

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

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## **NEWSLETTER - 170TH EDITION**

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014**

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# General Membership Meetings

## WORKING TOGETHER

### Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:**     **October 2 & November 6, 2014**  
7:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:**           **October 16 & November 20, 2014**  
7:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:**       **October 28, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.**  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
**November 21, 2014- 7:30 p.m.**  
Sawmill Inn  
2301 S. Pokegama Ave, Gr. Rapids



### Local 160 Phone Ext.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kurt. - Ext. 105  | Jenny - Ext. 101  |
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**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.

Years ago I worked as a heavy steel fabricator at a shipyard outside Philadelphia. I bummed cigarettes, talked sports, and complained about the cold, the welding smoke, and the bosses with co-workers who I spent more waking time with than I did with my family.

These interactions tied us together as co-workers facing common struggles. Although solidarity was never mentioned, it was built daily. We were creating links, binding us together in powerful ways.

I was on the third shift doing a job that hadn't yet been de-skilled and standardized and that required communicating and coordinating with others. The non-standard nature of the job, the built-in stopping points within the work process (waiting for materials, tools, or assistance from other crafts), the need to work with others (welders, burners, riggers, crane operators) all made for lots of social interactions.

We spent time together, we took care of each other. It was not uncommon for us to go to each other's houses after work, to help each other move, to spend time with each other's families, and to go to the bar for a drink.

### **SOLIDARITY OR NOT?**

One night the second shift shop steward, a crane operator, was sent home for refusing an unsafe lift. Our steward made it clear that a walkout would not be an unwelcome response.

Our crew discussed what to do. After a while, Dan, one of the older workers, said he was walking out, regardless of what the rest of us did. At that point the discussion changed. The question of whether to walk out over the suspension transformed into a questions of whether we would let Dan walk out alone and lose his job.

The answer was clear. There was no further debate. Activists and non-activists alike walked out with Dan.

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When you love your job, you will work on yourself so you will be better for your job. You will love it enough to be good at it. If you aren't doing that, you don't love your job at all; you love going to that place where you hang out and they pay you for it.

*Larry Winget*

If you want to test your memory, try to recall what you were worrying about one year ago today.

*E. Joseph Cossman*

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

It is with great sadness to report to all of you that on July 28, 2014, there was a major accident at one of Local 160's jobsites. Local Union 160 member, 4<sup>th</sup> step apprentice lineman, Brett Binman was fatally injured and Local 426 member, 4<sup>th</sup> step apprentice lineman, Joshua Roberts was seriously hurt. Our deepest sympathy and prayers goes out to Brett Binman's family and friends. The latest update on Joshua is that he went home on August 21, 2014 where his family will continue to help him with his recovery. Joshua is very happy to be home as is his family. Local 160 sends our thoughts and prayers to Joshua and his family and hope his recovery continues improving. For all the other co-workers that were there when this happened and to all Local 160 members, please follow all safety rules, work practices and equipment procedures that you have been trained on, so no member and their family will have to go through the pain or loss of life these accidents can cause. The investigation is on-going and there are no current details I can provide at this time. I would like to thank the members and non members for their generous contributions to The Brett Binman Benefit Fund and The Joshua Roberts Benefit Fund.

In the last newsletter I told you that the roof replacement was almost done and that the Executive Board approved new flooring for the main hall and the entry way. Well, the roof is finally completed. The flooring is scheduled to be done the first week of October. The contractor said that the new ceramic tile was in, however, it was decided to wait until after the Pig Roast.

The IBEW Local Union 160 Building Corporation closed on the property in Grand Rapids, MN on Friday, August 15, 2014. The purchase agreement was contingent on two items; the City of Grand Rapids would have to approve the size and type of building we wanted and the soil tests were to come back in a positive way, meaning we did not have to spend a large amount of money on foundation/footing. Both of these items were satisfied. We are working with Max Gray Construction out of Hibbing on a building design. Tentatively we are looking at about a 40' by 60' building, that will provide at least three offices, a counter to do referrals and a meeting room large enough to hold about 60 people. The actual address is to be determined at a later time, but it is on SE 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN, between SE 2nd Ave and SE 5th Ave, behind the Timberlake Lodge. We will build close to the tree line then towards 2nd Ave. I have had on-going conversations with IBEW Local Union 31 (whom also represents a number of employers in the area) and they are interested in renting the hall for their meetings. In fact, since the word has gotten out about our new building, other unions are asking about renting space. I can assure everyone the finances work for us even if we don't have renters. However, if we can bring in some renters without taxing the building too much, it would be beneficial for Local 160.

In closing, I hope everyone enjoyed their Labor Day Holiday. Minnesotans have fared better than many other states that are controlled by anti-union, anti-working families politicians. So please, let's keep it this way and take the time to go vote on November 4, 2014. If you are not going to be in your voting district on Election Day, you can request an absentee ballot and vote ahead of time.

Fraternally,

Thomas G. Koehler

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## **Make the most of your union benefits and build your retirement income.**

If you are looking for help with your financial and retirement planning, look to your local Principal Union Resource Team. Principal Financial Group offers Group Workshops and One-On-One meetings that help you understand your possibilities and share ideas that will give you the growth, security, and flexibility you need to build your retirement fund.

Our team is specially trained and equipped to give you customized financial and retirement tactics. Here's how:

- Knowledgeable about your negotiated benefits
- Dedicated to helping you get control of your financial future
- Here to help you with your retirement process - paperwork and timing
- Committed to building a *long-term* relationship with you

If you are interested in having a retirement conversation - at no cost to you, please contact Michael Follse at (612) 850-6192 or [follse.michael@princor.com](mailto:follse.michael@princor.com).

## The Most important Procedure in Linework,

### Are You Ready for This?

By Paul Herbert



This is the position you could be in if your pole partner receives an electrical shock. You never want to be in the position of having to perform pole top rescue or bucket rescue. But you have to be ready for the worst task you'll ever have to do in your line career. You have to rescue your pole partner off the top of a pole or out of a bucket.

It is like going into a combat zone is what is happening to you. Are you ready for this? We all would like to say, "yes I am on top of my game! I have practiced. I can rescue any lineman in four minutes, no problem." I would say ok! I have to think about this for a while. Think to yourself, is the person saying this really competent of doing this procedure in a real situation?

I survived an electric shock at 14,400 volts; It took only 120th of a second! Not much is it? 120th of a second that's all it takes, less time than a blink of the eye. Electricity travels 126,000 miles per second. And the arc flash is 37,000 degrees of heat.

Electricity is such a powerful energy; you cannot see it, and you only feel it after it's too late. It will kill you or, it will mutilate you, burn you. It's like surviving an explosion. 14,400 volts, if you make contact, the heat flash is equal to the heat of a nuclear blast. There is a lot of heat we are dealing with, pure energy, WOW.

Rocco Morabito, won the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography for this 1967 photograph. The photo, taken of apprentice JEA lineman, J.D. Thompson giving the breath of life to burned, unconscious, fellow apprentice lineman, Randall Champion, appeared in the *Jacksonville Journal* and the *Florida Time-Union*. Mr. Champion Survived the contact.

This article was given to me by Brother Wayne Emberland, Retired Lineman from Kandiyohi Cooperative. To all who work in this industry, please remember to work safely out there. We always want to see you go home to your families at the end of each workday.

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### A PERCEPTION OF WEALTH

A man with a very successful career, who'd made a lot of money, took his young son on a trip to the country to visit some family members who lived on a farm. "Now I just want you to know that they are very poor and don't live the way we do." the man told his son before they arrived.

They stayed with the family for several days. The boy seemed to thoroughly enjoy his time on the farm, even pitching in and helping with some of the chores.

After they'd returned to their home in the city, the two were eating dinner on the patio by the pool, and the father asked the son, "So what did you think about life on the farm?"

"I really liked it," the boy said, "but why do you say they are poor?"

"Well, they don't have very much money," the father explained. "And they certainly don't have nice things like we do. Just consider these lights as an example," the father said as he pointed to the special outdoor lights that were all around the patio.

The boy frowned in confusion at his father. "They don't have these lights there, but they have the sky full of stars.

"We have this swimming pool," the boy said, "but they have a stream that flows into a lake!"

"We have a wall around our property, but they have so much land that they can't even fence it off.

"We buy the food we eat, but they grow everything they eat and sell the rest."

The boy continued to scan his surroundings for comparison, then he finally asked his father, "How much money do you need to have to be rich?"

The father was left speechless by the wisdom of his son.

*Adapted from the Moral Stories website*

**Electrical Workers vs. the EPA (Opinion), The Wall Street Journal (NY), By Edwin D. Hill, 8/14/14**

Late last month more than 1,600 witnesses testified at hearings held by the Environmental Protection Agency on its Clean Power Plan, which will impose drastic, 30% cuts in carbon emissions by 2030, with most of the cuts taking place by 2020. The EPA's proposal has attracted such a large response for a very good reason. The plan would have a dramatic impact on the American economy but only a minimal effect on global carbon emissions.

The EPA's plan, according to its own estimates, will require closing coal-fired power plants over the next five years that generate between 41 and 49 gigawatts (49,000 megawatts) of electricity. That's approximately enough capacity to power the state of Georgia at any given time. Unless that capacity is replaced, the nationwide equivalent of the Peach State would go dark.

When gauged by accepted industry metrics, the agency's plans also would result in the loss of some 52,000 permanent direct jobs in utilities, mining and rail and at least another 100,000 jobs in related industries. High-skill, middle-class jobs would be lost, falling heavily in rural communities that have few comparable employment opportunities.

The U.S. is already facing the loss of 60 gigawatts of power over the next three years, the result of older coal plants' being forced to shut down because they cannot comply with the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards enacted in 2012. At the time, the EPA claimed that only four gigawatts of capacity would be lost. Those of us familiar with the industry knew better, and the agency now does not contest that 60 gigawatts of coal-generated electricity will be lost. Ninety percent of the plants slated to close due to the MATS rule were needed to provide power during the polar vortex and other periods of severe weather last winter. Is the EPA willing to gamble that we won't have another harsh winter in the next five years?

The U.S. cannot lose more than 100 gigawatts of power in five years without severely compromising the reliability and safety of the electrical grid. That would pose a danger for the entire economy and all Americans.

Replacing the electricity lost as coal plants are closed will require building or retrofitting facilities powered by other sources, the costs of which will be borne by consumers. Natural gas is the only energy source that could conceivably meet the expected demand over the next five years.

But the market for natural gas is volatile, even with the current abundance resulting from new discoveries. Prices could spike, saddling residential and commercial customers with higher electric bills. Renewables such as solar and wind can't take up the slack. Most industry experts agree that solar and wind technologies will not be capable of producing the required gigawatts for at least 20 years.

There is a better way. The EPA could, for example, provide states with credit for prior reductions in carbon emissions dating back to 2005 instead of setting the baseline for further action at 2012 levels. This would allow the industry to test and install new technology enabling some plants to remain in service and still meet emission targets.

The EPA's Clean Power Plan is a classic example of federal tunnel vision—focusing on a single goal with little heed for the costs and dangers. The Obama administration and Congress need to put aside partisan bickering and develop a plan for the nation's energy future that utilizes all of America's abundant sources of power, encourages the development of renewable energy on a large scale and replaces the inevitable lost jobs with new opportunities for a trained, skilled workforce.

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## **Climate Campaign Tipping Point? Unions Get on Board**

*By Jenny Brown - Labor Notes*

A major climate change march in New York September 21 may be a tipping point for labor movement participation in global warming activism.

Climate initiatives are still controversial in the labor movement. But dozens of unions in New York, jarred by memories of Superstorm Sandy, have lined up to join the People's Climate March, planned to coincide with a United Nations summit that will draw world leaders to the city.

"Let's be clear, climate change is the most important issue facing all of us for the rest of our lives," said John Harrity, president of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists, which endorsed the march.

"Climate protection is the single most essential issue for us now," said J.J. Johnson, a Service Employees (SEIU) 1199 retiree, at a June union planning meeting.

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The U.N. meeting “provides us an unusual opportunity,” Johnson said. “There is no way that we should fritter this way.”

With 400,000 members and 85,000 retirees, 1199 is among the biggest unions to sign up so far. Others are AFSCME’s District Council 37 and the New York State Nurses Association.

Members of NYSNA have direct experience with climate catastrophies. They’ve volunteered help in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan, and close to home in devastated communities on State Island and in the Rockaways after Sandy.

They also experienced crises in their own hospitals when Sandy hit. Some evacuated patients down darkened stairwells, as flooded backup power systems failed.

### **TELL THE MEMBERS**

Still, ‘getting a union endorsement isn’t going to bring union members into the streets,’ noted Sean Petty, a pediatric emergency nurse.

To engage members, he said, NYSNA has been holding lunch and dinner meetings at hospitals, with the goal of hitting the dozen city hospitals it represents.

“We know we have members who care about public health and their patients with asthma, members who volunteered to do relief...members already involved in environmental issues,” said Petty. “We don’t know that all those members have made the connections between Sandy and climate change, between asthma and climate change.

They also don’t necessarily yet see their union as a key place to start organizing on the issue. “That’s the goal of the educational sessions,” Petty said.

People trust nurses. That and the resources their unions can deploy are two reasons they’re well positioned to help create pressure to change climate policy. National Nurses United has made climate change a signature issue, framing it as a public health responsibility.

The NYSNA sessions pair information about climate change generally with testimony from members who have done relief work or can talk about the health impacts.

Johnson too said local issues are striking a chord. In the South Bronx, 50,000 1199 family members have asthma, he said. “that is a basic climate protection issue.”

According to the federal government’s recent National Climate Assessment, asthma is expected to worsen in New York as ground-level ozone increases—a result in the warming climate.

### **CLIMATE SCHOOL**

Neither the AFL-CIO nor the union-led BlueGreen Alliance has taken a position on the September march yet, but that hasn’t stopped unions from signing up.

Communications Workers took a stand on the Keystone XL pipeline last year, along with the two transit workers unions, ATU and TWU. All three have endorsed the march. Also on board are Teamsters Joint Council 16, Autoworkers Region 9A, Heat and Frost Insulators, Local 12, Retail Workers (RWDSU) Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 3, and SEIU 32BJ, whose 145,000 members, mostly in the Northeast, include janitors, doormen, and building superintendents.

Four years ago, 32BJ launched a new class to train “green supers.” More than 2,000 union members have gone through the program, where they get 40 hours of training to make the building systems they operate and maintain more efficient, including lighting, heat, air-conditioning, insulation, and gas and water use. Landlords like it because it can save energy costs.

Participants also learn about global warming. They learn that buildings account for 70 percent of New York City’s greenhouse gases, and develop an action plan for their own buildings.

### **CRITICAL THINKING**

Like 32BJ, IBEW Local 3 has lots of training infrastructure, said Partha Banerjee, who teaches at the local.

This year the union has incorporated a climate change discussion into its “critical thinking workshop,” trainings held every weekend at a union-built resort on Long Island. Around 1,500 workers participate each year.

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In his experience teaching members about climate change, “people do not know exactly what is going on, or don’t understand the extent of it,” Benerjee said.

The class discusses issues and problems in the morning, and talks about solutions in the afternoon. “It’s not traditional teaching; it’s very interactive,” he said. “Members ask a lot of questions and come up with answers.”

The jobs vs. environment question naturally comes up.

“Local 3 has taken a big lead in solar projects and restoration projects. Members know about that and can relate very well to non-traditional energy.” Banerjee said. “Instead of talking about climate change’s impact on traditional jobs, we talk about how there has to be a serious priority on green Jobs.”

Naturally, the resort is solar-powered.

## **DIVIDED HOUSE**

Most unions haven’t grappled with climate change at all, while a few have been vocal on each side of the debate.

Four building trades unions that hoped to gain jobs building the Keystone XL pipeline excoriated the two national transit unions for coming out against it two years ago.

Climate activists oppose it because they say it would accelerate distributions of carbon-intensive tar sands oil from Canada. The pipeline hasn’t been approved.

Meanwhile, the Mineworkers are organizing a July 31 rally in Pittsburgh against an important new Obama administration initiative to cut greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants.

New power plants are already regulated, but climate activists have been pushing the administration to crack down on existing coal plant, which are responsible for about 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution. The proposed EPA regulations would make plants cut those emissions 30 percent by 2030.

Mineworkers say this will reduce use of coal and eliminate more mining jobs. “Our members want to know what lies in the future for their families and their communities, but so far the EPA has no answers,” said Mineworkers president Cecil Roberts.

However, coal jobs in Appalachia, where most unionized miners work, have been declining even without the regulations. Many profitable seams in the East are mined out. Shallow Western mines, requiring fewer workers, have become the main source of easy coal.

The Mineworkers charge that the new regulations single them out to bear a burden everyone should share. “Climate change is a global problem,” Roberts said. “It demands a global solution, not one that punishes American coal miners and their families.

But climate activists say the U.S. had led the resistance to regulations at every climate summit. If it starts to act responsibly, other countries will be encourage to follow.

## **ONE SOLUTION**

The jobs argument for doing nothing is looking increasingly anemic, as ideas fly for remaking the economy with clean energy.

“Here’s a banner I know you’ll see in the streets of New York,” wrote climate campaigner Bill McKibben in a *Rolling Stone* article inviting everyone to the September march: “CLIMATE/JOBS. TWO CRISES, ONE SOLUTION.

Transit jobs, of course, could grow if public investments moves to expanding bus and rail travel rather than subsidizing fossil fuel production. But utility and construction workers, too, may see more jobs as power plants and buildings retrofit.

New energy sectors created by the buying power of the federal government could add jobs too, although it will be up to workers to demand the pay and protections that mineworkers established over a century of struggle.

In Kentucky, where mining jobs have declined from 48,000 to 18,000 over the last 30 years, activists are promoting state energy policies that would create new jobs manufacturing wind turbines and solar panels. They point to 70,000 jobs in Ohio and 12,500 in North Carolina created due to state policies encouraging renewables.

[For more information on the People’s Climate March, go to [peoplesclimate.org](http://peoplesclimate.org)]

## LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Mario Algieri	Jesus Alvarez
Derek Anderson	Joseph Anderson
Andrew Becker	Lucius Brackee
Andrew Bratsch	Garrett Bullert
Michael Bursch	Tyler Carlson
Luke Charlson	Joseph Cox
Todd Dennis	Nicholas Dunning
Cory Efraimson	Bryon Enzler
Corey Formolo	Jason Goenner
Cody Groshong	Zachery Harm
Paul Herzog	Kyle Hines
Wade Homola	Bradley Hoppe
Larry Hoyer	Adam Jennum
Dylan Kraemer	Troy Kriner
Richard Leinonen	Rodney Lipe
Charlie Lohman	Joshua Martin
Nicholas Matthies	William Miller
Sergio Miraflor	Sterren Myklejord
Cody Nelson	Tyler Ritter
Jared Rolstad	Jacob Sabin
Jeff Scott	Trevor Stoneberg
Chad Strom	Shawn Sweningson
Alexander Takala	Paul Ulrick
Joseph Vanboxel	Jane Vanderschaaf
Jacob Volkmann	Donald Vopelak
Dacoda Wolff	Brandon Waldvogel-Rach
Aaron Zimmerman	

**Membership Count = 3130**

## RETIREMENT CLUB

Hope each and every one of you have enjoyed your summer.

Your meetings will begin again on October 22, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Come enjoy the guest speaker, good food, and catch up with each other.

If you are not a member and would love to join, come to the meeting on the 22nd of October and pay \$12.00 membership fee. And after that you will receive a postcard with the meeting dates on it.



## **GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE**

### **FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

John Frederick - Xcel Energy  
Benjamin James - Xcel Energy  
Jim Jones - Mo Valley  
Ellis Pfeffer - Xcel Energy  
Leslie Sem - Madelia Light & Power  
John Stenberg - Xcel Energy  
Jason Walker - Xcel Energy  
Ron Woeste - Xcel Energy

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Eugene (Tex) Deichelbohrer - Retired NSP - Died 7/21/14  
Marvin Imholte - Active Xcel Energy - Died 8/9/14  
Paul Kingman - Retired NSP - Died 7/2014  
Eugene Pudlick - Retired NSP - Died 8/11/14  
Elmar (Rozie) Rozenberg - Retired Xcel - Died 8/11/14  
David Skibness - Retired NSP - Died 8/22/14

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.**

Michael Cooley - Xcel Energy  
Jayne Lange - Xcel Energy  
Keith Olson - Mo Valley  
Lawrence Spivak - Xcel Energy  
Reginald Zachman - Xcel Energy  
Francis Zilka - Mo Valley



Retraction from the July/August Newsletter

Daniel Schade with McLeod Cooperative did not retire. Sorry Dan for the mistake.