



# CURRENTS

SAN DIEGO ELECTRICAL TRUSTS

Issue 60

August 2011

## CLASS OF 2011 CONGRATULATIONS!

On June 10, 2011, the San Diego Electrical and Sound Technician Apprenticeship Graduation and Awards ceremony was held at the Hilton San Diego Resort on Mission Bay.

Over 500 guests gathered this year to celebrate & honor the Training Center's 95 graduates, who received their Journeyman credentials. Guests included Congressman Bob Filner; California State Assembly Member Marty Block and Toni Atkins; City of Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox and Councilmember Pamela Bensoussan; City of San Diego Councilmember Marti Emerald; San Diego County Board of Education School Board members John Witt, Mark Anderson and Jerry Rindone; San Diego Unified School District School Board President Richard Barrera; School Board Members Shelia Jackson and Kevin Beiser; Don Giaquinto representing Congressman Brian Bilbray; Division of Apprenticeship Standards Area Consultant Gary Karnopp; Dean Wilma Owens from Palomar College; San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council CEO Lorena Gonzalez and Political Director Evan McLaughlin; San Diego Building Trades Business Manager Tom Lemmon; San Diego Urban Corps CEO Sam Duran; Cesar Chavez Service Clubs Director Carlos Legerrette; family and friends of the graduates and union contractors,

Graduates were rewarded with their Palomar College Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Special Recognition from Congresswoman Susan Davis and Assembly Member Diane Harkey, Letter of Special Recognition from Assembly Member Kevin Jeffries, and their Journeyman Certificates from the State of California, Department of Industrial Relations.

The evening was the night of recognition and excellence!

The Outstanding Sound Technician Graduate was John Todd (Chula Vista Electric) who graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance and excellent employer evaluations.

The Outstanding Inside Wireman Graduate was awarded to Tony McCowen (Davies Electric) who also graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance and excellent employer evaluations.

Both outstanding graduates received \$300, a set of tools from Klein Tools, drill set from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation and an engraved plaque memorializing their achievement. Scott Mitchum (Dynalectric Company) was the runner-up for Outstanding Inside Wireman graduate. He received \$150 and a drill set from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation. Scott also graduated with academic honors, perfect attendance and excellent employer evaluations.

The following graduates were recognized for having perfect attendance throughout their

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## REMINDER - SPOUSE/DOMESTIC PARTNER GROUP MEDICAL BENEFITS EXCLUSION GOES INTO EFFECT SOON

If you are a Spouse or Domestic Partner and waive or decline employer sponsored group health coverage that is provided free or if you receive any form of compensation for doing so, you will no longer be eligible for medical coverage under the Plan as of the beginning of the employer's next insurance year.

This means that if a Spouse or Domestic Partner makes such an election as part of an **open enrollment conducted by the employer of the Spouse or Domestic Partner in or after August 2011**, then they would become ineligible for group medical coverage under Plan A as of the beginning of the upcoming coverage period related to that open-enrollment period.

For example, if the employer of a Covered Dependent Spouse or Domestic Partner conducts their next open-enrollment in September 2011, to be applicable to coverage effective January 1, 2012, and the Dependent Spouse or Domestic Partner elects to decline or waive group medical coverage

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## TWO NEW PLAN A PPO PROGRAMS ASSIST WITH VALIDATING MEDICAL TREATMENT/IDENTIFYING "CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE"

**E**ffective August 1, 2011 two new programs will become available to Plan A PPO participants to assist in accessing independent expert support and guidance to validate medical diagnoses and prescribed plans of treatment and/or to access specialized "Centers of Excellence".

**There is no cost to the participant to access either program.** What is at stake is to make sure that treatment for a properly diagnosed medical condition will give the participant the best chance for an optimum medical outcome. For serious medical conditions or procedures it may be helpful to know that there is a service to assist with identifying where it is expected the highest level of expertise and experience may be available.

### 1. "BEST DOCTORS"

Unfortunately, there are times when a participant receives bad news at the doctor's office - that they are seriously ill or may require major surgery - or where doctors are unable to diagnose recurring symptoms and/or come up with a successful plan of treatment. Naturally, scary questions come to mind such as "Is the diagnosis correct?", "Is the prescribed surgery or treatment plan correct?", "How can I be sure?", "Why am I not getting better?", or "What will happen now?".

What should be most important is making sure that any and all serious diagnoses, recommended surgeries or medications are the right ones before starting a plan of treatment. Doing so will help to achieve the best possible medical outcome while avoiding harmful or unnecessary treatment, surgery or medication(s). As an example, just think of what a person who undergoes chemotherapy and radiation has gone through only to find out they didn't have cancer in the first place or someone undergoes major surgery that turns out to have been unnecessary or not the best course of treatment? The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that it will now be possible for Plan A PPO participants to seek answers to questions about a diagnosis and/or a prescribed treatment plan through "Best Doctors" which will perform a confidential Best Doctors Check-up **at no cost to you.** "Best Doctors" was started by physicians from Harvard Medical School in 1990.

**Why should this service be utilized? A study of the Best Doctors Check-up process revealed that 22% of their cases have a change in diagnosis, 61% of cases have a change in treatment and 38% of cases have unnecessary surgery recommendations.** In fact, the main reasons people contact Best Doctors are: No diagnosis, not understanding a diagnosis, symptoms not improving, questions as to the need for recommended surgery, or a need for help in deciding between multiple proposed treatment options.

By making a telephone call to Best Doctors (1-866-904-0910) you will connect with a Member Advocate who is waiting to 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. If necessary, Best Doctors will match participants with an expert PPO physician.

It is important to know that making Best Doctors available to our participants is not intended to replace your relationship with your current physician(s). However, it is intended to offer additional resources, education and support to both the participant and their treating physician. In fact, well over 90% of the time the participant's treating physician works together with Best Doctors to focus on "getting it right".

Here is a recent real life example as to how accessing Best Doctors led to a major change in treatment which greatly changed a person's chance at survival:

*A woman who had survived breast cancer twice before (1992 and 2003) received a similar diagnosis in 2009. After undergoing significant diagnostic and laboratory work she was informed she had metastatic pancreatic cancer. Following successful chemotherapy a follow-up CT scan in 2010 revealed a spot on her liver which then spread to two more places on the liver. She was told her only choices were to undergo experimental treatment or to try to enjoy what life she had left.*

*Shortly afterward she received materials from her employer's benefit plan that introduced her to Best Doctors. Upon contacting a Member Advocate the Best Doctors team worked through a renown expert in the treatment of this particular type of cancer. Contrary to the original doctor's opinion it was determined that this form of cancer was treatable. This gave the patient a basis of hope as she was further encouraged by having been made aware of other people who had been successfully treated for this form of cancer and have survived for a number of years.*

To find out more about the Best Doctors program or services go to [www.bestdoctors.com](http://www.bestdoctors.com) or email [info@bestdoctors.com](mailto:info@bestdoctors.com). To send your diagnosis or treatment plan through the Best Doctors Check-up call 1-866-904-0910. However, please keep in mind that a participant must be eligible for Plan A PPO coverage at the time the Best Doctors Check-up is sought as well as when any resulting medical services are rendered in order for such services or group medical coverage to be applicable.

Should there be any questions as to when and how to use the Best Doctors program please contact the Trust Office. (x-710).

### 2. SATORI WORLD MEDICAL "CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE"

Once there is agreement as to a serious medical diagnosis and/or a plan of treatment it is also important for participants to know about the

existence of those medical facilities throughout the United States which have become recognized as a true "Center of Excellence" for particular treatments or surgical procedures. In other words, it may not be enough to know where the best medical services may be received in San Diego, Southern California, or all of California. What about the entire United States?

In addition to the advantages of using the Best Doctors program to work with your physician(s) to "get it right" the Board of Trustees is further pleased to bring to your attention a network of leading facilities throughout the U.S. which have become recognized as a true "Center of Excellence" being made available through Satori World Medical. Use of one of these Centers of Excellence, which specialize in cardiac procedures, cancer treatment, and transplant programs, is totally voluntary and is solely intended to bring this information to your attention as most or all of these medical facilities are already accessible to Plan participants by being Blue Cross panel providers.

This program (which is also available at no additional cost to the participant) makes available valuable case management by a well-trained staff who will provide "hands-on" support to the patient and their family. Satori will make all arrangements for use of the participant's chosen medical facility to include, if necessary, coordination between a local physician and the selected facility/providers as well as making travel and lodging arrangements for the patient and any companion family or a friend. An additional advantage of pursuing the Satori Center of Excellence program is that their service provider rates should be no more, and expectedly less, than Blue Cross PPO pricing for the very same providers.

The following is the list of Satori World Medical's highly acclaimed "Centers of Excellence":

California	UCLA Medical Center, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, City of Hope
Georgia	Emory University Hospital
Illinois	Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Louisiana	Ochsner Foundation Hospital
Maryland	Johns Hopkins Hospital
Massachusetts	Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Minnesota	Mayo Clinic
New York	Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
North Carolina	Duke University Medical Center
Ohio	Cleveland Clinic
Pennsylvania	Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania
Texas	Texas Heart Institute/St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
Washington	University of Washington Medical Center

It is important to understand that Plan A PPO participants already have the freedom to choose which physician's and hospitals they wish to utilize, in particular focusing on those throughout the country who participate in the Blue Cross PPO network. Therefore, you have always had the ability to seek services from within this panel of providers recognized to be the "best of the best" in a particular area of service in an effort to receive the best possible medical outcome. The big difference is that it will be necessary for the participant to rely on their physician's or surgeon's offices to be willing to make the referral and then make all of the arrangements with the facilities and physician(s) to be involved, while also coordinating their own travel arrangements to/from the facility and any aftercare or treatment. Of greater importance to the patient (and their family) is that throughout the entire process there would likely be little or no direct oversight of their case.

The two main advantages of looking into using a Satori World Medical identified "Center of Excellence" are:

1. Immediate identification as to which facilities in the U.S. are recognized as providing the highest quality of service or treatment for the participant's diagnosis or plan of treatment; and
2. The participant (and their family) will receive "hands-on" assistance commencing with determining which "Center of Excellence" would be expected to provide the best possible outcome. Once that has been determined there will be assistance and oversight services including preparatory planning and scheduling, making travel arrangements and coordination between local physicians and the selected specialist(s) and facility.

To find out more about the Satori World Medical program go to [www.satoriworldmedical.com](http://www.satoriworldmedical.com). To speak to a nurse advocate call (619) 704-2000 in San Diego County or (866) 613-9686 toll free.

Overall, the importance of "getting it right" as soon as possible and having access to facilities considered to be specialized "Centers of Excellence" can't be stressed enough from the standpoint of the participant's overall well being as the impact of enduring extreme and/or difficult treatment, sometimes involving high powered medications or specialty therapies with heavy side effects, can be devastating if it turns out the patient was not being treated for the proper diagnosis and/or their plan of treatment was not their best opportunity for achieving an optimal medical outcome.

Both of these programs are expected to assist participants who are interested in accessing this type of support and guidance. Should there be any questions as to when and how to use Best Doctors or the Satori World Medical "Centers of Excellence" programs please contact the Trust Office (x-710).

### Continued from cover— CLASS OF 2011 CONGRATULATIONS!

apprenticeship: Christopher English, Alfonso Gonzalez, Louis Haag III, Tobe Herz, Cynthia Luna, Tony McCowen, Shannon Mckeirnan, Scott Mitchum, Misael Ortiz, Gregory Patus, James Phillips, James Quigley, Jose Rodriguez, Tommy Smith, John Todd and Steven Tucker.

Each received multi-meters from Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation and cash.

Additional awards went to Marvin Allen, this year's recipient of the Lifelong Learning Journeyman Training Award and second year apprentice Ronnie Maynard, this year's recipient of the \$1,000 Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee (JATC) Scholarship.

Tammy Spinks, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation plaque for serving as Student Council President.; graduate Amy Robershaw, received this year's IBEW Local 569 Service/Volunteer Award for her selfless contribution to the industry.

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., Chula Vista Electric, Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Davies Electric Co. Inc., Dynalectric Company, Fuller Electric, HMT Electric, Inc., IBEW Local 569, IBEW-NECA Labor Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), Klein Tools, Milwaukee Electric Tools Corporation, Morrow Meadows Corporation, Neal Electric, Power Communication Systems, Rexel ESD, Southern Contracting Company and Synergy Electric.

Antonio Alejandrino (W)	Tobe Herz (W)	Gregory Patus (W)
Cory Antonizio (W)	Zachary Hishmeh (W)	Jamar Phillips (W)
Frank Arellano (W)	Patrick Hlava (W)	Gabriel Puga (W)
Jason Baker (W)	William Hockett (W)	James Quigley (W)
Sergio Bernal (S)	Joshua Jeppesen (W)	Silverio Ramirez (W)
Dean Betzold (W)	Travis Krahel (W)	Deryk Reese (W)
Eric Biddlecome (W)	Hung Lam (W)	Andrew Rich (W)
Nathan Brittle (W)	Erik Lanning (W)	Larry Rivers (W)
Carl Brown (W)	Justino Ledezma (W)	Amy Robershaw (S)
Dennis Cantu (W)	Jose Lopez (W)	Rickey Robinson (W)
Alejandro Cervantes (W)	Cynthia Luna (S)	Jose Rodriguez (W)
Matthew Churchill (W)	Daniel Lutnick (W)	Kristopher Ross (W)
Billy Cornett Jr. (W)	Ross Macaraeg (W)	Raymond Ross (S)
Sergio Da Silva (W)	Joseph Mammina (W)	Ramon Ruiz (S)
Robert Diaz (W)	Javier Marin (W)	Jason Rupp (W)
Deron Dixon (W)	Jorge Marquez (W)	Miguel Saldivar (W)
Maha Dorsey (W)	Kevin Martinez (W)	Mark Sandecki II (W)
Christopher English (W)	Adalberto Martinez (W)	Christian Serna (W)
Patrick Enomoto (W)	Michael McCord (W)	Tommy Smith (S)
Timothy Everal (W)	Tony McCowen (W)	Chris Smith (W)
Carlos Ferreira (W)	Shannon Mckeirnan (W)	Chris Stannard (W)
Sean Finneran (W)	Mark McRoberts (W)	Judd Thompson (W)
Michael Franklin (W)	Michael McWey (W)	John Todd (S)
Victor Garcia (S)	Rene Mendez (W)	Steven Tucker (W)
Miguel Garcia Paz (S)	Daniel Mexia (W)	Deny Valenzuela (W)
Christopher Gish (W)	Scott Mitchum (W)	Carlos Vargas (W)
Jason Gold (W)	Almond Mondares (W)	Douglas West (W)
Alfonso Gonzalez (W)	David Moreno (W)	Daniel Williams (W)
Fabian Gonzalez (W)	Miguel Neyoy (W)	Reginald Williams Jr. (W)
Louis Haag III (W)	Misael Ortiz (W)	Jared Womack (W)
Amy Hamilton (S)	Rory Packard (W)	Carl Wright (W)
Nathaniel Hazlewood (W)	Nicholas Padilla (W)	

S - Sound graduate

W - Wireman graduate

## HEALTH INFORMATION SOURCES

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

The California Health Care Foundation supports

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

<http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/> - National Practitioner Data Bank/ Health care Integrity and Protection Data Bank may be used to verify information on a health care provider; and

<http://www.medbd.ca.gov/lookup.html> - Medical Board of California for physician licensing.

# SAN DIEGO ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY TRUSTS

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**SPOUSE/DOMESTIC PARTNER GROUP MEDICAL BENEFITS**

that would have been available to them free of cost, or for which they receive any form of compensation as a result of having done so, their group medical coverage under the San Diego Electrical Health & Welfare Plan will terminate as of January 1, 2012.

Persons who may be affected by this Amendment need to be aware that their election may leave them without group medical coverage for a full year until they get an opportunity to re-enroll during their employer's next open-enrollment period. However, it should be understood that under federal HIPAA rules there may be no more than 30 days following the date their open-enrollment election goes into effect to rescind their election and re-enroll in their employer's group medical plan which would be their primary source of coverage. Should that occur, their group medical coverage under this Plan may be reinstated which will then be provided on a secondary basis.

It should also be noted that in a situation where a former Covered Spouse or Domestic Partner was receiving compensation for waiving group medical coverage through their employer for which there was a cost, submission of verification as to the discontinuation of the compensation and that there was no "free" coverage available may permit reinstatement as a Covered Spouse or Domestic Partner under the Plan.

Should there be any questions please contact the Trust Office (x-310).

## NEW HEALTH & WELFARE TRUST ID CARDS

**A**s of **September 1, 2011** there will be a new PPO claims submission and pricing system through Blue Cross of California involving only a change to the location to which all claims are initially filed by service providers and the issuance of any payments directly to a service provider. The Trust Office will continue to issue Explanation of Benefits ("EOB's") directly to participants outlining payments made to a service provider or which may not be payable under the Plan. There should be no change to the manner in which the Trust Office will continue to provide service to all Plan participants, especially in instances where there may be a question about a claim payment and/or a need to visit with your claims adjuster to review a particular claim or payment.

All Plan A Participants should be receiving new Identification Cards by the end of August 2011 that will replace the current ID card which is the six-sided white paper card with blue ink. Please note this is different from the hard plastic Prescription Drug ID card all Plan A PPO participants should have in their possession and should be retained.

This is a major change in internal procedure. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that, as a result of initial staff training and the impact of scheduled vacations/maternity leave, claims processing may get a little backed-up in the beginning of this process. **We ask that you please be patient during this transition period.**

**Reminder - Whenever being referred to another service provider, or if surgery is being scheduled by a surgeon's office, please be sure to mention that only another PPO provider should be utilized.**

If there are any questions please contact the Trust Office.