RIVERSIDE COUNTY

QUARTERLY UPDATE

JEREMY FORSHAW, BUSINESS MANAGER



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



To the Brothers and Sisters of Local 440,
I hope this letter finds you in a good place. The year is flying by, and work has been steady in all parts of the jurisdiction. We have been bringing in apprentices for the upcoming school year, and we are continuing to hold interviews and accept applications.

The work picture is steady with 3 projects going in Zone B. Primoris (PV) and Rosendin (BESS) going in Desert Center. Blattner (PV) is also starting in Blythe. Work in town is steady with various projects ranging from schools, water treatment plants, tilt ups, etc.. I have been busy with daily pre-job meetings for the multiple CWA's we have secured in Riverside County that continue to keep our members working.

In the coming weeks, look for dates to be set on some Member Education classes. We are setting dates for COMET, Code of Excellence, and Political Action. We are also setting some dates for CBA Roundtable and another "Pension 101" class. We will be sending out push notifications on the 440 App as well as Facebook and Instagram posts.

Lastly, the date for the Annual 440 Picnic has been set... Saturday, September 19th at Rancho Jurupa Park. We look forward to seeing everybody out there with your family to enjoy the good times and good food. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help work the Picnic. It takes a ton of effort and a lot of hands to get it done and make it successful. Please reach out if you're available to help.

I appreciate all the effort and hard work you all do to make this Local what it is. Thank you for your commitment to the trade and the IBEW. We need to keep striving to be the best in the industry and make 440 shine. My door is always open, and my phone is always on.

Please reach out if you ever need anything.
E-mail: Double@ibew440.org
Phone: (951)204-4098
-In Brotherhood
Daniel "DOUBLE" Luther Card #D861164





BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



Brothers and Sisters,

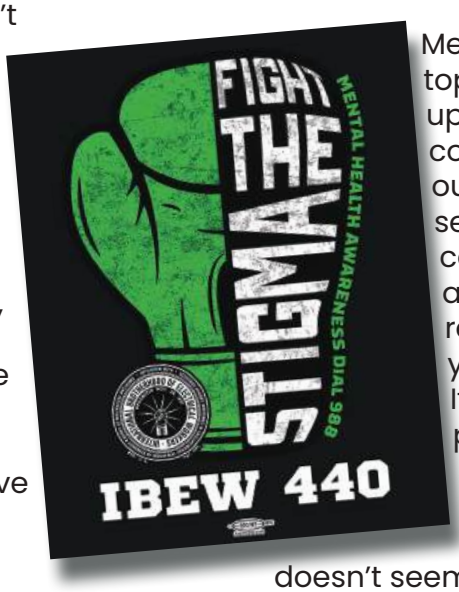
With the warmer weather quickly approaching, I want to remind everyone to be your Sister and Brother's keeper on every jobsite. We work in some of the hottest temperatures in Riverside County, and safety has to remain our top priority. Please take care of yourself and your tool partner—look out for one another, stay hydrated, and speak up if something doesn't feel right.

I'd also like to update you on upcoming work opportunities. The Grace Solar and Grace BESS projects, with Cupertino Electric, are expected to begin ramping up in June. Rosendin will be adding additional BESS yards to the Athos projects in Desert Center, with work anticipated to pick up in May. The Cobalt Solar project will have Blattner as the electrical contractor on the job; they have already put in a few calls and should be ramping up soon as well. In addition, we have several school projects and a compressor plant in Zone A on the horizon, and Gregg Electric continues to get busier.

As a reminder, this is a contract year. I've received several emails with suggestions for upcoming negotiations, and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their input—your voice does not go unheard. I encourage anyone with ideas or concerns to reach out to me directly at jeremy@ibew440.org or contact any member of our staff.
Our apprenticeship program continues to see strong demand. The Training Center opened applications in April and received over 400 applications in just 15 minutes. Please remind anyone interested in joining the apprenticeship to monitor the IEETC website for future application opportunities.

We are also continuing to work with the 9th District Sound and Communications team on developing a Defined Benefit plan for our Sound and Communication members. This will be a Variable Annuity Pension Plan (VAPP), and we are hopeful to have more progress to report in the near future.

As this is a mid-term election year, you will continue to see Local 440 endorsements being released. I want members to understand that these endorsements are not given lightly—they are earned through a stringent interview process. We take pride in educating candidates on the importance of apprenticeship programs and organized labor, ensuring they align with our values before earning our support.



Mental health is a topic that has come up frequently in conversations across our membership. I've seen firsthand how it can affect our Brothers and Sisters. I want to remind everyone that you are not alone. If you're struggling, please reach out to someone you trust. On the jobsite, if you notice someone who doesn't seem like themselves, take a moment to check in. I'm not an expert, but what I've learned is that sometimes people just need to be heard and understood.

Looking ahead, we will be updating our website, newsletter, and overall membership outreach through NEP Services. Our goal is to improve communication and ensure important information reaches all of our members. I encourage you to share any ideas on what you would like to see moving forward.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Lastly, I'm proud to announce that we have brought on a new organizer. Recognizing the importance of signing more contractors, reaching more jobsites, and strengthening our outreach, we welcomed Lonnie Garza on April 13th as our Top Down Organizer. We are confident he will be a strong addition to our team and help expand our organizing efforts.

Thank you all for everything you do each and every day. Your hard work, professionalism, and commitment to this Brotherhood are what make Local 440 strong.

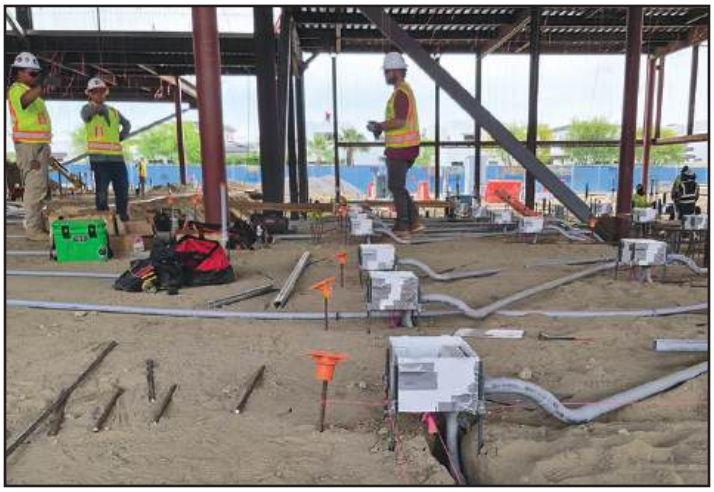
In Solidarity,
Jeremy Forshaw
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local 440
(951) 660-7046
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Mental Health Awareness Month

Held every May, aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illnesses, educate the public, and encourage support for those affected. It promotes mental wellness, highlights the importance of early intervention, and advocates for better access to care for all.





ORGANIZER INTRODUCTION

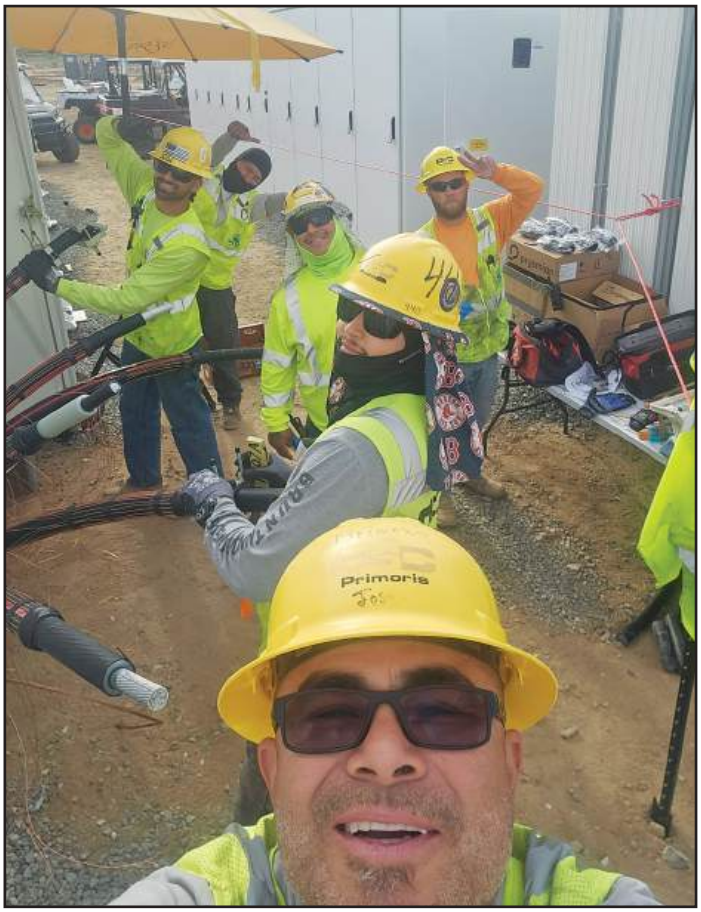


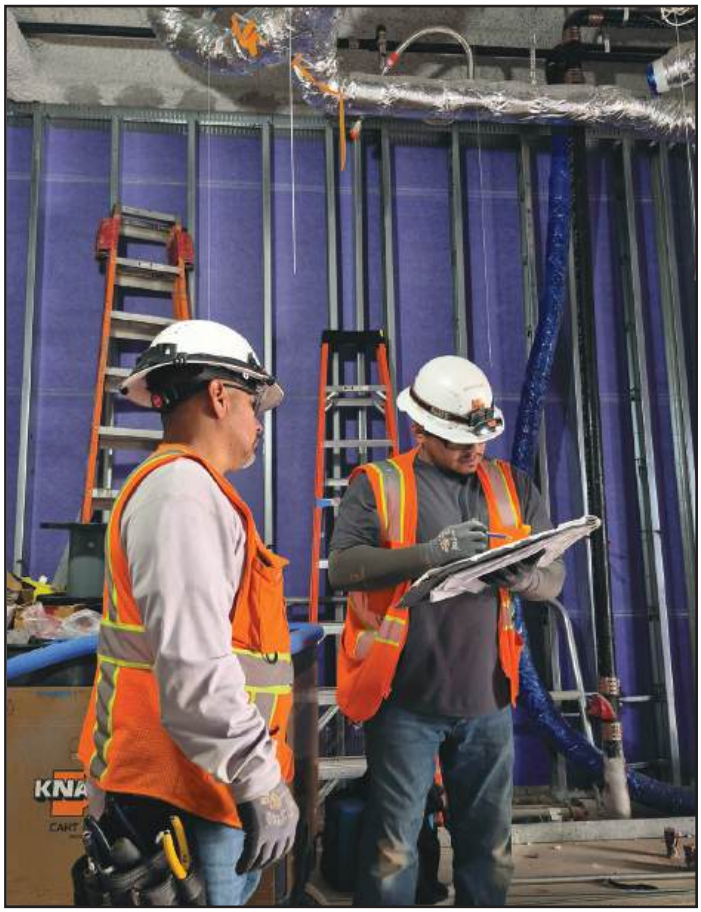
Brothers and sisters,

It is once again a pleasure and honor to be introducing myself as one of your new Organizers. My name is Lonnie Garza, and this year it will be 20 years for me as a card-carrying member. I have spent 9 years non-union and now have roughly 29 years of electrical experience that I have been using not only to support my family but to share with those who I have been lucky enough to work with. I am excited to come on board to make myself available to you with all you might need but also hit the ground running with a focus on organizing contractors. I am 100% committed to organizing. I believe we will go nowhere without contractors to employee us. It is my goal to build partnerships with all who will join us in this fight for better living, benefits and working conditions. I believe that one of our best-selling points is our unmatched skills. We are the cream of the crop in the electrical industry, and we must continue to prove that to not only our anti-union, and union busting counterparts but to our potential partners. Please continue to work with focus, integrity, fairness, and I promise to do the same.

Best regards,

Lonnie Garza - Card # 7482551





PREPARING FOR BUSY SEASON

Brother and Sister, we are heading toward a busy season.

As far as the organizer's report, we have been establishing relationships with contractors and individual workers. We have been taking in Journeyman and apprentices. The work picture looks great for Local 440.



Also, all of us as Local 440 members should not be afraid to talk to anyone who is an electrician, with a certification or not. Please take the time to let everybody know what it is like being a union electrician and its benefits. We as a local need to continue to talk to everybody about why being in the union is better than non-union. We as 440; every member is an organizer. Our collective effort is essential for growth.

On another note, I am also the veteran liaison here at the office. We just received our new VEEP (Veteran Electrical Entry Program) graduate. Please join me in congratulating Kyle Trosper as he moves forward in his new career in the electrical field!



440 Members, we are coming near to our "Flags for Heroes" event here at Riverside National Cemetery. Come and meet me at the Cemetery on Memorial Day and help me put flags for the ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Let's never forget the fallen. I look forward to seeing you there as we honor our Heroes.

My 440 Veterans, Sgt. Diaz speaking, SOUND OFF!!!! ROLL CALL!!!! What I need is, Name, Rank, date of service and shirt size. Please pass the word... I need to get an accurate count of all our 440 Members who have served. Please share your information to Victor@ibew440.org.

Victor A Diaz
#8008607
0811/ USMC

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Every law begins as an idea. That idea is turned into a **bill**, which is a written proposal for a new law or a change to an existing one. The process of turning a bill into a law involves several steps and the work of elected officials.

Who Writes Bills?

Bills are primarily written by **lawmakers**, who are elected to represent the people. These lawmakers often work with their staff, legal experts, and interest groups to draft bills carefully. Ideas for bills can come from many places, including citizens, organizations, and government agencies. Lawmakers take these ideas and shape them into formal proposals.

What Is a State Assembly Member or Senator?

Each state has its own legislature, which is responsible for making state laws. Most state legislatures are divided into two parts:

- The **State Assembly** (or House of Representatives)
- The **State Senate**

An **Assembly Member** serves in the lower chamber, while a **Senator** serves in the upper chamber. Both are elected by voters in their districts and represent the interests of the people who live there.

What Do They Do?

State Assembly Members and Senators have several important responsibilities:

- **Represent their constituents** by listening to concerns and needs
- **Propose and review legislation**
- **Debate issues** and suggest changes to bills
- **Vote on bills** to decide whether they should move forward

They work together to create laws that affect education, public safety, transportation, and many other areas of daily life.

The Process: How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. A lawmaker introduces a bill in either the Assembly or the Senate.
2. The bill is assigned to a **committee**, where it is studied and discussed in detail.
3. The committee may revise the bill before sending it back for further debate.
4. The full chamber debates the bill and then votes on it.
5. If the bill passes, it is sent to the other chamber, where the process is repeated.
6. If both chambers approve the same version of the bill, it is sent to the **Governor**.
7. The Governor can **sign the bill into law**, **veto it**, or in some cases allow it to become law without a signature.

Why This Process Matters

This process ensures that laws are carefully considered before they are passed. By requiring multiple steps and approval from different groups, the system helps prevent unfair or poorly written laws. It also ensures that the voices of citizens are represented through their elected officials.
Understanding how a bill becomes a law helps explain how our government works and how people can have a role in shaping the rules that guide society.

Jacob Gray
IBEW LU 440
Inside Wireman | Political Registrar



ONGOING ORGANIZING

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.
We have remained consistently busy meeting the manpower needs of our local work, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has taken the time to welcome our newly organized Journeyman Wiremen and help them better understand the benefits and responsibilities of Union membership.

If you have attended our recent General Membership Meetings, you know that over the past several months we have continued testing and organizing qualified workers from multiple contractors. Each individual comes with a different background and experience, but all have made the important decision to advance their careers and learn what the Union has to offer.

During orientation, we provide new members with important information regarding membership, benefits, and workplace rights. However, it can be a great deal of information to absorb at one time. For that reason, I encourage all members to continue those conversations on the jobsite. Sharing your knowledge of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, medical coverage, retirement benefits, and Union values can make a lasting impact on our newest members.

Many of these newly organized members come from workplaces where wages and conditions varied depending on the type of project, whether Public Works or Private. Some have also experienced the challenges that come with lease-leaseback projects and inconsistent rates of pay. These experiences reinforce the importance of fair wages, strong representation, and the protections secured through our Collective Bargaining Agreement. When speaking with contractors, one message we often share is: "We can organize workers for you or from you." This has opened the door to productive discussions with several companies. Recently, a well-respected contractor reached out to explore opportunities to work with us. They understand that the Collective Bargaining Agreement is a mutual agreement between Labor and Management. Many contractors are surprised to learn how closely our agreement aligns with policies and standards they already value.

As always, we rely on the support of our membership to help us connect with more workers and contractors throughout our area. If you have not already done so, please download the Local 440 app, available on both Android and iPhone devices. After logging in, I encourage you to explore its features.

One especially valuable tool is the "Report a Jobsite" feature. This can be used to submit questions or concerns such as:

- Who is the electrical contractor on this project?
- Is the Union aware of this project?
- I believe there may be an issue that should be reviewed.

When reports are submitted, we make every effort to respond promptly and provide accurate information.

Please continue using the app, and if you have suggestions for improvements, feel free to reach out. Your input is appreciated and helps us better serve the membership.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to helping in any way I can.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Jorge Esqueda
7890114
Inside Journeyman Wireman



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: QUARTER 2

May 2026

- **May 1st** – R.E.N.E.W. Meeting (5-6pm)
  General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
- **May 5th** – Cinco de Mayo
- **May 10th** – Mother's Day
- **May 15th** – Women's Committee (6-8pm)
- **May 17th** – Brotherhood & Baseball
- **May 23th** – Flag for Every Hero
- **May 25th** – Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

June 2026

- **June 5th** – R.E.N.E.W. Meeting (5-6pm)
  General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
- **June 6th** – IEETC Apprentice Graduation
- **June 13th** – Cornhole Tournament
- **June 14th** – Flag Day
- **June 19th** – Juneteenth
- **June 19th** – Women's Committee (6-8pm)
- **June 21st** – Father's Day

July 2026

- **July 3rd** – Independence Day (Substitue - Offices Closed)
- **July 4th** – Independence Day
- **July 10th** – R.E.N.E.W Meeting (5-6pm)
  General Membership Meeting (6-9pm)
- **July 17th** – Women's Committee (6-8pm)

REFERENCE NUMBERS

IEETC
(909) 890-1703

www.ieetc.org

CA State Certification
(510) 286-3900

www.dir.ca.gov

Zenith American
Defined Contribution Pension/Annuity

(877) 937-9602

IBEW NECA Pension
Defined Benefit Pension

(800) 824-6935

For pensions/annuity information

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

For health, vision and dental coverage information

For full list of benefit providers, phone numbers and website links, scan QR code.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Death benefits

We are currently at death benefit:

 # 351

Please check the top right side of your dues receipt to see what number you are paid through. For Example DF# 334-351 means you are paid through number 351, so you do not owe death benefits.

Each Death Benefit is $10.

Last death was:

#351 Francisco Lemus

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.
- Dues can also be paid on our website at IBEW440.org or our App.
- Dues can be paid at the **Riverside office** with: **cash, card, check or money order** (debit & CC fees will apply)
- 24 hr notice for all Travel Letters

CW Tips

- 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 3 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 #
- Click search
- Add to list
- Print certification

Palm Desert office

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



IN MEMORIAM & NEW BEGINNINGS

Passings

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Isidro Dondiego - April 10, 2026

James Kringel - April 26, 2026

Newborn Corner

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

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

1605 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers | Riverside County, CA

Office Hours

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

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

IBEW440.org

1605 Spruce St.
Riverside, CA 92507

Coachella Valley Electrical Resource Center

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

Phone: (760) 999-1078

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Palm Desert, CA 92211