4. **motor control hands-on**
5. **materials identification**
6. **1/2" conduit bending**
7. **3/4" conduit bending**





# 332 BENEFIT FOR OPERATION FREEDOM PAWS



**Pete Seaberg, Veteran & Local 332 Vice President**

"In the military, teamwork and hard work are paramount, and there was always a new problem to solve. Everybody has a job to do and an important role to play on the team. We always approached problems with an attitude of 'adapt and overcome.' You figure it out and do what is necessary to get the job done.

"That same ethic carries through to the union and construction work. It's very similar at job sites where we just have to figure things out, work through problems, and keep at it until we get the job done.

"With our IBEW brothers and sisters, and with veterans in general, there's a camaraderie and a sense of family. I was missing that feeling when I left the service, but found it again in the brotherhood of the IBEW.

"There are so many veterans who need help, which is why 332 is proud to support Operation Freedom Paws."

Local 332 has many members who have served in the armed forces, and the union supports veterans wherever we can. One example has been our partnership with Operation Freedom Paws (OFP). The nonprofit trains and places service dogs for veterans. The cost for each trained dog is upwards of \$20,000, but it is free for the vets. These service dogs are life-changing for many veterans in our community.

This November, we held a poker tournament to benefit OFP. We had a great turnout and raised over \$2,300. The nonprofit has also been the recipient of 332's golf tournament donations, and we've volunteered many hours installing new lighting and electric heaters at their facility. The union is proud to support such a phenomenal organization.

Local 332 has a veterans committee which aims to improve the lives of veterans, both in our membership and in our community. To get involved, contact the chair, Pete Seaberg, at 408-518-2836. To learn more about OFP, go to [operationfreedompaws.org](http://operationfreedompaws.org).



**332 poker tournament to benefit Operation Freedom Paws**



**Pete Seaberg gives 332 check to Operation Freedom Paws**



# LOCAL 332 SALUTES OUR VETERANS

**Christopher Paup | Inside Wireman | 332 Sargent in Arms | CA Air National Guard Technical Sargent**



"I joined the CA Air National Guard in the 129th Search and Rescue Wing out of Moffett Field in 2011. I've been on active duty ever since as an aircraft mechanic. I love our deployed mission and just recently returned from a five-month deployment in the Middle East. But I also love our stateside mission which includes wildland firefighting. We take our helicopters up, scoop baskets of water, and dump thousands of gallons at a time on fires.

"We've been very busy over the last few years. A few times I was on the job doing electrical work, and I

had to go to my foreman to say, 'We just got activated by the governor and have to get our planes in the air. I'd go home, shave, pack, and then be out in the field.

"There's actually a lot of similarities between the military and the union. I tell people that the IBEW is the most military-like civilian organization I know of in regards to how we as union members have each other's backs. The similarities go all the way down to the training, where the older, more experienced journeymen take on apprentices. On the military side, I train my airmen much the same way.

"The transition between both organizations is pretty smooth because of the structure, support, and camaraderie. There's a deep bond among union electricians the same way there is in the military because of our shared interests and values. It's an inherent part of both jobs to take care of each other and lift each other up, making both organizations very effective."



## FITNESS 19 GYM 40% DISCOUNT OFFER

**Fitness 19 and IBEW Local 332 have partnered to make health and wellness easily accessible for all members of IBEW Local 332 and their families.** This special offer provides unlimited access to our 30,000 square foot San Jose Meridian location as well as 15 additional Bay Area locations. We love helping others improve their health, both physically and mentally, and have fun doing it! Our ultimate goal is to help improve the lives of our members through our passion and focus on health and fitness.

**We made it simple to get started by joining online using promo code IBEW332. If joining after 12/31/22, visit our San Jose Meridian location in person and provide proof of IBEW local 332 membership.**

**\$0 DOWN +  
\$14.99 PER MO.**

**THAT'S 40% OFF!**



**SCAN QR CODE AND  
USE PROMO CODE:**

**IBEW332**

**HURRY! OFFER ENDS 12/31/22!**



# NIGHTMARE ON BARBER LANE





# TEAM HALLOWEEN HAUNT AT THE ETA-SV

## Sergio Monzon, Inside Wireman & Lead Organizer of Team Halloween Haunt

"Nightmare on Barber Lane was a six-month collaborative project. We got a small budget from the ETA-SV, NECA, and Local 332, and so many people contributed their labor. The core group brainstormed about the overall vision, and then each of us owned a "zone" in which we had free rein to build.

"It took six months with lots of hands-on work, using different aspects of lighting. We applied our skills in a real-life scenario. It was great to see some of the apprentices learn new things. And it was amazing for everyone involved to be so creative and see our vision become a reality after working on the weekends and after work.

"About 500 members, families, friends, and community turned out for the event. We opened our doors to show what the IBEW is all about. We showcased what we can do with lighting, and that we're so much more than an on/off switch. The sky is the limit, and we built everything ourselves on a budget. What's more is that we provided a positive, safe environment for everyone to have fun. Family and friends are so important, and it was great to gather after not seeing people in the pandemic."



**Team Halloween Haunt: Back: Marilyn Rosa, Oliver Occ, Austin Pina, Anthony Martinez, Emiliano Ojeda, Joey Buziuk, Joseph Rosa, Ashley Noriega, and Javier Nichols. Front: Nataliya Monzon, Sergio Monzon, and Zahira Elmansoumi. Not pictured: Brad Gulan, Alex Terry, and Brandon Lopez**



# NIGHTMARE ON BARBER LANE





# TEAM HALLOWEEN HAUNT AT THE ETA-SV

## **Zahira Elmansoumi | Residential Apprentice**

"Every morning I love getting up to go to work. I learn something new every day, and I feel like I'm contributing to something bigger than myself. Fun is the first word that comes to mind regarding the Halloween event. It was amazing working with people who were motivated, super creative, and passionate about making it a great event. The big payoff was that the community had fun--I had a blast making people scream!"

## **Joey Buziuk | Inside Wireman**

"Working on this project for six months, I met a lot of people I wouldn't have ordinarily met and started friendships. We're all electricians, like being involved in the Local, and it was great to bring members and people outside the IBEW together for a fun night out. I had a great time putting it all together and then seeing people's reactions. I hope we keep doing it in the future and see more members get involved."

## **Anthony Martinez | Inside Wireman**

"We put our whole hearts into this project. It was a lot of work, but the camaraderie made it so fun it didn't feel like work. It was cool to see a project through from concept to reality. So many unexpected things come up, and you use your creative problem-solving. I just turned out this year's event, and I found I learned a lot of new skills on the project. It was all-encompassing, and I think we blew our expectations out of the water!"

## **Javier Nichols | Inside Wireman**

"When I got out of the military, I went to school for electrical engineering. But my uncle is in the union, and so I went in that direction. I was part of the 2019 Halloween event, and I was there from the beginning for this year's event. The camaraderie and brotherhood was the best part. We all put in the hours after work for the big community event. The union is like the military: When you're off duty, you're still a family."

## **Marilyn Rosa | ETA-SV Staff**

"I helped with building access, build day supplies, zone builds, and jumped in wherever help was needed. I made lasting friendships and also learned a lot about the trades. After these years of Covid, it was awesome to see families out together having fun! This event was a great example of how the Local really brings people together. Kudos to the ETASV, IBEW, and NECA for supporting this amazing project!"







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Vice President  
Pete Seaberg

Recording Secretary  
Ryan Serene

Treasurer  
Craig Tomasello

**Union electricians get the job done right!**

## **HOLIDAY ISSUE ENCLOSED**



## **2023 UNION MEETINGS**

**We encourage you to join us for all union meetings first Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at the union hall.**

**Get updates, connect with opportunities to get involved, and enjoy the camaraderie of the sister/brotherhood!**

- **Tuesday, January 3, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, February 7, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, March 7, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, April 4, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, May 2, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, June 6, 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday, July 5, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, August 1, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, September 5, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, October 3, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, November 7, 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, December 5, 5:30pm**