

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

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## **NEWSLETTER - 186TH EDITION**

**MAY/JUNE 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

## IBEW Local Union 160 Retirement Club

The retirees would like to welcome new members Tom Hall, Paul Laberda and Rod Pfeifer to the club.

May's meeting date is 24th at 10:00. This will be the last meeting for the summer and will start up again in October 2017.

### Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:**     **June 1 & July 6, 2017**  
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:**           **June 15 & July 20, 2017**  
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:**       **June 27, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.**  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
**July 28, 2017- 7:30 p.m.**  
Grand Rapids Union Hall  
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids
- Great River :**     **June 8 & July 13, 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

### **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.

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS:**

With the upcoming elections it is very important that all members **receive their ballots and vote.**

If you have moved please remember to call Local 160 with your change of address.

*Thank you*

### **TO ALL 'A' MEMBERS**

There are still so many IBEW Local 160 members that don't realize that there is a small pension and death benefit with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

For example: All members under the Mo Valley contract have two (2) pensions and their annuity. You have the IBEW pension which is at \$4.50 per years of service, NEBF which is at \$32.00 per years of service and NEAP.

Any IBEW member may be an 'A' member if you so wish to. The dues are currently \$18.00 more per month than the 'BA' members.

If you would like more information on the 'A' membership benefits and how it works, feel free to contact me at the hall and I will be more than happy to sit and explain everything to you.

Sincerely,  
*Rose*

In order to properly follow IBEW policies and procedures, effective June 2017, IBEW Local 160 will no longer be able to immediately process payments for expenses incurred (mileage, time off, attendance fees, hotels, etc.) by Local Union members, officers and staff. Checks will be disbursed as soon as possible and should be available within one month after expense statements are submitted.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we make this required change to our procedures.

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Summer weather is finally becoming predominate. Along with that, construction activity of all kinds is increasing, which makes the business we are in busy. Longer days of summer also brings the likelihood of storms with power outages and wind damage. My point here is to keep an eye on the weather at work as well as on your off hours. Safety gets no time off at home, work or on vacation.

With this wonderful weather and summer coming, so does outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, softball/baseball etc. I would just like to remind everyone to not forget about safety. I want all of you and your families to enjoy your vacations and activities.

One other note on safety related issue; Local 160 has met with Xcel Energy officials on supporting laws for roadway safety. The goal is public recognition of UTILITY WORK AHEAD signage on highways and with that better enforcement of reduction in speed in these areas.

Last item, I want to remind and encourage all members of Local 160 that you have an important union election at hand. Please exercise your right to vote. When your ballot arrives in your mail, cast your vote and send it back promptly to avoid a late ballot.

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren

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A few weeks ago we held our first ever directional boring training at the Grand Rapids Hall. It consisted of two, two day classes with ten members in attendance. The members that participated this time were: Steve Shaffer, Travis Halbakken, Nikolaus Jensen, Ross Pettit, Aaron Sparby, David Vandervort, Tait Gronli, Joseph Wappel, Tyler Brisbin and Constantin Moraresco. The training covered basic skills for people with interest in working around bore rigs. The ground was rocky, the weather was cold but as drillers do: we dealt with the conditions at hand.

There are a lot of people I'd like to thank for helping me set this up. Ditch Witch supplied us with both equipment and trainers for the week. Michels/Xcel for sending our members and Xcel's EUC division for the tools. I'd also like to thank Bob Boogren and the Executive board for their approval. Without their interest and foresight I would not have been able to get this idea off the ground.

Please do not be upset if you were not asked to participate. Space was limited and this was just a pilot session covering basic boring skills. This field is one with a lot of potential growth and if we establish a training program it would be the only one in the state.

If you have any questions please give me a call.

Fraternally,

Andy Kieffer  
Membership Development Coordinator  
IBEW Local Union 160

612-258-5833



## 2017 ELECTION NOMINEES

President:	Kenneth R. Conrad Barbara L. Oakes Alan P. Rademacher
Vice President:	Jason P. Alms Darrin L. Helget
Recording Secretary:	David. A. Audette Mark A. Ring
Business Manager/Financial Secretary:	Robert J. Boogren Kevin J. Peterson
Treasurer:	Matthew J. Dausg Dan A. McConnell
Executive Board:	Thomas S. Carlson Travis M. Doll James D. Dufour Martin J. Halter Clayton E. Kaeter Kevin J. Kaeter Bret D. Kitner Scott E. Knight Raymond E. Labrecque Randal L. Nass Michael S. Parker Jeffery R. Polson Kellen A. Schmidt Noah C. Smith James M. Tobin

All ballots will be mailed out no later than May 18, 2017. If you do not receive a ballot it could possibly be that you have moved and forgot to give Local Union 160 your new address.

**All ballots should be at the P.O. Box (NOT DROPPED OFF AT THE UNION HALL) no later than June 19, 2017 by 9:00 a.m.**



**THIS IS YOUR UNION  
SO BE PROUD  
AND VOTE FOR YOUR OFFICERS  
AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

## **IBEW 160 MEMBERS YOU'RE INVITED**

Mark Reichow of Union Retirement Alliance  
Invites you to an Appreciation BBQ Picnic

**When: Saturday, August, 26th, 2017**

**Time: 11:30am – 1:30pm**

**Where: Como Park Pavilion – South  
(Attached to Como Zoo)  
1199 Midway Parkway  
St. Paul, MN 55108**



Fun for the whole family! Bring your spouse, children and grandchildren and join us for good food, games and prizes. Come when you can, and leave when you need to!

Mark Reichow, from Union Retirement Alliance, is making a donation to the Como Zoo on your behalf, so come for the food and feel free to stay and visit the zoo!

**RSVP by 08/15/17 via email to Susan at [susan.stuppnig@lpl.com](mailto:susan.stuppnig@lpl.com), or call (952)683-9100**

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC

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### ***Quotes to Ponder***

I used to eat a lot of natural food until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?

Why don't we ever see this headline: **PSYCHIC WINS LOTTERY?**

Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'Broker'?

Who tastes dog food when it has a 'new & improved' flavor?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why are a wise man and wise guy opposites?



**UADVISORS**

Identify. Plan. Pursue. Independent Advice.  
Goal Based Planning.

## **INTEREST RATES ARE RISING**

### **Will this have a negative effect on the GATT Rate and your Pension Benefits?**

*Is this the right year for me to retire?  
How do I plan for my income in 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

**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.*

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Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The first week in April 2017 I attended the National Safety Conference and the IBEW Safety Caucus.

Throughout the week there were different information meetings set up. One thing that the National Safety Conference is focusing on for 2017 the big push for ‘Awareness of Distracted Driving’ and it’s affects. Some states are moving ahead with Legislation that requires “Hands Free” driving. Please do not text and drive.

On the IBEW Safety Caucus side I am sad to report that the IBEW has had four (4) fatalities so far for 2017. With that said, April is always dedicated to the Workers Memorial month. So even though April flew by, let’s remember all those who have lost their lives. I urge all of you to look out for each other and work safe. Please make good decisions and don’t be in a hurry. We all know that we are doing more work with less personnel.

Fraternally,

Kurt W. Zimmerman  
Business Rep  
IBEW Local Union 160

## RIGHT TO WORK THREAT

With Minnesota surrounded by Right To Work States it is a must to get the word out on the importance and urgency of the Right To Work Threat that unions in Minnesota face. Here are some of the issues, that are important yet often overlooked by those buying union printing.

When working with a union printing company (or a company in any industry) be sure to ask:

- If the company is union, what local(s) represent the employees. This is a simple yet very important question to ask.
- Do they perform all of the work with their union employees? If they don't where do they send the work? If a union printing company subcontracts with another union printing company then the company doing the actual printing is required to have their own union label on the work, not the label from the company sending the work.
- If the work is going to be sent out to another printing company, ask where it is going. You have the right to know where it's going and you should ask because if it is going to a shop in a "Right To Work" state pull the job and find a printing company in Minnesota that can do the work!
- Some union print buyers work with brokers and there is no reason to do that, especially in Minnesota. Brokers may not only send the work to a "Right To Work" state with the goal to increase their profit margin and charge you more, but, also, brokers are notorious for sending work to non-union shops that use counterfeit or illegal union labels. If you must use a broker, ask to see the union label from the printing company doing the work and check with the printing union local offices to ensure that the label is legit.
- If you are active or involved in political or issue-based campaigns, please insist that those in charge of the effort use legitimate union printing companies in Minnesota. It's sad but true that a number of Minnesota elected officials use union printing companies in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, etc. and don't support the union workers that support them AND can vote for them!
- The cost of sending union work to "Right To Work" states is real and directly impacts union workers. For example if a Minnesota political campaign (that wants union endorsement) or local union in Minnesota that spends about \$210,000 in a year in Wisconsin or Iowa on their printing displaces one Minnesota union printing employee. That's one union employee that could have (should have) voted for the candidate that supports unions. That doesn't include the revenue loss and impact to mailing companies, paper and ink vendors, etc. But the question is: Even though the candidate is seeking union/labor endorsement does that candidate really support unions/labor if he/she sends their printing, and possibly other services, to Right To Work states?
- The Right To Work Threat is more pressing and immediate than it has ever been in the history of unions. Minnesota is now an island, surrounded by Right to Work States and we need to seal up the borders to keep union work in Minnesota and to keep the Right To Work advocates out!
- If there are any questions as to who is doing the work, insist on a plant or facility visit to see firsthand the employees and equipment that should be doing the work. If the vendor hesitates or doesn't want you to visit, that should be a very strong hint that they are not a legitimate union vendor for your project.

Bottom line is: Keep work in Minnesota! Use legitimate union vendors whenever possible. Do your due diligence to ensure that they are legitimate and to address the questions/issues listed above. Spread the word about legitimate union vendors and really spread the word about vendors that are not legitimate.

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When you've been through an unexpected change, the old you dies and a new one is born. And therefore you must allow yourself to be a baby. Get emotional and moral support any way you can. Give yourself a limited time each day (about an hour or so) to focus on the adjustment. And don't make big decisions until you've got your legs under you. You don't even know who the new you will grow up to be, so postpone large commitments, giving yourself time and love. Everything else will take care of itself.

*Martha Beck*

## **LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Greg Anderson	Dana Cooper
Charles Dreier	Jacob Eikos
Lucas Fobbe	Julio Fuentes Aguilar
Brian Geske	Andrew Grass
Robert Helmbrecht	Kyle Hendershot
Wade Johnson	Daniel Kim
Nicholas Kromminga	Jonathon Messner
Troy Middelstadt	Zachary Moran
Jack Neumann	Dwayne Peterson
Ryan Peterson	Nicholas Pounder
Darin Pragit	Joseph Ramlet
Chance Roberts	Juan Rodriguez
Joshua Rogers	Jack Rudeen
Tyler Schummer	Thomas Segner
James Shepherd	Dustin Stewart
Michael Tautges	Nicholas Taverna
Cory Tiedeman	Aaron Weis
Michael Weiss	

**Membership Count = 3168**

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

Craig Bugella - Mo Valley  
John Hackey - Xcel Energy  
Steve Horn - Mo Valley  
Bruce Karna - Xcel Energy  
Jay Law - Xcel Energy  
Joel Mohagen - Asplundh Tree  
Jeffrey Motl - Mo Valley  
Paul Schommer - Xcel Energy  
Joseph Steffl - Benco Electric  
Steven Thoresen - Xcel Energy  
Michael Truax - Mo Valley  
James Voita - Mo Valley



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

### ***FOLLOWING MEMBERS:***



Ryan Beacom - Great River Energy  
Steve Curtis - Xcel Energy  
Kevin Kaeter - Xcel Energy  
Gary Kulkay - Xcel Energy  
Jason Matthies - Mo Valley  
Grant Miller - Mcleod Coop  
Mark Muench - Great River Energy  
Roy Robison - Xcel Energy  
Jeff Sawdy - Veolia  
Scott Sweely - Great River Energy



## ***IN MEMORIAN***

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

James Steinert - Retired NSP - Died 3/13/17

Kevin Sweere - Retired Mo Valley - Died 4/15/17



### ***ELEMENT OF GREATNESS***

Every job has an element of greatness. It matters little if it is that of a custodian, the president of a large corporation, or any job in between.

On a visit to a popular casino, I observed the custodian maintaining a men's bathroom. When I entered he was singing, "Here's a little son I wrote, you might want to sing it note-for-note. Don't worry, be happy..."

This Jamaican-born gentleman was on in years, but sang and greeted every man as they entered the washroom. Many knew him and shook his hand. He made everyone smile.

His melodic voice echoed through the room while he kept the facilities spotless. He sang and worked, worked and sang, "In every life we have some trouble, when you worry you make it double. Don't worry, be happy..."

He created an element of greatness in that job. He did it by becoming more than a custodian and more of an inspiration. Every person who left that washroom had a smile on his face because of the singing that came from this man.

To find the element of greatness, in your job, you need only to look within.

*Bruce L. Buchler*