



# CURRENTS

SAN DIEGO ELECTRICAL TRUSTS

Issue 69

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INSIDE WIREMAN & SOUND TECHNICIAN CLASS OF 2013



On June 14, 2013, the San Diego Electrical and Sound Technician Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards ceremony was held at the Hilton San Diego Resort on Mission Bay.

Over 400 guests gathered this year to celebrate & honor the Training Center's 48 graduates, who received their Journeyman credentials. Graduates were rewarded with their Palomar College Certificate of Completion, Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Susan Davis, Certificate of Recognition from State Assembly Member Brian Jones, Letter of Commendation from Council Members Marti Emerald and Todd Gloria. In addition to the family, friends and union contractors who attended the festivities, guests included San Diego Mayor Bob Filner, Division of Apprenticeship Standards Deputy Chief Glen Forman; Assembly Member Shirley Weber; City of Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Pamela Bensoussan; City of San Diego Council Member Marti Emerald; San Diego Unified School District School Board Members Richard Barrera, Scott Barnett and Kevin Beiser; Miramar College President Patricia Hseih; Director of Vocational & Non-credit Programs Mollie Smith from Palomar College; and from Contractor News and Views Mike Caples.

The evening was the night of recognition and excellence for the graduates! The Outstanding Inside Wireman and Sound Technician graduates were awarded to Matthew Russell (Dynalectric) and James Golden (Davies Electric), respectively. Both graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance and excellent employer evaluations. Each received \$400, set of tools from Klein Tools, drill sets from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation and HMT Electric and an engraved plaque memorializing their achievement. The following graduates were recognized for having perfect attendance throughout their apprenticeship: Chad Barsoom, Brett Browne, Ben Cusey, Octave Damon, James Golden, David Laabs, Christin Rivera, Matthew Russell, Douglas Smith and Michael Wheeler. Each received multi-meters from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation and cash.

Additional awards went to Arturo Pino (D & R Electric), who was this year's recipient of the Lifelong Learning Journeyman Training Award; third year Inside Wireman apprentice

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## BEST DOCTORS NOW AVAILABLE TO KAISER PARTICIPANTS

All Kaiser participants (Plan A, Plan B and Plan C) will now have access to the Best Doctors program for validating a diagnosis or a recommended plan of treatment. **There is no cost to the participant to use this program!**

Being aware of this program is extremely important because 20+ years of Best Doctors statistics show that **over 20% of initial diagnoses are incorrect** and **over 60% of proposed treatment plans are modified** as a result of independent expert professional review by Best Doctors. **Further, 38% of recommended surgeries are unnecessary.**

Which Best Doctors services may Kaiser participants take advantage of?

**In-Depth Medical Reviews** - In instances where a participant may have basic questions about their health condition or treatment options they are able to independently and confidentially contact Best Doctors to seek a consultation in order to validate their diagnosis or treatment plan.

**Ask the Expert** - As opposed to going through confusing Internet searches for answers to medical questions, participants

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Eloy Bazan, Jr. (Fuller Electric) was this year’s recipient of the \$1,000 Apprenticeship Scholarship. Additional recognitions went to Inside Wireman graduate Michael Wheeler, who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation plaque for serving as Student Council President; Sound Technician graduate Matthew Santiago for his service as Sound program student representative; Inside Wireman graduate Charles Brown received this year’s IBEW Local 569 Service/Volunteer Award for his selfless contribution to the industry. The San Diego Electrical & Sound Technician student body council recognized Ron Zieber (Davies Electric) as Journeyman Trainer of the Year. This award, nominated by the students, recognizes an IBEW Local 569 journeyman who has had a positive impact on training.

The Division of Apprenticeship Standards, in addition to congratulating each graduate for their accomplishments, recognized the following individuals with a Certificate of

**Congratulations to the 2013 graduates:**

<b>Sound Technician Program</b>	
Anderson, Vincent	Jones, Jason
Atilano, Christopher	Knodel, Kyle
Dawson, Brian	Sanchez, Marlon
Golden, James	Santiago, Matthew
James, Ashawn	Strasner, Shannon
<b>Inside Wireman Program</b>	
Adame, Alejandro	Foley, Thomas
Arredondo, Rafael	Gil, Diego
Balistreri, Anthony	Hernandez, Antonio
Barsoom, Chad	Jones, Eric
Boltz, Clinton	Kern, Michael
Brown, Charles	Laabs, David
Browne, Brett	Lutack, Gregg
Cantu, Sadrac	Marquez, Esteban
Carbajal, Isaac	Miller, Andrew
Castillo, Chuck	Omar, Backer
Castro, Ramon	Pippen, Cory
Clark, William	Rivera, Christin
Cusey, Ben	Romero, Jesse
Dacosta, Dane	Russell, Matthew
Damon, Octave	Sidebottom, Brian
De Mars, Anthony	Smith, Douglas
Decarli, Michael	Ureta, Eddie
Eisenbarth, William	Wheeler, Michael
Felton, Bruce	Wilson, Paul

Meritorious Service, for their continuous volunteer services as a JATC member: Cas Wesolowski (10-years), Alex Concha (5-years) and David Taylor (5-years).

Many thanks to the following contractors and associates for their donations of tools, gift cards and cash for the graduates: Advanced Electrical & Control Systems, Baker Electric, Inc., Beacon Electric Supply, Chula Vista Electric, Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Davies Electric Co. Inc., Dynalectric Company, Electramark Inc., Fuller Electric, HMT Electric, Inc., IBEW Local 569, IBEW-NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), Ideal Industries, Klein Tools, , L. H. Dottie Co., Main Electric Supply, Milwaukee Electric Tools Corporation, Morrow Meadows Corporation, Neal Electric Corporation, Power Communication Systems, Patrick T. Tormey & Family, Pyro-Comm Systems, Rexel ESD, Robinson Electric, Saturn Electric, Southern Contracting Company and Synergy Electric.

may now seek advice from expert doctors about a medical condition. They will also receive guidance as to whether they are asking the right questions.

How may Kaiser participants benefit from using Best Doctors?

By making a telephone call to Best Doctors (1-866-904-0910) you will connect with a Member Advocate who will listen to and answer all questions as to a diagnosis and treatment plan. The Member Advocate will take the participant’s complete medical history. If further review is warranted Best Doctors will aggregate all medical information including all physician records and tests. Following a detailed review by expert physicians, Best Doctors will deliver to the participant and their physician a summary of their findings as to whether the diagnosis and/or plan of treatment is on target. The participant is then free to use this information to make a more informed decision with their physician.

Given the above statistics, what can be more important to an individual’s well being than validating a serious diagnosis and treatment plan or a recommendation of elective surgery? If you have been continually going to doctors for diagnostic purposes or long term treatment isn’t providing positive results a call to Best Doctors could provide much needed guidance and lead to a positive medical outcome.

Please contact the Trust Office with any questions as to how Kaiser participants may use this program (x-310).

**H&W TRUST EXPLORING THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS AND ACH TRANSACTIONS TO MAKE DIRECT PAYMENTS**

**P**resently, participants in Plan A and Plan B who must make a direct payment in order to maintain continuous group health coverage may remit payment by check, by mail or hand delivery to the Trust Office and with a debit card at the Trust Office. There is no charge for using a debit card.

The Board of Trustees is researching alternative methods for making direct payments online or in person, two of which are ACH electronic payments and the use of credit cards. However, with a focus on being able to provide more convenience to plan participants, especially those who do not work or reside in San Diego County, it is possible that legal or regulatory limitations may not make a particular option available to be utilized with this particular type of Health & Welfare Plan.

It is expected that a final determination will be made within 60 - 90 days.

**WELLNESS COMMITTEE RAFFLE WINNERS**

**A** newly created Committee, consisting of Local Union 569 members and spouses, conducted a wellness survey at the IBEW Local Union 569 annual picnic held on June 22, 2013. Those participating on the Wellness Committee are Joel Basore, James Camy, Ken Collier, Nephi Hancock, Debbie Lupton, Tom Kunde, Nick Segura, Allen Shur, Tom Sokolnicki, David Taylor, and C.J. Towner. Professional assistance has also been provided by Matt Morfoot and Ken Stuart of the Trust Office as well as Nancy White, RN, of McGregor & Associates and Wendy Hileman of Healthy Adventures Foundation.

The survey was conducted between 10:00 am and Noon and was available to members and spouses. The early turnout was phenomenal as approximately 200 surveys were completed with those people being entered into a raffle of 4 prizes made available by the San Diego Electrical Health & Welfare Trust, Delta Dental and Vision Service Plan. The winners were: David Wood - Mountain Bike; Edilices Fleming - Wii-Fitness console; Gary Blackford - Electric Toothbrush; and Brian Wicka - Sunglasses.

Aside from committee volunteers, also present at the Wellness Committee table area was a representative from Best Doctors and a wellness coach who spoke with many people about their various programs and personal questions of interest. We also wish to thank Best Doctors, Delta Dental and Vision Service Plan for their generous giveaways and raffle items.

*If anyone is interested in joining the Wellness Committee please contact Matt Morfoot, Assistant Administrative Manager at the Trust Office (x-335).*

## DO NOT ALLOW DOCTORS TO ORDER SPECIALTY DRUGS THROUGH A HOSPITAL

Specialty medications are used in the treatment of chronic conditions and complex drug therapies such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA), multiple sclerosis (MS) and cancer. Depending on the condition and prescribed therapy, these medications may be taken orally (by mouth), intravenously (IV) or self-injected.

These medications often require special handling, such as refrigeration or time-sensitive delivery. Some of them are available only through limited distribution and many can be very expensive, in some cases costing thousands of dollars per dosage. Further, the price of specialty drugs continue to rise dramatically, especially as new drugs are introduced to the market place, and there are virtually no generic forms of such drugs.

It is important to be aware that under the PPO Plan all injectable medications must be purchased directly through the SpecialtyRx program of CVS/Caremark or a designated source in order for the full price of the medication to be considered for payment by the Plan. In the event other than a SpecialtyRx or a designated source is used by a physician to fill a specialty drug prescription, the Plan will not pay more than it would have if the prescription(s) had been properly filled through SpecialtyRx or a designated source. **This means the participant could be responsible for the full balance of the cost.**

Here is an example of how outrageous a San Diego hospital's pricing may be:

Billed by a Hospital	Billed by a Non-hospital					
Type of Drug	Billed	Allowed	To Be Paid*	AWP**	Allowed**	To Be Paid*
Cancer (1 mg inj)	\$61,442	\$34,715	\$28,715	\$4,510	\$5,412	\$5,412
Cancer (125 mg)	\$39,915	\$22,552	\$22,552	\$3,036	\$3,643	\$3,643

\* Combination of both Plan and Participant co-insurance

\*\*For Average Wholesale Pricing a 20% mark-up is considered reasonable

What is the impact of the Plan and participant paying these exorbitant hospital prices? Each dose of the above two medications billed by a hospital equal \$ .0075 or \$ .0096 per hour of contributions compared to \$ .0012 to \$ .0018 per hour when purchased through CVS/Caremark.

*Important - If a participant is faced with the need to receive specialty drugs on an out-patient basis, instead of having to go to a hospital facility it is possible to arrange for professional administration in their home with the medication to be delivered to the home or the mobile delivery service. As you can see the difference in cost for the exact same medication is extreme and there is the added convenience of being able to stay home. Please contact the Trust Office for more information on this process (x-310).*

## BEST DOCTORS SAVES LIVES AND PREVENTS MISTAKES

A recently reported case involved a female participant who was diagnosed with breast cancer. She contacted Best Doctors to confirm the diagnosis. Following an In-Depth Medical Review ("Inter-Consultation") the participant was informed that the diagnosis was correct. However, the participant was also informed there was a spot of cancer on a lung that had been missed.

**Mistakes like this cost lives and can be prevented!**

All PPO and Kaiser participants may call Best Doctors at 1-866-904-0910 to review a particular medical diagnosis or treatment plan, request a referral to an expert specialist to ask questions and/or seek medical information. All of these services are available **at no cost to the participant** so long as they are covered in Plan A, Plan B or Plan C at the time service is to be rendered.

**Here are the three programs presently in place through Best Doctors:**

***In-Depth Medical Reviews*** - In instances where a participant may have basic questions about their health condition or treatment options they are able to independently and confidentially contact Best Doctors to seek a consultation in order to validate their diagnosis or treatment plan.

***Find a Doctor*** - When a participant is in need of an in-network specialist Best Doctors will use its access to thousands of doctors voted by their peers as "best-in-class" to make a recommendation, contact the doctor's office to ensure PPO participation and appointment availability, and prepare the participant for the visit with important questions to ask.

***Ask the Expert*** - As opposed to going through confusing Internet searches for answers to medical questions, participants may now seek advice from expert doctors about a medical condition. They will also receive guidance as to whether they are asking the right questions.

Recognizing that according to Best Doctors **38% of recommended surgeries are unnecessary, and another 18% of the time the incorrect procedure would be performed**, it is highly recommended that Best Doctors be contacted BEFORE any of the following elective surgeries

are performed: Low back, hysterectomy, knee and hip replacement, obesity, heart bypass graft, prostatectomy (prostate surgery), and lumpectomy/mastectomy.

As a reminder, in the event a participant completes the Inter-Consultation process, and submits a certificate of completion to the Trust Office, their \$250 deductible for that calendar year will be waived or reimbursed if already satisfied. Please remember that it is totally up to Best Doctors to determine if an Inter-Consultation is warranted for a particular case.

## TRAINING CENTERS ARE EXPERIENCING UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

**S**an Diego and Imperial Valley Electrical Training Centers are experiencing unprecedented growth in our student populations. The demand for apprentices in San Diego has been unrelenting due to a flourishing local work situation and the addition of new signatory contractors. In Imperial Valley, the student population is now triple that of San Diego, thanks to the astounding growth of the electrician trainee population there. Job growth in our area has also led to a demand for certification exam preparation classes as IBEW workers from other states flood our jurisdiction to fill the demand for workers on the massive solar photovoltaic generating stations being built in Imperial Valley.

To manage this extraordinary growth, we are fortunate to have the services of two leaders who bring their experience and management acumen to our organization: **Tammy Spinks**, and **Eric Reyes**. With their help, we are preparing for continued growth in the valley as more and more projects go from the planning stage to the construction stage. We are making every effort to support our workers in the construction of these renewable energy generation plants as this abundance of work brings prosperity to our contractors and our workers.

# SAN DIEGO ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS

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## PENSION PLAN CHANGES

This is to inform you of the following Amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees.

1. Due to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court ruling that the opposite sex provision of the Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA") was unconstitutional, the Board has amended the definition of Spouse to mean any person to whom the participant is legally married. Previously, the Plan only recognized opposite sex spouses.
2. The Board also amended the Plan to clarify that Pension Credits will be granted for qualified military service based on the average number of hours worked in a month by the Participant during the twelve month period immediately preceding such military

service, or if shorter, the period of employment immediately preceding such military service.

In response to queries from Retirees as to their receiving a benefit adjustment for their post-retirement hours the Board wishes to remind all Retirees that since January 2010 there have been no benefit adjustments for post-retirement hours worked in the jurisdiction of Local Union 569 pertaining to hours worked on or after January 1, 2010. However, Retirees should be assured that the Board continuously reviews Plan benefits and may make benefit improvements in the future if it is deemed prudent to do so.

Should there be any questions relative to any of the above Plan changes please contact the Trust Office (x-310).

## AVOID DELAYS IN PROCESSING 2013 CLAIMS

There are still a lot of Plan A PPO participants who have yet to file the new annual (blue) Registration Form that has now been sent on numerous occasions. Failure to provide this information may delay processing first-time 2013 PPO claims as this prevents the Trust Office from having much needed information routinely included on a claim form, such as changes in dependent status or the existence of other group health coverage for a dependent, which is integral to the payment process.

This form **must be returned before** any claims for services rendered in 2013 may be

processed. Therefore, if you have not yet returned this form please complete and return it as soon as possible in the included self-addressed/stamped envelope, by fax to 858-565-2951, or via an e-mail attachment to [www.kroberts@569trusts.org](mailto:www.kroberts@569trusts.org). However, please note that a claim form or a request for a document, information, or records will still be necessary prior to processing a claim. In order to prevent any delay or a formal denial of such a claim please complete and/or provide the necessary form, document or information to the Trust Office as soon as possible as they are important to the effort to ensure a proper payment of benefits.

## 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.npdbhipdb.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

[www.CallHospitalCompare.org](http://www.CallHospitalCompare.org) which combines ratings for quality of care, patient safety and patient experience in an effort to help consumers make informed choices.