

Local 45 Wins the Vote at Three California TV Stations

By a decisive 3-1 margin, the writers, production assistants and satellite coordinator at San Francisco's CBS affiliate KPIX-TV voted for representation by IBEW Local 45, Hollywood, California. Local 45 Bus. Mgr. Lloyd Webster and Bus. Rep. Hugh McGuigan led the organizing drive with assistance from the IBEW Ninth District staff.

This is the third straight organizing victory for Local 45 in the broadcasting industry. The local recently won an NLRB election unanimously among the news producers and assignment editors at KSTS-TV Telemundo, San Jose, California. Local 45 also recently won an overwhelming victory at KGET-TV, an NBC affiliate in Bakersfield, California, to represent photographers and editors.

The organizing efforts of the local's rank and file members already represented at these three television stations were instrumental in these victories. At KPIX, shop stewards Mark

Jaqua and Curtis Caldwell spread the message of trade unionism to their non-represented co-workers.

The organizing victory at KPIX represents the second group of writers to become members of Local 45. The local also represents the writers at KSTS.

With the recent election wins, a total of 36 additional employees at the three broadcasting companies gained IBEW Local 45 representation.

At press time, Local 45 entered contract negotiations for the new members at KSTS and KGET and is preparing for bargaining with KPIX. ■

Local 45 Business Manager Lloyd Webster (left) and shop stewards Pat Leong and Dave Mills are pictured in San Francisco during a break in negotiations on the new KPIX-TV writers contract.



Local 953, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, has won three representation elections this year—at Dairyland Power Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative and Ace Telephone Association.

At Dairyland Power, a new unit of 20 members from the Line Construction Department voted on March 25 for IBEW representation. These 20 workers join 233 other Local 953 members at the power co-op, which is headquartered in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and has generating sites in Wisconsin at Alma, Genoa and Ladysmith. Distribution cooperatives under the Dairyland System are located in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois.

On February 11, Local 953 organized five new members who work as Inside Employees at Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Elizabeth, Illinois. Local 953 already represents 11 Outside Employees at Jo-Carroll.

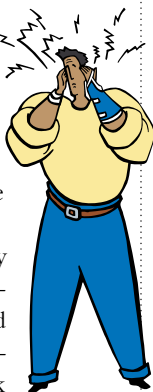
The local also succeeded in its organizing drive at Ace Telephone Association (ATS), when 28 employees based in Houston, Minnesota, voted January 12 for representation by Local 953. ATS has experienced tremendous growth since its formation after World War II when telephone service in rural southeastern Minnesota was inadequate. It is now a leader in Rural Telephone Cooperatives in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan. ATS also operates two subsidiaries—Ace Telephone in Michigan and Satellite Entertainment Inc., located in Houston, Minnesota, and Buckley, Michigan. ■

ORGANIZED Voices

Anthony Gentile
Local 3, New York, New York

I have been doing electrical work for 12 years. I started working nonunion; then after two years, an ex-friend got me into what I thought was a great union in New York. The money was prevailing on the required jobs, and the health benefits were great! Little did I know what lay ahead. I was with the same shop for eight years, sometimes as a foreman, sometimes as a worker. I had the pleasure of running 20 men in the New York subway, no subs or straws, and was paid \$50 over (mostly wearing my tools). But I was constantly threatened for my job, causing me to rush, which in turn caused me to get injured. On one job, I had this “brilliant” foreman cook me with 600v-DC! No big deal—back to work the next day with a bag of gauze pads and burn cream. I had to [show up for work] or I would have been fired.

Well, to make a long story short, I finally got the opportunity to join the IBEW and the best local in the country—IBEW Local 3 in New York City. I have been a member for a little more than two years now. The professionalism and brotherhood I have encountered in this time is none shy of the same I had seen in the Marine Corps when I was active. I am a father of two, and the decision I made to enter this local has given me an outlook on the future that only great things are ahead. We are most fortunate. God bless Local 3 and the IBEW.



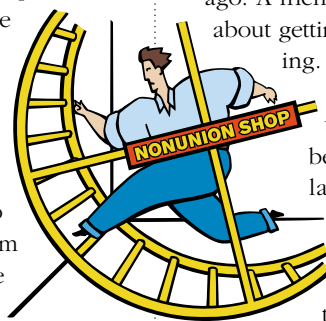
Sam Warden
Local 22, Omaha, Nebraska

“Why are you leaving? You got it pretty good here!” said one of my old work buddies. “You’re the top dog here, and if you leave you’ll be just another number. What about the dreaded sitting on the bench?” he asked.

Little did he know he was wrong, dead wrong! To give you an idea of what I’m talking about, let me give you a recap of my past experience. I was raised into a family of electricians—my father, brothers and I, all electricians. Yet during all my years in the trade, I was never influenced by the union. My father never spoke a word of it, and [nobody] I knew did either. So I never considered it a choice.

Working most of my electrical career in a nonunion shop, I learned a lot of what they had to offer. Some [companies were] so small they didn’t have insurance. At others the company perk was if you were the lead guy, you could drive the newest service truck. Not only that, but once you became a journeyman, their wage was nothing to shake a stick at.

Working to get as far as I could, I achieved all the licenses I could, stopping at my contractor’s [license]. Having



this completed, I was dormant at the last shop I was with. Unhappy with how my career might end up, I started tossing ideas around. Ideas like starting my own business, looking for a different shop to work for. All the ideas...were still unsatisfactory.

Everything changed seven months ago. A friend of mine called one night about getting together to go bass fishing. I had worked with this friend before in non-union shops, but [he] had been with the local for the last few years. He put a “bug in my ear” and raised an interest.

Looking for information, I got a hold of Fred Munch [Local 22 organizer], who took the extra step to find the right time to talk. That night after talking to Fred, I went to my boss’s house and gave him my two weeks’ notice. Within a week I was at the hall and took a call. That was the best move I’ve made yet. I’ve met a lifetime of new friends, all of whom I’d give the shirt off my back to.

I’ve been taught that we have rights and that as a Brotherhood, we can demand a better way of life. For once there are conditions, a mass variety of work, excellent wages, insurance and benefits! I still wonder why I never made the move any earlier than I did, and I respect and envy those whose first step in the electrical trade was through the union.

I can’t express myself in a way to show the great appreciation I have for the union and Local 22. It’s changed my life and I’m grateful. I now find myself inspired and very proud to be an electrician working out of Local 22.

I still have contact with some of my ex-coworkers, and I’m putting a ‘bug’ in their ears so they can experience the gratification that I have since I’ve joined the union.

Any newly organized member of the IBEW who wishes to add his or her voice to this section of the *Journal* should send it to:

Organized Voices, IBEW Journal, 1125–15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. Or send it via e-mail to: journal@ibew.org