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Photography available upon request



Thomas Ludwig of Modesto, IBEW 684 Journeyman, holding his first place award from the Western States Electrical Contest. *Photography courtesy of NorCal NECA-IBEW 684 Partnership*



Thomas Ludwig of Modesto, competing in the Western States Electrical Contest.

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**THIRD WIN IN FOUR YEARS AT WESTERN STATES ELECTRICAL CONTEST
ANNOUNCED BY NORCAL NECA-IBEW 684 PARTNERSHIP**

MODESTO, CA—(Sept. 29, 2009)— They've won again--against some of the best electricians on the West Coast!

The NorCal NECA-IBEW 684 Partnership announced today that one of its electricians, Thomas Ludwig of Modesto, has taken top honors at the Western States Electrical Contest. It marks the third time in the past four years that one of the Partnership's journeymen has won the first place award in the highly competitive contest.

Held in Medford, Oregon on September 19th, the Western States Electrical Contest pitted 24 new journeymen against each other in several competitive events. The contestants came from seven western states, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah.

The participants were judged in residential wiring, motor control, 1/2" rigid conduit and 1/2" EMT conduit. A written test and part identification were also included, with Ludwig turning in the best overall performance. Ludwig's win is even more remarkable because he competed against electricians from very large locals, including Los Angeles and San Jose. Ludwig is employed by Industrial Electrical of Modesto.

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Billy Powell, Business Manager of IBEW Local 684, said that it was “huge” for Modesto to win three out of the last four years. “I’m very proud of Tom and all of our journeymen and apprentices,” Powell said. “The IBEW and our NECA contractors work very hard to insure that our electrical workers are highly trained and highly skilled.”

Jim Hodge, Vice President of Construction at Industrial Electrical, said the company is very proud to have one of its journeymen win the event. He praised Ludwig for his work ethic and his eagerness to learn.

“As an apprentice at the Central Valley Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (CVJATC), he put in over 11,800 training hours, which is almost 4,000 hours more than the requirement of 8,000 hours,” said Hodge. “I also want to add that Industrial Electrical has an excellent training program and all of the foreman worked with Tom to make him a very qualified young man.”

Despite his win, Tom Ludwig said the competition was very difficult. “You’re competing against a very strong field,” he said. “My extensive training really helped me to have the skills I needed to compete.”

Tom Ludwig credited the Central Valley JATC and the foremen at Industrial Electrical with teaching him the skills he needed to compete. Ludwig’s career aspirations include a hope to advance in the electrical industry and become a project manager.

The NorCal NECA-IBEW 684 Partnership is known for its rigorous electrical apprenticeship training program. Apprentices attend classes in Modesto for five years at the CVJATC. In addition, they are required to have 8,000 hours of on-the-job training completed.

About The NorCal NECA-IBEW 684 Partnership

NECA, the National Electrical Contractors Association, and IBEW, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, offer the Central Valley’s most progressive electrical industry partnership. The NorCal-IBEW Partnership represents a green, well-trained, safe, experienced and community-oriented electrical industry serving the Central Valley. Over 30 area electrical contractors who are members of the Northern California Chapter of NECA and 300 electricians from IBEW Local 684 in Modesto participate in the NorCal NECA-IBEW 684 Partnership.

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NECA/IBEW contractors have wired thousands of facilities in the Central Valley. The Partnership employs only highly trained, skilled electricians who are experienced in every aspect of electrical installation. It specializes in the implementation of green technologies, such as solar, and also wires buildings for energy efficiency. The Partnership offers a local five year electrical apprenticeship and training program operated by the Central Valley Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC). The training includes hundreds of hours of classroom instruction and thousands of hours of on-the-job training under the supervision of certified electricians. The Partnership's community outreach programs, including its complimentary scoreboard program and energy conservation/solar workshops, are part of the way it gives back to the community. If you would like more information about Partnership programs, please contact Billy Powell at 209.524.5171. Contractors include Hamilton and Dillon Electric, Collins Electric, Inc., Industrial Electrical, Mann Electric, E & M Electric, Sierra Central, Crites Electric, Lyte Electric, Al's Certified, Analytical, Borick Electric, Tri-Technic Inc, PME, Con J Franke, Howe, San Joaquin Electric, Bockmon & Woody, and S.D. Electric, Inc.

www.NorCalNECA-IBEW684Partnership.org

Great Job Thomas!



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