



The \$2.6-billion expansion is expected to create 13,000 construction jobs and another 2,150 permanent jobs

## Big Win for Construction Unions: LA City Council Gives Thumbs Up to Convention Center Expansion

It has been more than a decade in the making. City officials debated it, ordered repeated environmental impact reports, engineering studies, and design specs. But in the end, they always pulled the plug.

Finally, on Sept. 19, at the end of a long week at City Hall, the LA City Council voted 11-2 to expand downtown's aging Convention Center, with construction to begin next month.

The \$2.6-billion project calls for an aggressive construction schedule to meet the hard deadline of the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games that will be hosted in Los Angeles, and where the Convention

Center will be the site of multiple Olympic events.

"This is great news for IBEW 11 members," said IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona. "We expect to realize several hundred new jobs for our members within the next few months. Job calls may be going out next week."

IBEW 11 has made Convention Center expansion a top priority because it will create immediate and long-term jobs for members, and when completed it will serve as a linchpin in downtown Los Angeles' continued resurgence and revitalization. A total of 13,000 construction jobs and another 2,150 permanent jobs are expected to be created to fulfill the project's ambitious and tight deadline.

"The Convention Center has been ignored for decades," Corona said. "I should know; I helped build it at the beginning of my career as an electrical apprentice over 30 years ago. The time to move this project is now. Let's show the world LA is still the land of opportunity. Let's create economic opportunity for working families as we prepare to host the Olympics and build a convention center fit for Angelenos."

Work on the project will begin immediately, with calls going out this October. Construction will temporarily pause in May

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## Local 11's Ahmad Jamal Finds a Way Out and a Path Forward

By Evan Henerson

Of all the neon lights blazing along the Las Vegas Strip, one spot burns especially brightly for Local 11's Ahmad Jamal: Sphere – that state-of-the-art orb that is home to films, concerts, and scores of big-ticket events. It tops Jamal's professional resume.

"That's one of my proudest jobs because I was there. I worked on that project," said Jamal, a Local 11 Inside Wireman. "That was me, and not just me in the background opening boxes. They had me hanging 250 feet in the air for hours doing the work, where once I couldn't go up two flights. I take pride in that."

There's another site, while it doesn't light up the tourist skyline, brings the San Fernando Valley native even greater satisfaction. It's a new, two-bedroom, two-bath townhouse – the first piece of property Jamal has owned.

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11 Urges Yes on Prop. 50

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Huizar Hailed as Hero of the Game

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Locking Arms on Labor Day

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## BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE



### Convention Center Victory Means More Jobs for IBEW 11 Members

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters – I'm delighted to announce our latest victories on the jobs front. First, we had a tremendous victory at the LA Convention Center last week on the most recent stop-and-start Convention Center expansion project that has been ongoing for the past decade. If you count all the other efforts over the years to modernize and expand the LA facility, it goes back even longer. But now, through hard work, perseverance and grit, we've finally done it. The powerful labor and business coalition we helped organize finally got this project over the finish line.

There's no doubt LA has lost many conventions over the past decade to other large cities because our Center wasn't large enough, had enough contiguous space, or modern enough to get the attention of the large conventions our downtown needs to help revitalize. The timing was never right, Council members always said. And now,

because of our hard work and dedication, we got the job done. This is the power of coalition.

Kudos to our Political Director Antonio Sanchez and his team for their instrumental help in pushing this through. Who will benefit? First, our members. The project will result in dozens and dozens of job calls starting in the next few weeks. That will ramp up to several hundred jobs over the next few months. But the other huge beneficiaries of the project will be the residents and businesses in the LA region. We can expect more tourism, more events, better city services and more money flowing through our economy as a result of our city becoming a first-class convention destination, starting with the 2028 Olympics.

Make no mistake, it will be an aggressive timetable to get the ambitious job done in time for the Olympics. (See our story on page 1 for more of the details about the job.) But I am confident our skilled, trained

and experienced members are up to the task.

I wanted to flag another good jobs victory for our members in the Antelope Valley. We, along with our brothers and sisters in the LA/OC Building Trades Council, recently signed a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) in Palmdale, which will begin creating more good IBEW 11 jobs in the near future. We will be writing about it in the next edition of News@11.

#### Tradeswomen Conference

A delegation of 26 of our members has just returned from the 2025 Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference put on by the North American Building Trades Union. Thousands of tradeswomen from around the country gathered in Chicago for two days to network, share stories, learn new skills, discover resources and get support to thrive in their careers in the trades.

The conference featured government, industry, and labor leaders, apprenticeship and training coordinators, and tradeswomen from across the country who attended and facilitated workshops, panels, and plenary sessions. The goal was to uplift tradeswomen in unions, promote recruitment and retention, strengthen leadership skills and union identity, and foster mentoring and support networks.

Diana Limon, our Director of Recruitment and Support, and I were on two panels at the conference, reaching out to attendees to promote the IBEW as a good career choice for women.

In the near future, we will be creating an all-women VEEP class for our women veterans. Look for more information on that coming soon.

#### Prop 50 Must Pass

In our industry, politics matters. As many of you know, Texas has redistricted the state to add five more Republican elected officials in a scheme to rig the 2026 mid-term elections. In response, Gov. Newsom has called for a Special Election on Nov. 4 where voters will decide on a Constitutional amendment to temporarily redistrict California's maps to add five Democrats.

**“The powerful labor and business coalition we helped organize finally got this project over the finish line.”**

This is a very important election for our members, and we are urging you to vote YES on Prop. 50. By voting YES, you will be protecting jobs and infrastructure projects that the current Administration in Washington, DC has delayed or canceled. You will be voting for fair representation for all working families. And you will be securing your future by advancing clean energy and grid modernization projects that create thousands of jobs for our members.

*As always, I am honored to be your Business Manager.*

In solidarity,

Robert Corona

## IBEW 11'S NEWS@11

#### Main offices of IBEW Local 11

297 North Marengo Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
(626) 243-9700 Phone  
(626) 243-9750 Fax

#### Business Manager/ Financial Secretary

Robert Corona

#### President

Alton Wilkerson

#### Vice President

Kelly Oliver

#### Recording Secretary

Irene Valenzuela

#### Treasurer

Gary Tomlin

#### Produced by

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#### Publisher

Cherri Senders

#### Managing Editor

Jeremy Kehoe

#### Art Director

Sasha Loobkoff

[www.SendersGroup.com](http://www.SendersGroup.com)







## Welcoming Our New Union Brothers & Sisters to Local 11

I'm pleased to announce that IBEW Local 11 won the award for most contractors organized at this year's Membership Development conference for the entire IBEW across the U.S. and Canada for the August 2024 to July 2025 calendar year.

I've heard some say, "Hey, a lot of them are small shops." In

my opinion that's great for us because that means they need our workforce.

I've seen a good number of calls come in over the last year from these new contractors, and I anticipate many more as they continue to grow. As with anything new, there can often be a learning curve. So, if any of these new contractors make a

mistake that goes against our CBA, let's use it as a teachable moment to show them the right way to do things as an IBEW Local 11 contractor.

Please let us know immediately so the situation can be rectified. A lot of them joined because of our members' reputation for craftsmanship and professionalism. That definitely helps in the conversation for our Organizers when they're speaking to non-signatory contractors.

You may have also noticed an uptick in new apprentices as well. With the large number of members becoming

journeymen and more seasoned members hitting the goal of retirement, there has been a big need for new apprentices this year to fill the space. Please take the time to teach them the right way we do things as union members along with the traditions and values of what it means to be a part of the IBEW.

I am very grateful for the hard work, effort, and pride our Brothers and Sisters put into each jobsite throughout LA County. We build Los Angeles with the hands of dues paying union members. Own it, be proud of it, and celebrate it every chance you get.

### Qué Hacer Cuando es Confrontado por Oficiales de Inmigración



#### ¡CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS! INMIGRACIÓN

1. No tiene que permitir que oficiales entren a su casa a menos que presenten una orden firmada por un juez. Una orden de arresto debe nombrar a una persona en su residencia. Una orden de cateo debe incluir una dirección y las áreas que se buscarán dentro de la residencia. Si no le presentan una orden, mantenga la puerta cerrada y diga "No doy mi consentimiento para que entre."
2. No firme ningún documento.
3. Tiene el derecho a mantenerse en silencio. Si no tiene documentos migratorios, pida hablar con un abogado.
4. No necesita responder a preguntas sobre el lugar donde nació.
5. No falsifique documentos o mienta sobre su estado migratorio.

Esta información no es asesoramiento legal.

#### PARA AYUDA CON TEMAS MIGRATORIOS:

ACLU of Northern California: (415) 621-2488  
 ACLU of Southern California: (213) 977-5253  
 ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties: (619) 232-2121

Para recursos legislativos o asistencia con agencias estatales, llame (916) 651-1502



# POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Yes on Prop. 50 — It's about Checking Trump's Unprecedented Power Grab

**IBEW 11** is supporting YES on Proposition 50 in the Nov. 4 Special Election because it's good for labor and it's good for our members. How?

We are supporting Proposition 50 because we want fair elections in all 50 states, not elections rigged by one side or the other. But Republicans are currently making that impossible.

Texas recently redistricted its congressional maps to send five more Republicans to the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. We also know that Missouri is starting to follow that path as well. Why? To help Donald Trump.

The fact is that Trump's approval rating is close to 40 percent, with a 54 percent disapproval rating. Those numbers are bad. Really bad. Keep in mind that the midterm elections are not usually kind to the party in control.

Naturally, Republicans believe they're going to lose control of the House of Representatives in the 2026 midterm elections. So, they got a big idea: change the congressional maps in Republican controlled states. Change the rules and try to stay in power. I must admit, to the credit of the Republican Party, they are organized and aggressive with their agenda.

In response, Governor Gavin Newsom moved quickly, calling for a special election to put Proposition 50 on the ballot. Newsom repeatedly stated that he would call off the special election in California if Texas didn't move forward with its redistricting process. But as we all know, Texas Republicans moved forward with their plan.

So, now we are calling on all our members to vote to STOP the Republican's power grab by Voting YES on Nov. 4. Proposition 50 will help send more Democrats to the US House of Representatives.

Why is that good for our members? It will help bring a halt to Trump's anti-union agenda. Yes, just a few more Democrats in Washington, D.C. can tilt the balance of power back into the hands of working people.

Trump's attacks on labor just keep coming. He has frozen or eliminated billions of dollars in infrastructure funding that created thousands of jobs

for the IBEW, canceled union contracts for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, and shut down OSHA offices.

None of us know what he'll do next, but I'm sure it won't benefit workers and their families. So please join us and Vote YES on Proposition 50 and give the power back to the voters!

**Antonio Sanchez**  
 IBEW 11 Political Director





Jorge Huizar: Soldier, student, proud father, Local 11 Inside Wireman and "Hero of the Game"

## Dodgers Honor Local 11's Huizar as "Hero of the Game" on Union Night

By Robert Fulton

Jorge Huizar has worn many titles over the course of his life: soldier, student, proud father, and IBEW Local 11 inside wireman. Each role has shaped him, from his two decades of military service to his nine years as a union electrician, and now as a father pursuing higher education.

One of the proudest moments of Huizar's journey came during Union Night at Dodger Stadium, when he was honored as the team's "Hero of the Game." Nominated by Mike Kufchak, Local 11's director of veteran affairs, Huizar walked onto the field in front of tens of thousands of fans during on the same evening he celebrated his 40th birthday, no less.

"It was a huge honor to be a part of that, to be selected," Huizar said. "It didn't hit me until I turned around. I walked out on the field, and you could see the players and the umpires in front of me, but once I turned around, and I looked up to the crowd it was amazing."

Hearing his name announced to the roar of applause was quite the experience, but what made the moment unforgettable for

Huizar was sharing it with his eight-year-old son.

"It was a proud moment. I saw the video my mom recorded, and I can hear him saying, 'That's my dad. That's my dad.' You can hear his voice in the background. Yeah, it was a proud moment. Definitely."

### The Path to Dodger Stadium

Huizar's path to the Dodger Stadium field started decades earlier. He grew up in San Pedro, graduated from high school, and faced the same crossroads many teenagers encounter: whether to stay home, go to college, or leave to see what else the world had to offer.

"I decided to just leave because I felt like I wasn't going to do anything staying home, staying local," Huizar said. At 19, he enlisted in the Army, beginning a 20-year military career that would take him across the country and around the world.

He spent eight years stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, three and a half years at Fort Hood in Texas, and deployed to Iraq, where he served in Baghdad and Ramadi.

"I left when I was 19, so I had to grow quick," Huizar said. "I had to learn a lot on my own as far as being a young adult, first time out in the world. In the military, I learned a lot as far as teamwork and training, and I traveled and saw a lot of the world, a lot of the country."

After more than 10 years of active duty, Huizar transitioned to the National Guard in 2015, reporting monthly to Fresno. He retired in April with a rank of Staff Sergeant.

While still serving, a veteran buddy who had joined IBEW Local 11 kept encouraging Huizar to look into electrical work.

"Once I got out [of active service], he kept insisting that I come check it out, and I finally did. One thing led to another, and here I am nine years later," Huizar said.

Though he didn't have a professional background in electrical work, Huizar had always been fascinated by electronics. "I've always had an interest in the electrical field. I would always be breaking down broken toys or electronics when I was younger, trying to fix them," he said.

For Huizar, being an Inside Wireman continues to offer new challenges and opportunities.

"It's challenging physically and mentally, and I'm always learning something," he said. "There's always something to build on."

Over the years, he has worked for contractors including Touchstone Engineering and has even served as a foreman. Among his projects was helping build the Los Angeles Rams training facility in Woodland Hills.

**“Once I got out (of active service), he kept insisting that I come check it out, and I finally did. One thing led to another, and here I am nine years later.”**

— Jorge Huizar

### Local 11 a Crucial Bridge

For Huizar, Local 11 has been a crucial bridge from military to civilian life.

"It's helped me a lot in numerous ways as far as re-establishing myself back into the civilian world and Los Angeles, whether it be staying busy with work and being financially stable," Huizar said. "Everything's just been nothing but positive."

The union's support even helped him purchase his home in Compton, where he lives today with his eight-year-old son.

Huizar is also pursuing a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He is currently enrolled at Compton College for general education courses and plans to transfer to Cal State Long Beach where he can use his VA educational benefits to pay for school.

"I want to get my bachelor's in electrical engineering, and see where that takes me," he said.

Reflecting on his journey so far, he said, "I'm just really grateful for all the opportunities I've had, going from one career in the military and overlapping and transitioning to being in the Local. It's a great experience. I'm just grateful for how everything turned out."



# AHMAD JAMAL KEEPS POWERING FORWARD (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

For a man who spent more than half his life in prison and was given a second chance through his profession and membership with Local 11, purchasing that house was the embodiment of a dream come true.

"I just paid my first mortgage in September," Jamal said. "My mom never owned her own home, so being able to buy a house and take care of my wife, to buy that home for us, that's been a lifetime goal. It's something I can leave to the kids when I pass on."

"Having vehicles and being able to take vacations, given where I came from, things like that are huge for me," Jamal added. "I'm not rich, but the doors that have opened up for me by being in the union have allowed me to do these things."

Employed by Sunbelt, he is currently working on the expansion of the L.A. County High Desert Regional Health Center. The work is steady and pays a good union wage, and he can work on a diverse slate of projects because electricians are needed everywhere – especially union electricians.

"It's always nice to see a finished product, as opposed to working the docks, or retail, or Home Depot," Jamal said. "If I'm driving on the freeway and I see one of the buildings, the finished product gives me a sense of purpose and a sense of pride, and I love that."

## The Long Road Forward

Before this career as an electrician, Jamal's life was far less steady.

Shortly after he turned 17, Jamal went to prison for murder for an

incident that happened when he was in high school. During the 25 years he was incarcerated, he worked to rebuild the trust of his wife and child and also establish that he would be a positive member of the community upon his release.

"I think I went through the process three or four times," Jamal said. "They just said, 'You're not ready, you're not ready, no, no, no, you're not ready.' I spent a lot of my time in prison feeling useless, like I had wasted my life."

After his release in 2014, Jamal found himself out of work. He kicked around the L.A. area, working at warehouses, valeting cars, and taking low-wage temp jobs – anything to help reacclimate himself and rebuild his relationship with his family. Ultimately, he joined an open invitation to learn solar work and spent the next two years going from job to job.

Hours in the solar field were long, and the wages weren't lucrative. Jamal worked hard to keep up with his younger co-workers, but at the age of 47 he aspired to find a career that was less grueling and better paying.

## A New Union Life...

Jamal then became aware of Local 11, and the union became aware of him. Local 11 Organizers Mitch Klein, Ben Frank, and John Harriel educated Jamal and his solar industry co-workers about the advantages available through the union.

"I told them, 'Man I just need a job. I need a j-o-b,'" Jamal said. "I had no idea how my life would change being in the union."



Jamal entered the Local 11 apprenticeship program, which required him to go back to school to catch up on some math classes.

"It was a challenge not just because of the material but balancing both the apprenticeship and work and family life all at the same time," Jamal said. "I was a little intimidated, but it worked out pretty good."

He grew to quickly appreciate the camaraderie among his fellow union workers, especially after they helped him get over his fear of heights while working on a 37-story tower in downtown Los Angeles, one of his first jobs as an apprentice.

Jamal turned out of the program having learned a valuable trade, something he knows nobody can take away from him. His wife

and three children – ages 23 to 36 – are all proud of what he has accomplished.

When he speaks to individuals who have gone through 2nd Call – the nonprofit dedicated to saving lives by helping other formerly incarcerated and high-risk men and women – Jamal spreads messages of hope and union Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

They, too, can become thriving citizens, he insists, especially with the help of IBEW 11.

"There's a way out from crime; there's a way out," Jamal said. "Everyone says there are no jobs and that people aren't hiring, but there's nothing like having a trade or being involved in our craft. Local 11 is a lovely fraternity. It's a lovely opportunity to be a part of it."

## IBEW 11 LOCAL APP

### Everything IBEW 11 is Now Just One Click Away

With one app and a few taps Local 11 Brothers and Sisters can now access all the news, notifications, and real-time updates they need to maximize their union membership.

The recently launched IBEW 11 app gives members one-stop, real-time access to job site updates, contract agreements, wage rates, upcoming meetings, training opportunities, member profiles, upcoming events, legislative news, and more.

More than 900 members have signed up for the app so far said

Citlali Castillo, Local 11's Sound & Communications Organizer, who along with Carlos Rodarte manages and updates the app and push out notifications.

"I talk about the app in every meeting I'm in, and I tell everybody, 'Hey, stay up to date. Download the IBEW Local 11 app and turn on the notifications,'" Castillo said. "We want members to be more informed and better connected so they know what's going on. If you want to know what's going on with your Local, it's all on the app."

Castillo said the app is part of a communications evolution to better connect and deliver accessible, easily digestible information to members via the platforms and formats they prefer.

"Not every member reads their email every day or goes on social media or looks at our website regularly, so the app provides us with another avenue of getting information out to our members," Castillo said. "Being able to have a notification pop up on their phone is very helpful, and I think members like that."

Stay connected by downloading the **IBEW Local 11 App**, where you'll find important updates, news, and resources all at your fingertips.



Make sure to fill in all the information and turn on notifications.



# BUSINESS REPORTS

## DISTRICT 2



**Gary Tomlin**

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. Thank you to all who showed up and participated in the annual Labor Day Parade. The IBEW Local 11 Picnic and Health Fair is just around the corner on Saturday, October 11 at the Hollywood Sports Park in Bellflower. This is always a great event for members, family, and friends. This year's District 2 Christmas Meeting/Party will be held on Friday, Dec. 5. Everyone is invited. We will have the usual tamales, rice, beans, deep fried turkey, glazed ham, and more.

Work has slowed down a little this past month. San Pedro just voted to approve construction of an amphitheater and Ferris wheel in the new wharf area. The Lakewood Mall was just bought by investors. The plan is to overhaul the entire mall area, including adding new green spaces and mixed-use retail and residential units, along with other projects.

As always, please watch out for each other on the jobsites to keep each other safe.

## DISTRICT 4



**Brett Moss**

Brothers and Sisters, greetings from District Four. I hope this report finds you and your families well.

Our Chili Cookoff on Nov. 1 will be renamed in memory of Brother Justin Agulia. Justin was lost in a mass shooting incident in Reno, on July 28 of this year. Please come out for the cookoff and bring the family for a day of games and trick or treating.

Work in the area has remained steady, and we are looking for that to continue.

With summer temperatures still with us, please be aware of

heat-related problems. Drink plenty of water and watch out for your Brothers and Sisters. Heat illness can become very serious very quickly.

We have one more Blood Drive this year on Dec. 2 at the D4 Hall. Contact me if you need assistance signing up. We partner with Children's Hospital LA for our D4 drives.

As a reminder, D4 unit meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm at the D4 Hall. Please join us. The D4 Welfare Committee meets the last Tuesday of each month at the D4 Hall. If you need assistance, please contact me.

Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text: (626) 379-0651 (cell); [bmoss@ibew11.org](mailto:bmoss@ibew11.org).

## DISTRICT 14



**Yezdan Marquez**

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. Alex and I have been in negotiations with L.A. County, LAUSD, and HACLA and are working to update the State MOU.

Our bargaining team is currently meeting with the County. It has been an uphill battle, but we continue to bargain to get the best possible contract. We did secure a great fringe-benefit package.

We have met with the LAUSD several times. We continue to bargain and have agreed on a few proposals.

Our bargaining team has met with HACLA and will soon start negotiations.

I encourage all Brothers and Sisters to attend our Unit 14 meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5 p.m. We will have updates on all our negotiations. I'm also looking forward to seeing all of you on October 11 for Local 11's annual Picnic and Health Fair. I encourage you to bring the family and enjoy a fun time with the Brotherhood!



**FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM**

## DISTRICT 6



**Tommy Zielomski**

Greetings from District 6, Brothers and Sisters.

I am happy to announce District 6 Hall will be hosting more JW level classes in the coming months. If you are interested in LAQSP, Foremanship, or First Aid/CPR classes we are still taking signups at the D6 Hall. Just like classes at ETI, completed class hours at D6 are eligible to be used as continuing education units when renewing your state certification.

From August 18-20 I attended the California State Association of Electrical Workers Conference in Sacramento where I had the opportunity to lobby members of the State Legislature. I spoke with local Assembly members and my Senator, Susan Rubio, about policies needed to create and protect union jobs. With the current political climate and attacks on unions, continuing political action is essential for Local 11 to protect and advance our members' interests.

## ICE/CW



**Jackie Waltman**

Hello everyone. I want to remind all CWs that if you need any help, please don't hesitate to call me. It's very important that you attend school regularly. Missing class could put your trainee card at risk.

I am circling back with all CW6s to determine who has a State Cert. If you have your State Cert, please send me a copy ASAP. If you do not, please follow the directions below.

The paperwork/application part of the process takes a long time, so it is important that you complete it as early as possible. Once your paperwork/application is accepted and approved by the State you have one year to take the test.

## State Cert Application Process

1. Complete and submit the Request for Social Security Earning Information Form. Request the non-certified earnings report. [Link](#)
2. Complete and return the Application for Electrician Examination and Certification. Be sure to enclose the report you received from Social Security. [Link](#)
3. Please request a letter from all contractors you have worked for in the 8,000 hours you are using, along with all hours worked, job duties, and dates of employment.
4. Mail in your report and application, then contact the ETI and enroll in the License Preparation Class.
5. Once your application is complete and approved, schedule to take the exam.
6. Contact me with the results of your exam ASAP.

Feel free to reach out once you start this process if you have any questions.

## COMPLIANCE



**Veronica Martinez**

The Compliance Department remains actively engaged with the growing number of Project Labor Agreement (PLA) projects across Los Angeles County. While our goal is to always see union-signatory contractors win these bids, public bidding laws and other factors sometimes result in work being awarded to non-union contractors. When that happens, these PLA/PSA contractors are still required to hire union members.

That's where our work begins. Much of our department's time is spent guiding these contractors through union procedures—everything from placing job calls correctly to ensuring timely benefit reporting and paying our members properly and on time. Our priority is making sure your experience on these jobs is seamless and compliant.

Contact your area Business Agent if you are having issues with a PLA/PSA contractor. The sooner we know, the faster we can step in and resolve it. We're here to support you on every job.



# ORGANIZING REPORTS

## DISTRICT 2



**Myra Hildreth**

Organizing efforts continue to gain traction across District 2, with dedicated outreach to non-union job sites and direct engagement with workers. Over the past month, we visited numerous sites and identified and assessed potential candidates who meet Local 11's high standards.

Job walks at non-union sites remain a cornerstone of our strategy. These visits provide invaluable opportunities to speak directly with workers, many of whom are unaware of the protection, benefits, and solidarity that union representation offers. Through these conversations, we're building trust and laying the groundwork for stronger advocacy.

Each potential member is being carefully evaluated to ensure alignment with Local 11's standards. This process is essential to maintaining the integrity and strength of our union, while also empowering workers to elevate their careers and workplace conditions.

In addition to field organizing, I participated in the LAUSD Workforce Preservation Group meeting led by the Labor

Compliance Department. This team plays a vital role in safeguarding labor standards on District property through site visits, worker interviews, and support during audits, hearings, and reviews. Their work reinforces our shared commitment to fair labor practices and accountability.

## DISTRICT 4



**Ruben Mendoza**

Greetings from District 4.

I attended the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting in July where Supervisors voted on the Revitalization Project for the Old General Hospital. This project is being backed by Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, and the Board voted unanimously to revitalize this historic hospital. The project will now move into the technical planning phase.

It will be the home of a Healthy Village for the community, with wellness services serving surrounding low-income communities, and will also include residential units and commercial space. It will also house a mental health facility and an urgent care and substance abuse treatment center.

This is great news for IBEW Local 11: a big new project with plenty of work for our members.

## DISTRICT 6



**Chris Rosales**

Howdy, Brothers and Sisters from District 6! The 2025 Membership Development Conference is in the books, and it was another tremendous opportunity to say the least. This is my second year attending this conference, and I took part in the Advanced Organizers Training class. Here, along with various organizers, business representatives, and even business managers from across the nation, I heard firsthand about many different organizing tactics and strategies, as well as the importance of member retention.

As always, Brothers and Sisters, organizing NEVER STOPS! The Bureau of Labor Statistics is projecting a demand for an estimated 80,000 electricians each year for the next decade. Although this might seem like an unrealistic figure, there are numerous variables that factor into this equation.

The first being aging infrastructure. Transportation, water supply, energy, and public facilities all need to be updated and maintained. Second, renewable energy and the shift to clean energy create a significant demand for electricians. The last factor:

retirees. A large portion of the demand will come from members ready to collect their pension. Proactive organizing is key!

## SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS



**Citlali Castillo**

Greetings Unit 9! It's a hot summer – one that is busy with work. We have many projects in progress and starting up that are creating a number of organizing opportunities.

One project we are looking forward to is the historic general hospital building that will be repurposed into housing and retail in downtown L.A. Funding for this project was just unanimously approved by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. This is very exciting not only because it will create a lot of new work opportunities but also because many of our own members live in that area and are very familiar with that building.

I'm hopeful to see job calls coming in for that big project soon. It's great to see such a historic building generating new work for our members. Get your certifications, pay your dues, and stay ready!





## 46th Annual Labor Day Parade, Picnic & Rally Rooted in Solidarity and Celebration

**O**n Labor Day IBEW 11 members took to the streets of Wilmington to march in solidarity to honor the sacrifices of union Brothers and Sisters present and past and celebrate the successes working people are winning in the ongoing battle to secure a better future for the generations to follow.

Local 11 members locked arms with fellow union Brothers, labor leaders, and political allies at the 46th Annual Labor Day Parade, Picnic & Rally that culminated with a BBQ in Banning Park.

This year's march carried with it a greater sense of immediacy and urgency cast by the pall of the aggressively anti-union agenda currently being implemented by the Trump administration. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, California Federation of Labor President Lorena Gonzalez and LA County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler locked arms in a unified message of labor solidarity and standing up to the erosion of our democracy along with the elimination of good union jobs.

Since taking office the Trump administration has frozen or eliminated billions of dollars in infrastructure funding that created thousands of jobs for the IBEW, canceled union contracts for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, and shut down OSHA offices.

The Parade was capped by an afternoon of food and fun at Banning Park where members took the afternoon off to relax, enjoy hot-off-the-grill BBQ, and share their thoughts on the future challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.





# BIG WIN FOR CONSTRUCTION UNIONS (Continued from Pg. 1)

2028. From June to September 2028 the Convention Center will host Olympic events including judo, wrestling, and other competitions. Work would then resume, with construction slated to continue through 2029.

Building trades members testified about the need for the Convention Center not only to revitalize downtown, but also for the good middle class jobs it would offer for years to come.

Antonio Sanchez, IBEW 11's Political Director, said the vote was a "massive win" for the city and the building trades. IBEW 11 members will benefit by getting job calls immediately, with the promise of more Convention Center work in the future, he added.

"Kudos to the broad coalition we worked with for the past several years including labor and business, to bring this home," Sanchez said.

This coalition included IBEW, Teamsters, the Painters and Allied Trades, LA/OC Building Trades, IATSE, Central City Association, and the Valley Industrial Community Association.

"We all knew we needed this expansion because large conventions were skipping LA because our Convention

Center was not up to standard," Sanchez said. "Our Convention Center is straight out of the '80s."

## Upgrade Long Overdue

Supporters hailed the expanded Convention Center as a critical investment in Los Angeles' future, one that will breathe new life into downtown LA and attract more investors, conventioners, businesses, and tourists.

This was a HUGE win for our members," said District 1 North Business Rep Zachary Solomon, whose district includes downtown LA. "Not only will this project create hundreds of short-term construction jobs over the next four years, but there will be more ongoing convention work for our members as the frequency and size of the conventions grow over the years. And don't forget, we also represent the civil service staff of elections at the center and they may soon need more."

LA Mayor Karen Bass was behind the expansion, saying it will create much-needed jobs, boost tourism and investments, and will make LA more competitive with other cities.

Supporter and labor ally Councilwoman Ysabel Jurado noted: "By moving forward with this expansion, we're creating thousands of good union jobs,

supporting local businesses, and making sure our City has the revenue it needs to fund vital services." She added, "This project is about giving the heart of our city the boost it needs to keep Los Angeles moving forward."

Currently, the Convention Center generates about \$504 million annually for the Southern California economy. The expansion and remodeling will make the Convention Center the largest on the West Coast and the tenth largest in the nation.

Supporters agree that the Convention Center expansion and upgrade is long overdue. Los Angeles has been losing conventions to neighboring cities for years because of lack of contiguous meeting space.

The expansion will connect the South and West Halls, a complicated project because it must span Pico Boulevard. Plans also call for transforming the segment of Pico Boulevard which currently bisects the Convention Center with new lighting and finishes to turn it into the main visitor pick-up and drop-off zone.

The 28-acre project will provide about 325,000 square feet of additional new exhibit hall space for conventions and

meetings. The expansion would increase the facility's overall footage to more than a million square feet, allowing it to better compete for large events against other major cities.

JGM provided construction management, administration, and inspection services to support the four-level addition including structural engineering coordination, cost estimating, scheduling, on-site inspection, budget review, quality assurance and reviews, project reporting, contractors' compliance, and value engineering.

Ernesto Medrano, head of the LA/OC Building Trades Council hailed the expansion as an investment in LA's working families.

"Our members are ready to don their hard hats, work boots, and tool belts and start moving dirt," Medrano noted.

"We turned out at City Council meetings and testified, then had many private one-on-one meetings with City Council members to convince them to invest in LA's future, and to invest in LA's construction workforce," Solomon said. "In the end, IBEW 11 and our labor partners made the winning difference."



IBEW 11 Political Director Antonio Sanchez called the vote a "massive win" for the city and building trades





## A Picture-Perfect Union Night at Iconic Dodger Stadium

With a picture-perfect postcard Southern California day descending into evening as the backdrop, hundreds of IBEW 11 Brothers and Sisters joined more than 6,500 union members and supporters who came out to celebrate their favorite baseball team for the 2025 annual Union Night at Dodger Stadium celebration on Aug. 30.

IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona was on the field for the honorary First Pitch, joining the LA County Federation of Labor and other union leaders.

Also on the field was Local 11's Jorge Huizar, who was honored as "Hero of the Game" for his 20 years of military service. You can read about Huizar's journey in this edition of News@11.

The only blemish on the night was a 6-1 Dodger loss, but every baseball fan knows that October is when the real season begins.

