

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

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NEWSLETTER - 184TH EDITION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

OFFICERS

Robert J. Boogren- Business Mgr/Financial Secretary
Alan P. Rademacher - President
Darrin L. Helget- Vice President
Barbara L. Oakes - Recording Secretary
Dan A. McConnell - Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

James D. Dufour
Kevin J. Kaeter
Scott E. Knight
Mark A. Ring
James M. Tobin

OFFICE STAFF

Daniel J. Kieffer - Assistant Business Manager
Jon D. Michels - Business Representative
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Representative
Thomas D. Cassidy - Business Representative
Martin A. Carey - Business Representative
Eric W. Spielmann - Business Representative
Michael J. Ringstad - Business Representative
Andrew D. Kieffer - Membership Development
Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper
Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager
Stacy L. Helget - Secretary
Ami L. Johnson - Receptionist/Referral Clerk

General Membership Meetings

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

Minneapolis: **February 2 & March 2, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane

Becker: **February 16 & March 16, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall

Mo Valley: **February 28, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.**
St. Anthony - Union Hall
March 31, 2017- 7:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Union Hall
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids

Great River : **February 9 & March 9, 2017**
6:00 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall



Local 160 Phone Ext.

Stacy - Ext. 102	Ami - Ext. 101
Kurt - Ext. 105	Rose - Ext. 103
Mike - Ext. 108	Shari - Ext. 104
Bob - Ext. 109	Tom C. - Ext. 106
Andy - Ext. 126	Dan - Ext. 205
	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

Marty C.- (763) 262-1197

Eric S.- (763) 262-1198

Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189

Fax # (763) 262-1168

IBEW Local Union 160 Retirement Club

The retirees would like to welcome new members Steve Brandes, Scott Burkland, David Clements, Mark Harris, Rodney Johnson, Jerry Klema and Larry Peluf to the club.

If you are a retired IBEW Local 160 member you are more than welcome to join the Retirement Club for \$15.00 a year. Meetings are every 4th Wednesday of the month from October through May. They have a guest speaker and lunch is served afterwards. Meeting time is at 10:00 a.m.

January and February meeting dates are: January 25, 2017 and February 22, 2017.

LOCAL UNION 160'S ANNUAL STEWARDS TRAINING

WHEN: **Saturday, February 25, 2017**

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

TIME: **9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

If you are a union steward and are interested in going to the Annual Stewards Training, please contact the hall at (612) 781-3126 no later than February 21, 2017 for reservations.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

All scholarship applications will become available towards the end of January 2017. If you are interested in receiving the forms, you may call the hall at (612) 781-3126 and they will be mailed out to you.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Ami at the union hall.

One note: The last few years we haven't had many participants. If you are a union member of Local 160, your children are eligible to apply for the different scholarships. There is also the Nathan Blomquist scholarship that is available for Missouri Valley member's children that was set up by Nate's family in memory of him. This scholarship is for Vocational, Technical or Trade School in Minnesota or that has reciprocity with the State of Minnesota (scholarship prerequisite).

With school being so expensive, have your children take advantage of this opportunity.

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.

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I would like to wish all Local Union 160 members and their families a Happy New Year! May 2017 bring all of you great health, joy and happiness.

With the elections over and the results are in, 2017 could prove to be an interesting year. The change in the political climate may have a significant impact on our industry. Some changes, such as a different view on coal fired generation plants may help us retain some good union jobs. Others, such as anti-union rhetoric, could quite possibly put our very existence at risk. But no matter what happens we must remain strong as a union.

This year I would like all of our members to stay focused on safety. Last year we had some pretty significant injuries. When it comes to safety **ALL** members have the right to speak up! Like I have said in the past, we must give our employers a full days work, but we cannot put ourselves at risk by taking shortcuts and ignoring safety rules. Those very rules are in place to protect us and we (all brothers and sisters) have fought hard to get them. So please stay safe out there, watch your brother's and sister's backs and if you see something wrong, speak up. I want everyone to go home at night to their families.

Notice to Missouri Valley members: There have been some mistakes found on the HRA accounts. Please take the time to occasionally check your Benny Card and make sure that everything looks right. You can do this online at www.MyBenny.com. If you are not set up yet, all you have to do is register and set up an email address and password. At that point you can see your account. If you have any questions or problems about your account, you may call Lineco at (800) 323-7268. If you are still having concerns, feel free to call Rose at (612) 781-3126.

2017 is an election year for Local Union 160. All of the election rules and dates will be listed in the March/April newsletter. **Please note:** No member shall be eligible for office unless he/she has been a member of Local Union 160 in continuous good standing for at least two (2) years immediately prior to nominations. Only members in good standing are eligible to nominate and vote. Nominations for all Officers, Executive Board Members, including Great River Energy unit committee and Mo Valley unit committee will be done at the May meetings.

In solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren



How does recent Market Volatility effect my Retirement? Are you Ready to Retire?

Mark Reichow at Union Retirement Alliance is an expert in Retirement Planning and has a Comprehensive understanding of your Pensions. Get assistance with the following Retirement Topics.

- * **Xcel and NEAP Pension Options: Annuity vs. Lump Sum**
- * **Xcel 401k Investment Options & Gatt Rate Changes**
- * **Complimentary Retirement Planning**
- * **Social Security & Health Care Planning**
- * **Other Investment and 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

Winter ice storms can wreak havoc on the electrical systems throughout the United States, as our neighbors in South Dakota found out on Christmas as an ice storm blew through their state. Whetstone Valley Electric Co-op's system took a major beating. This storm broke a few hundred poles and Whetstone Valley Electric Co-op needed help in restoring the power and fixing or replacing poles.

For six (6) days, Local Union 160 member's from East Central Energy (Doug Bitzan, see below holding the wire, Steve Wilson, Al Pearson, Todd Klande, in the bucket truck, Mitch Dubois and Joe Diethelm) were there setting poles and putting up wires.

Great job guys.



DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECAY

There's a well-known saying that "one bad apple spoils the bunch." It could be the negative and argumentative comments of a pessimistic co-worker that kill the flow of ideas in a brainstorming session, the neighbor who loves to create strife through gossip and embellishments, or just your typical bully who views everyone around him as a target. Negative people and their disruptive behavior can have a demoralizing effect on everyone present and destroy the calm of an otherwise peaceful day...if you let them.

That doesn't mean you should stoop to their level and go toe to toe with them for a knockout. Remember, it takes two to argue: one to initiate and the other to take the bait. Depending on the situation, ignoring outbursts and tantrums can be an effective way of sending the message that certain behavior is not acceptable. However, there will be time when a response is warranted in an effort to defuse a tense situation.

If a meeting has gone out of control, end it, with the plan to resume at a later day and time when everyone has regained their composure. You won't establish control by raising your voice or using foul language. The last thing you want to do is add to the chaos.

Of course, sometimes the best course of action is not walking away, but taking a stand. If you find yourself in a situation where an "offender" requires a bit of feedback, keep it classy, and not accusatory. Sometimes people are so mired in their own misery that they do not realize the havoc they've created. If you can offer solutions without judgment, people might be willing to own up to their shortcomings.

Don't contribute to the decay when bad apples surface. Find higher ground—the view is better from there. Your non-reactive conduct will set a standard and example to which others can aspire, and prevent the rot from spreading.



UADVISORS

Identify. Plan. Pursue.

Independent Advice. Goal Based Planning.

Interest Rates are Rising

What Impact will this have on your Pension Benefits?

As of 2014, the GATT rate calculations changed from November rates to August rates. This may bring up the following questions to address regarding pension and retirement planning:

What is the new GATT rate?

How does this interest rate affect my Pension Benefits?

Is this the right year for me to retire?

How do I plan for my retirement?

Reach out to our office to discuss how this could effect you individually.



Your Retirement Team!

Office: (651) 447-2235

Email: Info@[UAdvisors.com](mailto:Info@UAdvisors.com)

Website: www.uadvisors.com

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Great Valley Advisor Group, a registered investment advisor. IBEW 160, Great Valley Advisor Group, U Advisors and LPL Financial are separate entities.



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

With the cost of fuel and the state of the economy, households may be interested in receiving help paying their home heating/energy bills.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households.

Household Must Apply for EAP by May 31, 2017

Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2017 to be processed for EAP benefits for the 2016-2017 program year. Applications received after May 31 may be eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program, local funds, referrals, advocacy, etc. EAP applications denied due to end of program year will be put on the mailing list to automatically receive an application for the next program year.

How to Apply

Apply directly with the EAP provider serving your county or tribe.

1. Find your EAP Provider.
2. Contact your EAP provider and have them send you an application.
3. Mail your completed application to your EAP provider.

For help finding your local EAP provider, call 1-800-657-3710

EAP is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Grants are:

- ◆ For renters or homeowners
- ◆ For households with income at or below 50 percent of the state median income
- ◆ Based on energy cost, household size, and income

What Are The Eligibility Requirements?

You must be income eligible (guidelines below)

Household Size	<u>GROSS</u> income for previous 3 months
1	\$6,135
2	\$8,023
3	\$9,910
4	\$11,798
5	\$13,686
6	\$15,574
7	\$15,928
8	\$16,282

Payments:

Payments are made directly to heat and electric vendors on behalf of the household. The household may elect to send 30% of their grant to their electric vendor.

EAP Crisis:

Extra benefits for crisis situations such as disconnect notices and running out of heating fuel are available for households that have received Energy Assistance. The funding is available through June 30, 2017 or as funds are available. The maximum payment amount is \$600.00.

For more information, go to <http://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>

Space is mysterious and beautiful, understand it more with this list of interesting facts about space, planets, moons and stars!

1. Mercury and Venus are the only two planets in our solar system that do not have any moons.
2. If a star passes too close to a black hole, it can be torn apart.
3. The hottest planet in our solar system is Venus. Most people often think that it would be Mercury, as it's the closest planet to the sun. This is because Venus has a lot of gasses in its atmosphere, which causes the "Greenhouse Effect".
4. The solar system is around 4.6 billion years old. Scientist estimate that it will probably last another 5000 million years.
5. Enceladus, one of Saturn's smaller moons, reflects some 90% of the sunlight, making it more reflective than snow!
6. The highest mountain known to man is the Olympus Mons, which is located on Mars. It's peak is 15 miles (25KM) high, making it nearly 3 times higher than Mt. Everest.
7. The Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) was the very first celestial object to be identified as being spiral.
8. A light year is the distance covered by light in a single year, this is equivalent to 5.88 trillion miles (9.5 trillion KM)!
9. The width of the Milky Way is around 100,000 light years.
10. The Sun is over 300,000 times larger than Earth.
11. Footprints and tire tracks left by astronauts on the moon will stay there forever as there is no wind to blow them away.
12. Because of lower gravity, a person who weighs 100kg on earth would only weigh 38kg on the surface of Mars.
13. Scientists believe there are 67 moons that orbit Jupiter, however only 53 of these have been named.
14. The Martian day is 24 hours 39 minutes and 35 seconds.
15. NASA's Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) declared that they have found evidence of significant amounts of water on the Earth's Moon.
16. The Sun makes a full rotation once every 25-35 days.
17. Venus is the only planet that spins backwards relative to the other planets.
18. The force of gravity can sometimes cause comets to tear apart.
19. It is thanks to the Sun and our own moons gravity that we have high and low tides.
20. Pluto is smaller than the Earth's moon.
21. According to mathematics, while holes are possible, although as of yet, we have found none.
22. Our moon is around 4.5 billion years old.
23. There are more volcanoes on Venus than any other planet within our solar system.
24. Uranus' blue glow is down to the methane in its atmosphere, which filters out all the red light.
25. The four planets in our solar system that are known as gas giants are Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn and Uranus.

Thoughts for the coming year

- ◆ Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow. *Doug Firebaugh*
- ◆ When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way. *Wayne Dyer*
- ◆ Pause and ponder when you get to a certain point in the journey of life. Know your destination, and mind the true destiny you shall form upon reaching your final destination. *Ernest Agyemang Yeboah*
- ◆ People around you are reflections of your own identity. *Jennifer Pierre*

LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Alex Aeikens	Austin Albert
Jerald Bixby	Eduardo Bonilla
Chester Clow	Samantha Crowley
William Devries	Ryan Ebsen
Morgan Frazer	Nathan Gappa
Edgar Guevara	Timothy Haas
Tyler Halverson	Jack Hattenberger
Dakota Heinrich	Donny Hutchens
Jason Karppinen	Nicholas Kelling
Brian Kormanik	Jordan Lanz
Benjamin Liljedahl	Richard Loushine
John Loven	Reid Nelson
Thomas Nelson	Kenneth Paige
Luke Palmer	Colton Ries
Matthew Runge	Renier Salas
Carl Settergren	Zachary Still
Jenna Strait	Louis Veave
Robert Wilkinson	

Membership Count = 3139

In the November/December 2016 newsletter I made a couple of errors.

They were: New Member is Zachary Shaleen not Shallen
Retirement is Doug Schiller not Schilling

I apologize for the errors.

Rose

Everybody has a home team: It's the people you call when you get a flat tire or when something terrible happens. It's the people who, near or far, know everything that's wrong with you and still love you anyways. These are the ones who tell you their secrets, who get themselves a glass of water without asking when they're at your house. These are the people who cry when you cry. These are your people, your middle-of-the-night-no-matter-what people.

Shauna Neiquist

GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE

FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



Jerry Estenson - Xcel Energy
Paul Laberda - Xcel Energy
Jenny Moses - Xcel Energy
Aaron Muellner - Great River Energy
Chuck Nagel - Xcel Energy
Jeff Peterson - Xcel Energy
Kim Potter - Connexus Energy
Mike Schwinn - Xcel Energy
Anthony Studer - Xcel Energy

IN MEMORIAM

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

Virgil Fasching - Retired NSP - Died 12/12/16

Gary J. Johnson - Retired NSP - Died 12/12/16

Glenn D. Johnson - Active Mo Valley - Died 12/15/16

Leonard Krause - Retired NSP - Died 11/15/16

Gerald Lagergren - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 11/18/16

Walter Minetor - Retired NSP - Died 12/9/16

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Kerry Carpenter - Mo Valley

Alan Dobie - Wright Tree

Tom Hentges - Xcel Energy

Richard Hubbard - Great River Energy

Kevin Lavoie - Xcel Energy

Lyle Lehrke - Mo Valley

Michael Murphy - Xcel Energy

Trenton Nikle - Xcel Energy

Lowell Nordin - Mo Valley

Dean Peterson - Xcel Energy

Anthony Raskob - Mo Valley

Timothy L. Rogers - Xcel Energy

Randy Seeley - Xcel Energy

Jeffrey Swan - Mo Valley

Mike Williams - Connexus Energy

Joseph Ziebol - Xcel Energy

