

## Struggle Continues on the Farms

The struggle for justice in the strawberry fields of California goes on. As reported from time to time in the *IBEW Journal*, the labor movement has rallied behind the United Farm Workers (UFW) in their efforts to bring union representation to those who work under miserable, unhealthy conditions to bring the strawberry crop to the tables of North American consumers.

Recently, the UFW has stepped up the campaign against Driscoll, America's largest strawberry corporation. As a result of class action lawsuits filed in 1997 charging growers with nonpayment and widespread abuse of workers, and unsanitary field conditions, workers have received a settlement of over \$400,000. The union also won a major court judgment in December 1998 against strawberry producers that illegally financed "worker committees" that were found to be little more than company-controlled

organizations to compete against the union. These companies have been permanently enjoined from bankrolling such groups.

Driscoll is one of the last of the major strawberry corporations resisting a pledge to remain neutral during campaigns to organize its workers. In the past, Driscoll growers have closed down operations and even plowed crops under rather than let their workers be organized. The workers and their many supporters in the community are calling on



**California strawberry workers and UFW supporters rally for justice.**

Driscoll to follow the lead of two of California's other major strawberry producers—Coastal Berry and Swanton Berry Farms—by signing an agreement that its growers will remain neutral while workers seek to organize. The IBEW supports the strawberry workers in this effort. ☐

### UNION ALL THE WAY IN PHILADELPHIA

When WHYY, Philadelphia's public television station, recently began a multimillion dollar reconstruction project, it was good news for the IBEW in more ways than one. Not only is the electrical work being done by members of Local 98, but the 35 technicians who are members of Local 1241 will benefit from the expanded facility as well.

Local 1241 Business Manager Frank Goldstein recently invited Pennsylvania State Senator Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson (R) of the Sixth Senatorial District to tour the construction project and receive a briefing from station management and the local on the new technology that the expanded facility will house. Senator Tomlinson chairs the state Senate Technology Committee and is committed to work with WHYY and the IBEW to support funding for public television and to find funding for training of station personnel on high definition television and other technological changes. ☐



**Touring WHYY-TV's reconstruction project in Philadelphia are (from left) Thad Kirk, WHYY technician and Local 1241 steward; WHYY President and CEO William J. Marrazzo; State Senator Robert Tomlinson. They are observing Local 98 members Brian Schaffer and Blaze LaFrance (right) at work.**

# All in a Day's Work

The quick reactions that only 20 years of CPR classes can instill paid off recently when Mel Minami, a 19-year member of IBEW Local 1186, Honolulu, Hawaii, saved the life of a 17-month old baby girl.

Brother Minami, a maintenance technician for Oceanic Cable, was making a service call in the Honolulu suburb of Makakilo when he heard the sounds of panic. One of the family members told him that a baby inside the house had stopped breathing.



**At left, a real lifesaver – Bro. Mel Minami**

arrived to treat the little girl further.

What did Mel do then? He cleared up the customer's cable reception problem. All in a day's work for this stalwart IBEW member.

Brother Minami received his training through Local 1186's safety program, administered by the Hawaii Electricians Training Fund. Under this program, members of Oceanic Cable and other IBEW-represented companies have attended CPR, First Aid and refresher courses to keep them current on safety procedures. ■

Brother Minami found the baby girl convulsing and foaming from the mouth. Her skin had turned blue. He quickly cleared her breathing passage as best he could and administered CPR. The baby soon started breathing and her natural color returned. Paramedics soon

## TRANSITIONS

Fifth District International Representative Robert D. Myers announced his retirement, effective April 1, 1999. He was initiated into Local 2188, Shreveport, Louisiana, on February 20, 1967. He had served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950-54. He was president of his local and also held the position of trades steward. Brother Myers served on the Trades Committee, Job Grades Committee and the Negotiating Committee.

### RETIRED



**Robert D. Myers**

Brother Myers was the secretary-treasurer of the Shreveport Central Trades and Labor Council, president of the Louisiana Electrical Workers, and president of the IBEW EM-3 System Council. He has attended Centenary College in Shreveport and the Meany Center for Labor Studies.

The officers and staff of the IBEW wish Brother Myers and his family a healthful and enjoyable retirement. ■

Eleventh District International Representative Carl J. Tutorino announced his retirement, effective May 1, 1999. Brother Tutorino was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on April 13, 1934. He was initiated into Local 124, Kansas City, Missouri, on June 8, 1955. Brother Tutorino was an active member of the local, serving in numerous capacities including recording secretary,

### RETIRED



**Carl J. Tutorino**

on the Labor Management Committee, as delegate to the Kansas City Central Labor Council and on the Local Union Building Committee. He was appointed an International Representative on April 1, 1977, and assigned to the Eleventh District staff.

The officers and staff of the IBEW extend best wishes to Brother Tutorino and his family on his retirement. ■

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