



IBEW LOCAL 159

JUNE 2021



Greetings 159 Family,

According to a May 17, 2021 article in the Wisconsin State Journal, Dane County ranks number 1 in COVID 19 vaccinations in larger counties in the US. That has allowed for the numerous changes we are starting to see implemented into our newest health order, including **resuming our Union meetings, beginning June 10, at 5:30 at the Madison Labor Temple, 1602 S. Park St., Madison, in Room 201-B.** It's hard to believe our last formal meeting was March 2020. [Bring your current yellow dues receipt to get into meeting.]

Thank you to our members who responded to the wage and benefit surveys. Even though the process we needed to use during this pandemic was unconventional, record number of members had their voice heard. There's always a silver lining. Thank you.

I also want to thank Brothers Tim Thronson and Nate Tuggle who have helped ensure our skilled trades workers for Dane County are getting a redo on their re-certification vote, due to some discrepancies they brought to my attention. This is a perfect example of what it means to be a good union member and look out for the best interests of your brothers and sisters. Thank you, Brothers.

Our State workers continue to experience the ramifications of Act 10. They too face annual re-certification votes, and just so you know: every eligible worker who does **not** vote has their non vote counted as a NO vote! Our State workers continue to wait for wage increases to be approved by JCER (Joint Committee on Employee Relations) The last time JCER met was in December 2019. **This committee must approve these increases before they can be applied.** State workers can only receive a wage increase equal to the CPI – 1.8% from last year, and submitted to JCER 1/20/21, and 1.23% increase for 7/1/21. A group of us met with the State last week to address this issue, and to urge them to pressure JCER to get this taken care of as soon as possible. I will keep you updated.

We are continuing our Code of Excellence trainings through the summer. It has been great to see so many members in person again. We are also doing member orientations throughout the summer for our newest members, and to catch up on members brought in that did not have this orientation. This union needs to and will do, a better job of educating our members on the role of the union, and our responsibilities and obligations to serve and protect our members, as well as our members' role and the obligation and responsibilities they have to support building and keeping a strong union.

I attended the Wisconsin AFL-CIO Building Trades Conference May 26-27. A lot was packed into the day and a half. One of the biggest take-aways I have: **Unions are on their way back and getting stronger.** We have a pro-union, pro-labor Governor and probably the most union-friendly and supportive President ever, especially towards the IBEW. It's been union members making a huge difference in the outcomes of many recent elections from the local levels to the national level and we need to continue the fight.

Our Governor called a special session last week and proposed a bill that would add Wisconsin to a list of 38 other states and Washington, D.C., that have expanded Medicaid since 2014, when it was first offered as part of the Affordable Care Act. It would extend Medicaid health benefits to 91,000 additional people in Wisconsin. This is a \$1 billion additional incentive from the federal government for states that have not yet taken the expansion, **our tax dollars**. Evers proposed \$200 million for broadband internet expansion, \$100 million for lead pipe replacements, \$100 million for bridge and local road projects, and funding dozens of local construction projects statewide. The State Assembly and Senate both convened and adjourned in less than a minute Tuesday afternoon 5/25, holding no debate and taking no votes to accept these funds.

Wisconsin is one of twelve States not expanding Medicaid. Currently there are **12 states**: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming — that have **not expanded** their **Medicaid** program to cover more low-income residents. Did you ever think Wisconsin would be part of a discussion that included similarities with Alabama and Mississippi when it comes to decisions affecting our standard of living???

The current tax on the profits of U.S. resident corporations is 21%, down from 35% by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. In the 1950's, under President Eisenhower, the corporate tax rate was 90% (that's not a typo!). The purpose behind that was to "encourage" corporations to reinvest in their companies and workers and they did. That created a strong middle class in the Country. We have to push our elected officials to support legislation that significantly increases the tax of the 1% who continued to amass even greater wealth during this pandemic on the backs of workers who were "essential" to keep their profits pouring in. **In the U.S., CEOs make 300 times more than the average worker.**

Redistricting is also a huge priority. These maps are revised every 10 years, and there is a great deal of optimism that we will be able to have fair maps drawn that no longer create a political strong-hold for either party. Today, 80-85% of Wisconsinites support fair maps in Wisconsin, and want to get rid of the gerrymandered districts that have and would continue to favor a political party over the voter. This is an extremely important issue that labor must address and fight for.

I was very fortunate to receive an invitation for a small group of labor leaders to meet with our U.S. Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh [photo on page 8]. He was making his way around the state and we met at the Painters' training center. He spoke a great deal about the PRO Act (Protecting the Right to Organize). We have been telling you about this and all the benefits labor would derive from its passage.

"The bill also allows collective bargaining agreements to require all employees represented by the bargaining unit to contribute fees to the labor organization for the cost of such representation, notwithstanding a state law to the contrary; and expands unfair labor practices to include prohibitions against replacement of, or discrimination against, workers who participate in strikes. The bill makes it an unfair labor practice to require or coerce employees to attend employer meetings designed to discourage union membership and prohibits employers from entering into agreements with employees under which employees waive the right to pursue or a join collective or class-action litigation."

Representative Mark Pocan was also there to bring us an update on what is (and isn't) happening in Washington. Rep. Pocan spoke about all the great legislation that has passed the House and waits for the uphill battle of Senate approval. He talked about the For The People Act of 2021. This bill addresses voter access, election integrity and security, campaign finance, and ethics for the three branches of government. Specifically, the bill expands voter registration (e.g., automatic and same-day registration) and voting access (e.g., vote-by-mail and early voting). It also limits removing voters from voter rolls.

The bill requires states to establish independent redistricting commissions to carry out congressional redistricting. Additionally, the bill sets forth provisions related to election security, including sharing intelligence information with state election officials, supporting states in securing their election systems, developing a national strategy to protect U.S. democratic institutions, establishing in the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

Further, the bill addresses campaign finance, including by expanding the prohibition on campaign spending by foreign nationals, requiring additional disclosure of campaign-related fundraising and spending, requiring additional disclaimers regarding certain political advertising, and establishing an alternative campaign funding system for certain federal offices. The bill addresses ethics in all three branches of government, including by requiring a code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices, prohibiting Members of the House from serving on the board of a for-profit entity, and establishing additional conflict-of-interest and ethics provisions for federal employees and the White House. The bill requires the President, the Vice President, and certain candidates for those offices to disclose 10 years of tax returns.

There was an update on the Colectivo Coffee workers' vote to unionize, currently in the hands of the NLRB. The original vote ended in a tie with 16 votes challenged by management. As of right now, they know 7 of those votes were valid, 5 were invalid, and they are waiting on a decision of the outcome. Expectations are that the vote will favor union representation. I will keep you updated.

At the AFL-CIO conference, a panel informed us of the huge problem Wisconsin has with wage theft. Every year Wisconsin loses over \$200 million, with \$40 million of those funds tied to the construction industry alone. I will be sending out a more detailed account of this situation because this has been a long-time issue that needs more than a couple of paragraphs to lay out.



In closing, I would like to wish all our IBEW 159 Fathers a very Happy Father's Day!

“The value of a loving Father has no price.”

Susan Blue, (608) 255-2989 ~Ext 115; Cell: (608) 772-0435 ~ blue@ibew159.org

Referral Agent, Kenneth Jungenberg

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The work picture is looking good, there are many open calls with only a few contractors being slow. I see many members on the book yet, that are not ready to go to work, and I know many are working in other locals. This forces us to organize new members to fill our calls. Please check our job line often if you are on the book (608)255-0169 or view the posts on the IBEW Local 159 Facebook page, www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159/. I do not want to have to issue strikes for not bidding on calls. I am considering strikes only if a call goes unfilled and left open at the end of the day.

Fantasy in Lights will be back in the works this month. The retirees will be returning to work on the displays. I'm hoping to get the new trailers to the Hall soon, for more storage space.

The book has been moving. We are down to 55, with the majority being on the road and working overtime. With the warmer weather coming, we all know work is going to pick up even more. I'm thinking there should be overtime if anyone wants it.

Please let me know if your status changes, so we can try to improve it.

Looking forward to a great summer.

Ken Jungenberg, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 114; Job Line: (608) 255-0169~ referral@ibew159.org

BOOK #'s:
INSIDE

Book I - 55

Book II - 19

Inside Apprentice -3

RESIDENTIAL

Book 1 - 1

Book 2 - 0

VDV

Book I - 6

Book II - 4

Membership Development /Organizer Report - Casey Healy

There are two guarantees in life: **Death and Taxes**. Something wonderful begins to happen with the simple realization that life, like a candle, burns from the inside out, not the other way around. As you focus more on becoming more peaceful with where you are, rather than focusing on where you would rather be, you begin to find peace right now, in the present. Then, as you move around, try new things, and meet new people, you carry that sense of inner peace with you. It's true that, wherever you go, there you are

One of the mistakes many of us make is that we feel sorry for ourselves, or for others, thinking that life should be fair, or that someday it will be. It's not and it won't. When we make this mistake, we tend to spend a lot of time complaining about what's wrong with life. Maybe the truth is, it was never intended to be.

Choose being kind over being right and you'll be right every time.

The truth is, we don't know what's going to happen—we just think we do. Often, we make a big deal out of something. We blow up scenarios in our minds about all the terrible things that are going to happen. Most of the time we are wrong. If we keep our cool and stay open to possibilities, we can be reasonably certain that, eventually, all will be well.

I would like to ask all Brothers and Sisters in Local 159 to be a mentor to a member that might just need some advice, guidance or just someone to talk to.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it "the present"

United we stand. Divided we fall.

Casey Healy, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 111; Cell: (608) 515-3552 ~ chealy@ibew159.org

Organizer/Business Agent Damon Glenn

Sisters & Brothers

I hope all is well and everyone that wants to work is working. On May 19, we had our monthly virtual organizers meeting. During that meeting our Regional Organizing Coordinator, who also serves as our State Organizing Coordinator, reported open calls in Madison, Janesville and Green Bay. Throughout the IBEW Sixth District (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan) he reported over 150 open calls. From coast to coast, north to south, there is a demand for IBEW workers, with even more work coming down the pipeline. We all know a non-union electrician. Now is the time to mention to that family member or friend about coming over to become an IBEW electrician. I would hope and like to think most of us are some type of mentor. Whether it's to family, neighborhood teenager or young adult, or local bar patron. Now is the time to mention something about our trade and what we do. With this known fact that there are IBEW electricians needed locally, we as IBEW 159 Organizers have increased our organizing efforts to organize good, non-union electricians into our brotherhood/sisterhood. What every new IBEW 159 electrician needs to know, whether they're "green" or "10 years of non-union electrical experience" is: we're not just "electricians," but "IBEW 159 Union electricians!" I would like to think and believe there is a difference. We all have a part in making sure these new and veteran electricians understand that. We have COMET and Code of Excellence training, but nothing beats getting that knowledge from sisters and brothers on the job site. **If we don't train and educate them, who will? And what will we become if we don't?** We don't have to worry about the latter if we handle the first.

Inside Agreement/CBA June 2020-May 2023: Article IX, CBA Standards, Section 9.21, page 84:

To be eligible for referral, all individuals working under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement must possess a current license to perform electrical work as required by the State of Wisconsin

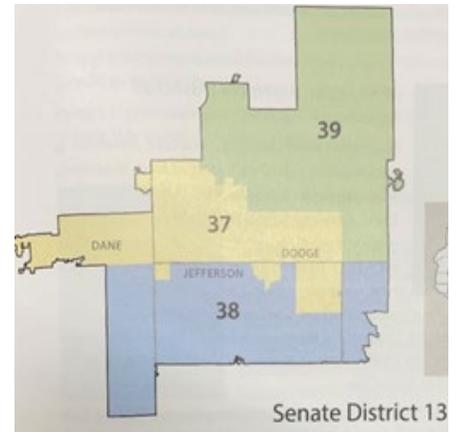
Damon Glenn, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 112; Cell: (608) 338-9075 ~ dglenn@ibew159.org

Business Agent Lisa Goodman

June is a month of remembrance, celebration, awareness, and education. We look out for and support one another in awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. On the June calendar prostate cancer awareness is highlighted. Sometimes the simplest conversation, or the smallest act of support can make a world of difference. We honor the memory of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, and we recognize, honor and remember friends and family. We love who we love. And love is what we all share in common.

We observe Juneteenth and celebrate the rich history of Madison's African American community. We all walk in different shoes, but we are stronger when we walk together.

On July 13, our IBEW 159 sibling, Pete Adams, is running in a special election for Wisconsin's 37th Assembly District. The 37th covers parts of SE Dane County, SW Dodge, and parts of northern Jefferson. See Facebook, "Adams for Assembly." Our next election will be August 2022.



Meanwhile, the legislative scene is incredibly busy. Nationwide in 2021, there have been more than 300 bills introduced that would somehow restrict voting, with bills on the table in almost every state. Turns out that the four states that have had the most voting restriction bills filed – Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—saw some of the closest votes in the 2020 presidential election. Those who want to make it harder for us to vote claim this will make elections more secure. Yet there is no credible evidence that voter fraud occurs at any significant level. And those hurt most by proposed restrictions on absentee voting – such as Wisconsin's bills SB 204, 205, 209, and 211 -- are the most vulnerable: the elderly and the disabled. Remember: **If your vote didn't matter, they wouldn't be trying so hard to keep you from voting.**

Assaults on voting rights, and efforts to undermine unions are issues that affect us all. Together, let's stay engaged, and watch these issues www.splcenter.org/our-issues/voting-rights

With the 2020 Census, redistricting is another topic heating up in the news, with eyes on Wisconsin, after the redistricting war, in the wake of the 2010 Census. We will try to keep this conversation going and try to help you stay informed on issues like this <https://apnews.com/hub/redistricting>

Lisa Goodman, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 122; Cell: (608) 622-2160 ~ solidarity@ibew59.org

RETIREES UPDATE

Due to the COVID-19 virus concerns subsiding, and the belief most individuals have been able to be vaccinated, there has been interest in beginning back with the monthly Retiree luncheons.

Retiree luncheons will be resuming Monday, July 12, at Fitz's on the Lake, W1102 Co. V, Lodi, WI 53555, beginning at 11:30AM.

All LU 159 retirees are welcome at these luncheons. Please consider joining us on the second Monday of each month.

Also there has been some discussions regarding starting back with the retirees working with the yearly Fantasy in Lights display tasks.

The first FIL work day being arranged for is Thursday, June 10, with the usual arrival time of 7:30 to 8:00AM. If available and interested in helping with the FIL work this year, please contact Ken Jungenburg at the Union Hall 608-255-2989 ext. 114.

Hope to see you there!

In solidarity,

Tim May ~ IBEW 159 Retiree



EDUCATION CORNER

Dear Members,

Classes have been completed for this difficult school year, and I don't anticipate running many more until the fall. However, on a good note COVID-19 restrictions are becoming less stringent by the day. It is looking promising that we will be able to run our classes in person this fall, although there may be some guidelines that still need to be followed. This should allow us to run more classes for our JW and CW/CE members. I know the lack of classes for these classifications has made things difficult for our members, so I would encourage you to sign up for the classes when they become available. On that note, I want to ask our JW members to talk to CWs that they are working with, and make sure they understand that they need 24 CEUs every year. There are still some out there that don't know about those requirements.

I would also like to invite anyone who wishes to attend the education committee meetings. We are still hosting our meetings using video conferencing methods. If you would like to attend these meetings, please get a hold of me in order to get the link to you for joining the video conference. Our normal meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM.

Sincerely,

Sam Everly ~ Part-Time Education Coordinator, sam.everly87@gmail.com



If you are 35 or younger, there is a RENEW committee which meets before the meeting at the Labor Temple in Room 201 A&B. The RENEW committee is about developing friendships, doing well for the community, and building brotherhood among IBEW members

Members in good standing,

As summer approaches, vaccination levels rise, and things start to open back up, we plan to get right back to RENEW 159 business as usual. Our calendar will be a little different than in previous years and event notices may come up in between newsletters. We will not be having an in-person meeting in June, but we plan to resume having them soon, and we will be available to chat before and after the general meeting.

On Sunday, April 25, we had our first Highway Cleanup of the year. Typically, we expect a lot of trash to pick up as our last cleanup is in fall of the previous year, however; we had a great turnout and the trash level was abnormally low. Possibly due to the pandemic keeping everyone inside and driving less. Highlights of the event included finding \$14 cash strewn about the side of the road. Thanks to Josh Stern, Cam Knuteson, Dave Boetcher, Troy Outhouse, Alex Wicks, Mike "Iron Mike" Krone, Josh Webber, Kantakarn "Big" Thadavitchayapat, Mitch Johnson, Liza Fehr, and myself for attending.

On Saturday, May 15, we had our first Social Club of the year at Aztalan State Park - a National Historic Landmark which contains one of Wisconsin's most important archaeological sites, showcasing an ancient Middle-Mississippian village that thrived between A.D. 1000 and 1300. RENEW Co-Chair Mitch Johnson drew upon his extensive knowledge of the site from his past degree in archaeology, archaeological field work, and review of past site reports to lead us on a tour of the fascinating site. Thanks to Mike Grassy, Carol Grundahl, Kantakarn "Big" Thadavitchayapat, Josh Webber, myself, Aaron Jordan, and Jillian Lynn for attending.

RENEW 159 now has promotional items! We have hardhat stickers, koozies, and coloring books. We plan to pass them out at meetings and events as soon as they resume. However, if you would like some for you and/or your jobsite before then email renew@ibew159.org and I can meet you in downtown Madison and give you some.

If you do the Facebook thing, search "Renew 159" then give our page a like to stay in the swing of things happening with your young workers committee in between "RENEWletters."

In solidarity,

Pablo Baxter ~ Chairman, RENEW 159



Brothers & Sisters,

Looks like the weather is starting to break and we're starting to get COVID-19 under control. EWMC 159 is still currently rolling out and developing our mentoring program. EWMC 159 mentoring program is open to all IBEW 159 members. EWMC 159 officers (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer & Member-at-large) will participate in Officer training sometime this summer. The training will be led by National EWMC President Keith Edwards and District Rep. Joseph Wells. Training will be virtual, and focusing on history of EWMC, mission statement, structure, chapter challenges, chapter elections and Robert's Rules of Order protocols. The EWMC 159 main goal is to encourage inclusion, diversity and craftsmanship to every able-bodied person who can perform the job. EWMC 159 is continually working on our 10 Chapter Challenges. EWMC 159 is continuously growing with new members and interest amongst IBEW 159 brothers and sisters. We are looking forward to getting out in the community and informing the community on who and what we are as IBEW 159 Electricians. If you are interested in becoming an EWMC member, or just curious about this committee, please contact **Shaun Daniels at ewmc@ibew159.org** WE ARE ALL MINORITIES IN THE BIG PICTURE WHEN IT COMES TO LABOR.

In Solidarity,

Shaun Daniels ~ EWMC President

Pension Committee Report

On May 11, we held our Pension Committee meeting and the usual representatives were present giving their reports such as: Fund Auditors - Clifton Larson Allen; Fund Consultant - AndCo Consulting; Custodian of Funds - Prudential; Fund Administrators - WEEBF; and Fund Legal Counsel - Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren. All business was discussed and handled in its proper manner. It was reported by AndCo and Prudential that the transfer of the Core Balanced Fund from US Bank to Prudential will be complete on June 4, 2021. The reason for this transfer is so that the Core Balanced Fund could be valued daily like all our other funds which has been something US Bank could not do for us. This will not only give you live updates on the Core Balanced Fund performance daily, but it will let you move in and out of the fund on a daily basis instead of once per quarter. By giving you daily value of the funds, you can make more informed decisions about your portfolio.

Core Balanced Fund Performance as of 03/31/2021	
1 st Quarter	+ 4.18%
Year to date	+ 4.18%
1 Year	+38.52%
3 Year	+12.67%
5 Year	+11.36%
7 Year	+ 9.12%
10 Year	+ 9.22%

AndCo has reported that they are putting Brown and Artisan Partners on the watch list for performance issues in the self-directed funds and replacing ABS and Barron Real Estate in the Core Balanced Fund with Cowen & Steers. ABS could not give us daily value results and Barron Real Estate has moved in a direction to not be a true real estate fund. Since COVID has begun we have not been able to hold our usual education seminars with Prudential. You can find educational topics on Prudential's website.

Mark Hoffmann ~ Committee Chair

Wage Allocation Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Wage Allocation Survey. And thanks for your input and feedback. The more members who participate, the stronger we are. Surveys were emailed on Tuesday, May 18, to all members in good standing. The survey allowed only one response per member. All Wage Increases are effective May 30, 2021

<i>Classification</i>	<i>Total raise/hr</i>	<i>Base wage/hr</i>	<i>Total package/hr</i>
Inside raise	\$1.95	\$43.38	\$65.44
VDV raise 1	1.40	29.26	46.01
VDV raise 2	0.25	29.46	46.26
Residential, 74% of Inside	2.08	30.63	48.43
Stockperson, 35% of Inside	0.53	15.18	15.64

<i>Classification</i>	<i>On check</i>	<i>Extra Flex</i>	<i>Top votes</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Total votes</i>
Inside	\$1.52	0	285	285/538= 53%	538
VDV raise 1 (May)	1.09	0	35	35/48 = 73%	48
VDV raise 2 (Dec)	0.20	0	35	same	48
Residential	1.53	0.10	2	2/4 = 50%	4
Stockperson	0.53	-	-	-	-



U.S. Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh recently toured Wisconsin. Business Manager Sue Blue was there when Walsh toured the Painters' facility in Madison.



JAMES	AELLIG	RICKEY	JAHN	THOMAS	QUINN
DAVID	AINSLIE	DOUGLAS	JOHNSON	DALE	RICHARDSON
PAT	ANDERSON	KEVIN	KANTER	JEREMY	RICHMOND
WILLIAM	BAHR	MITCHELL	KATZE	JUSTIN	RICHTER
CARL	BARRETT	TIM	KILEY	TONY	ROESSLER
THOMAS	BAYRHOFER	JOHN	KINDER	RICKEY	ROYEM
MITCHELL	BLOOM	BRADY	KOLLER	JAMES	RUST
ROBERT	BOLLE	JON	KOWALD	RON	SCHLAFER
BERNARD	BRAUN	DUANE	KREKLOW	MARK	SCHREIER
HUNTER	CAPADONA	ROBERT	KRUG	RILEY	SCHUETZ
PATRICK	CHANDLER	ALIONA	KRUPSKAYA	JAMES	SCHWOERER
BENJAMIN	CISLER	MICHAEL	LAKE	DAVID	SEDDON
BENJAMIN	CLARK	STEVE	LANGE	RONALD	SMALL
KEVIN	DAANE	MATTHEW	LEMAHIEU	TYLER	SMITH
JAMES	DALSANTO	LELAND	LEMENS	CAMERON	SPINLER
CORRINE	DAWSON	BRIAN	LENSKI	RAYMOND	SPRECKELS
LUCAS	DEWITT	MICHAEL	LEWIS	MYA	STAHLER
ROBERT	DORMAN	CHRISTOPHER	LUND	DEVON	STELSE
TERRANCE	DOYLE	KEVIN	MACHESKY	GREGORY	STORKSON
AARON	EBERT	JACQUELINE	MAIER	ROGER	SWANSON
JAMES	EMDEN	ZACHARY	MANNERS	RUSSELL	THOMAS
BRIAN	ESSER	JEFFREY	MCALLISTER	WADE	TIEDEMAN
LUCAS	FARRELL	BRANDON	MCGAW	CASSANDRA	TREPTOW
LONNIE	FAUSER	JAY	MEIER	TRAVIS	TROY
DUANE	FILLMORE	ADAM	MELKA	DYLAN	TUGGLE
DEREK	FIRARY	GERALD	MILLER	GARY	VANNATTA
TYLER	FLAMME	GERARD	MILLER	THOMAS	VERBSKY
GENE	FLEMING	ROBERT	MILLER	JAMES	VIRNIG
DANIEL	FRIEL	JEFFREY	MOLINE	JUSTIN	WACKER
ROBERT	FRITZ	CHAD	MUMM	CHARLES	WALKER
MICHAEL	GEBHARD	DONAVON	NACHREINER	JOHNNIE	WALTON
EUGENE	GOLDADE	BRAD	NEITZEL	SHELDON	WARD
CASEY	GRADY	DEANDRE	NEWSON	GRANT	WEBER
SHANE	HAMMOND	CHRISTOPHER	NICHOLS	TORY	WEIDEMANN
GRANT	HARMES	ETHAN	NOLDEN	CHRISTOPHER	WEIDENSEE
DILLON	HASSLER	BRYAN	NOVEY	AARON	WEILAND
CRAIG	HEIN	KEVIN	OLSON	RYAN	YAGER
MANDY	HELD	DANIEL	PIERCE	JOSHUA	YAHNKE
MARK	HOFFMANN	DAVID	PITZNER	CURTIS	ZOET

Issues to watch

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

If enacted, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would help protect voters from racial discrimination and vote suppression. Enacted in 1965, the Voting Rights Act prohibits racial discrimination in elections, and the landmark law is considered a signature achievement of the civil rights movement. But the Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in *Shelby v. Holder* weakened the VRA's protections, clearing the path for states to pass a slew of laws that disenfranchise voters and discriminate against voters of color.

Source: www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-to-restore-and-strengthen-voting-rights-act Read the text at www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4263/text



PRO Act – Protecting Our Right to Organize, contact Wisconsin Senators Baldwin and Johnson, www.legis.wi.gov, Learn more at <https://sites.google.com/aflcio.org/proact-toolkit/toolkit>

Union News

The Colectivo Coffee workers' battle to unionize continues. Ballots were to be counted on May 25, but it looks like union-busting efforts and stalling continue. You don't need a Facebook account to watch for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/colectivocollective/>

UW Health Nurses continue to fight to be recognized. Wisconsin legislators Melissa Agard and Lisa Subeck have introduced the "Union Voice for Quality Care at UW Health Act"! They say the goal is to give nurses and employees a seat at the table to solve systemic problems that emerged even before the pandemic <https://www.facebook.com/SEIUHCWI/>

Calendar

June is Men's Health Month info at www.menshealthmonth.org/imhw/imhw.html

June is International PRIDE Month, in honor of Stonewall Riots, www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/
Watch for updates www.ibew159.org and www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159/

June 1 IBEW/NECA National Disease Emergency Response Agreement ends. See www.ibew159.org

June 2 5:00 pm, IBEW 159 Women's Group

June 3 4:30 pm, Education Committee, (first Thursday) Zoom, Sam.Everly87@gmail.com

June 5 9-11:30 am, Take Kids Fishing, Vilas Park Shelter, <https://fishmadisonwi.eventbrite.com>

June 10 5:30 pm, Union meeting at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs)

Invite new union members, and attend together

June 14 New Apprentice Orientation, at IBEW 159, after work

June 14 World Blood Donor Day – Make appointment **today** to donate, www.redcrossblood.org

June 14-20 Men's Health Week

June 16-23 National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week

June 16-19 Kujichugalia, Juneteenth Celebration, <https://isthmus.com/events/juneteenth-annual/>

June 17 3:00 pm, Inside Apprenticeship Committee (open session)

June 19 Juneteenth Celebration, Penn Park, 2101 Fisher St., Madison

June 20 Happy Fathers Day!

June 23 5:00 pm, IBEW 159 Women's Group (fourth Weds), Solidarity@ibew159.org

June 24 1:30 pm, Steward Training, at IBEW 159

June 24 5:00 pm, Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (fourth Thursday) Teams

June 25 Deadline to apply for SCFL Scholarship. Application and rules at www.scfl.org

July 13 Special Election, Pete Adams IBEW 159 member, running for 37th Assembly

Aug 5-7 UALE National Women's Labor School (virtual), <https://uale.org/womens-schools/>

Aug 14 IBEW 159 at Madison Mallards (Tentative. TBA)

Aug 20 Apprenticeship application deadline. To apply: office@ibew159.org

Aug 22 Virtual Magic PRIDE Festival 2021, <https://www.outreachmagicfestival.org/>

SCFL Scholarship Deadline June 25

The South-Central Federation of Labor (SCFL) will award four \$1,000 scholarships; and the Dodge County SCFL chapter will give two \$500 scholarships. Visit www.scfl.org to see rules and apply.

Financial Support for Apprentices

For those who began their apprenticeship between July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022: you may be eligible for a **Supportive Services Grant**, for up to \$600. To see if you qualify, contact Jeff Kennedy, Apprenticeship Navigator, jkennedy@wdbscw.org, (608) 249-9001, ext 230. This grant would reimburse you for eligible apprenticeship-related costs **after** signing your contract (including: clothing, tools, books, mileage, parking permits, child care, rent and housing costs). ***Save your receipts.**

If you were indentured before July 1, 2019, you may still qualify for assistance. Contact Jeff Kennedy to find out.

Need Continuing Education CEUs to Renew Your License?

Everyone who holds an Electrical Apprentice license, or a Registered Electrician license needs to renew it every year (see www.dsps.wi.gov for info). If you are not an Apprentice, **you also need 24 CEUs every year, to stay current.** (Apprentices' schooling covers their CEU requirement.) Local 159 probably won't be offering more courses until fall, but if you need CEUs, here are two possible sources, for a fee:

- **City of Madison** <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/bi/contractor-training/3540/>

Webinars are available for free, on demand. For a fee, you can also get six CEUs.

- **DSPS list of preferred providers for continuing education:**

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/DSPSCourseProviderList2020.pdf>

There is a fee for these courses. These providers should be approved by the State of Wisconsin.

Want to Be a Mentor or Mentee?

New Apprentices are being indentured. New CWs are coming aboard. Local 159 is committed to supporting all members, and we hope mentoring will better support new members, and help them succeed. If YOU are interested in being a **Mentor**, or a **MENTEE**, please take that survey:

<p>Mentor survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G7QN8Z3</p> 	<p>MENTEE survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKJQVL9</p> 
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BIG News from WEEBF!

Now you can make a Flex claim online! Here's how:

- Log into weebf.org
- On menu at left, click on "FSA Account"
- From there, you can click on "FSA Form Instructions" or other menu items.
- You can click on EOBs, or upload other documents

For Medicare-eligible retirees, age 65+, as of January 1, 2021

You have been transferred over to the *United Health Group Advantage program.

- No deductible
- No co-insurance payments
- One free routine eye exam per year
- Covers SilverSneakers health and fitness program.

*You need to be signed up for **both** Medicare Parts A and B, for this UHGA program.

COVID Vaccines Ages 12 and up can now get the vaccine. Hotline, 844-684-1064
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm>

~ Save Money! In this issue: Financial support and scholarship opportunities ~

Contacts

Local 159 Office	(608) 255-2989, office@ibew159.org
Local 159 Job line	(608) 255-0169, 5:00pm -7:00am
Apprenticeship Office	(608) 221-3321, wijatc.org
Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)(Licensing)	(608) 266-2112, dsps.wi.gov
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits (Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund)	(608) 276-9111, weebf.org or (800) 422-2128

The WEEBF office will be open for phone calls, but not for walk-in visitors, email fundoffice@weebf.org
Apprenticeship office, (608) 221-3321. **Apprenticeship applications are due August 20, 2021.**
To receive an application, email office@ibew159.org, or give us a call between 8 AM – 4 PM.

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