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Local 159

IBEW 159

AUGUST 2015

Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

BOOK REPORT

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| INSIDE | 46 |
| BOOK I (AVAILABLE) | |
| INSIDE | 70 |
| BOOK II | |
| RESIDENTIAL | 1 |
| BOOK I | |
| RESIDENTIAL | 0 |
| BOOK II | |
| VDV | 3 |
| BOOK I | |
| VDV BOOK II | 1 |
| | |



AUGUST 13, UNION MEETING AGENDA

Agenda will include

Prevailing Wage
Update

Training Center
Remodel Update



Brothers and Sisters,

A lot of exciting things are happening here at Local 159. The training center is moving along on schedule. The big 881 table bender just arrived from Greenlee, and we are planning the grand opening of our new office and training center.

I would like to recognize and thank the members who are getting involved in various ways to help Local 159 become a stronger and more progressive union.

Retirees – We cannot thank our retirees enough for all they do for this local. Special thanks go to Jim Virnig, Elmer Racek, Tom Corcoran, the late Denny Wieczorek, Bill Holler and Lee Lemens. Lee not only helped organize the retirees club, but he has also represented Local 159 on the Labor Temple Association Board since 1968. Lee recently stepped down from that position and was replaced by his son, and our Local Union President, Tom Lemens.

I would also like to add Tom to the list of those who have given very unselfishly to this Local. Since becoming president of Local 159 in July 2013, he has volunteered countless hours. He was instrumental in helping put together our completed Policies and Procedures manual for Local 159, working on the Suchoman Committee/Golf Outing, the Poker Run and just about every other event that needs volunteers. Thank you Tom, for all you do. We truly appreciate you.

RENEW Committee – Thanks to Cam Knuteson, Josh Stern and Eric Proces for organizing the Chicken Shoot and helping with the Poker Run. I would also like to acknowledge Eric's effort in changing our health insurance to be more inclusive. Your actions have opened the door in providing this benefit to all our members and their spouses who deserve the right to receive this coverage.

Education Committee (sub-committee of the JATC) – A big thank you goes out to all our instructors who attended NTI the last week in July. We really appreciate all the time and effort you put in to provide our members with quality educational opportunities. With the completion of the training center right around the corner, I look forward to working together to serve our members and to truly be the best educated, skilled workforce and professionals we can be, to represent and grow our industry. We are very grateful for your time and commitment.

At the Health and Welfare Trust meeting this month, the interim report showed a very stable fund with 13 months of net assets in reserve. Based on that information, we will be looking at ways to increase benefits to our members.

Politics – We are already seeing and hearing a great deal in the media about the 2016 presidential, congressional and senate races. As things move forward in the coming months, it is important for all working families to get behind the labor-friendly candidates. If you need help with registering to vote, or want to know how you can volunteer, please contact the union office.

Robert Doyle
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Referral Agent's Report

Cullen's Union Corners project went all-union and Staff Electric has the electrical work. Construction should begin in the next month or so. The MATC Culinary Training Center at Truax went to Findorff and Forward. Work calls have been coming in. If you have questions about work or traveling, get in touch with me.

Robert and I went to Ann Arbor for the NTI Trade Show (the NJATC National Training Institute). The new training facility was very well-received by the vendors. It looks like some vendors will be able to offer demos and classes here this fall.

Everyone had a good time at the Poker Run. Best hand awards went to Amy Lemens and Dan Walker. There are still a few eye-catching Poker Run t-shirts available at the office, \$20 each for a good cause. All event proceeds and t-shirt sales will go to Toys for Tots.

Apprentices and CWs/CEs: if you get laid off, contact the hall immediately so we can get you back to work.

At the next LMCC meeting in August we will finalize plans for purchasing a trailer in a combined effort between IBEW and NECA to promote our industry, safety, organizing and a multitude of other purposes with a new name, "The Electric Group" and a new logo (shown below). You will see this at Fantasy in Lights, on billboards, on the new trailer and in all future advertising shared between us.

In brotherhood,

Jeff Crocker
jcrocker@ibew159.org



Membership Development

Organizer's Report

Hope everyone is enjoying some quality family time this summer. The weather has been good for backyard barbecues, picnics, biking, hiking, fishing, etc. Just as quality time is very important with family and friends, the same is true with co-workers. We must look out for, and help, our brothers and sisters on and off the jobsite. Maybe someone has a question about

- A certain skill or a task on the job
- Issues with a co-worker
- Insurance and benefits
- Education, training, CEU's
- Personnel issues

Whatever the question might be, let's rise up and show each other what brotherhood and sisterhood is all about. Let's treat everyone with respect, kindness and compassion. Let's find the good in each other, not

the negative. With all that has changed in Wisconsin and its laws, now is the time we need to unite and organize from within and move forward together.

I appreciate the phone calls from members with information on what they see going on around our Local, thank you. I would also like to thank all instructors, volunteers, retirees and special project workers for their hard work and dedication to Local 159.

United we stand,

Casey Healy

chealy@ibew159.org

Outreach & Communications Report

It has been a busy month. After countless conversations with vendors, we have placed an order for furniture and basic teaching equipment for the Training Center. If all continues to go well, those attending September classes here will be the first to try out the new tables and chairs! Thank you to everyone who let us rope them into trying out the various samples at the office. Special thanks to the instructors for sharing their valuable input on classroom furniture, layout and equipment. And, of course, thank you to the members of the JATT for approving the funding.

Hats off to the handful of you who have already volunteered to help mentor new members. Please consider becoming a mentor – you have more to offer than you may realize. We recently received Mentor Training materials from the Apprenticeship office, and we want to put the program into action soon at Local 159.

We also look forward to spending time with high school (and maybe middle school) students this fall. We have been working with local educators to set up career awareness opportunities at the Training Center, and possibly also visit some area schools to give brief presentations. We would love to hear from anyone (apprentices, JW-level members, retirees – and contractors, too) who might be interested in donating a few hours (one visit) sometime this fall. For those of you who have young people in area schools, or those who are recent high school graduates, perhaps we can arrange something with your local school. As they say, it takes a village to raise a young person. Or an electrician. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping with mentoring and/or working with local students. If you have contacts at the schools, or any ideas for educational offerings, I'd love to hear from you. Thank you.

Lisa Goodman

lgoodman@ibew159

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. -Barack Obama

President's Corner

Thank you to the 21 players who took part in the Golf Outing. Congratulations to the Rick Jahn, Craig Hein, Jeff Kerwin threesome on their win. Carol Grundahl took honors for shortest drive. Longest drive and longest put went to Shane Gibson. An extra special thanks to John Geiger for helping run the event.

In spite of threatening weather, we still had an enthusiastic turnout for the Poker Run. Thank you to our major event sponsors, including Radio Doctor in Madison, Sauk Prairie Harley Davidson, White Rock bar (Brooklyn), Stables (Orfordville), The Hook (Edgerton), Nora's (Deerfield), and Pleasant Springs Pub (Stoughton). Special thanks to Josh Stern, Dan Walker and Gordon Casey for helping make the event run smoothly. Due to event expenses, we probably won't continue the Poker Run in the future.

Retirees Club



We met at Fitz's On the Lake in Lodi on July 15. We had a good turnout with 26 people. The office was short staffed, so I gave an updated report on what has been going on at the new union hall. We had another good meal, as always. Door prize winners were Don Boe, Dave Krey, Ron Disch, Bernie Braun, Tom Kepler, Ken Frederick, Don Dushek, Elmer Racek and Jeff Rowley. Next month the retirees will meet on Monday, August 10, at noon at Fitz's on the Lake in Lodi. *Jim Virnig*

Happy August birthdays to these retirees

| | | | |
|----------------|------|----------------|------|
| Ted Cannon | 8/2 | John Grafton | 8/14 |
| Jane Liess | 8/10 | Lyle Thurston | 8/14 |
| Richard Meyer | 8/10 | Arnold Hatlen | 8/18 |
| James Maloney | 8/11 | Raymond Becker | 8/30 |
| Robert Bartels | 8/12 | Donald Emery | 8/30 |
| Lavern Connor | 8/13 | Andrew Wahl | 8/30 |

In Memoriam

The condolences of the brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 159 are extended to the family of retired brother Florian Stamm, and his son, brother Terry Stamm.



Florian M. Stamm, age 91 of Mt. Horeb, WI died on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at Bloomfield Manor in Dodgeville, WI. He was born on January 17, 1924 in Adams County, WI to Peter A. and Mary (Schachte) Stamm.

He was a United States Navy veteran and served on the USS Indianapolis during World War II. He was one of the 317 survivors when the USS Indianapolis was sunk. Today, there are less than 30 survivors still living. Florian is a Purple Heart recipient. He was married to Erma "Ione" McManus on December 21, 1946 in Dubuque, Iowa. He, then, was married to Mary L. Everson Taylor on December 27, 1974 at Mt.

Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church. He worked as an electrician from 1947-1986. He was a member of Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church and of the IBEW Local, the Mt. Horeb American Legion Post and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

Survivors include his wife Mary, his children: Terry (Ann) Stamm of Barneveld, Sharon (John Taylor) Stamm of Edgerton, Tim (Lisa) Stamm of Reno, NV, Jim (Carole) Stamm of Sparks, NV, David (Barbara) Stamm of Madison, 7 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; step-children: Vicki (Jordan Heidemann) Taylor, Terri (David) Reis both of Madison, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, seven siblings, and his son Larry Stamm.

Funeral service was held on July 30, 2015 at Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church with Rev. John Twiton officiating. Burial with full military honors will be at Mt. Horeb Union Cemetery. Visitation was July 29, at the ELLESTAD CAMACHO FUNERAL HOME, 500 N 8th St., Mt. Horeb, WI.

The family would like to thank the Wisconsin Veterans Hospital Staff, Bloomfield Manor and Agrace HospiceCare for their care and support to Florian and his family. In lieu of flowers and plants, a memorial fund will be established in memory of Florian at a later date.

Calendar

August 13 – Union Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Labor Temple. **You could win fabulous prizes!**

Members will have a chance to win tickets to the Union Sportsmen's Alliance Dinner (see August 21), as well as prizes from NTI.

August 15 – Union Picnic, Vilas Park Shelter, 10:00 – 3:00

Special thanks to PNC Bank for their generous contribution of \$1,000 to fund the picnic. There will be fun for the whole family, including a beanbag toss, sack races, bocce ball, baseball and the return of the bouncy house. Registered dietitian, Susan Doyle, will be available to answer questions about nutrition and health. The Union will provide: picnic food, hot dogs, burgers, brats and such. You bring: lawn chairs, baseball gloves, swimsuits and fishing gear. Volunteers needed to help with set-up, food, organize games and clean up. Please call the office if you will be attending, to help us plan for food. Please also let us know if you can volunteer. **Hope to see you there!**

August 21 – Union Sportsmen's Alliance Conservation Dinner. This will be a great time, with chances to win raffles for guns, knives, gear and more. Local 159 sponsored a table for 10, with tickets being given out (by drawing) at the August union meeting.

September 7 – Annual Labor Day Festival at the Labor Temple. Volunteers are needed for set-up, take-down and more. Please bring travel-size toiletries for SCFL's community drive.

October 17 – Work day at the Aldo Leopold Center in Black Earth. Volunteers are needed to help with painting, repairing windows, and other fix-up projects. Starts at 8:00, and lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Building Trades Council. To volunteer, contact Dave Branson at (608) 256-3161, or email btrades@sbcglobal.net.

Residential Reclassification Program Update

For those in the Reclassification program, please watch your mailbox for information about courses to be offered at the Training Center in the coming months. Any extra slots will be open to CWs and CEs.

Bookkeeper's Corner

By the time you read this, our fiscal year audit will be underway and almost done! It has been fun preparing for this audit and challenging myself to be over-prepared ensuring the audit procedure is as efficient as possible (the more efficient we are, the quicker they can perform the audit = more money we can save). Our pre-audit prep meeting was July 22, from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. Having all materials prepped and transferred, we were able to end our meeting before lunch! I'd say we're off to a good start.

We had our 4th quarter internal audit, performed by Mark Hoffman, Eileen Stuntebeck and David Boetcher. There were items written down by the committee, to which a response was given the following day. The detailed responses will be available at the August Union Meeting. There were some credit card receipts without proper notation, a couple deposits with the wrong date, discrepancies that were not adequately noted, change of health insurance for office staff and real estate tax payment and a few other things. These are valuable questions, and why we do an internal audit. We are all human, so anything can happen. The more eyes we have looking at our records, the smaller the chance we will miss anything. All internal bookkeeping records have been updated.





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One note regarding the real estate property tax payments. Yes, we are tax exempt beginning with tax year 2015. However, we took ownership of the building in November 2014. As part of the sale, the previous owner put \$10,557.60 in escrow to cover estimated 2014 taxes. Under state law, we are to pay the November and December taxes, since tax exemption must be filed for the tax year by March of that year. After the estimated tax amount was paid, the Local paid the remainder due, \$1,757.87.

In preparing for the audit, I can't help but get excited over where the Local is standing financially. Before I get

into figures, here is a little about the accounting basis we use, since it can be confusing. We operate on what is called *modified cash* basis. This incorporates elements of *cash method* and *accrual method* accounting. What does that mean? It means the Local recognizes income when it is received (deposit date in bank) and expenses when they are incurred (date on invoice).

Using modified cash gives us the most accurate picture of the Local's finances. However, it doesn't comply with GAAP (*Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*) which is why we have end-of-fiscal-year journal entries, to ensure our financial statements comply with GAAP (our CPA firm, Wegner LLC, prepares these journal entries as a result of our audit).

Now, the fun part – the figures! Comparing this fiscal year to last fiscal year we saw a 3.27% increase in net income, with a 9.92% *decrease* in expenses. While we did see a 6.7% decrease in gross profit from last fiscal year, we were able to cut expenses enough to stay well in the black. We netted \$569,290 this past fiscal year, which blew the projected \$200,000 budgeted net income out of the water! We have projected a net income of \$552,000 for this current fiscal year.

The net income figure is found under the equity portion of our *balance sheet*. The balance sheet states our assets which must equal our liabilities (monies owed) plus equity. Our cash value (checking, CDs and money markets) are almost back to what we had at the end of last fiscal year, even after spending cash on the building! We are down only 0.82% (or \$16,000) in cash from last fiscal year, with \$1,934,769 in our general fund accounts. Our total assets (cash value, plus land, building and depreciation etc.) are up 30.35% to \$2.5 million.

Please note that these figures are not final; there may be some slight changes once the audit is finalized. Here again is the impact of those journal entries I mentioned earlier. We hope to expedite the audit process and have consolidated financial statements prepared by the October Union Meeting. I have the utmost confidence in the financial direction the Local is heading; the leadership continually evaluates our investments and relationships with financial institutions, ensuring they are profitable financially for the Local and for the members we serve.

As always, if you have any questions please contact me! I hope I am shedding some light on what can be an intimidating and confusing part of doing business. If you have ideas on what I can address that would be educational and beneficial to the membership, please send me an email.

Kara Menzel
kradloff@ibew159.org

RENEW

Brothers and Sisters,

Some of you are aware of the RENEW (Reach-out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) group we started a few months ago. We have been busy working for a better IBEW and a better Local. Here is a short summary of some of what we have done so far. Our group secured \$10,000 for anti-right-to-work ads. Sadly right-to-work passed before we could get any ads to air. The Local then sent three members Josh Stern, Eric Proces, and myself to Chicago for the RENEW conference. We learned a lot from the other brothers and sisters there. I was also able to talk up Madison as a future venue for a 6th District conference to our now-IO President Lonnie Stephenson. We set up the Memorial Day Chicken Shoot, for members to enjoy a day of winning prizes and shooting things; and we are planning on another chicken shoot around Labor Day.

Coming up soon, we are helping with the Local 159 Picnic on August 15. If you've read this far, you should attend, it's supposed to be fun (shameless plug). We want to get involved in mentoring new apprentices by introducing them to the union and how it works. We are also setting up a demonstration for elementary school students to get them interested in what we do. There is always room for fun and RENEW would like to do more events for the Local, and events that support good causes. We will be jumping in again at the Polar Plunge in February, and plan to beat last year's donation total.

We are planning a three-day, Pro-Union Contractor Class to be held in Madison for 20 CEUs. (Probably in December.) But we need participants. If you are interested, please contact Cam or the office.

We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month, around 4:00 at the Local 159 office, but meeting dates may vary. If you are interested in stopping by, contact me to confirm the date and time, (262) 753-3074 cameronknuteson@ibew159.org

Your brother,
Cam Knuteson

Dollar Bank Transfer Needed

If you have six months or more of health insurance premiums in your dollar bank, you can give a dollar bank transfer to a member in need. Right now we do have a member who needs your help. Please contact the union office and ask Sue to get you a form.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research Fundraiser

Brother Steve Bersing has asked us to let our members know that his son, Conner, will be running the New York Marathon in honor of his grandfather, Vernon M. Bersing, who died of cancer. Donations are welcomed. You can contact Conner directly by email, cbersing@uwm.edu, or phone (608) 852-4072, to donate. Or visit the website

www.crowdrise.com/vernonmbersingmemorial/fundraiser/connerbersing1



RSVP Today
Local 159 Family Picnic
August 15, Vilas Park
Fun for the whole family!
Details on page 5



Keep in touch, visit the Local 159 Facebook page!