LANDMARK IBEW BILL SB 247 & HUGE WIN FOR LOCAL 465 TREE MEMBERS!

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

Our hard-working line clearance tree trimmers in San Diego and Imperial County deserve top-notch training, safe jobs and better wages – and thanks to strong advocacy from your Officers at IBEW Local 465, a new state law has just gone into effect that delivers these workplace standards into law for all IBEW tree trimmers.

The law, SB 247, requires utilities and contractors to invest more in training and wages for the IBEW crews that clear trees around power lines and perform fire mitigation work, while also holding those utilities to a higher standard of accountability.

Thanks to the time and effort that IBEW activists, staff and lobbyists put in at the Capitol, SB 247 passed the Assembly and Senate during the final week of the 2019 legislative session without any opposition. Gov. Newsom signed the bill into law on Oct. 2. Since then, we have been hard at work negotiating with all the IBEW Locals and Tree Contractors in the entire state of California a new state-wide collective bargaining agreement that would comply with the new law. (Attached are the wages and retirement/NEAP contributions page)

This monumental task was just completed in the last few weeks of 2019 and signed just in time for them to go into effect on January 1st. We have scheduled job-site visits Monday, January 13th through Friday, January 17th where we will be discussing the new law, the huge increase in pay, the two new pension accounts our members will have along with a brand new employer paid health insurance program for all of our members through LineCo (for more info visit www.lineco.org). We will be also be mailing copies of the new contracts to our stewards next week and have posted them all on our website www.ibew465.org/agreements. In addition, both UTS and Davey have agreed to hold 2 hour All-Hands meetings on Company time within the next two months at the Union Hall. We will be going into detail the specific changes and will answer any questions you may have.

As you can imagine, hundreds of our Tree Unit Members have heard about this bill, the new improvements to pay and benefits and have been calling our IBEW Representatives around the clock. Over the next few weeks we ask for your patience as we work to return every call and message we have received. After we finish our trips around to each yard and everyone has an opportunity to review the new contract we look forward to celebrating this historical achievement together!

Here are some of the details of the new law:

• Establishes a line clearance tree trimmer training and certification program, so each and every tree trimmer gets the skills and knowledge they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.
• Ensures that line clearance tree trimmers are paid fairly, with wages comparable to that of a first-step apprentice lineman. Starting January 1, 2020, wages will increase more than $10 per hour, amounting to raises upwards of 40% for most of our tree trimmer members.

• Holds investor-owned utilities accountable by having Cal-FIRE perform the post-work inspections of all line clearance work.

Thank you IBEW 465 Assistant Business Manager Kiko Diaz and Executive Board Officer Art Gomez for helping me pass this bill and delivering this huge win for our members!

Fraternally,

Nate Fairman
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

NF/kt/opeiu Local 537

To see the entire contract:
www.ibew465.org/agreements

For more information about the new Pension:
www.NEBF.com/NEAP

For more info on the new employer paid health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance and life insurance visit:
www.lineco.org