



# CURRENTS

SAN DIEGO ELECTRICAL TRUSTS

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INSIDE WIREMAN & SOUND TECHNICIAN CLASS OF 2015

On June 12, 2015 the San Diego Electrical and Sound Technician Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards ceremony was held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront.

Over 350 guests gathered this year to celebrate & honor the Training Center's 21 graduates, who received their Journeyman credentials. Graduates were rewarded with their Palomar College Certificate of Completion; Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Susan Davis, Certificates of Recognition from Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, State Assembly Members Brian Jones, Shirley Weber and Lorena Gonzalez; and Special Commendation from City of San Diego Councilmembers Todd Gloria and Marti Emerald. In addition to the family, friends, and union contractors who attended the festivities, guests included State Assembly Member Shirley Weber, City of Chula Mayor Mary Salas, City of San Diego Councilmembers Myrtle Cole and Todd Gloria; Division of Apprenticeship Standards Consultant Rhannon Rogers, Palomar College Director of Occupational & Non-credit Programs Mollie Smith; Southwestern College School District Superintendent/President Dr. Melinda Nash, School Board Vice President Nora Vargas and Governing Board Members Tim Nader and Griselda Delgado; from the San Diego Community College District, Miramar College President Dr. Patricia Hsieh and School Board Member Peter Zschiesche; San Diego Unified School Board Member Dr. Michael McQuary; Chula Vista Elementary School District School Board President Glendora Tremper;

Port of San Diego Commissioners Rafael Castellanos & Marshall Merrifield; San Diego Electrical Pension, Health & Welfare Assistant

recognition was awarded to John Sherrell (Baker Electric) and the Outstanding Sound Technician honor went to David Kem (Pyro-Comm Systems Inc.). Both graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance, and excellent employer evaluations. Each received \$200 from Baker Electric and Dynalectric Company, a drill kit from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation, and an engraved plaque memorializing their achievement. In addition, they received an invitation to attend the IBEW/NECA National Training Institute program at the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan where they will attend the leadership training program along with Outstanding Apprentice graduates from throughout the United States and Canada. David also received \$200 from HMT Electric and John received \$200 from Neal Electric and a



Photo courtesy of Don Darrock Photography

Administrator Matt Morfoot and from Contractor News and Views Mike and Sandy Caples.

The evening was the night of recognition and celebration for the graduates! To start off the festivities, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elizabeth Neimann, Sound Technician student council chairperson.

The following graduates were recognized for having perfect attendance throughout their apprenticeship: Chase Beck, Angel Bernal, Luke Eisele, David Kem and John Sherrell. Each received a 4-pc screwdriver set from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation, bucketless tool bag & tools from Southern Contracting, and cash from Baker Electric and Neal Electric.

Outstanding Inside Wireman graduate

leisure boat cruise from Professional Contractor Supply. In addition, John also received this year's I.B.E.W. Union Strong Award for his selfless contribution to the industry.

Chase Beck (Fuller Electric) was the runner-up for Outstzpany and a drill set from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation. He also graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance, and excellent employer evaluations.

Additional awards went to Jaime Leon, who was this year's recipient of the Lifelong Learning Journeyman Training Award; third year Inside Wireman apprentice Victor Patron (Morrow Meadows Corporation) was this year's recipient of the \$1,000 Apprenticeship Scholarship. Additional recognition went to Inside Wireman graduate John

# BEST DOCTORS RESULTS FOR 2014 AND PPO PLAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

It has been reported by the Best Doctors program that in their vast experience of reviewing self-reported medical cases **20+% of diagnoses** are clarified or changed, **60+% of recommended treatment plans** are clarified or changed, **38% of recommended surgeries** are totally unnecessary and **another 18%** of recommended procedures would not be the best one for the patient.

Best Doctors reported that for 2014 they received 57 calls from participants of the San Diego Electrical Health & Welfare Trust. From those calls there were 20 Inter-Consultations completed, 22 requests for a Best Doctors expert physician recommendation and one Ask the Expert call.

Overall for 2014, when looking at all 44 Inter-Consultations performed for all members of the San Diego Purchasers Co-operative **the diagnosis was changed 39% and there was a treatment change in 77% of those cases. These statistics clearly suggest the chances of receiving unnecessary or improper medical care is too high to be ignored.** A whopping **92%** of the closed cases for the San Diego Purchasers Co-operative group gave Best Doctors the highest rating in terms of meeting their needs and would recommend Best Doctors to a fellow participant.

The Best Doctors program is available to all Covered Persons in the Plan A PPO Plan and all Kaiser Plans (Plans A, B & C). Under the PPO Plan there are certain incentives for participants who contact Best Doctors and complete the Inter-Consultation process. For Plan A PPO Covered Persons their calendar year deductible will be waived. Further, for services performed by and at a PPO Provider, all Eligible Expenses pertaining to the performance of any of the following elective surgical procedures will be paid at 100% (with no out of pocket cost) if a Best Doctors "Inter-Consultation" is completed **before** the procedure is performed: **back, hysterectomy, knee and hip replacement, obesity or bariatric, coronary artery by-pass graft, heart valve replacements, prostatectomy and lumpectomy/mastectomy.**

To qualify for payment of all Eligible Expenses related to the elective surgical procedure at 100% a Certificate of Completion of a Best Doctors "Inter-Consultation" conducted prior to the date the procedure is performed must be received by the Plan. However, there shall be no requirement that the Best Doctors "Inter-Consultation" findings must be followed by the Participant or their Physician in order to qualify for this incentive subject to application of any other Plan limitations. In the event Best Doctors

determines that an "Inter-Consultation" is not necessary, this incentive shall not apply.

If you receive a recommendation for one of these specified elective surgeries from a physician, or any other significant surgical procedure or medical diagnosis for that matter, please **contact Best Doctors at 1-866-904-0910.** Please remember you must be covered under Plans A, B or C at the time in order to qualify to receive the Best Doctors services offered by the Plan **at no cost to the participant.**

**BEST DOCTORS HELPS TO SAVE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTE TO PARTICIPANTS ACHIEVING OPTIMAL MEDICAL OUTCOMES. BY PREVENTING UNNECESSARY, IMPROPER OR INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS PARTICIPANTS AND THE PLAN HAVE SAVED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN CLAIM COSTS WHICH HELPS TO KEEP THE HOURLY CONTRIBUTION RATE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.**

If there are any questions please contact the Trust Office (x702).

## Graduates continued from Cover –

Sherrell and Sound Technician graduate Jeremy Graham, who were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation plaques for serving as Student Council Chairmen for their programs.

This year, a special award called "Excellence in Work Performance" was presented to one of our graduating apprentices. This award was based on apprentice jobsite evaluations. A jobsite evaluation is a field assessment of an apprentice's performance on the job by the contractor, and among other things, it evaluates ability, effort, quality, safety, punctuality, and attitude. Chase Beck (Fuller Electric), Inside Wireman graduate, received the award with evaluations that averaged over 99% throughout his five-year apprenticeship. His supervisors described Chase like this: "Always punctual"; "has a positive attitude 100% of the time"; "he continues to impress us with his work ethic and consistent quality of work"; "he is an asset to our shop and to the union"; "he always goes the extra mile to get things done and NEVER complains about it." At our training center, we remind our apprentices of the legacy that is given to them: "YOU are the IBEW. YOU set the STANDARD for ALL other electrical workers." During his apprenticeship, Chase set the standard for all us. Congratulations to him for a job well done.

The Division of Apprenticeship Standards, in addition to congratulating our graduates for their accomplishments, recognized JATC members for their continuous volunteer services to the apprenticeship programs. Those receiving a Certificate of Meritorious Service for 5-years' service included Sound Technician JATC member Bob Riel and Inside Wireman JATC members James Cox and Johnny Simpson. Sound Technician JATC

Chairman Pete Spencer received a Certificate of Meritorious Service for 10-years' service.

Many thanks to the following contractors and associates for their donations of tools, gift cards and cash for the graduates: Anderson Howard Electric, Baker Electric, Chula Vista Electric, Davies Electric Co. Inc., Dynalectric Company, Electramark Inc., Fuller Electric, HMT Electric, Inc., IBEW Local 569, IBEW-NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), Milwaukee Electric Tools Corporation, Morrow Meadows Corporation, Neal Electric Corporation, Professional Contractor Supply, Robinson Electric, Saturn Electric, Southland Electric, Southern Contracting Company and Synergy Electric.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 GRADUATES:

### Sound Technician Program

Angel Bernal  
Nicholas English  
Jeremy Graham  
David Kem  
Hector Murrieta

### Inside Wireman Program

Chase Beck	Timothy Ramm
Dominic Cardenas	Daniel Riley
Luke Eisele	Ben Ruckle
Kevin Frederick	Christopher Sanchez
Francisco Jimenez	Joseph Schmidt
Timothy Leisch	John Sherrell
Jose Magana	Devin Wilcox
Ronnie Maynard	Jesse Willis

To view photos of the event, please visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoElectricalTrainingCenter>.

# GETTING MEDICAL OR DENTAL SERVICES IN MEXICO? USE ONLY PINNACLE PROVIDERS

All employees and their eligible dependents covered under Plan A, or Plan B with Plan A dental benefits, may now access medical and dental care in Mexico at **NO OUT-OF-POCKET COST** so long as only Pinnacle panel providers in Algodones, San Luis, Mexicali and Tijuana are used.

The objective is for you to have access to quality medical and dental services at a fraction of the cost of services in the U.S. There are no co-pays or deductibles, schedule your services today! To access services, simply present your Pinnacle healthcare ID card and your picture ID with any of the medical or dental providers contracted by Pinnacle.

Remember that to take advantage of these services you must seek services with the contracted providers. Provider listings may be accessed at the Trust Office, at the offices of IBEW Local 569 or via the Trust's web site (569trusts.org). One will also be included in a notice to be sent to all Plan A participants during the month of August.

Arrangements have been made for the delivery of eligible medical/dental services as follows:

*Medical Benefits - All eligible expenses in accordance with the PPO Plan Schedule of Benefits.*

*Dental Benefits - All eligible expenses up to \$2,000 per covered person per calendar year.*

**IF ANY COVERED EMPLOYEE OR DEPENDENT USES A MEDICAL OR DENTAL PROVIDER IN MEXICO OTHER THAN A PINNACLE PANEL PROVIDER THERE WILL BE NO COVERAGE UNDER THE PLAN AND THE PARTICIPANT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL BILLED CHARGES FROM THE SERVICE PROVIDER.**

**IMPORTANT - A separate plastic Pinnacle ID Card, which is NOT a replacement for the white/blue Anthem Blue Cross ID Card, must be presented to a Pinnacle medical/dental provider along with a pictured ID in order to receive covered services in Mexico. Further, the employee or dependent must be covered by the Plan at the time services are rendered.**

Let Pinnacle take care of you, call Isabel Jaime at 760.355.3943, x 7343, or contact the Trust Office at x310.

## EXPECTED DATE OF PENSION BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Recently, due to an electronic glitch on the bank's end, there was a delay to the delivery of monthly benefit payments as of the morning of the first business day of that month. Understandably the Trust Office received a lot of phone calls bringing the problem to their attention and in the course of some of those conversations the benefit recipient mentioned that they needed the money in the account to cover a released check or a scheduled debit.

It is the goal of the Trust Office to deliver monthly payments to all benefit recipients on the first business day of each month. A delay such as this has happened a time or two in the past and, unfortunately, it is not always known that a transmission or delivery problem has arisen until the morning of the first day of that month and the Trust Office is notified by some expecting recipients.

Recognizing it is possible for delivery of monthly

benefits to be delayed 1 or 2 days it is strongly recommended that all recipients take this into consideration when scheduling bill paying debits or expecting routinely issued checks to clear. Two suggestions as a means of avoiding any problem in covering those withdrawals are: 1) try to maintain a sufficient account balance to cover scheduled debits or checks to clear and/or 2) don't schedule an automatic debit or expect a check to clear until the 3rd business day of the month.

## EXPANDING HORIZONS

By: Tammy Spinks

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are the foundations for the work we do in our trade as Electricians. By applying the various concepts we learned through our Apprenticeship and on the job, we unconsciously integrate STEM into every project that we do. On April 25th the training center had the opportunity in Imperial Valley to share those concepts to over 300 local females age 11-21 and their parents at the Expanding Your Horizons conference at Imperial Valley Community College. Across the country Women's participation in the STEM concepts and related careers has traditionally fallen short of their male counterparts. The National Science Boards annual "Science and Engineering Indicators" report stated that females made up just 28% of science and engineering workers in 2010. In the construction trades that number hovers even lower at around 3% according to

the Bureau of Labor Statics. The intent of the conference was to show females the various array of careers opportunities that are available to them which reflect the numerous spectrums of STEM. The conference attendees participated in hands on engaging sessions to encourage, enlighten and generate excitement in the pursuit of these fields. The conference began with over all presentations and then several breakout sessions. After discussing our trade and our diverse job description as an electrician the students were divided into groups to participate in labs. The females gained hands on experience in pipe bending, Cat 5 termination, and single pole switching. Many of the attendants were able to experience working with tools for the first time and it was evident that they left the session with an increased understanding of what they could achieve. This was a great opportunity to show our support for the community and for females in STEM careers. Thank you to Elizabeth Niemann and Ramon Castro for your help in making this possible.

## MAKING DIRECT PAYMENTS TO CONTINUE COVERAGE

Just a reminder that it is now possible to make a Direct Payment to maintain Plan A and Plan B group health insurance coverage electronically in 2 ways:

- Using a computer or smart phone by accessing the Trust's web site ([www.569trusts.org](http://www.569trusts.org)); or
- Using a debit card at the Trust Office

**There will be no cost to the participant for using either of these services.**

Direct Payments may also be made before the stated deadline for a particular month by mailing a check to the Trust Office or delivering a check to the Trust Office.

*continued on page 4 -*

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## ONLINE PPO MEDICAL OFFICE VISITS

As a reminder, Plan A PPO participants may utilize online medical office visits through Anthem Blue Cross. The only cost to a Covered Person for this office visit will be a \$10 co-payment which must be paid by debit/credit card at the time the online visit is conducted.. However, if the participant is not identified in the Anthem system as being covered under the PPO Plan at the time of service then the full \$49 fee must be paid by debit/credit card. In the event coverage for that month is later established there will be a refund of \$39 from the Plan.

As a reminder, use of this program and CVS Minute Clinics represent a convenient option for seeking medical advice and possible issuance of a prescription instead of going to a hospital urgent care facility or emergency room for what may be a routine medical issue. **However, if ever it is determined that a higher level of care is necessary the online physician or Minute Clinic practitioner will advise the patient as to where treatment should be sought and there will be no charge for the visitation.**

IMPORTANT - For other than a true

emergency ( i.e. heart attack, seizure, very high temperature, severe injury, loss of consciousness, etc.) use of an urgent care facility is preferable to that of a hospital emergency room.

**Therefore, if a simple online office visit or Minute Clinic visitation will provide the level of care necessary the financial exposure to the participant will be considerably less.**

To access Live Health Online go to [www.livehealthonline.com](http://www.livehealthonline.com). If there is ever a question as to use of PPO service providers please contact the Trust Office (x-702).

*Direct Payments – continued from Page 3 –*

When accessing the ACH Transfer tool the participant will be able to make a payment for either the current month and/or the following month. In order to make a Direct Payment for the following month the participant must be covered for the current month. If there is a need to make a direct payment for both months this can also be accomplished so long as the current month is paid first. Instructions for making an ACH Direct Payment are available through the Trust Office (x310).

## HEALTH INFORMATION SOURCES

**Best Doctors** - 1-866-904-0910 or [www.bestdoctors.com](http://www.bestdoctors.com);

**Caremark** - [www.Caremark.com](http://www.Caremark.com); Specialty medications - CVS/Caremark at 1-800-237-2767;

**"NurseLine" - 24/7 access to Registered Nurses** at 800-250-6181 or

<http://healthresources.caremark.com/topic/specialty>; and for researching doctors and hospitals: [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com), [www.leapfroggroup.org/](http://www.leapfroggroup.org/);

[www.Calhospitalcompare.org](http://www.Calhospitalcompare.org);

[www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov);

<http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/>

**National Practitioner Data Bank/Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank** may be used to verify information on a healthcare provider; and <http://www.medbd.ca.gov/lookup.html>

**Medical Board of California for physician licensing. The California Health Care**

**Foundation** supports <http://www.calqualitycare.org/> which combines ratings for quality of care, patient safety and patient experience in an effort to help consumers make informed choices.