

# Local #159



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4903 Commerce Court  
McFarland, WI 53558

## MARCH 2017

Union meeting 2nd  
Thursdays 5:30 –  
Madison Labor Temple

## *Business Manager, Michael Grassy*

### Polar Plunge

Saturday, February 18, Josh Stern, Eric Procs, Leah Bohn, David Boetcher, Thomas Hamielec and Nick Tarbet enjoyed their 60 degree weekend by jumping in the frigid waters of Lake Monona. They may be a little nuts but we are proud of them none the less. Thank you brothers and sisters, both who plunged and those who supported the Plunge.

### Contract Negotiations

We have entered into negotiations for the Inside, Residential and as well as Stock Person contracts. Contract negotiations are something we all are aware of but many do not know the actual process. In the interest of educating our membership, I will attempt to break down this process. The first step is to determine what issues should be addressed. One of the main purposes of the survey that was posted over the last few months, was to prioritize what members felt about particular issues. Those items will then be addressed and exchanged with the contractor side of the negotiating committees.

The next phase of the negotiating process is the most time consuming. Over the course of the next month or two, both sides will meet, discuss their proposals and present their reasoning to support their case. Both sides will offer counter proposals in an attempt to reach some middle ground. The legal responsibility of both sides is to bargain in “good faith”. This means that both sides are sincerely trying to resolve the issues presented. The National Labor Relation Board states:

**“In determining whether a party is bargaining in good faith, the Board will look at the totality of the circumstances. The duty to bargain in good faith is an obligation to participate actively in the deliberations so as to indicate a present intention to find a basis for agreement. This implies both an open mind and a sincere desire to reach an agreement as well as a sincere effort to reach a common ground.”**

The goal of this process to reach an agreement before our current contracts expires.

In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, either party can force our negotiations to the Council of Industrial Relations (CIR). CIR is made up of twelve members, six representing the IBEW and six representing NECA, with the sole purpose and power to resolve the disputes as they deem fit. They address the issues that they feel need to be addressed and their decision(s) are final.

## Referral Agent

Work around the area has been good. Local 14 and 158 have recently had open calls. We are still waiting on some of our projects to ramp up.

Our contractors are bidding and picking up a lot of jobs. This spring and summer should be busy here at home.

If you are looking to travel for work, feel free to give me a call. I will let you know what information I have heard.

I am thinking about putting together a bean bag tournament here in McFarland at the 5100 club on a Saturday this summer. Please call me with your thoughts. *Kevin Buntrock, 608-255-2989 EXT. 114- Cell: 608-334-6224*

### [Book Report](#)



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#### [RESIDENTIAL](#)

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## Membership Development

I would like to thank Shane Gibson for volunteering his time last week. Shane and I represented IBEW Local 159 at four Madison High Schools career fairs. We visited each high school for the day, along with the plumbers and carpenters unions. Students in woodworking, metals, small engine, auto repair and engineering classes would report to the woodwork shop instead of their scheduled classroom for that hour. Teachers would split the classes into three equal groups. Group one reported to the electrical table, group two with plumbers and group three with the carpenters. Each trade had the group for a specific amount of time and then they would rotate. You would have the second group for the same amount of time and then rotate again. This allowed each trade to have equal time with the class.

Class sizes varied from 15-45 students. The total number of students that we interacted with was 700. We talked with them about the pathways into apprenticeship. The importance of getting a high school diploma, along with math classes. In our group, the students had a wire strippers, screwdriver, switch, outlet, ohm meter and some #12 wire. They wired up the switch to the outlet then tested their project.

The feedback from the teachers was the students enjoyed the hands on projects and the information that was given to them about the trades was very useful. We also enjoyed sharing some job site experiences with the students. I believe it is important to educate the young adults of today and show them what the union trades have to offer.

A lot of prep work was put in to these events. Meetings with teachers, WRTP,

MMSD and the trades.  
With hard work and  
dedication by all that  
participated, the events  
were a great success.

**United we stand, divided we  
fall.**

**Casey Healy –  
chealy@ibew159.org**

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### **Business Agent**

#### **Mark Hoffmann**

Well it's coming into spring  
time here and spring elections  
are upon us. The Spring  
Election will be held on April  
4<sup>th</sup>. The South Central  
Building Trades Council  
Counsel has been busy  
interviewing the candidates  
for the Madison City Council  
and endorsed the following  
candidates:

District 1: Barbara  
Harrington-McKinney

District 2: Ledell Zellers

District 3: Amanda Hall

District 5: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff

District 7: Steve King

District 8: Zach Wood

District 9: Paul Skidmore

District 10: Maurice Cheeks

District 11: Arvina Martin

District 12: Larry Palm

District 13: Sara Eskrich

District 14: Sheri Carter

District 19: Mark Clear

District 20: Matt Phair

When the Building Trades  
Council endorses candidates  
we are aligning ourselves  
with candidates who are the  
best choice for unions and our  
agendas (supporting building  
projects, referenda, etc.). Help  
us help you by putting these  
candidates in office of  
Madison City Council.

There are phone banking  
opportunities coming up for  
these elections as well  
beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> and will  
take place every Tuesday and  
Thursday from 4:00pm to  
8:00pm during the month of  
March. Door knocking events  
will take place March 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>  
and April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am till  
1:00pm. If you can afford  
some time and volunteer it  
would be a big help.



## 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 countless  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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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](mailto:Josh.stern418@gmail.com)). I hope we'll see you there!

In solidarity, Joshua Stern

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## Retirees Club



**By Jim  
Virnig**

Our luncheon this month was on Monday, February 13th in Middleton. We had a good turnout 22 people attended.

We celebrated Tom Kepler's birthday.

Door prize winners were: Tom Kepler, Marvin Milleville, Dave Baltes. Ron Dommershausen, Steve Greenheck, Dave Krey, Mike Stassi, Bill Holler, and Jim Virnig.

Our March luncheon will be at Alt n Bachs on March 13th. Hope to see you there.

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**OOPS!**

**Missed two for February**

**ELMER RACEK 2-25**

**MARV SMITH - 2-1**

**Sorry!**

## March Retiree Birthdays

Bartelt, Gerald 3-30

Bennicoff, Robert 3-28

Breiby, Robert 3-9

Davis, James 3-7

Dresen, Clarence 3-6

Dulin, Steve 3-27

Frederick, Kenneth 3-5

Hill, James 3-7

Hudzinski, Joe 3-7

Jungenberg, Ron 3-31

Leskinen, Sigurd 3-23

Putman, Terry 3-29

Smail, John 3-15

Weiland, Patrick 3-17

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## New T-shirts Are In

**Navy, gray, black  
and h-viz**





Find breaking news & information at the Local 159 Facebook page

[facebook.com/IBEWLocal159](https://facebook.com/IBEWLocal159)

### Contacts

Local 159 Office (608) 255-2989,  
[office@ibew159.org](mailto:office@ibew159.org)

Apprenticeship Office (608) 221-3321, [wijatc.org](http://wijatc.org)

Dept. of Safety & Prof Services (licensing) (608) 266-2112, [dsps.wi.gov](http://dsps.wi.gov)

WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits (608) 276-9111, [weebf.org](http://weebf.org)

(Wisconsin Electrical Employees Benefits Fund) or (800) 422-2128



### A message from Brother Jerry Sergent:

As many of you know, I have had Sarcoma Cancer for 7 1/2 years. The cancer is a direct result of my service in the Gulf War in 1991 and I am a service connected

disabled veteran. The fight has been long and difficult. Unfortunately the VA does not pay for Veterans travel for treatment while on a clinical trial. So we are having to pay our own travel expenses. I have had several instances of radiation, chemotherapy and a few surgeries to combat the effects of my cancer. I have been not been able to work for 3 years and have drained my retirement savings

completely to stay afloat. My girlfriend, Angela, and I have traveled to New York and Texas in search of clinical trials because conventional treatments are no longer working for me. We have found a clinical trial at MD Anderson in Texas and have had to travel there twice per month for treatments for the last 6 months.

This has been exceptionally difficult because my health is declining and the cost for traveling, treatments and other needs have become very expensive.

Angela has had to take a lot of time off of work to help me with treatments and to take care of me resulting in a loss of income for her. She is also taking money out of retirement to help with the increased costs of my care. In addition, we have four children to take care of and think about. Angela and I have lived in separate homes throughout our 3 year relationship because there is simply not enough room to fit our whole family into my home. As my illness continues to progress, I will need Angela to be here to help as a caregiver full time. I have already sold my collectible car to help cover as many costs as possible and we are running out of options. Please consider helping our family by donating what you can. All funds will go to continuing my treatments at MD Anderson and adding a room to my house so we can bring our family together. This will be safer for me to have my family here full time to take care of me. Because the cancer is progressing rapidly, we don't have much time. Please donate what you can because every penny helps me and my family for the time we have

remaining. Please share our cause with family and friends on Facebook.

**Help spread the word!  
Help by donating at:  
GoFundMe.com – type in  
Sergent to find the  
donation page**

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#### **Members in Arrears**

Carr, James  
Childers, Patrick  
Feiner, Kelly  
Kuhl, Jarrett  
Martingilio, Mitchell  
Meehan, Ryan  
Metcalf, Nerissa  
Moll, James  
Owens, Christopher  
Pratt, Aaron  
Schneider, Nathan T  
Storkson, Matthew  
Urso, Seth  
Volkman, John  
Walker, Jordan

## Master & Journeyman 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.

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## 2017 Significant Changes

**2017 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)**

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

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

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

## Office Update

### Sue Blue

#### It's All About You!

In an effort to provide you with your dues receipt for payments sent in the mail or paid over the phone, every effort is made to send those out within a day or two. If you mailed in a payment and have not received your receipt within a week, please contact the office to ensure your payment was received and processed correctly. If a check is being sent by someone else paying your dues, please have your name referenced in the memo. Also for members with dues on auto pay from your bank, make sure they are sending the correct amount of \$37.75/month. Thank you.

#### Do Unto Others

There is concern among some members of #159 regarding language and references used by members on jobsites and in the classroom which has prompted this short commentary.

Many of us are concerned with the degree of division our Country seems to be experiencing. But this is a good time for each of us to

take a good look in the mirror and understand how much control we do have about the type of community, country and world we want to create for ourselves and our families.

It is easy to look at what separates us but we have far more in common. We can have very differing views and opinions but how those are expressed will either deepen the divide or open us to be more tolerant and hopefully find some middle ground.

As our local union and our communities become more diverse, appreciation and acceptance of those differences makes us all participants in creating a better union, and a better country.

So remember, on the jobsites, in the classroom and at union functions, your words and actions matter and impact who you are as a member and as an individual. This is not about being a Democrat or Republican. This is about being a good human being.

“Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair.

Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble.” **Yehuda Berg**

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.” **Dalai Lama**



#### It's A Boy!

No boys to report



Brother Nick Manion and wife Kristin welcomed daughter Jade, born December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 20", 7 lbs. 9 oz.

She joins siblings, Dylan, Maddox, and Ayla.