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The Local 159 Line

IBEW 159

APRIL 2014

BOOK REPORT

INSIDE		121
BOOK I (-5)		
INSIDE		247
BOOK II (-16)		
RESIDENTIAL		4
BOOK I (-1)		
RESIDENTIAL		0
BOOK II		
VDV		8
BOOK I (+1)		
VDV		7
BOOK II		

Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Have you thought about whether or not your hourly wage aligns with your skill level? Do you think you should be earning more money and deserve an increase? Do you think about this when you get up and go to work each day? What matters to you?

I am third generation IBEW through my wife's family. Her father and grandfather were both linemen, and together worked over 80 years in the electrical industry. My father-in-law, Bill, was one of the main reasons I joined the IBEW.

That was the 20th century. Bill and his wife raised six kids and offered them a college education, all on one income. Bill retired in the 1980's and enjoyed his golden years traveling and living a life of leisure. In contrast, supporting a family of eight on \$34.07 per hour today would be, at the very least, difficult. Workers' wages have fallen behind and many of us are not aware of the profound difference between then and now.

If you shop at Walmart, Target, or any other company unfriendly to unions, you empower them to indirectly repress union workers. I believe if Americans voted with their dollars we would be poised to become stronger economically and socially. My father-in-law and I discussed this at length, and he would never have imagined we would be fighting for wages and better working conditions within one generation.

So what can we do to recover what we have lost? Here are my ideas: Think about how and where you spend money. Ask political candidates if they support living wages and unions. And vote accordingly. Get involved with your union. Become an active internal organizer to help members understand issues. Work within the union to bring new, effective ideas to light. Be part of the solution – not the problem. The only way we are going to thrive as a union is if we work together towards the same goal. That's what it means to be a union.

Finally, I have heard from only about 5% of you, which leads me to believe that the rest of you are happy with the status quo. If this is not the case, show up at the meetings, visit us at the office, contact us by phone, or send an email.

In Solidarity,
 Robert P. Doyle

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Referral Agent's Report

Staff Electric requested a total of 15 JW's. We sent 19 JW's, four were spun. VDH took one JW and one Apprentice. Residential and Inside negotiations both seem to be going well. The Building Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin put on a worker appreciation luncheon on March 21, at the UW Memorial Union job site.

We are still waiting on some projects to start, and hope work around here will pick up soon. There's plenty of work in other parts of the country and around the state. Anyone looking to travel, feel free to call Jeremy or me at the office.

We have installed Labor Power software and are getting all the Books transferred into the system. We'll be doing an informational mailing in April, and we'll be going over how the new system works at the April meeting. We hope to have the bid system up and running in early May.

Calls have begun to come in requesting "state-licensed Journeymen." Get your license now, if you don't have it already. Licensing information is included in this newsletter.

In Solidarity,
Jeff Crocker

Membership Development

Members interested in taking a continuing education class, at either the Union Hall or Madison College, should register by calling the Apprenticeship Office, (608) 221-3321. This helps track who received code books and speeds up filing your CEU's with the state. Local 159 members in good standing who take any of these classes will be given a 2014 code book (limit: one code book per member, per code cycle). Please bring it to all classes that require it. If you lose your code book, you must buy the replacement.

Our first new mini-course filled up quickly, Applied Grounding and Bonding Terminology (on March 26, for 4 CEU's).

On April 21, there's a mini-course on Article 517, Health Care Facilities (based on the 2011 NEC, and as amended by SPS 316). The focus will be hospitals only. We'll have a brief review of related NEC articles and references to NFPA 99: Health Care Facilities

Code, and NFPA 101: Life Safety Code. This one-night class will be at the Hall, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., for 3 CEU's.

Some time in late April we will have a **two-night class, Building Automation HVAC Systems** (three hours each night, for 6 CEU's). Stay tuned for the exact date and time.

We will announce classes in the newsletter, on the web site and by email. Please make sure you have current information on file at the Hall; call us, or email sblue@ibew159.org, with your current address, phone and email. Mention that you are updating your information. Other classes in the works are Lutron Lighting Controls, Fall Protection, and Residential Wiring Circuitry.

I would like to sincerely thank all the instructors for their time and dedication in educating our members.

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

Casey Healy

Organizer's Report

It is difficult enough to organize-in new electricians when there isn't a lot of work. Now, with licensing required, if an electrician doesn't have a license, organizing can be even harder.

Whether we're organizing shops or individuals, we will not turn away qualified JW's – people who have licenses, or who are ready to pass the state test when they join the union. While organizing, we keep information confidential. We don't share names of non-union workers who want to get organized in.

We will be putting out another salt and are looking for JW's interested in salting. "Salting" is when a union electrician works at a non-union shop to help garner more union workers and shops. In the field, the salt is a role model worker, and a pro-union voice. Contact me if you or a friend would like to be a salt. Also let me know if you know someone non-union (a person, or a shop) to contact, who would benefit from having a union wage and retirement benefits.

As Casey mentioned, we will be offering mini-courses to refresh members' electrical

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

skills, and to teach us all something new. What classes would you be interested in? We're looking for suggestions of topics we could teach in an evening or two.

Organizing every shop would provide all of us what we are worth. Brotherhood does not mean doing "just the minimum" needed to keep a job and collect a paycheck.

In brotherhood everybody wins,
Jeremy Waugh

Be Careful Out There

As part of its national Fall Prevention Campaign, OSHA has announced a 30-minute safety stand-down (safety meeting) during the week of June 2-6. Falls are the most common cause of death in the construction industry, accounting for more than a third of all fatalities.

The goal is to raise awareness among employers and workers about the hazards of falls, and to promote fall prevention in construction by discussing topics like ladder safety, scaffolding safety and roofing work safety. Read more at <https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/index.html>

We encourage all contractors to participate in this event. Don't wait for a safety meeting – remind your toolie, **safety matters every day!** The most common accidents are with new workers, involving fall hazards, excavations, and tracked- and wheeled-equipment incidents.

Every day in our country, 12 workers don't make it home.

Jeremy Waugh

Apprentice Notes

David was a traveler from Chicago. I liked him. He was smart, and he was patient with me and the other apprentices. Just before break, he tapped on my ladder to get my attention. "You need to be tied off!" he yelled. I nodded. It seemed like we had to be tied off almost everywhere. And the safety guy was around somewhere.

After break, I climbed my ladder without tying off. It would only take three minutes.



Jeff Crocker (fourth from left) oversees worker appreciation lunch at Memorial Union.

Suddenly, David was beside me again, tapping on my ladder. He waved me down and pointed around the other side of a welding screen set up close to where I was working. I leaned around the screen and there was a huge opening in the floor, not five feet away from my ladder. It was a long drop to the ground below. David put a friendly hand on my shoulder. "I'm not worried about getting in trouble with the safety guy," he said. "I just want to make sure you go home to your daughter tonight."

Kathlean Wolf, 3rd year Apprentice

Raffle Tickets: Going Going...

The next time you're in the neighborhood, stop by the office for some raffle tickets. Help support a great cause, and admit it, you wouldn't mind winning a Smart TV, rifle, laptop, knife, or a high-quality jacket! "If every member would get to the Hall and buy one raffle ticket, we would be more than halfway to giving out a scholarship," said Scholarship Committee Chair Tim Coger. **The drawing is Thursday, April 10**, right after the Union Meeting.

Golf Tournament: New Date, Site

Spring is here – it's time for golf!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, July 19**, the Bob Palmer Classic at the **Bridges Golf Course** in Madison. Don't delay, the \$65 early-bird entry fee ends in May. Enjoy a fun day on the links, and support our scholarship fund.



The Local 159 Line	
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Share your newsletter ideas, photos, feedback newsletter@ibew159.org Or call, or write. May newsletter deadline, April 21. April newsletter contributors: Sue Blue, Tim Coger, Jeff Crocker, Robert Doyle, Casey Healy, Tom Lemens, Jeremy Waugh, Kathleen Wolf, Lisa Goodman	

Retirees' Notes

We met at Monona Gardens, 20 members in all. We shared a moment of silence for Brothers Justin Lentz and Lester Gammeter. Robert Doyle gave an update on union affairs. There was a long discussion on what the union faces in losing more and more work to non-union contractors. On April 14, we'll meet at noon at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. Hope to see you there to have a good time visiting with other brothers.

Lee Lemens and Elmer Racek

To Your Health!

Try these four foods for a longer life

Grapefruit - Antioxidants in this citrus fruit may help treat diabetes, according to a 2010 study from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Massachusetts General Hospital. They found that naringenin, a component in grapefruit, can help the liver break down fatty acids the same way some diabetes drugs do.



Coffee - This beverage gives you more than just an energy burst. Coffee is packed with polyphenols. A recent study of

more than 400,000 coffee drinkers found that drinking up to five cups daily, was associated with less risk of dying of health problems related to diabetes, heart disease and infections.

Cranberries

The phytochemical antioxidants in this superfood may have



antimicrobial properties (meaning they protect you from infections), reduce the risk of atherosclerosis (plaque buildup in arteries) and may even prevent certain cancers.



Garlic - If you can get past the odorous side-effects of garlic, its high levels of allicin have been shown to lower blood pressure significantly. Studies have also found that it can prevent certain cancers and reduce lipids and the bad LDL cholesterol levels in the bloodstream, resulting in lowering your risk of heart disease. People who consume different types of antioxidant-rich foods, even in small amounts, will reap greater health benefits. As with any additions or changes to your diet, consult with your doctor first.

Mandatory Licensing is Here

Now we shall be licensed or registered

Who is affected by the new law?

Everyone. Wisconsin Administrative Code Subchapter IV, SPS 305.40 states, "... no person as of April 1, 2014 may install, repair or maintain electrical wiring unless the person holds a license or registration issued by the department as a Licensed Master Electrician," Licensed Journeyman Electrician, Registered Beginning Electrician, or Registered Electrical Apprentice.

How do I get my license?

Download an application form from the Department of Safety and Professional Services, <http://dsps.wi.gov>. Or pick up a form at the DSPS Trades Credentialing office, 1400 East Washington Ave., in Madison, and submit the appropriate documents and fees for your classification.

New licenses for Journeymen – All Apprentices who are topping out, and Journeymen who did not have a license before March 18, 2014, will need to take the Journeyman's Exam. To schedule an exam visit <http://dsps.wi.gov/Licenses-Permits/TradesExamInfo>. Bring your application to the Union Hall to complete the documentation of your Apprenticeship hours. Application, exam and credentialing fees cost \$165.

Currently-licensed Journeymen –

Your license must be renewed every four years, and requires that at least 24 CEU's be completed by March 30, of the year it expires. Application and credentialing fees cost \$135.

Apprentices – Your Registered Electrical Apprentice application must include a copy of the Apprenticeship contract between you and the State of Wisconsin. Can't find your contract? Contact the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards office, in the MATC Commercial Avenue building, at (608) 246-3887, or (608) 246-7900. This credential is good for one year. First time registration and application fees cost \$30.

Travelers – The Registered Beginning Electrician license allows you to work in Wisconsin for one year, under the supervision of a licensed master or licensed journeyman electrician. You must renew every year, and have 24 CEU's in hand three months prior to renewal. Cost, \$35.

Where do I send my application?

DSPS Trades Credentialing,
PO Box 78780, Milwaukee, WI 53293-0780

Veterans – If you are a Wisconsin resident and a veteran, or a member of the Guard or Reserve, you may be eligible to have your application and credential fees waived. This one-time waiver is for individuals seeking their first license or registration. Waivers are not permitted for credential renewals. For more information visit <http://dva.state.wi.us/Ben-FeeWaiver.asp>, or call the Department of Veterans Affairs, at 1-800-WIS-VETS.

Why should we be licensed?

If a contractor referral request says "Wisconsin Licensed Journeyman Electrician," the Hall cannot send out anyone who lacks that license. Licensing also paves the way to reciprocity with other states.

Questions?

Call the DSPS at (608) 266-2112.

Thank you, Dave Boetcher, for sharing info on fee waivers for veterans

Looking for a Country Home

Brother Ernie Newell, his wife, two little girls, and two dogs (the dogs are negotiable, the kids aren't) are looking for a 2-3 bedroom rental space/farmette in Dane County, preferably in the country. Looking for immediate availability. Please call Ernie at (608) 886-0952 if you have anything available, or know someone who does.



Baby News

Sister Shinar Heider, husband Corey, and big brother Thomas welcomed Chloe, born February 21, weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz., and checking in at 20.5 inches.

Brother Josh Meyer, wife Andrea, and big brother Landon welcomed baby sister, Leah Taylor Meyer, on February 28, weighing 4 lbs., 10 oz., and measuring 18 inches.

Best wishes to our union-made family additions.



Celebrations

Retired Brother William Kracke and wife, Sharon, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 25. William also celebrates his birthday on April 4. Congratulations Bill and Sharon!

- Save the Date -

April 1	Vote! No fooling. Spring Election. See February newsletter for info
April 8	Member Forum, 4:30 p.m. Labor Temple, Room TBA (RSVP by April 7, 4:30 p.m.)
April 10	Re-Sign the Book, April 10 - 16
April 10	Union Meeting , 5:30 p.m.
April 10	Raffle Drawing for Scholarship Fund
Apr 21	Newsletter deadline
Apr 21	Mini-Course, Article 517
April ?	Mini-Course, HVAC Automation, TBA
May 1	Member Forum, 4:30 p.m. Labor Temple, Room TBA (RSVP by April 30, 4:30 p.m.)
May 8	Union Meeting , 5:30 p.m.
May 10	Re-Sign the Book, May 10 - 16
May 21	SCFL Bean Feed, 6:00 p.m. Labor Temple
May 31	Last chance for early-bird registration Bob Palmer Golf Classic, \$65
June 2-6	OSHA Fall Prevention Safety Week
June 30	Last day to register for Bob Palmer Golf Classic, \$75
July 19	Bob Palmer Golf Classic



Brother Steve Bersing is recovering from rotator cuff surgery and doing well.

We wish you a speedy recovery, Steve.

April Meeting Agenda

Some of the items on the agenda for April 10:

1) Local 159 sponsoring teams?

- a.) There will be a second vote for up to \$500 for a volleyball team.
- b.) Sponsorship policy still needs to be resolved.

2) SCFL Bean Feed – There will be a second vote on whether to spend \$325 to purchase tickets for the Bean Feed.

3) Operation Fresh Start – There will be a second vote on whether to sponsor OFS for \$400.

4) Bylaws changes - two items to vote on.

- a.) Financial donations.
- b.) Rules for Bylaws changes.

5) The Policy and Procedures Manual will be on the May agenda. A preview will soon be posted to the web site.

Notice - With negotiations under way

for the Residential and Inside contracts, the Negotiation Committee may bring proposals to the membership for a **vote(s) at the April and/or May meeting**. Please attend and participate.

Reminders From the Office

Member Forums

The next Forums are **April 8**, and **May 1**, in the Local 159 office, at 4:30 p.m. Tell your officers what's important to you. Help plan for the long-term success of our union. Dinner provided. Please RSVP to sblue@ibew159.org by April 7, or by April 30, so we can order food.

Instructors Needed

We're still looking for a few good people. If you know someone who would be a great teacher, please give their name to Casey Healy. Email chealy@ibew159.org, or call (608) 255-2989.

Job Line

Phone in after 5:00 p.m. to hear about the calls to be dispatched on the next work day. Updated daily. (608) 255-0169.

Member Survey (coming soon)

How can we serve you better? Watch for a short survey that asks for your feedback on WEEBF, MATC, the Apprenticeship Office, and Local 159. We'll have a paper version at the office, and an electronic version online. Stay tuned for the details. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Union Dues	
Monthly	\$ 33.75
Quarterly	\$101.25
Six Months	\$202.50
Yearly	\$405.00
<i>Contact the office for the current death benefit</i>	



Would you like help navigating the DSPS web site?

Are you wondering what your current FLEX balance is?

We Can Help!

Stop by for an online demonstration

Before the Union Meeting

Thursday, April 10,

Starting at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201

IBEW Local 159

1602 S. Park Street
Madison, WI 53715



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Electrical Licensing is Now Mandatory

(see page 5 for details)

New Mini-Courses!

Article 517, Health Care Facilities

Building Automation HVAC Systems

(see page 2 for details)

Got Raffle Tickets?

Prizes: Smart TV, rifle, laptop, knife, jacket

(see page 3 for details)

Member Forums on April 8, and May 1,

