

★ ★ APPA LINEWORKERS RODEO ★ ★

Setting the standard

IBEW Local 1245 journeyman showed how it's done at the Eleventh Annual American Public Power Association (APPA) Lineworkers Rodeo held March 19, 2011 in Nashville, Tenn.

Capturing first place out of 55 journeyman teams: the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Placing second: the Turlock Irrigation District team. Also grabbing a spot in the winner's circle were journeymen from Modesto Irrigation District, who took first place in the double cross arm event, and apprentices from SMUD who dominated the apprentice competition.

It all began at 6:00 a.m., when the rodeo grounds began to come alive. With dawn not yet arrived, linemen laid out their tools and equipment. As the sun began to show itself the rodeo events became visible and anticipation filled the air. Once the opening ceremonies were completed, the competition began.

After competing in his first event one lineman noted that his nervousness diminished shortly after entering the event area. "It was like going to work," he said.

Competing in the rodeo is, in fact, a lot like going to work. At the rodeo linemen are judged on many of the same qualities required of them on the job: safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely job completion. Apprentices, judged on the same qualities, compete in separate events.

There were five apprentice lineman events: written test, conductor tie in, cross arm relocation, framing event and hurt man rescue.

There were also five journeyman lineman team events: narrow profile phase change out, alley arm insulator change out, double cross arm event, double dead end 4poly bell change out, and hurt man rescue.

The primary goal is to complete each event without any points being deducted from your score by the judges. Among the teams with perfect scores, timeliness becomes the deciding factor.

All safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the APPA Safety Manual were observed during events.

California was well represented at the rodeo. Linemen and apprentices came from Sacramento Municipal Utility District in the north and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the south. The four participating organizations with IBEW

**SMUD, TID
take top
honors**



Story and photos by
Dennis Seyfer



ABOVE AND BELOW: Modesto Irrigation District team competes in the double dead end 4 poly bell change out.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Turlock Irrigation District team competes in double dead end 4 poly bell change out.



★ 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ★



Photo by Peyton Hoge



Celebrating their victory as the best journeyman team over all are SMUD journeymen Matt Wilson, Cayleb Bowman and Todd Prangley.

1245-represented employees were: City of Lodi, Modesto Irrigation District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and Turlock Irrigation District.

Northern California shined at the awards banquet. Apprentice awards were announced first.

All three of the SMUD Apprentices—Justin Hirschi, Rorry Malia and Chris Miles—placed in events, winning four out of five of the first place awards for their events. Chris Miles won three first place awards in the following categories: conductor tie in, hurt man rescue and framing event. Rorry Malia won first place for cross arm relocation. Justin Hirschi took second place in hurt man rescue, and Chris Miles took second place in cross arm relocation.

As the awards for the Journeyman events were presented, the SMUD journeyman team of Todd Prangley, Matt Wilson and Cayleb Brown took the stage for their first place finish in alley arm insulator change out. The TID journeyman team of Mark Pickens, Dustin Krieger and Steve Johnson placed second in the event.

The next first place award went to the MID journeyman team of Victor Madrigal, Scott Dutey, and Roby Higgins in the double cross arm event.

Then things settled into something of a pattern, with the next three first place

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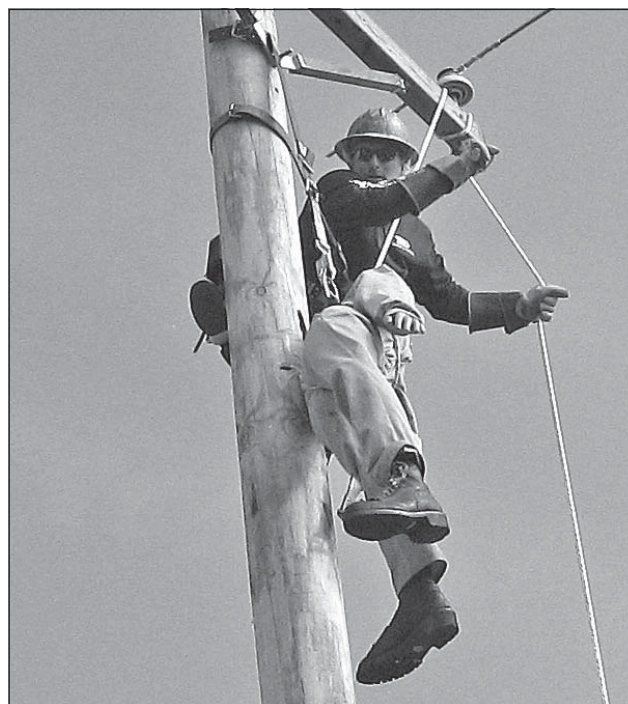
With their trophies for first in the double cross arm event and third place in hurt man rescue are MID Journeymen Scott Dutey, Robbie Higgins, Victor Madrigal and alternate Doug Cameron.



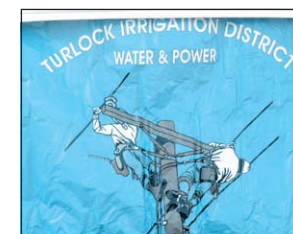
SMUD apprentices capturing numerous trophies were Justin Hirschi, Chris Miles and Rorry Malia.



The Turlock Irrigation District team had plenty to celebrate, including second-best journeyman team overall. From left: supervisor Dennis Moon, team members Mark Perkins, Steve Johnson and Dustin Krieger, and alternate Aaron Baker.



ABOVE AND BELOW: Turlock Irrigation District members compete in hurt man rescue.



City of Lodi Apprentice Josh Ramos competes in the cross arm relocation.



SMUD team competes in the narrow profile phase change out.

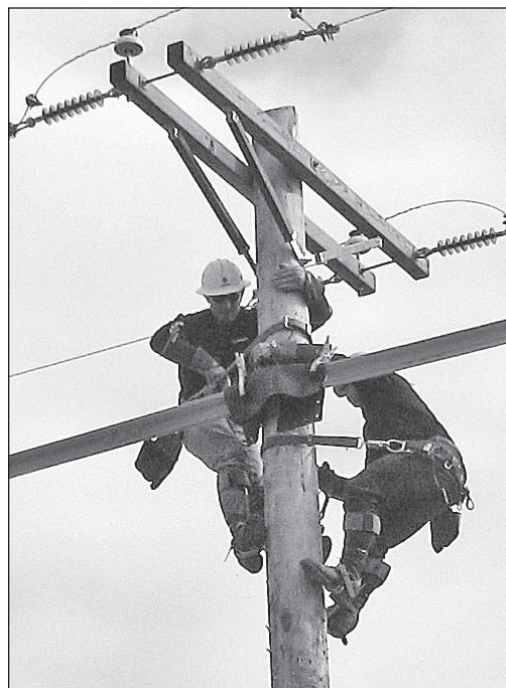
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awards all going to the SMUD team of Prangle, Wilson and Brown: hurt man rescue, double dead end 4 poly bell change out, and narrow profile phase change out. MID's Madrigal-Dutey-Higgins team captured second in hurt man rescue.

The excellent performance of these IBEW 1245 journeyman teams took center stage when the Master of Ceremonies announced the most sought after award of all: the best Journeyman Teams Overall. Second place went to Turlock Irrigation District. First place went to Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Cayleb Bowman, Todd Prangle, Matthew Wilson.

Local 1245 congratulates these winning teams and all of our union journeymen and apprentices who made the commitment of time and effort to participate in these rigorous competitions. Your training and skill in safe work performance truly set the standard for all.

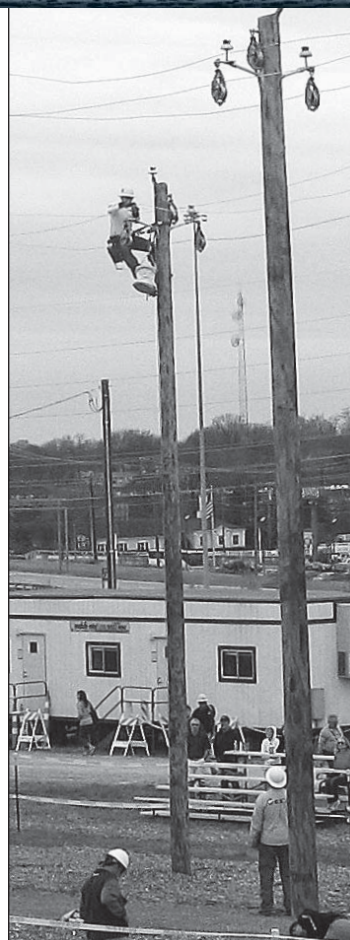


SMUD team competes in the double dead end 4 poly bell change out.

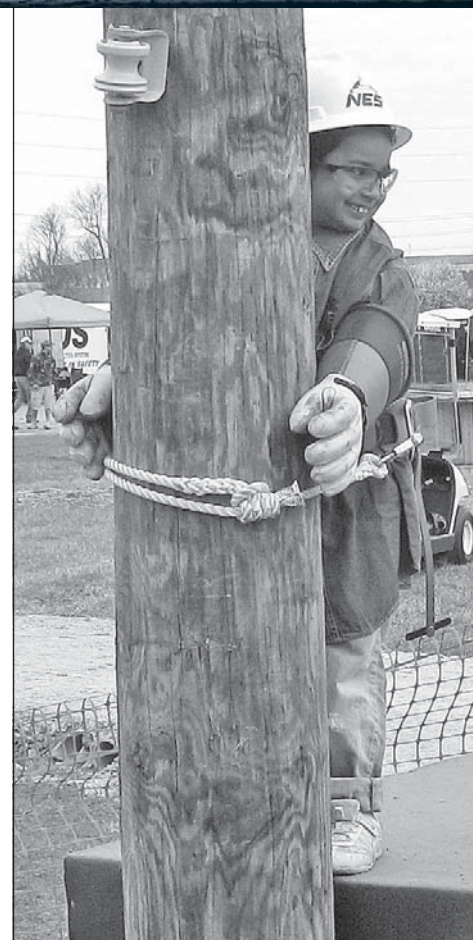
SMUD participants were, front row, from left: Apprentices Justin Hirschi, Rorry Malia and Chris Miles; back row, from left: Journeymen Alman Kerste, Chris Fukui, Brandon Carter, Jeremy Wright, Jeremy Barlow, Matt Wilson, John D. Moe, Todd Prangle, and Cayleb Bowman.



Modesto Irrigation District team competes in the narrow profile phase change out.



City of Lodi Apprentice Cody Ellis competes in the conductor tie in.



Kids like to climb, and the rodeo gave them a perfect chance—under proper supervision.



The MID team, from left: Scott Dutey, Doug Cameron, Robert (Robbie) Higgins and Victor Madrigal.



Apprentices competing from the City of Lodi at the rodeo were Cody Ellis, left, and Josh Ramos.



The TID team, from left: Mark Perkins, Steve Johnson, Aaron Baker and Dustin Krieger.