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Local 159

IBEW 159

DECEMBER 2016

Business Manager

Michael Grassy

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Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 8TH

PIN CEREMONY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Labor Temple
5:30 p.m.**

Brothers and Sisters,

Another year is coming to an end. Elections, union and governmental, have finally been concluded. It is time for us to move forward. All of us being active, whether it is in our local or our community, can produce results for positive change. Let us all work together to make a better future for everyone.

The Executive board has decided to end the Reclassification program as of June 2, 2017. In order to change the status of your classification, you will need to need to take and pass the JW test administered by the Examining Board of IBEW Local #159.

Any change in an individual's classification has no effect on the current call you would be on at the time. It will only affect which book(s) you will be eligible to sign in the future. It will be an individual member's responsibility to schedule to take either/both JW exams, knowing that it is now state law to have a license to perform electrical work and most contractors are now requiring the state JW license as a condition of employment/referral.

Voting on a proposed unemployment sub fund has been postponed until the January 2017 membership meeting.

Fantasy in Lights 2017 had its grand lighting ceremony November 19th. This year we are featuring a new entrance arch, as well as 30 additional displays. Spread the word to everyone to visit this beautiful holiday display. As a joint venture of our local and our contractors, Fantasy in Lights is one shining example of one of many things that we add to our community.

Remember that at the December membership meeting, we will hold our annual pin ceremony. Please make an extra effort to attend on order to honor fellow brothers and sisters for their years of service to the IBEW.

Finally, I hope that this holiday season is a time for joy for all of you. May we all spend time with our friends and family being thankful for what we have and looking forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Thanks to the following members who have signed up for the voluntary COPE deduction:

Bart Sawyers, Robert Valek, Gabriel Hall, David Ludwig, Mark Maier, Aaron Westedt, Maggie Freespirit, Jeff Crocker, Scott Juris, Bryan Novey, Jordan Egli, Pat Fehey, Marc McCarville, Kelly Feiner, Robert Metz, Peter Smith.

If you signed the authorization for the COPE deduction and your name is not listed above, please contact the payroll office of your current employer to see why they have not been deducting this. The above list of members are those employed by a #159 contractor reporting hours through September. If you were referred during the month of November and elected the COPE donation, your name will be added to next months, list.

Referral Agent Report

Kevin Buntrock

Fantasy in lights has begun with "LIGHTS ON" November 19th. I would like to thank all the apprentices for their help, along with John Zwettler, Jim Virnig, Ken Goss, Tom Lemens, Kevin Klepper, Ed Kroth, Kevin Curtis, and Tom Corcoran.

Work has remained steady with a few calls coming in every week.

The work outlook across the Nation is still excellent. If you want to travel, give me a call and I will inform you where to go to find work.

Kevin Buntrock
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REFFERAL AGENT
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Retirees Club

By John Zwettler

It seemed like a long time getting here with all the electioneering going on, but November is upon us. With that the holidays can't be far behind. Thanksgiving is a good reminder of all that we've been blessed with; the beautiful fall weather we have experienced (until now) the Badger football season, the Packers (maybe not so much!), Veterans Day and especially family and friends still with us.

Sadly we report the death of another retired member, William (Bill) Romberg in November and Richard Voight and James Mack, who were reported in last months newsletter.

Our November luncheon was held at Murphy's Bar and Grill. The staff and accommodations were exceptional for the thirty of us who attended the November 14th lunch. Those in attendance were:

Jim Davis, John Zwettler, Marvin Milleville, Jim Virnig, Jeff Rowley, Clarence Dresen, Terry Stamm*, Bob Call*, Carmon Howe*, Rich Gorst, Don Small, Don Boe*, William Kracek, Stephen Greenheck*, Tom Corcoran, Vern Connor, Gary Gander, Jim Stewart*, Roy Holm, Dave Krey*, Ron Disch*, Bill Holler*, David Baltes, Steve Lease*, Tom Kepler, Howard Czoschke, Ken Frederick, Ron Dommershausen, Lee Lemens*, Michael Sullivan*

*raffle winners.

Any retiree interested in counting the money collected from Fantasy In Lights donations can come to NECA's Office 2200 Kilgust Road. Madison at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday through the lighting.



November Retiree Birthdays

Auby, David 11-18
Burch, Mel 11-20
Chisholm, Don 11-16
Eley, Dennis 11-8
Haefer, Dave 11-10
Hanson, Howard Jr.

Apologies to anyone missed. Let us know and we will include it next month.

Apologies to the follow members who were not listed on the years of service pins last month:

20 years

Vincent Schaaf

25 years

Mark Johnson

30 years

Paul Maier

45 years

Terry Rieck

Business Agent

Mark Hoffmann

Greetings Brothers and Sisters

If you read last month’s newsletter you would have noticed the names of those members who will be receiving Years of Service Pins at the Pin Ceremony during the December 8th membership meeting. This is an event everyone should attend. You will see or hear the names of those who have been here many years before you who have had a part in laying the foundation of the IBEW Local 159 for us. It is a chance for you to say Thank You to our long time members and in return for them to see the youngsters coming up behind continuing the work of this great union. We will be serving a buffet style meal for the Pin Ceremony instead of the usual sandwich and chips. So come young and old alike to help carry on an old tradition and share some brotherhood with stories of years past and the years to come. The meeting starts at 5:30 at the Labor Temple at 1602 S. Park Street.

On November 8th we held our quarterly Pension Trust meeting with the usual suspects in attendance. The Fund Consultant Bill Niewoehner reported on both the Core Balanced and the Self Directed funds. At the advice of our consultant we are watching Baron Real Estate in both funds for another quarter due to underperforming. If there is no improvement before February’s meeting he will bring to us replacements possibilities. The Core Balanced Fund reported a +3.1% for the 3rd quarter, +4.7% Year to Date and +7.9 for the last 12 month period.

Office Update

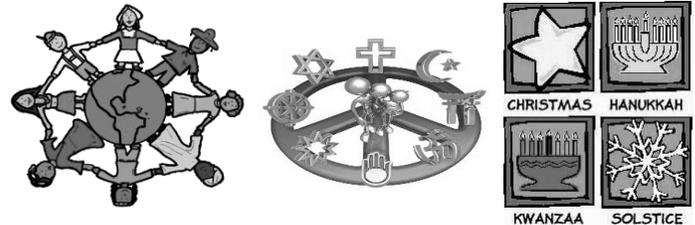
Sue Blue



There will be a collection box in the office until December 16th for donated new and gently used winter clothing items for both children and adults. It’s a good time to clean out closets and donate any hats, mittens, gloves, boots, jackets, coats, sweatshirts, scarves, etc. Items can be dropped off at the union office – 4903 Commerce Court – McFarland or brought to the December 8th union meeting. New, unwrapped children’s toys, books, games will also be collected and can also be dropped off at the union office or November union meeting. Items will be donated to Neighborhood House on Mills Street. Hard to believe the holidays are right around the corner.

I’d like to take this time to wish all our members and their families a very joyous, safe and happy holiday season. So Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Happy New Year, Feliz Navidad!

Please let me know if you want any announcements in the newsletter, weddings, births, anniversaries, etc.



MONTHLY DUES (effective 1/1/17)

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

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

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 #237.

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

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In Memoriam

William John 'Bill' Romberg, age 66, of Reedsburg, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. He was born on June 1, 1950, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, the son of Robert G. and Donna M. (Daleiden) Romberg. Bill was a 1968 graduate of Baraboo High School. Growing up, Bill participated in boy scouts, acted as an altar boy at church, and was involved in track and football through high school. He has been a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 159 for 43 years, employed as a Journeyman Electrician. He proudly served his country in the Wisconsin Army National Guard for 8 years.

In his free time, Bill enjoyed spending time at the family cottage in Dellwood, WI which he helped build. He was a deer hunter and liked being outdoors, especially with his dogs, Angel and Lady. Bill was very proud of his two sons, Adam and Wade, and cherished the time he spent with his family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert; brother, John; and sister-in-law, Beverly Romberg.

Bill is survived by his mother, Donna of Reedsburg; Sons, Adam (Amy) Romberg of Baraboo, Wade (Kristi) Romberg of Friendship; Grandchildren: Schuyler, Jurrien, Greta and Elliott Romberg; Longtime partner, Dale Snyder of Reedsburg; Brothers, James (Barbara) Romberg of Fennimore, Michael 'Goose' Romberg of Reedsburg, Mark 'Wally' Romberg of Baraboo, Sister, Nancy (Michael) Junge of Wasilla Alaska; Several nieces and nephews along with other relatives and friends.

