

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

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NEWSLETTER - 187TH EDITION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

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Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper

Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager

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Ami L. Johnson - Receptionist/Referral Clerk

General Membership Meetings

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:** **October 5 & November 2, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:** **October 19 & November 16, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:** **October 24, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.**
St. Anthony - Union Hall
November 17, 2017- 7:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Union Hall
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids
- Great River :** **October 12 & November 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

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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.

Attention Retirees: The monthly meetings will start up again starting with October 25, 2017. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the meeting in November will be on the 15th. Yearly dues are \$15.00. So mark your calendars and come and enjoy the speakers, food and fellow retirees.

Don't Forget: September 28, 2017 is the Annual Pig Roast. Hope to see you there.

The Delegates of the 39th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in St. Louis, Missouri, during the week of September 19 through 23, 2016, approved several amendments to Article IX of the *IBEW Constitution*. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2018, there will be an increase of one dollar (\$1.00) for the per capita that is paid to the General Fund, and therefore, the rate for all members shall increase.

For the members who have payroll deduct for their dues, your employer will be notified of this change. The members who automatically have their dues deducted out of their checking or savings account once a month, will see the increase whenever your January dues are paid.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call the Union Hall.



How does Interest Rates effect my Retirement? Are you Ready to Retire?

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: Annuity & Lump Sum
401k Investment Options
Complimentary Retirement Planning
Social Security & Health Care Options
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

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Occasionally you will see a notice in the newsletter talking about two types of memberships with the IBEW. An 'A' and a 'BA' membership. An 'A' membership has a small pension and death benefit whereas the 'BA' membership does not. All Business Managers in the United States and Canada received a letter dated July 17, 2017 regarding **The Importance of Paying Dues Until Retirement** from International Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth W. Cooper.

He says; "It has come to my attention that with increasing frequency, some IBEW "A" members who reach retirement age - or take an early retirement from their local union - stop paying their dues and are subsequently dropped from membership six months thereafter [Article XI, Section 6(a) of the *IBEW Constitution*]. In some cases, members are unaware of the pension and death benefits available to them from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF), or mistakenly believe that having reached retirement age for the PBF, are no longer required to pay dues. As you know, "A" members who are dropped from membership forfeit all accrued pension and death benefits from the PBF. To remain eligible, a member must maintain continuous good standing by paying dues monthly or quarterly until the member is placed on PBF pension." He also states that it is imperative members understand the importance of paying dues until they are *approved* for PBF pension. If there is an overpayment, the Per Capita Department will make a refund. To be clear, members must continue paying dues until they are placed on PBF pension *and* receive an approval letter from the PBF.

If you are an 'A' member and have any questions regarding this matter, or if you want more information on the 'A' membership, please feel free to contact Rose Eiden, Bookkeeper, and she will be able to answer your questions.

Unions play a vital role in Minnesota's economy and communities. The Minnesota labor movement, however, will continue to face both short- and long-term challenges. Reversing the trend of declining union membership rates remains a critical if uncertain task. Labor's response to these challenges could define its influence and effectiveness in the decades to come.

With that being said, Minnesota has historically been a strong labor state. Here are some statistics:

As of 2016, the overall union membership rate is 14.2 percent in Minnesota:

- ◆ The number of union members has increased from 351,000 in 2012 to about 364,000 in 2016.
- ◆ Workers 45 to 54 years of age are the most unionized age cohort, with a union membership rate of 17.3 percent.
- ◆ Approximately 15.9 percent of workers who reside in the city center are unionized, 15.4 percent of workers who reside in rural areas are unionized, and 12.8 percent of workers who reside in the suburbs are unionized.
- ◆ By educational attainment, the most unionized workers in Minnesota hold Master's degrees (29.9 percent) and associate's degrees (17.3 percent).

Local Union 160 through August 2017 has a membership count of 3,164. It is very disheartening to only see a very small group of the members at the four different meetings we have every month for you the members. I would like to hear your thoughts and ideas on how to improve our attendance at the membership meetings and also how to get better participation in our Union. I have been asked by some members recently if Local 160 could become more involved in community/charity work. I think this is a great idea. If we are going to survive in this anti-union movement that has seized the country, we need to show them we are NOT Union Thugs, but productive, hard working members of society and this would be one perfect way to do it.

Last, with Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida there already is and will continue to be many of Local 160's linemen traveling to help the victims and restore the power. There will be long days ahead and restless sleep. So I ask you to **PLEASE BE SAFE OUT THERE.**

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren
Office: (612) 781-3126
Cell: (612) 308-5520
Fax: (612) 781-4225

After Harvey's Destruction, IBEW Members Working OT to Help

David Hawkes is saddened by the destruction he's seen in his native Texas. Yet, there's a sense of honor in knowing that he is being counted on to help get things back to normal.

"Absolutely," said Hawkes, a head lineman for CenterPoint Energy and a member of Houston Local 66's executive board. "I take a great sense of personal pride in all my work. My work here will show that pride in everything I do."

Hawkes and other IBEW utility-branch members are stretched across the Texas and Louisiana coasts to get electricity restored in areas slammed by Hurricane Harvey. Soon, members from the construction branch will be descending on the area for the massive rebuild that lies ahead.

But the immediate concern is to get power restored - and that's no easy task even for experienced workers like Hawkes and Johnny Johnson, a lineman for Entergy and recording secretary for Beaumont, Texas, Local 2286. The rain has finally stopped, but its lasting impact is making work difficult.

"Our biggest adversary right now is the water," said Johnson, who is working in Orange County in Southeastern Texas near the Louisiana border. "Even going just 4-5 miles can take you as much as an hour-and-a-half or two hours. Even if where you're headed is just a half-mile down the road, you might have to drive 10 miles to get there because of all the flood water."

Once Johnson and others get to an area, they sometimes find neighborhoods still underwater. They can't get to substations to do their work.

"We can't even get to places to turn the lights on," Hawkes said. "We're not used to that stuff."

Hawkes lives in Katy, Texas, about 30 miles west of Houston. His home sustained minimal damage, but flooded roads made it impossible to return immediately. Thus, he and other IBEW brothers and sisters lived and worked out of CenterPoint's service center in Katy. His bed was a cot and a sleeping bag while his family stayed with relatives.

Yet, he considers himself lucky when he sees what has gone on around him. Hawkes speaks from experience. He is part of CenterPoint's mutual assistance team, which is comprised of first responders who are dispatched to areas that experience an environmental emergency.

No storm has topped the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Unlike many hurricanes, it did not move through quickly, pounding cities like Houston and Galveston and Port Arthur for several days with upwards of 50 inches of rain.

"It reminds me a little bit of Katrina with the flooding," said Hawkes, referencing the 2005 hurricane that devastated New Orleans. "I think there is less wind damage because it was a tropical storm by the time it got to us. But the sheer water reminds me of Louisiana."

Johnson lives in Buna, Texas, a small town about 30 miles north of Beaumont. His home has escaped damage, but he's seen many not nearly as fortunate. Crews' work sometimes is slowed by people continually coming up and asking when their power will return, he said.

But they often are heartened by people offering fresh water or something to eat.

"These are our friends and neighbors," he said. "We understand they want their lights back on, but it makes you feel good when they appreciate you being out there and what you're doing."

Utility Department Director Donnie Colston said IBEW members in Texas are working 16-hour shifts and many are sleeping in their trucks. Finding a place to shower can be a challenge. So is keeping in touch with loved ones because many cell towers are damaged.

"We're very proud of the apprenticeship training we provide and the training by our utilities that prepares them for this situation," Colston said. "We're very proud of the skills they bring and the dedication they bring to our customers in getting their lights turned back on."

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, an IBEW member, noted that fellow members and the other unions are doing what's expected: Putting their training and superior work skills to use when the country needs them most.

"It's not just the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana," she told Texas labor leaders after arriving in Houston on August 31. "It's a national crisis. All eyes are on you. The labor movement is always the first to respond in these communities."

Shuler said the national AFL-CIO has donated \$100,000 to the Texas AFL-CIO's Workers Relief Fund and committed to raising \$5 million more in cash aid. The AFL-CIO's Housing Trust Program will invest \$50 million during the next five years to areas affected by the hurricane and will work with local officials to see where it is most needed, she said.

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“This has destroyed homes, leaving working people with nothing, but it will take our solidarity, or our strength and determination to stand together and get back on our feet,” Shuler said. “We are all in this together. Electricians, nurses, teachers and construction workers are on the front lines risking their lives to save lives. Working people here in Texas are at our best when we look after each other.

Seventh District International Representative Gary Buresh said that it appears that most local union halls and training centers in the areas affected escaped severe damage. But some members were not as fortunate.

“Our No. 1 goal is to get power restore,” Buresh said. “We’ve got members that have lost their homes and had damage to their homes and the first priority is to get them to a safe place. That’s going to be a challenge because of how many of our members are impacted. We know from Hurricane Ike [in 2008] and Hurricane Rita [in 2005] that housing is a big problem.

When construction begins, work should be plentiful for IBEW members, Buresh said. Some members of Congress have said the federal debt ceiling shouldn’t be raised for funding to repair damage, leading some labor leaders to wonder if the Davis-Bacon law might be suspended, mandating local prevailing wages on federal public works projects.

Buresh is optimistic that won’t happen. Even though Texas is a conservative state, the congressional delegation and local leaders in and around Houston are supportive of the prevailing wage law. Several federal and municipal facilities, including NASA, were damaged during Hurricane Harvey, and skilled workers will be in demand, he said.

The challenge for the IBEW will be to provide them during a nationwide shortage of skilled construction workers, he said.

“We’ve always been able to in the past,” he said. “I have confidence that we can, but I think it will be a little tougher than it was last time with Ike.”

Quick Action by IBEW Member Saves Life of Another

Milwaukee Local 494 member Phil Kissinger was on his way to ask a friend how he was recovering from surgery when his vision started fluttering.

He was at the local’s annual Brat Fry, a July celebration that brings the 100 or so current and retired members of the Kettle Moraine unit of Local 494 together for a brief meeting and then a big meal.

Union meetings are one of the only nights the newly-retired Kissinger goes out, he said. Normally, he is at home, not quite alone. His wife works first shift at 6 a.m. and is in bed early. Most other nights, Kissinger would have been on his own. Union meetings, even the ones without beer and brats, are good chance to see old friends, he said.

Until he couldn’t really see them anymore. A quarter of the image in each eye was unsteady.

“It was shimmering, like when you see stars,” Kissinger said.

Kissinger’s friend, recording secretary Dan Casper, was half a year past a triple bypass and Kissinger meant to ask how he was feeling. Now, Casper was doing the questioning.

Casper sat Kissinger down, got him some water and went for help.

What Kissinger didn’t know was that one of the valves in his heart was damaged beyond repair, clogged with clotted blood called plaques. A piece of the plaque broke free from the wall of his heart and raced through his aorta up into his brain, lodging itself in his optic nerve. It strangled the blood supply, suffocating the neurons.

From the moment his vision began to flutter, a clock began ticking. There is a short window where permanent damage may be avoided if the clot is broken up with blood thinning drugs. But you must get to the hospital in time. They must know what’s wrong in time. They must give the right drugs in time and the drugs must start working in time.

Three hours is all you have.

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The Kettle Moraine unit isn't large, says Local 494 Business Manager Dean Warsh. Everyone knows everyone else. They've almost all worked together on construction projects at one time or another. Sometimes they even worked with each other's fathers or grandfathers.

Casper knew, of all the people in the room, who to ask for help. Christopher Burgin, journeyman inside wireman, 14 year member of Local 494, a registered paramedic and a member of the Howards Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

Soft-spoken and humble, but well known to the membership, Burgin is at every meeting, collecting COPE payments and checking dues receipts at the door.

Kissinger had worked with Burgin at the Edgewater powerhouse in Sheboygan. He'd worked with Christopher's grandfather, Hank, for five years when he was an apprentice.

"Dan came over just as my grandfather and I sat down," Burgin said, "He told me I had to come now. Something was wrong with Phil."

Kissinger hadn't moved. His eyesight was just as bad, but now a pain grew from the back of his neck, spreading like the roots of tree into his head and down his back.

Burgin began to ask him questions: do you have any history of medical complications? Are you allergic to anything?

In a normal stroke, half of the body will experience some level of paralysis. Burgin asked Kissinger to perform some physical actions to see if that was happening to Kissinger. There were no signs that one side was weakening.

"He was not consistent with having a normal stroke," Burgin said. "He was self-aware, alert and oriented. But this wasn't the first time I have seen a stroke. Every brain is different so every stroke is different. It depends on where it is in the brain and how the person responds."

But Burgin had seen enough.

"I don't know what he got from those questions, but he made a decision that waiting wasn't the thing to do. He stood up, tapped me in the shoulder and said, 'Let's go for a ride.'" Kissinger said.

From Casper asking him to come over to walking out the door took less than 10 minutes.

Hank got a ride home from someone else.

"Christopher just grabbed Phil and they left," Warsh said. "I didn't find out until I was going home, it happened so fast."

Phil was taken to a hospital in Sheboygan, given blood thinners to destroy the clot on his optic nerve. Four days later, he was taken to Milwaukee by ambulance where the faulty heart valve was removed and replaced with a valve from a bovine donor.

A month after surgery, Kissinger returned to the Kettle Moraine Local 494 unit meeting. Together with Warsh, they presented a challenge coin to Burgin, to thank and honor him.

"Chris was embarrassed," Warsh said. "He kept saying 'you know I don't do this for recognition. This is what brothers do for each other.' That's Christopher."

Warsh has now nominated Burgin for the IBEW's Lifesaving Award, one of the highest honors in the Brotherhood.

Burgin said he hopes that the attention will focus on the importance of every IBEW member getting first aid training. He also wants people to consider serving in a local volunteer fire department.

"Especially if you are in a rural setting, everybody is screaming for volunteer first responders. There is a great need nationwide," Burgin said. "It is a good thing for the community to help your neighbors."

Six weeks after he came home from the hospital, Kissinger has had time to consider just how lucky he was.

"One day out of 31 that I happen to be at a meeting and I am talking to a guy who had surgery and he responded and so did Christopher" Kissinger said. "I haven't tried to consider what would have happened if I had been home alone, taken a Tylenol and gone to sleep. I'm very fortunate, no other way to look at it."

And he said there is a lesson in it for every member of the IBEW, active or retired.

"I'm a pretty good argument for going to your union meeting," he said. "Go talk to some brothers and sisters. What could it hurt?"

The last two stories were published on the IBEW Media Center.



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GATT RATE CHANGE

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 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

Website: www.uadvisors.com

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You deserve to enjoy it.**

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LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Grant Anderson	Joshua Ball
Joshua Baty	Joshua Bauer
Ethan Beach	Colten Berghuis
Gary Bowling	Steven Buhr
Kevin Catts	Jordan Chamberlain
Ethan Chandler	Matthew Demars
Jacob Dolezal	Michael Elder
Kyle Fink	Timothy Finley
Cole Gordon	Robert Gray
James Hamblin	James Heidelberg
Jeffrey Heidelberg	Lori Hesch
Austin Hiepler	Travis Hill
Matthew Hoffman	Dakota Johnson
Robert Jones	Trent Kalihowski
Michael Kaveny	James Kowalski
Kyle Kreuger	Cole Landwehr
Christopher Lanphear	Chase Lease
Jordan Lesewski	Matthew Lutterman
Donald Magney	Trevor Mahowald
Zachary Mausolf	Charles McDaniel
Ryan McGregor	Brett Melby
Eli Mendez	Eliel Mendez
Robert Menzel	Miles Nelson
Mark Neumann	Garrett Otteson
Jordan Ramler	Gregory Reger
Christopher Rodorigo	Grant Sunnarborg
Mitchel Tebay	Jack Thurner
Coltt Ullom	Anthony Van Thomme
Michael Waterbury	Jacob Weber
Garrett Weyer	Dustin Wolowicz
Austin Woodard	

Membership Count = 3164

When you haven't forgiven those who've hurt you, you turn your back against your future. When you do forgive, you start walking forward

Tyler Perry

I will never have greater respect than for the man who realizes he was wrong and graciously admits it without a single excuse.

Dan Pearce

GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE

FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



Steve Adams - Xcel Energy
Barry Dunning - Xcel Energy
John Haller - Xcel Energy
Sandy Johnson - Xcel Energy
Chris Jopp - Xcel Energy
Richard Kurzweg - Xcel Energy
Scott Larson - Xcel Energy
Paula Price - Xcel Energy
Susie Schuler - Xcel Energy
John Voita - Mo Valley
Steve Wilson - East Central Energy



IN MEMORIAN

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

Charles Blesi - Retired NSP - Died 8/20/17
Victory Knight - Retired NSP - Died 7/20/17
Frank Liebl - Retired NSP - Died 6/11/17
Gordon Venske - Retired NSP - Died 7/7/17



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Kenneth Allen - Xcel Energy
Mark Anderson - Xcel Energy
Donald Clark - Xcel Energy
Donald Green - Xcel Energy
Robert Kruchten - Xcel Energy
Steven Leslie - Xcel Energy
Charles Nagel - Xcel Energy
Samuel Pederson - Xcel Energy
Gregory Popehn - Xcel Energy
Kenneth Rossberg - Xcel Energy
Norman Shultz - Wright Tree
David Thompson - Xcel Energy

