

# Local #159



608-255-2989 – Phone

608-255-3014 – Fax

608- 255-0169 – Jobline

4903 Commerce Court  
McFarland, WI 53558

**APRIL 2017**

Union meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays  
5:30 – Madison Labor Temple

**Business Manager**  
**Michael Grassy**

## **Suchoman Scholarship**

Since 1982, Local 159 has been the administrator of the Hank and Freda Suchoman Scholarship, often just referred to as the Suchoman Fund. Over the years, we have not only awarded scholarships but contributed to the fund in various ways. The two most well-known avenues of contribution have been our monthly raffles and the proceeds from our annual Bob Palmer Golf Classic. In preparing for this year's golf outing and reviewing the finances of the fund, we believe that it may be possible to award a scholarship in the near future. To proceed, we are resurrecting the Scholarship Committee. Those who are interested in helping, please contact the office preferably at [office@ibew159.org](mailto:office@ibew159.org) as soon as possible.

## **LOCAL UNION 159 IBEW** **HANK AND FREDA SUCHOMAN** **SCHOLARSHIP FUND RULES**

1. Applicants must be a member of IBEW Local Union 159, or a child or spouse of an active member, retired member, or deceased member of Local Union 159.
2. The applicant must be a high school graduate or have a high school equivalent diploma granted by a school or institution authorized to issue Diplomas.
3. The applicant must attend an accredited school, either at a four (4) year college, University, or a degree program at a Technical College or other accredited two (2) year college.
4. The applicant will not be eligible if he or she will receive Five Hundred Dollars or more from other scholarships or grants for the same academic year that this scholarship would be awarded for.
5. The applicant will not be eligible for this scholarship if their major field of study is Physical Education, Music, or Art.
6. The student must complete the enclosed application blank, submit their high school transcripts, college transcripts and a letter of recommendation from the Principal or Counselor.
7. The applicant must include a current personal photograph (approximately 2" x 2") with their application to be used for publicity purposes only.

8. The applicant should include a short resume giving information on school activities they have participated in and other honors they have received.
9. The Scholarship will consist of an amount sufficient to pay tuition and to cover the cost of required books and school supplies. Proof of registration and cost of books and school supplies will be required.
10. The Scholarship Funds will be given to the recipient or recipients upon proof of registration at the beginning of each Semester.
11. The Scholarship Committee will select a recipient or recipients from the qualified applicants in August. This committee will be appointed by the Executive Board of Local 159 IBEW, Madison, WI.
12. The recipient or recipients will be selected on the basis of merit and need; however, applicants pursuing a course of study related to the electrical industry or electrical field will be given priority.
13. A scholarship from this fund may be awarded to the same individual in succeeding years.
14. The completed applications with attached transcripts, letters of recommendations, and resumes must be received by the office of Local Union 159 by Friday, February 27 2009. Mail applications to the following address: IBEW Local 159, 4903 Commerce Court, McFarland WI 53558.

## Referral Agent

Westphal was awarded the Charter street substation project.

F.P.D. Power from Minnesota was awarded the Portage power house project.

FPD has informed me that they plan on putting calls in for the project by April 1st. The job should take 15 to 20 JW's and last till Dec.

Many people have been asking about the Powerhouse in Beloit. The project manager from Van Ert thought they would start manning up in May.

Based on what we are seeing and hearing, work should show improvement as we get closer to spring.

Kevin Buntrock

**Office: 608-255-2989 EXT. 114**

**Cell: 608-334-6224**

## Condolences

The thoughts and prayers of the members are with Brother Kelly Feiner on the loss of his Father.



*"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. "*  
**Steve Jobs**

Let me start by saying how much I have loved serving the members of #159. It has truly been an honor and privilege to have worked for the members and your families since July 31, 1978. WOW! Where does the time go? Many of you weren't even born yet.

So making the decision to leave my position has not been an easy one but one that needs to be made.

I have given a great deal of thought into my decision to leave my position as office manager.

So thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I will miss you and wish you all the best.

The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it. Hubert H. Humphrey

**Sue Blue**

## Organizer's Report Casey Healy

I have been speaking with non-signatory contractors and workers about what the union has to offer such as unlimited access to a skilled workforce, hands-on training classes, code classes along with safety training, access to a Wisconsin certified apprenticeship program, flexibility to increase/decrease workforce as needed, and we eliminate the need to search for employees, insurance and benefits.

Building Trades of Southern Wisconsin hosted the 15th Annual Careers in Construction event last week at the Alliant Energy Center Arena Building. IBEW Local 159 was present to speak with the students about the pathways into an electrical apprenticeship. Thanks to Mark Hoffmann and apprentice Kathy Whittaker for helping out with this event. There were 19 high schools with a total of 373 students that were present

What is Brotherhood: A friendship unlike any other, built out of respect, trust and love and will always have each other's backs.

Code of Excellence states;

- Any inappropriate behavior toward another member or group of members will not be tolerated.
- Offensive behavior toward customer representatives or employer representatives will not be tolerated.
- The goal of the Code of Excellence is to promote and "esprit de corps" that represents the members of the IBEW in the best possible light. (Esprit de corps) means the spirit of a group that makes the members want the group to succeed.

Being good dues paying members and union Brothers and Sisters, we can stand as ONE, moving forward to continue to offer our membership top of the industry hourly wages, employer paid family health insurance and dental, employer funded annuity, long and short term disability benefits, pension and life insurance policies to bring all electrical workers a living wage and all the benefits union membership offers all of us.

United we stand, divided we fall.

## 2017 Significant Changes

017 NEC's will be issued to those eligible for the 3/25 and 4/8 Significant Changes classes. 2017 NEC's will then be issued to those eligible at all subsequent classes. Significant Changes workbooks can be purchased for \$46.90 the day of class (03/25 & 04/08) or at the Apprenticeship and Training Office after the class by check or money order. (There will be workbooks available for use while in the class). CWs, CEs, installer trainees taking any JATT sponsored classes can purchase the 2017 NEC at 50% of the \$75 cost (\$37.50)

### Happy One Year Anniversary Ammu!



Next time you stop by the office or call, please congratulate our book-keeper/office staff, Ammu Kuricheti on a happy one year anniversary. (March 1st)

Ammu has been great. Her education and training has brought us a very qualified and well-rounded addition to the busy pace of the union office. We have enjoyed learning about her experiences growing up in India. We have all learned a great deal from one another.

I didn't know when we hired her a year ago that she would have so much dedication and compassion for the members of #159. She has really been a quick learner and surprises me every day with her knowledge of the members and workings of the Local.

Sue

## SNAPZ CD

There are several members out there who have borrowed the SNAPZ CD and not returned it so it can also be available for other members.

If you have the CD, please return it ASAP. We only have one left in the office. Thank you.

## **Business Agent Mark Hoffmann**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

We have some events coming up here at Local 159 that should be enjoyable for all. First, on Sunday June 25th we will be having our IBEW 159 Day at the Mallards. This is a Sunday afternoon with game time being 1:05pm. It was decided at the March Membership Meeting that we will be going back out to the Duck Blind. The Duck Blind is undergoing renovations this spring for better viewing of what's happening on the field while enjoying casual conversation catching up with other members of Local 159. You must call our office at 608-255-2989 to sign up and each member who signs up to attend the event will be allowed 4 tickets. Be sure when you sign up you let us know if you will be having beer or soda as they are different prices. Children under the age of 5 are free. See you there.

Next, we will be sponsoring a race at the Jefferson Speedway on Saturday August 19th in Cambridge WI. Local 159 sponsors three cars out at the track which are owned by the family of our member Jordan Egli. We will be enjoying a picnic dinner which includes all you care to eat plus two beverages at the track. That will begin at 5:15pm with the race time being 7:00pm. Let's go out and support Jordan at the track and enjoy a summer evening amongst friends. Seating is limited so call the office at 608-255-2989 to reserve your spot at the event. Again, each member will be allowed 4 tickets.

The Robert Palmer Classic will be held this year on Saturday September 9th at the Bridges Golf Course in Madison. It will be a shot gun start at 8:30am in a four person best ball format with lunch to follow. This event is a fund raiser for the Suchoman Scholarship Fund which gives scholarships to members or an immediate member of their family. The cost will be \$70.00 as it was last year. There will be door prizes for raffle with the proceeds going to the Suchoman Scholarship Fund. Gather up your foursomes and come out to have some fun. You need to register for this event by calling our office at 608-255-2989.

## **Pension Committee Report**

We had our quarterly Pension Meeting on February 21, 2017. The core balanced fund for the 4th quarter of 2017 earned 2.4% while Year to Date it earned 7.2%. Under the advisement of our fund advisor action was taken in the self-directed fund which was replacing the Pru Jennison Fund with Eagle Mid Cap Growth Fund due to poor performance.

Notice will be sent out to you stating when this action will take place giving you an option to move your money to a different fund or leave it there. If your money is left there it will automatically move into the Eagle Mid Cap Growth fund.

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## **Members in Arrears**

Brattlie, Brent  
Carlson, John  
Carr, James  
Fauser, Lonnie  
Feiner, Kelly  
Femrite, Christian  
Fry, Dennis  
Gimmer, Thomas  
Hanner, Luke  
Howard, Rodney  
Kitelinger, Tyler  
Kruser, Kirk  
Luedtke, Benjamin  
Moll, James  
Owens, Christopher  
Pratt, Aaron  
Rosonke, Scott  
Schneider, Nathan T  
Volkman, John  
Walker, Jordan  
Weier, Brandon  
Wells, Craig  
Zenz, Jason



## Josh Stern & Cam Knuteson

Meetings are held at 4:30 prior to the general membership meeting at The Labor Temple (1602 South Park Street), Room 201(same as general membership meeting). If you have any questions feel free to email me (Josh.stern418@gmail.com). I hope we'll see you there!

In solidarity, Joshua Stern

Brothers and Sister,

A little update from what is going on with our local's RENEW. We have quite a few things coming up.

First off, we are proud to report we were able to raise over \$4,400 for the Polar Plunge. Every one that gave this year thank you very much for your support. We are in the process of setting up the next round Chicken Shoot and aiming for June 10th. Anyone not familiar with the shoot it's a mixture of trap shooting and a meat raffle. In essence a meat raffle with shot guns. Then in September we are looking for members, their friends, and family to join up for an IBEW 159 Tough Mudder team. We're aiming for at least 15 people involved.

Then a couple honorary mentions from us. Jordan Egli will be having a season starter party April 8th at MT Bar and Grill in Waterloo (4pm). Go see the racers we as a local are supporting this season. Lastly, Nick and I went to McHenry, IL to join Local 117's coming home party for a fellow soldier I deployed with. It was a very good event put on by his local.

We would always appreciate help from any members that are willing to assist with what we would like to accomplish. Contact us with any questions and thank you for reading.

In Brotherhood,

Cameron Knuteson  
RENEW 159 Chairman



*Pictured attached: left to right; Brian Johnson (117 Apprenticeship Coordinator), Kyle Horn (117), Nick Tarbet (159), Cameron Knuteson (159)*

With all the excitement to have Brother Cam Knuteson back from military service, his name was unfortunately omitted from the list of members who did the February 18th Polar Plunge. Please accept our apologies and deep regret for not having your name in last months' newsletter and WELCOME HOME. Thank you for your service



**Find breaking news & information at the Local159 Facebook page facebook.com/IBEWLocal159**



## Retirees Club By Jim Virnig

Greetings,

March Madness is here, and we had some bad weather to prove it. Our luncheon was at Alt n Bachs.

I think the snow kept some from attending. We had sixteen show up. Business manager Mike Grassy, along with business agents Kevin Buntrock and Mark Hoffman were able to come.

Kevin shared news about the work in the local.

Door Prize winners were: Steve Greenheck, Wm Kracke, Dennis McGinley, John Zwettler and Jim Virnig.

Our next luncheon will be at the Great Dane Pub in Fitchburg (2980 Cahill Main) on Monday April 10. Hope to see you there!

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## Baby News



Congratulations to Brother Travis Ripp and wife, Liz on the birth of third son Damon Roger Ripp, born February 18, 2017. Fourth time will be the charm for that little girl!

Charlie and Angela Bader, welcomed son #3, Wyatt on February 20th. He joins brothers, Logan and Mason. He came into the world weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz and 20.5"



Brother Wade Tiedeman and Kate Von Behren, welcomed their first child, Raegan Aliana Tiedeman, born March 8th at 2:42 p.m., weighing 8 lbs-10 oz and 21"

Congratulations! Enjoy your expanding families and remember how fast they grow up.



## April Retiree Birthdays

Benton, Robin 4-24

Brown, Fred 4-23

Gorst, Richard 4-1

Gross, William 4-2

Henneman, Tim 4-21

Huggett, Gerald 4-1

Jahnke, Ron 4-1

Kracke, William 4-6

McGinley, Denny 4-22

Mulderink, Allen 4-2

Phillips, Ken 4-20

Schulz, Herbert 4-27

Venden, Stanley 4-13

Walhovd, David 4-24

Walsh, Ed 4-23

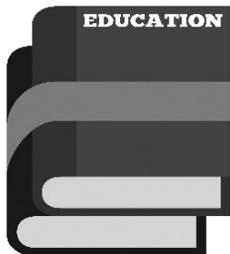
Welsh, William 4-30

Yurs, John 4-10

Zwettler, John 4-14

Veling, Charlie 2-27

*Sorry we missed your birthday Charlie*



## Education Corner

Greetings Brothers and Sisters, we are fully engaged in second semester classes. We have several new instructors out there. We really appreciate their support of education. All our instructors spend count-

less hours preparing and teaching. If you run into an instructor, please thank them for their support of education.

The good news is that all apprentices should be signed up for all 2nd semester courses. Remember to look at the courses you are signed up for on the WIJATC's web site when you submit hours. If you already have a course like OSHA 30 or First Aid current, please submit your cards to the WIJATC early so they have time to verify if your card meets the required training. If you don't see a course you think you should be signed up for contact the WIJATC office.

All classes for spring semester are set up and available. Please sign up early and show up.

Also, keep track of your CEU's. You don't want to get behind. Please be safe out there. If you have any questions if what you are doing is safe, contact the hall and they can help.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Crabb

Looking for a caterer for an upcoming graduation, wedding or any other event?



Angelo's has done a great job for the local on many occasions. Great food, service and prices. Call or email Pat 608-222-1464 [angelosmonona@hotmail.com](mailto:angelosmonona@hotmail.com)

### MONTHLY DUES (effective 1/1/17)

<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>I.B.E.W. Pension</b>
<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>Due to IBEW General Fund</b>
<b>\$ 1.75</b>	<b>Local 159 Dues</b>
<b>\$37.75</b>	<b>Total</b>

1st Quarter	(Jan/Feb/Mar)	Pay by December 31 <sup>st</sup>
2nd Quarter	(Apr/May/June)	Pay by March 31 <sup>st</sup>
3rd Quarter	(July/Aug/Sept)	Pay by June 30 <sup>th</sup>
4th Quarter	(Oct/Nov/Dec)	Pay by September 30 <sup>th</sup>

Death benefits are assessed for any active or retired member who passes away. Active members pay \$1.00 for each death benefit. This is also a benefit for all #159 active and retired members. We are currently on death benefit #240. If you currently have your union dues set up on auto pay with your bank, make sure you are sending \$37.75 each month. Remember to check on death benefits. We accept checks, cash (in person), debit/credit cards (in person or by phone during business hours), and money orders.

**DUES NOT PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER MAY CAUSE THE LOSS OF SOME OR ALL BENEFITS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY DUES TIMELY. IBEW #159 IS NOT REQUIRED TO SEND OUT BILLING STATEMENTS**

## **IBEW LOCAL 159**

4903 Commerce Court  
McFarland, WI 53558



Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
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Madison, WI  
Permit No. 168

### **Save the Dates**

**Sunday June 25, IBEW 159 Day at the Mallards**

**Saturday August 19, IBEW 159 sponsored race Cambridge WI**

**Saturday September 9, Robert Palmer Golf Classic**

### **See more details in Mark Hoffman's article**

#### **Contacts**

Local 159 Office	(608) 255-2989 office@ibew159.org
Apprenticeship Office	(608) 221-3321 wijatc.org
Dept. of Safety & Prof Services (licensing)	(608) 266-2112 dsps.wi.gov
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits	(608) 276-9111 weebf.org
(Wisconsin Electrical Employees Benefits Fund)	or (800) 422-2128