



# The Sparkie Sentinel

**Mark D. Hoffmann,  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It's election time again and I believe you know the importance of getting out to vote. We have suffered some defeats here in Wisconsin recently but it wasn't for the lack of effort in the recalls and now we are concentrating our efforts in the Presidential race and local races as well.

I do want to share some statistics with you that I find disturbing. As of June 30, 2012, our per capita report tells us we have 828 members. When I review the LAN (Labor Action Network) system which tracks voting history, I find that approximately 600+ of our members had taken the time to vote in the 2010 Governor's race and the 2012 Governor's recall. I don't for the life of me, understand why we don't see 828 members voting.

These elections these days are very important to our survival as a union. The Republican party is doing everything they can do to destroy unions and collective bargaining rights of workers today. It's time everyone stands together and does their part in protecting our rights. We don't have the luxury of sitting this one out. You need to get into the game instead of standing on the sidelines.

Let me share a few quotes by Mitt Romney.

1) November 18, 2008 – Auto Industry

“That's exactly what I said. Let Detroit go bankrupt.”

2) October 21, 2011 – Mitt Romney's housing plan

“As to what to do for the housing industry specifically, there are things you could do to encourage housing. One is don't try and stop the foreclosure process. Let it run its course and hit the bottom, allowing investors to buy the homes, put renters in them, fix the houses up and let it turn around and come back up.”

3) 2011 – Mitt on education

“Look, all the talk about we need smaller class room size. Look, that's promoted by the teachers union to hire more teachers.”

4) February 23, 2012 – ABC's Anti Worker Agenda

“On day one, I will end the governments favoritism towards unions and contracting on federal projects and end project labor agreements and I will fight to repeal Davis Bacon.”

“I will fight for right to work laws.”

5) September 17, 2012 – 47%

“There are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent on the government, who believe they are victims, who believe government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to healthcare, to food, to housing, you name it.”

“And so my job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives.”

6) September 25, 2012 – Tax Rate

Interviewer: “Is it fair to the guy who makes \$50,000 a year to pay higher tax rate than you did?”

Mitt – “Yeah, I think it’s the right way to encourage economic growth.”

7) October 3, 2012 – Presidential debate

“But you make a very good point, which is that the place you put your money just makes a pretty clear indication of where you heart is.” (Cayman Island, Swiss banks)

Brothers and Sisters, does this sound like the leader who is looking out for the middle class working people and their children? I think not. This is the mind of a corporation who believes it is real people, who has an agenda that you and I will not benefit from. This is trouble brothers and sisters and we can stop him from becoming President of the United States. Let’s get out in full strength and protect the future of the working people and our children to elect the man who will stand for us, the man whose administration has created 5.2 million jobs and admits it has come too slowly. The man who has put in a health care plan for all Americans and the man who has ended the war in Iraq and is pulling out of Afghanistan.

The man who has put the spending of the past administration in the budget so we can start paying down the deficit. It is my opinion that we need to re-elect President Barack Obama for another term and I hope you agree with me and help get the job done.

---

**Joel Kapusta**  
**Business Agent/Referral Agent**

**Inside**  
Book I – 33            Book II –312

**Residential**  
Book I – 3            Book II- 1

**VDV**  
Book I- 3            Book II- 9

The Memorial Union project that was previously awarded to Staff Electric is being rebid.

For those still on the book or have some free time November 5-9, consider coming out to Olin Park to help set up this years Fantasy in Lights. Call the office for details.

---

**Business Agent/Organizer**  
**Report by Chris Crossen**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

In the last month we have been busy. We had a Membership Development Conference. At this conference Mark and I attended, we got more tools for organizing our areas. We had breakout sessions that taught us new ways to organize through social media; ie. Facebook, Twitter, and Linkdin. We also had a session on laws for elections for employees of non-signatory contractors. At these conferences we also get a chance to network with other organizers and business managers from other locals throughout the nation to see what is working in their areas. Then see if we can integrate it into our area and have it work for us.

We have also been helping our Brothers and Sisters in IBEW local 965 on an organizing drive that they are spearheading with USIC, a locating company. After we worked our regular day Monday through Thursday night, Mark and I partnered up with other organizers and members from Wisconsin from 4 pm till 9 pm. We went to these workers homes after they got off work and talked to them about signing a card for representation so that 965 could have an election at USIC.

This organizing drive happened in Missouri, Illinois, and is happening in Wisconsin and Michigan. The next drives will be in Minnesota and Iowa. This is a HUGE company that doesn't pay their workers good wages or any benefits. I'll bet you've seen this company around our area. It used to be SMP before they were bought out by USIC. There were twenty teams of two people all over Wisconsin doing this beneficial organizing drive.

We have also been contacting non-signatory contractors and workers about the benefits of being union members. The job of every union member is to organize all workers in their areas. With strength there is power.

I have been door knocking on union members doors for We Are Wisconsin for this crucial election on November 6th. This election is very important for the working middle class.

We have been getting the displays ready for Fantasy In Lights so that on November 5th we can start setting up the displays in Olin Park. I would like to thank Elmer Racek, Amber Moonlight-Klein, Jim Virnig, Dave Baltes, and Greg Stroup. If it wasn't for your sense of commitment, many people wouldn't be able to see these beautiful displays during the holiday season.

In conclusion, I would like to THANK the members who have been keeping their eyes and ears open to things going on in our jurisdiction.

---

**David Boetcher**  
**Governmental Affairs Coordinator**

### **Helping Those Who Are Helping Us While Helping Yourself**

With the recent mailings and the insert in this newsletter it seems unlikely that my saying anything more will make a difference. Those who read the flyers read the newsletters and pay attention. The best thing I can do is encourage you to take the flyers to the jobsite and show them around at lunch. It will help for those who don't bother to read the mail and also show who actually does. And please remember early voting starts Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can go to your local Clerk's office and vote absentee in person right there. If you don't know how or where give me a call at the Hall.

There is something else going on right now that gives a new opportunity. We are bringing in a lot of Book II people to work projects in our local.

That creates something we haven't seen in a long time. IBEW brothers and sisters who need someplace to stay.

Often these Book II members have had long stretches of unemployment and have financial hardships. So anyway they can cut costs helps them greatly. They are having to live in motels and often have to eat out constantly, raising their expenses while they are trying to recover from the unemployment. They are looking for someplace to stay near the area.

During the remodel of the Capitol while I was working for H&H we had a Book II member on the site that only stayed in the Madison area during the week. I rented him a spare bedroom for about two months. He paid half of what he would for a motel, I made extra money (always important for a 4<sup>th</sup> year apprentice) and we both learned a lot about other places and locals in the IBEW. It was a good experience.

I would encourage members who have an extra room they are willing to rent to send me an email. I will keep a list for the Book II members coming and offer it to those who are looking for a place. We have had a lot of such requests from the Book II members and hopefully we can help make the connection.

. Email me at [dboetcher@yahoo.com](mailto:dboetcher@yahoo.com) and I will put your information on the list. Please include the address, price range (consider full week or 5 day work week as options) and mention any amenities or limitations (i.e. internet, TV access, Kitchen cooking, smoking or nonsmoking, parking). So if you are willing to help out the travelers who are coming to help man our local while helping yourself a bit, let me know

---



**Retirees Club  
by Elmer "The Man" Racek**



The Retiree's Club met Monday, October 8th at My Buddies. The following were in attendance:

Jim Virnig, Jim Davis, Lester Gammeter, Roy Holm, Terry Rieck, Bernie Braun, Ron Dommershausen, Dave Krey, Bill Kracke, Bob Quackenboss, Tom Corcoran, Mark Hoffmann, John Holler, Ron Disch, Marvin Milleville, Jerry Miller, Tom Kepler, Donald Boe, Carmon Howe, Ken Goss, Richard Voight, Elmer Racek.

We had a moment of silence for Brothers, Jerome Hillenbrand and Ken Geishirt.

Mark joined us and gave us an update on union affairs and encouraged us all to do our part in the upcoming Presidential election.

We had three birthdays, Bob Quackenboss, Richard Voight and Roy Holm.

Next months luncheon will be at 5100. It is the old Ponderosa in McFarland and that is the new name, which is also the address on Erling Ave. It is just south of the Green Lantern.

Hope to see you there!



**Baby News**

No notices this month



Retired #159 Brother Ken Geishirt, passed away on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Violet. He was a 54 year member of Local #159.

Ken was a member of the VFW and American Legions. He enjoyed golf, bowling, fishing, camping and woodcarving.

Ken and Violet were regular attendees of our semi-annual retirees luncheons here at the Labor Temple.

The thoughts and prayers of the membership are extended to Ken's family.



**Congratulations to brother Gordon Casey on his recent marriage to Erica Castleberg on September 23<sup>rd</sup>..**

**Best wishes for a long, happy and healthy life together.**

**Let us know your good news, births, marriages and anniversaries to put in the newsletter.**

**2013 Dues Increase**

Make note that dues will increase \$1.00 per month in 2013.

A members	2012	2013
Monthly	\$30.75	\$31.75
Quarterly	\$92.25	\$95.25
Semi-annual	\$194.50	\$190.50
Annual	\$369.00	\$381.00

BA members

No increase

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

### Basic Dues

“A” Members –Effective 1/1/2012

Monthly - \$30.75

Quarterly- \$92.25

Semi-Annual -\$184.50

Yearly-\$369.00

“BA Members”

Monthly - \$17.05

Quarterly - \$51.15

Semi-Annual - \$102.30

Yearly - \$204.60

Basic dues are paid in advance and must be received in the Local Union Office before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month or quarter for which you are paying.

1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. – January 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. – April 1

3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. – July 1

4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. – October 1

Electrical Workers Local #159  
1602 S. Park Street  
Madison, WI. 53715

“A” members should send death benefit payments along with their dues payment (\$1.00 for each death benefit). We are currently on #187.

The failure of any Local Union #159 member to pay union dues in a timely manner will not only result in membership being dropped, causing the loss of Union benefits, but also discharge from employment. Members who are three months or more in arrears will be charge a \$30.00 reinstatement fee.

**Please check over your dues receipt immediately for accuracy. If you have moved, changed classification or have questions about your dues, please notify the Union office. If you have not been issued a receipt within one week from the time you sent your payment, please call the office to make sure it was received.**

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MADISON, WI  
PERMIT NO. 199