

**LOCAL UNION 160, IBEW**  
**2909 Anthony Lane**  
**St. Anthony, MN 55418**

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**PERMIT NO. 4274**



## **NEWSLETTER - 163RD EDITION**

**MAY/JUNE 2013**

### **OFFICERS**

Thomas G. Koehler - Business Mgr/Financial Secretary  
Alan P. Rademacher - President  
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Vice President  
Barbara L. Oakes - Recording Secretary  
George G. Huber - Treasurer

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James P. Brereton  
Martin A. Carey  
Dan A. McConnell  
Daniel S. Seawell  
James M. Tobin

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Daryl C. Tindle - Business Representative  
Daniel J. Kieffer - Business Representative  
Thomas V. Arnold - Business Representative  
Robert J. Boogren - Business Representative  
Shawn T. Daly - Business Representative  
Charles R. Sable - Business Representative  
Jon D. Michels - Business Representative  
Kevin J. Peterson - Membership Development Rep.  
Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper  
Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager  
Jenny L. Olson - Receptionist, Referrals

# General Membership Meetings

## Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:**     **June 6 & July 11, 2013**  
7:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:**           **June 20 & July 18 2013**  
7:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:**       **June 25, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.**  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
**July 26, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Sawmill Inn  
2301 S. Pokegama Ave, Gr. Rapids



## Local 160 Phone Ext.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tom A. - Ext. 105 | Jenny - Ext. 101  |
| Charlie- Ext. 108 | Rose - Ext. 103   |
| Bob - Ext. 109    | Shari - Ext. 104  |
| Jon - Ext. 125    | Shawn - Ext. 106  |
|                   | Dan - Ext. 205    |
|                   | Tom K. - Ext. 115 |
|                   | Kevin - Ext. 126  |
- Minneapolis Tel # (612) 781-3126  
Minneapolis' Fax # (612) 781-4225

Jon Michels, Grand Rapids  
Tel. # (218) 326-0533  
Fax # (218) 326-0534

Becker Office Numbers  
Daryl Tindle - (763) 262-1197  
Dan K. - (763) 262-1198  
Tom A - (763) 262-1189  
Fax # (763) 262-1168

**Local Union 160 web site - [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org)**

## **From the Editor**

Rose M Eiden

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, & the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Local Union does not guarantee that contents of the publication are correct, & statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Local Union #160.



Brother Jimmy Harris, Mo Valley Journeyman Lineman, and his wife Sarale would like to introduce to you their new son, Elijah James Harris. Elijah was born on March 30, 2013 and weighed in at 7 pounds 10 ounces. I am sure he will be spoiled by his 3 sisters Aimee Rose (20), Savanna Ashlyn (13) and Emma Maelyn (4).

Congratulation Jimmy and Sarale.

## Retirement Club

All Local 160 retirees are welcome to join the club. They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month. Post cards will be mailed out to members of the club as a reminder. There are 2 more meetings before the summer break, May 22nd and June 26th.

Pete Sandberg has agreed to take over as President of the Retirement club.

## Now Accepting Credit Cards

Local Union 160 is pleased to announce that we are now accepting credit cards as a form of payment.

The credit cards that we will accept is Visa, Mastercard, and Discover Card.

When you use your card with Local 160 there is going to be a 2.18% fee added on to the amount that you are charging.

With this process, you may also make payments over the phone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jenny or Rose at (612) 781-3126.

# *A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

Finally some warm weather. This late winter has slowed down some of our construction crews, due to the wet and muddy right-a-ways. So hopefully now things will get back to normal.

Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program has moved out of our building and into their new location in Rosemount, Minnesota. It is a great classroom facility and again with the better weather the pole yard will be all set up soon. Instructor Leigh Conducy plans to hold an open house sometime this summer. I will pass on any information regarding that when I receive it.

Foster Wheeler Twin City, Inc (FWTC) will more than likely be extend their current Agreement until there is a new Agreement between FWTC and the University of Minnesota (U of M). Our Labor Agreement with FWTC expires June 30, 2013, but it would be difficult to renew when the parties don't know if FWTC will still be under contract with the U of M.

Covanta Energy's contract expires July 31, 2013. Covanta has agreed to start negotiations early. Our first meeting was held on April 30 2013. Local Unions 23, 160, 949, 953 and 1426 have met and started drafting amendments to all the contracts we have with Xcel Energy. Three of the five locals have their local union elections this spring, so we won't be meeting with the employer until early August.

As you all know, Pension and Medical Plans are top priorities in most all of the contracts we are renewing lately. Our Employers are looking at ways to control costs; our members are concerned about loss of coverage or loss of benefits. At Wright Hennepin Co-op we were able to address a major pension issue through very productive "give and take" meetings with management. I believe both sides won; we improved our benefits and management was able to control costs. Unfortunately not all the employers we deal with are as open and willing to reach joint agreements. This in most cases causes us to deal with these major benefit plans at the last minute, and that makes for rushed decisions and uneasiness of the local union and our members. You think, could it have been different, if the parties started earlier and looked at more options together rather than feeling forced?

Fraternally,

Thomas G. Koehler

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I would like to take this time to welcome Michels Communication and their employees here in Minnesota to their first IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 160. We started talking to the Company for the first time in 2010, after about a year the talks kind of stalled out. In late 2011 both sides agreed to come to the table and we started meeting in early 2012. Negotiating terms and conditions of an existing contract is one thing but negotiating a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is totally different. Because of our previous talks both sides had a little clearer understanding of what each side was looking for. Still every word is subject to getting picked apart and examined for the right understanding. In December 2012, both sides came to an agreement on the first time Collective Bargaining Agreement. In February 2013, the contract was presented to the employees and all 23 employees showed support of their first ever Collective Bargaining Agreement by signing their Authorization for Representation cards. The following reps were involved at some point in the talks and negotiations; retired Business Reps. Jim Anderson and Lynn Martin, Business Reps. Charlie Sable, Jon Michels and myself.

Since 2010, Local 160 has been a part of 13 elections, 6 with groups at Xcel Energy, 4 wins, 1 loss and 1 split (which is the same as a loss). There are 3 new contracts and the 4th well under way, negotiated by either Business Reps. Tom Arnold, Bob Boogren or Shawn Daly. The wins are the Dispatchers at Collections North, the Sr. Plant Process Computer Analysts, the Dispatch and Damage Prevention Technicians and the Sr. Chemists.

There were 5 elections and 5 wins with municipals, all have their own Collective Bargaining Agreement, negotiated by either Business Reps. Daryl Tindle, Bob Boogren, Shawn Daly, Dan Kieffer and myself. They are Truman Public Utilities, the City of St. Charles lineman, water, parks and recreation, City of Grove City employees, City of Welcome employees and the City of Bricelyn employees. There was also a group at the City of Marshall that won their election but rejected their first contract.

There was 1 election within one of our represented coops that was a loss.

Check out the locals website under Membership Development for more detailed information.

I would like to thank our Business Manager Tom Koehler and all the Business Reps for their involvement and hard work in negotiating first contracts for these groups.

In Solidarity,

Kevin J. Peterson  
Membership Development Rep.

Even though by the time you are reading this article, April 28th has come and gone. But the message should be heard all year round.

## WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY



Every year on April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew our efforts for safe workplaces. This year the struggle continues to create good jobs in this country that are safe and healthy and to ensure the freedom of workers to form unions and, through their unions, to speak out and bargain for respect and a better future. It's time for our country to fulfill the promise of safe jobs for all.

Four decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousand of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

But our work is not done.

Many job hazards are unregulated and uncontrolled. Some employers cut corners and violate the law, putting workers in serious danger and costing lives. Workers who report job hazards or job injuries are fired or disciplined. Employers contract out dangerous work to try to avoid responsibility. As a result, each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs.

The Obama Administration has moved forward to strengthen protections with tougher enforcement and a focus on workers' rights. But much-needed safeguards on silica and other workplace hazards have stalled in the face of fierce attacks by business groups and the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives who want to stop new protections.

We must press forward.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Even today in the 21st Century, the number of babies born daily in the United States with birth defects and/or life threatening birth weights is unacceptable. Thanks to the March of Dimes the statistics on birth defects are declining.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. Just as they did more than 60 years ago with the polio vaccine, the March of Dimes is at the forefront of the medical advances now being made on behalf of the health of our babies - our country's future. They have funded lifesaving breakthroughs for babies, such as the development of neonatal intensive care units to care for sick babies; and treatments, such as surfactant therapy, which helps babies born with underdeveloped lungs to breathe.

Since 1987 the IBEW has been a proud supporter of the March of Dimes by participating in the "March for Babies". The good news is because of efforts like ours we can now say one in nine babies are born too small and too soon instead of one in eight. Nationally the March of Dimes is working with state officials to reduce the rate by another 8 percent by 2014.

In the past if your local union had participated in "March of Babies", you would know just how rewarding an experience this can be. The March of Dimes has chapters throughout the United States. We encourage you to contact the local chapter in your area to see how you can play a part in giving newborns a healthy start in life.

We ask that you start by contacting the March of Dimes National Labor Liaison Nicole Dolan at 571-257-2307 or email [ndolan@marchofdimes.com](mailto:ndolan@marchofdimes.com).

Together, the men and women of IBEW can make a difference.

With best wishes, we are

Fraternally yours,

Edwin D. Hill  
International President

Salvatore (Sam) J. Chilia  
International Secretary-Treasurer

## The Five-Step Process to Cheat the Middle Class Worker

It's so artfully done, and so diabolical, that one can picture secret seminars in subterranean Wall Street meeting rooms, guiding young business recruits in the proven process of taking an extra share of wealth from the middle class. Their presentation might unfold as follows:

### **1. Boost productivity while keeping worker wages flat.**

The trend is unmistakable, and startling; productivity has continued unabated while wages have simply stopped growing. Improved technologies have reduced the need for workers while globalization has introduced the corporate world to cheap labor. In effect, the workers who built a productive America over a half-century stopped getting paid for their efforts.

Paul Krugman suggests that a "sharp increase in monopoly power" is another reason for the disparity. As John D. Rockefeller said, "Competition is a sin." That certainly is the rule of thumb in banking and agriculture and health insurance and cell phones. Yet despite the fact that low-wage jobs are increasingly defining the American labor market, apologists for our meager minimum wage claim an increase will worsen unemployment. So it remains at \$7.25. A minimum wage linked to productivity would be \$21 per hour.

### **2. Build up a financial industry that has no maximum wage.**

This is where the money is. In 2007, before the financial crisis, a Harvard survey revealed that almost half of the school's seniors aspired to careers in finance. The industry's share of corporate profits grew from 16% in 1980 to an astonishing 45% in 2002.

And there's no limit to the earning potential. Hedge fund manager John Paulson conspired with Goldman Sachs in 2007 in bundle sure-to-fail subprime mortgages in attractive packages, with just enough time for Paulson to collect other people's money to bet against his personally designed financial instruments. He made \$3.7 billion, enough to pay the salaries of 100,000 new teachers.

### **3. Keep accumulating wealth created by the financial industry.**

Experienced schemers have undoubtedly observed that over the past 100 years the stock market has grown 3 times faster than the GDP. The richest quintile of Americans own 93% of such non-home wealth

In the last 25 years, only the richest 5% of Americans have increased their share of non-home wealth, by the impressive rate of almost 25%.

In just one year, the 20 richest Americans earned more from their investments than the entire U.S. education budget.

### **4. Tax yourself as little as possible.**

The easiest and least productive way to make money - holding on to investments - is also taxed at the lowest rate. In addition to the capital gains benefit, tax ploys like carried interest, performance-related pay, stock options, and deferred compensation allow hedge fund managers and CEOs to pay less than low-income Americans, and possibly even nothing at all.

The richest 400 taxpayers doubled their income in just seven years while cutting their tax rates nearly in half. U.S. corporations can match that, doubling their profits and cutting their taxes more than half in fewer than ten years. The 1.3 million individuals in the richest 1% cut their federal tax burden from 34% to 23% in just 25 years.

### **5. Lend out your excess money to people who can no longer afford a middle-class lifestyle.**

As stated by Thom Hartmann, "The 'Takers' own vast wealth, and loan it out at interest to everybody from students to governments." Overall, Americans are burdened with over \$11 trillion in consumer debt, including mortgages, student loans, and credit card liabilities.

Wealth has largely disappeared for the middle and lower-income classes. More than \$7 trillion has been lost in the decline of home prices since 2006. Young college graduates have an average of \$27,200 in student loans, and the 21-25 age group has lost 68% of its median net worth since 1984, leaving each of them about \$4,000. Median net worth for single black and Hispanic women is a little over \$100.

So we're hanging on by the frazzled thread of debt that indentures us to the rich and makes it harder and harder to fight back against the theft of our middle-class wealth. As we struggle to support ourselves, the super-rich remain on the take, driving us ever closer to the status of being the most wealth-unequal country in the world.

This article was published at Nation of Change at: <http://www.nationofchange.org/five-step-process-cheat-middle-class-worker-1358173777>.

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## Why Unions Matter More Than Ever

*By Edward Smith*

When I travel across the country, I often hear from business leaders, politicians and even union members who say unions don't matter anymore.

They say there was a time and place for unions—but that has passed. They cite the fact that union membership in the U.S. stands at less than 12 percent. They cite the Wisconsin recall, the passage of right-to-work laws in Indiana and 2012 Democratic National Convention taking place in Charlotte, N.C., a city with one of the lowest union membership rates in the country. Unions don't count, they say.

They are wrong. Unions matter today more than ever.

If we want to rebuild the American middle class, we need strong unions. It's no coincidence that the decline of the middle class began with the decline in union membership. From one-third to one-fifth of the growth in inequality can be explained by the decline of unions, according to a 2011 study in the *American Sociological Review* by Bruce Western of Harvard University and Jake Rosenfeld of the University of Washington. We see the result of this decline every day. More Americans are working in low-wage-jobs and are without health care and the means to save for retirement.

Union jobs can still offer workers good salaries, pensions and health care benefits that give families the economic security to send kids to college or trade schools, to invest in their communities and to have a secure retirement. This is not some socialist ideal. It is the American dream—and unions have helped ensure that more Americans have a chance to live it.

Unions also matter if we want to retool and retrain our workforce for the global economy. Employers regularly talk about not being able to find skilled workers. New union training programs are a critical component of the answer to this problem. At their own expense, unions and union contractors provide training and apprenticeship programs that teach the latest construction and building techniques with a focus on safety.

This training allows U.S. workers compete with anyone in the world. These union training programs should be encouraged, and the workers who graduate should be put back to work rebuilding the nation's infrastructure—and our economy.

More importantly, unions matter because who else will speak on behalf of workers? The U.S. Chamber of Commerce speaks for the interests of business, and AARP speaks for the interest of the elderly. But without unions, who would speak for workers?

If workers are to have a share in our future prosperity, they need unions to advance their issues. Otherwise, the voices of corporations, the rich and the well-connected will drown out the voices of average American workers.

For unions to remain strong, we must remain united at the ballot box. We must support each other's causes and leaders and support the common interests of organized labor—the right to collectively bargain for wages and benefits. Union members must vote in their self-interest, not against it.

Unions matter. They mattered in the past; they matter today; and unions must remain strong if they are to matter in the future. If unions do not stand united and do not fight for the needs of working Americans, then Labor Day is meaningless. It will be just a day off in September.

That matters to me—and it should matter to you!

*Edward Smith is the president and chief executive officer of Ullico Inc., the only labor-owned insurance and investment company. He has been a member of Laborers' Local 773 for 44 years.*

Buying American or Union made is nothing new, even as frustrating as it gets looking for that label this is a time to consider it a way we all can help create jobs here in America, by purchasing American made. This website is a search engine to help us find American made products. <http://www.digusout.com/about-us> . Another website is [www.rjunionmade.com](http://www.rjunionmade.com). Happy shopping!

## Why Dogs Live Less Than Humans. Answer From A 6 Year Old

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who was listening quietly, piped up, "I know why".

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right:?" The six-year-old continued.

"Well dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- ◆ When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- ◆ Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- ◆ Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy.
- ◆ Take naps.
- ◆ Stretch before rising.
- ◆ Run, romp and play daily
- ◆ Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- ◆ Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- ◆ On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- ◆ On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- ◆ When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- ◆ Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- ◆ Be loyal.
- ◆ Never pretend to be something you're not.
- ◆ If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- ◆ When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- ◆ ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY



Author Unknown

## LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Justin Bender	Alexander Blackstone
Dominic Ciardelli	David Egan
Scott Feucht	Michael Friesen
Christopher Gack	Adam Hardy
Jared Hartl	David Hazard
Joseph Johnson	Ronnie Kalkes
Keith Kaup	Jared Lee
Bruce Mackereth	Brandon Mastey
Scott Mendenhall	Eric Palmateer
Justin Reinke	Leland Skjerven
Joseph Snyder	Russell Stuhr
Scott Tulkki	

**Membership Count = 2923**

### **How do you decide who to marry?**

You got to find someone who like the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips & dip coming. Alan - age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. Kristen - age 10

### **What is the right age to get married?**

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. Freddie - age 6

### **What do most people do on a date?**

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. Lynnette - age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. Martin - age 10

### **When is it okay to kiss someone?**

When they're rich. Pam - age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't mess with that. Curt - age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. Howard - age 8

### **How would you make a marriage work?**

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. Ricky - age 10



## GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Russell Drevlow - Xcel Energy  
Jeffrey Faust - Xcel Energy  
Anthony Pavlin - Xcel Energy  
Scott Starin - Xcel Energy

Gary Valvoda - East

Central Energy

## IN MEMORIAM

*We are deeply saddened by the loss of our brothers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families & friends.*

Lee Dockendorf - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 4/26/2013

James Elg - Retired Benco Electric - Died 2/5/13

Arthur Gustafson - Retired Mo Valley - Died 3/11/13

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Steven Erickson - Xcel Energy

Gary Wehseler - Xcel Energy

George Walter - Redwood Elec

Terry Bourgeois - Great River Energy

George Huber - Xcel Energy



Little Johnny was always being teased by the other neighborhood boys for being stupid. Their favorite joke: to offer Johnny his choice between a nickel and a dime. Little Johnny always took the nickel.

Finally, one day, after Johnny took the nickel, a neighbor pulled him aside and said, "Johnny, those boys are making fun of you. Don't you know that a dime is more than a nickel, even though the nickel is bigger?"

Johnny grins and says, "Well, if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it, and so far I've made \$20!"