

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

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NEWSLETTER - 172ND EDITION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

OFFICERS

Thomas G. Koehler - Business Mgr/Financial Secretary
Alan P. Rademacher - President
Martin A. Carey - Vice President
Barbara L. Oakes - Recording Secretary
Eric W. Spielmann- Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kevin J. Kaeter
Scott E. Knight
Mark A. Ring
Michael J. Ringstad
James M. Tobin

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Daryl C. Tindle - Business Representative
Daniel J. Kieffer - Business Representative
Robert J. Boogren - Business Representative
Charles R. Sable - Business Representative
Jon D. Michels - Business Representative
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Representative
Thomas D. Cassidy - 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

LOCAL UNION 160'S ANNUAL STEWARDS TRAINING

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

Minneapolis: February 5 & March 5, 2015
7:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane

Becker: February 19 & March 19, 2015
7:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall

Mo Valley: February 24, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Anthony - Union Hall
March 27, 2015- 7:30 p.m.
Sawmill Inn
2301 S. Pokegama Ave, Gr. Rapids

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2015

WHERE: Local 160's Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane
St. Anthony, MN 55418

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

If you are a Steward and is interested in attending the Annual Stewards Training, please contact the hall at (612) 781-3126 no later than March 2, 2015 for reservations.



Local 160 Phone Ext.

Jenny - Ext. 101
Rose - Ext. 103
Shari - Ext. 104
Tom C. - Ext. 106
Dan - Ext. 205
Tom K. - Ext. 115
Kevin - Ext. 126

Kurt. - Ext. 105
Charlie- Ext. 108
Bob - Ext. 109
Jon - Ext. 125

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
Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189
Fax # (763) 262-1168

Local Union 160 web site - 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.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Union Plus Scholarships can now be accessed online at www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/scholarships. Deadline for this scholarship is Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.

All other scholarships will become available towards the end of January 2015. All scholarship forms will be available on our website (www.ibew160.org) or by calling (612) 781-3126 to have them mailed out to you.

If you have any questions please call the union hall and Jenny will be able to help you.

RETIREMENT CLUB

Local 160's Retirement Club would like to welcome new members Patrick Ayers, Doug Madden and Al Rademacher.

Retirees meeting every 4th Wednesday of each month.

All retirees are welcome to join.

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Holiday Season.

First an update on my status. My feet are healing well according to the surgeon, but still not sure when I am going to be back in the office. I would like to thank you for the good wishes that were sent my way. Please remember, if an issue arises, please contact Bob Boogren, Assistant Business Manager.

In 2015 the Local Union is still looking forward to moving into the new office building in Grand Rapids, MN. As I've updated in previous newsletters, the Executive Board and Membership approved the purchase of a 1 acre lot, and to build an office building. We were hoping to get a design and the city approval before winter set in, but the contractor estimated even in a normal winter to build new, it would add \$25,000 to \$30,000 to the overall cost. So we decided to wait until spring. We are hoping for the construction to begin in May and move in sometime in July 2015.

The outside construction work is still strong and in the foreseeable future should remain this way. They are still indenturing a number of apprentice linemen and apprentice substation technicians.

Contracts that are still open at this time are Connexus Energy, North Itasca Inside Unit, City of Lake Crystal - City and Utility unit.

Please remember to dress appropriately when working in these cold conditions, and watch your Brothers and Sisters backs.

Fraternally,

Thomas G. Koehler



Do you have a Retirement Plan? Do you understand your Pension Options?

The Advisors at Union Retirement Alliance are experts in Retirement Planning and have a Comprehensive understanding of your Pensions.

Get assistance with the following Retirement Topics.

- ◆ **Pension Options**
- ◆ **How to Apply for Benefits**
- ◆ **Social Security Benefit**
- ◆ **Health Care Options**
- ◆ **Other Retirement Needs**

Contact Mark Reichow at Union Retirement Alliance with Questions or to schedule a Complimentary Face to Face Meeting.

Phone: 612-239-4371 Email: mark.reichow@lpl.com

Securities offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC

In Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Talks about the Labor Movement

“Less than a century ago the laborer had no rights, little or no respect, and led a life which was socially submerged and barren...American industry organized misery into sweatshops and proclaimed the right of capital to act without restraints and without conscience. The inspiring answer to this intolerable and dehumanizing existence was economic organization through trade unions. The worker became determined not to wait for charitable impulses to grow in his employer. He constructed the means by which fairer sharing of the fruits of his toll had to be given to him or the wheels of industry, which he alone turned, would halt and wealth for no one would be available....”

“History is a great teacher. Now everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them.

“Negroes are almost entirely a working people...Our needs are indetical with labor’s needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old-age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor’s demands and fight laws which curb labor. That is why the labor-hater and labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature, spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth.”

-Speaking to the AFL-CIO on December 11, 1961

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to employment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation; they resisted it until they were overcome. When in the thirties the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society.”

-Speech to the state conventions of the Illinois AFL-CIO, October 7, 1965

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. It is supported by Southern segregationists who are trying to keep us from achieving our civil rights and our right of equal job opportunity. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

-Speaking on right-to-work laws in 1961

“With the settlement of many of these early strikes, there was little or nothing added to the pay envelope, little or nothing for job security and a mountain of debts to pay and harsh memories to forget. Yet there was one thing that was won, one thing that was fought for as indispensable, one thing for which all the pain and sacrifice was justified - - Union recognition. It seemed so miniscule a victory that people outside the labor movement scorned it as in fact just a defeat. But to those who understood, union recognition meant the employer’s acknowledgement of that strength, and the two meant the opportunity to fight again for further gains, with united and multiplied power. As contract followed contract, the pay envelope fattened and fringe benefits and job rights grew to the mature work standards of today. All of these started with winning first union recognition.”

-Speaking to shop stewards of Local 815, Teamsters and the Allied Trades Council on May 2, 1967

The Memphis Sanitation Strike

On Monday, February 12, 1968, 1,300 black sanitation workers in Memphis walked off their jobs. Their union was the American Federations of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO).

The strike had started over a sewer worker's grievance. Twenty-two black employees of that department who reported for work on January 31 were sent home when it began raining. White employees were not sent home, and when the rain stopped after an hour or so, were put out to work and paid for the full day. After the black workers complained, the city tried to mollify them by paying them for two hours' work.

The union demands were: better pay and working conditions, recognition of the union and a system of dues checkoff. The mayor of Memphis, Henry Loeb, refused to recognize the union, maintained that the strike was illegal and refused to discuss the workers' grievances until after they returned to work.

In addition, Memphis blacks felt deeply offended by the racist attitude of a cartoon in the local paper. They were also indignant because they felt the police had overreacted to a protest march by blacks by spraying Mace into the faces of the demonstrators. An aroused, angry and united group of ministers now led the black community into a campaign which broadened the original issues of the strike. It included a boycott of all downtown stores, the Memphis newspapers and marches and mass meetings in support of the strikers.

Meanwhile, the city secured a court injunction prohibiting striking against the city or picketing city property. Under its provisions, union leaders could be held in contempt and jailed if they disobeyed the injunction.

Also, two Memphis senators in the state legislature at Nashville introduced bills that would have outlawed the sanitation strike and prohibited union dues checkoffs from government paychecks. Organized labor in Tennessee at this point reacted vigorously and put pressure on state senators to defeat the bills.

Support for the sanitation workers also came from some white union members, 500 of whom marched together with the blacks on March 4. However the strike dragged on without a settlement in view and tension mounted in the city.

The black community was now determined to keep pressing for more than the sanitation workers' rights.

It was concered as well with police treatment, decent housing, job equality and above all, dignity. And to the black sanitation workers, recognition of their union by the city was crucial, because it meant that they would be treated as men and equals, not as hired plantation hands at the mercy of the white boss.

Except for the support of some white unions, however, no element of white leadership in Memphis undertook to join hands with the blacks. The churches, the newspapers, business leaders, and the city council either supported the mayor or kept hands off.

Martin Luther King Jr. was now asked to appear on the scene to rally support for the sanitation workers. As the most magnetic civil rights leader in the country, he was in a position to focus national attention upon the plights of the Memphis blacks. Important labor leaders from all over the country expressed support and solidarity, including the United Federaton of Teachers and the AFT.

It was while he was on this mission in Memphis that King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. In a massive march which followed his death, civil rights and labor leaders pointed out that the most appropriate response the country could make would be to move towards a realization of King's goals, which began with a just settlement of the sanitation strike.

One immediate result of King's martyrdom was that it helped to win a victory for his last cause. Under pressure from civil rights and labor leaders, faced with black militancy and unanimity, worried about the effects of more boycotts and possible violence, the white Memphis establishment gave in. The city now did what the mayor swore it would never do - - recognized the union, permitted a dues checkoff, granted a pay raise and introduced a system of merit promotions.

In this, his last campaign, Martin Luther King had chosen to join a labor fight—a fight that meant economic gains for black workers. King's decision to lead an economic offensive using a labor-civil rights alliance was a significant return to the strategy of the early 1960s and the March on Washington. Still ahead were the struggles for more jobs, better housing and improved educational opportunities for all blacks. But, someone else would have to lead them.

Minneapolis Volunteers Help Build Home for Wounded Warrior

(The following story is from the IBEW website)

For soldiers coming back from conflicts overseas, readjusting to civilian life is often difficult. It's even harder for those returning with serious injuries.

Carl Madsen knows this at a deep level. The Minneapolis IBEW Local 292 member spent 20 years in the National Guard and retired with the rank of major in 2004.

"These service members come back and don't really have many people who they can share their experiences with," said Madsen, who is the administrator for the hiring hall and director of the local's market recovery program. "It's important to have a group of people to talk to, and to help get them what they need."

And that includes appropriate housing.

Madsen and members of the local are helping to be a part of the solution. Nearly 40 apprentices, journeymen and retirees volunteered to wire a new accessible home for Sgt. Colin Faust, a Marine who suffered injuries from an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. Faust lost his left leg, his right leg was severely injured and he now uses a wheelchair most of the time.

Working with the nonprofit group Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors, dozens of building trades members and other community volunteers have been hard at work since June on Faust's new two-story home, located in Minnetrista in the southeast part of the state. Once principal construction was finished, Local 292 members spent two day in early September making the house's amenities accessible for Faust. His new home will have electrical switches at reachable levels, a therapeutic bath on the main floor and an elevator leading to the walkout basement, among other features.

Madsen said the project has been a collaborative effort between the membership, signatory contractor J. Becher Electric, the Minneapolis NECA chapter, the area's labor/management committee and the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus.

NFL star Jared Allen, who plays defensive end for the Chicago Bears, established Homes for Wounded Warriors after touring U.S. military bases in the Middle East in 2009 and developing a deeper understanding of what life can be like for injured troops returning home.

"They weren't necessarily getting their needs met," Allen told www.chicagonow.com in a November interview. "I came up with the idea of building homes or retrofitting them for their needs. The reaction has been great. We have been able to get some great partners and we continue to grow each year, which allows us to build more homes. The work takes place all over the country. We just help where there is a need."

The construction for Faust's home marked the first time Allen's organization had worked with building trades volunteers. "We started with the carpenters union, and it grew from there," said Alex Karalexis, project manager for Homes for Wounded Warriors. "Building the house for Sgt. Faust has been an amazing effort. Without the support from Carl Madsen and the other IBEW volunteers, Colin would not be getting the quality home he's about to move into. Not only did the IBEW and the contractor step up with labor for the electric and data installation, but they also picked up the tab for the materials. It was just unbelievable."

Local 292 members are scheduled to go back to Faust's new home between Christmas and New Year's to install additional outlets, lighting fixtures and more before the Marine moves in next year.

"It's great to thank troops when they come home, but it's something else to help give them a place to live," Madsen said. "And when you see not just Colin, but his parents too - they show up and you see the gratitude in their eyes. It really means a lot."

Local 292 Business Manager Peter Lindahl said his membership is more than grateful for the opportunity to give back. "We can't thank these brave troops enough for what they have done for our country. How can we put a value on that? And still many come back injured and can be limited in what they can physically do. If we stood by and did nothing, what kinds of stewards of our fellow man would we be?"

"I personally want to thank all of our members who gave their time to do this for Sgt. Faust," Lindahl said. "He sacrificed for us - for our freedoms at home."

To learn more about Jared Allen's organization, visit www.homesforwoundedwarriors.com.

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

If you're looking for help with your financial and retirement planning, look to your local Principal Union Resource Team. We offer 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're interested in having a retirement conversation - at no cost to you, please contact Michael Follese at (612) 850-6192 or follese.michael@princor.com.

SIX WAYS TO DEVELOP GRATITUDE

Chances are there are probably dozens of things, people, and situations that we're taking for granted every day. Use the tips below to make a grateful change in your life.

1. **Reflect.** Think about the things that cause you stress, the situations you fret over that have not come to pass, or the times you felt you were incredibly lucky and not deserving of that luck. Even a trip into the land of the negative nellys can give you a reason to embrace gratitude because there is always a lesson to learn from challenging situations, growth opportunities that will help us overcome our fears, and a reason to be thankful when unexpected windfalls come our way.
2. **Experience life and enjoy it.** There are things all around us for which we can be grateful: sunshine, rain, flowers, trees, fresh air, honeybees, and the freedom and ability to step outside of your front door and embark on an adventure, or simply walk around the block. Think of the little things that you appreciate and enjoy and what your life might be like without them.
3. **Remember, there are no guarantees.** Nothing in this world is promised to you, so even if you feel that good things aren't happening to you, as long as nothing bad is happening be grateful for that.
4. **Appreciate people.** They make our lives special. When was the last time you said "thank you" to the barista who makes your coffee just the way you like it? The clerk who wears a cheerful expression when you pick up your dry cleaning? What about a good friend who is always there for you? Or a dependable co-worker? There are many people who pass through and have an impact on our lives. When was the last time you took notice of the people who pass through and impact your life in small and great ways?
5. **Recognize the little things.** A warm scarf around your neck on a cold day, a good night's sleep, a hot meal when you're hungry, a parking spot near the door to the office, your favorite team beating its toughest rival. You get the point.
6. **Be thankful for everything.** And we mean everything—positive, negative, good, bad, or otherwise. How much would your life improve if you embraced all aspects of it?

Adapted from Utne.com

LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Brian Akre	Kade Anderson
Nicholas Baker	Michael Bauer
Devin Bush	Keith Dahn
Samuel Emond	Ryan Ergen
Samuel Hennes	Tyler Koski
Andrew Luebke	Jonathan Lundholm
Mariah Lundstrum	Nicholas Newell
Eric Sanders	Shad Smith
Justin Stukenholtz	Timothy Toborg
Daniel Walczak	

Membership Count = 3135

THOUGHTS FOR

The Coming Year

The secret to living the life of your dreams is to start living the life of you dreams today, in every little way you possibly can.

Mike Dooley

Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution long after the excitement of the moment has passed.

Cavett Robert

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

Neil Gaiman

FORGIVENESS; PASS IT ON

The first time she drove a car in Japan, American teacher Jessica Adler rear-ended a car driven by a pregnant Japanese woman. While the woman stayed overnight at a hospital, Adler waited in guilt and fear.

The next day the woman sent a message that she and the baby were fine, that she wanted no money, and that she sympathized with Adler's own suffering. Overwhelmed by the woman's forgiveness, Adler gave her some small gifts, but wondered about ever really showing her thanks.

Three months later Adler abruptly found a chance when a Japanese fisherman's car slammed into hers. After the fisherman had stammered his apology and offered money, she told the story of her accident and forgave him, too. And after the fisherman left, she thought ahead to the time that someone would wrong him—and what he might choose to say.

Adapted from the Christian Science Monitor



GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE

FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Leroy Gramsey - Xcel Energy
Sheila Hoiseth - Xcel Energy
Daniel Kieffer - Local 160
Greg Mastel - Great River Energy
John O'Brien - Xcel Energy
Eric Spanier - Xcel Energy
David Voisin - Xcel Energy

IN MEMORIAM

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

John Alleman - Retired East Central Energy - Died 11/13/14

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Bernie Baker - Mo Valley
Larry Benson - Xcel Energy
Richard Hanson - Xcel Energy
Maniel Johnson - Covanta Energy
Gerald Klema - Xcel Energy
Cory Manifold - Xcel Energy
Robert McIntyre - Mo Valley
John Menning - Xcel Energy
Randy Ridout - Covanta Energy
Steven Swanson - Xcel Energy
Thomas Vandereyk - Xcel Energy

