



4903 COMMERCE COURT            McFARLAND, WI 53558  
PHONE (608)255-2989 ♦ FAX (608)255-3014 ♦ JOBLINE (608)255-0169

[WWW.IBEW159.ORG](http://WWW.IBEW159.ORG)

# Local 159

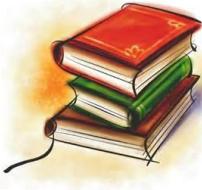
IBEW 159

DECEMBER 2015

Robert Doyle

## BOOK REPORT

INSIDE	44
BOOK I (AVAILABLE)	44
BOOK II	74
RESIDENTIAL	1
BOOK I	1
RESIDENTIAL	0
BOOK II	0
VDV	4
BOOK I	4
VDV	3
BOOK II	3



DECEMBER 10  
**Union Meeting  
at Labor Temple**

**VOTE**

FEBRUARY 16, 2016  
&  
APRIL 5, 2016

[www.lwwi.org](http://www.lwwi.org)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thanksgiving is a good time to reflect on what to be thankful for. The construction industry in our region is strong. As a result we have filled many job calls, yet some remain open. The job outlook is good, with southeastern Wisconsin booming with work.

I am thankful that the majority of the membership is gainfully employed. In this time of corporate cuts, I am thankful we have a stable pension and benefit package. I am thankful the membership voted to purchase and outfit our new offices and training center. This training center enables us to enhance our skills, which in turn makes us more marketable and employable.

Last, but not least, I am thankful for a productive and supportive office team. Their knowledge and talents have made this progress possible.

I wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

In solidarity,

*Robert Doyle*

[rpdoyle@ibew159.org](mailto:rpdoyle@ibew159.org)



## Referral

Calls continue, slowly. Epic has had 27 long calls for JWs. Hill has had some VDV calls, and Krantz has had a couple of inside calls. The work outlook continues to be pretty good.

The Judge Doyle Square project is back on the drawing board. Exact Sciences will expand their Research Park facility, instead. The city is exploring other development options. We expect many meetings in 2016, and will welcome Local 159 members' support.

The Waterloo pumping station needs our support on December 3, at 7 pm, in the City County Building, room 201.

More Madison school projects begin in 2016, see Construction Blog at [madison.k12.wi.us](http://madison.k12.wi.us). Tell the School Board you want those jobs to go all union, [board@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:board@madison.k12.wi.us).

The warm weather helped our dedicated Fantasy in Lights crew with set-up, but those windy, final days had John Zwettler putting rocks in his pockets to keep from blowing away. There are many new sights at Olin Park this year, and about 1,000 more lights than last year. Thank you to Mike Burke, John Carlson, Tom Corcoran, Billy Holler, Tom Tomlinson, Jim Virnig and John Zwettler. And Tom Lemens, who also continues to handle many details that would otherwise be left undone. Thanks also to the apprentices and truck drivers who helped, and veteran high-school volunteer, Brandon Hasz. On January 4, we will need a big crew to help with take-down. Lunch will be provided. Let me know if you can help.

In brotherhood,

*Jeff Crocker*

[jcrocker@ibew159.org](mailto:jcrocker@ibew159.org)

## **Membership Development**

Happy Holidays to everyone and their families. Take the opportunity this holiday season, and drive through Olin Park to enjoy the Holiday Fantasy in Lights displays, they look super this year. Thank you to everyone for their hard work. Nice job.

I have been busy knocking on doors, following up on leads and making phone calls to non-union workers. If you are on a jobsite where non-union electricians or low voltage technicians are working, please give me a call at (608) 255-2989 (x111); or cell: (608) 515-3552. This is a good opportunity for all of us to engage these workers and talk about why we are proud to be members of IBEW Local 159. We also have brochures to hand out in person, or to leave on carts for people to read later.

If you know anyone who is interested in working in our trade, please contact me. This is a great time to start a new career, complete with great wages, benefits, training, safety, and more.

United we stand,

*Casey Healy*

[chealy@ibew159.org](mailto:chealy@ibew159.org)

## **Outreach & Communications**

The School Makes a Difference (SMAD) program is under way. I met two groups of lively, curious students at Cherokee Middle School, and learned that career planning is already on their minds. But the idea of careers in the trades did not seem to be on their radar. Nor were labor unions. This is a great opportunity to plant seeds for the future. Want to tell students about *your* career journey? Contact me.

November has me thinking about gratitude; and remembering the many reasons to be grateful every day. A recent storm left a stubborn, icy blanket on my car. Bundled in warm clothes, I scraped away the crust, trying not to notice the wind. I was so grateful to have warm clothes. And to own a car. And to be healthy and strong enough to be out there. For starters. And I was particularly grateful that a good friend was there too, scraping the opposite side of the car. Thank goodness for friends and family!

Solidarity,

*Lisa Goodman*

[LGoodman@ibew159.org](mailto:LGoodman@ibew159.org)

## **Bookkeeper's Corner**

Deck the Halls and prep for tax time, fa la la la la, la la la la. The holidays are upon us and there is much to do in my little corner! Last month our Form 990 annual tax return was filed, and is available for review in the Office. That's a wrap for fiscal year ending June 2015.

Now, to wrap up the calendar year 2015, I will be preparing W2s at the beginning of January for anyone that received a paycheck from the Hall during the year. Reminder: your employer must get your W2 to you before January 31.

The end of the calendar year also marks the half-way point for our fiscal year; we will be presenting a revised budget at the January meeting. We will be re-forecasting revenues and expenses based on work outlook and expected projects. This will give us the most accurate picture of where we expect to end the fiscal year.

Our first quarter audit was last month, and findings were available for review at the membership meeting. There were some concerns raised by the audit committee that were vague. The office is waiting on clarification on the concerns so they may be properly investigated and addressed.

Lastly, at the November Union Meeting it was voted on and passed to offer credit card processing for dues payments. The paperwork has been started and we anticipate this service will be available in early December!

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the financials of the Local, please contact us at the office so we may address them directly.

Happy and safe holidays!

*Kara L. Menzel*

[kradloff@ibew159.org](mailto:kradloff@ibew159.org)

## New Members

You'll find information on many topics at [ibew159.org](http://ibew159.org), and on our Facebook page, "IBEW Local 159." You do not have to belong to Facebook to see this page. Some of our web site content (such as past newsletters) is available only to Local 159 members, and requires logging in. There are two different ways to log in to the web site, **Referral/Resign Login** (for anybody on the out-of-work book); and **Member Login**, for Local 159 members only. To sign up, you need to enter some basic info and your member number (aka card number), the number at the lower right on your yellow dues receipt (aka union card or ticket). With the new website, we can look forward to greater information-sharing and interactive capabilities. Let us know what you want to see.

**Are you looking for work in Local 159?** To learn about and bid on jobs: Call the Job Line at (608) 255-0169; or, if you are on the book, you can log in to [ibew159.org](http://ibew159.org) (Referral / Resign). Both are accessible after hours, only. Apprentices and CWs/CEs: if you get laid off, contact the office immediately so we can get you back to work.

**Did you know?** So far, 465 members of Local 159 have logged in to the web site.

## President's Corner

Safety Committee update: Members are on board. Thank you to those who volunteered.

I am looking for volunteers to help with low voltage work at the Labor Temple in December. Depending on volunteers' schedules, work will be done after hours (nights, and/or Saturdays). We will be pulling and terminating data cable, and pulling in fiber optic cable. Anyone may volunteer, need not be VDV.

## At the Last Meeting

Motion was made and passed to allow members to pay with credit card. Arrangements are being made to make that happen.

Motion was made and held over for the December 10 Union Meeting: The VDV membership will be voting on whether Local 159 VDV members should pull out of the current statewide VDV contract, and instead establish a contract for Local 159 VDV members, only. There will be discussion of pros and cons and mechanics prior to the vote. VDV members also will meet on December 2, to provide input for the VDV negotiations that begin in January 2016.

## What does my Union do for me? (continued from November)

Your Union handles grievances, either for a general, contract-related issue; or for a specific individual's issue. (see page 2, in the contract, or Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)).

Your Union also works to establish wages, hours and working conditions for members:

For example, the reason you are paid weekly (and not bi-weekly or monthly), is because your Union negotiated that for the members. If you are laid off, the employer is bound by the contract (that your Union negotiated) to provide your final check at the time of lay off. Your employer cannot say, "I will send your final check at the end of the pay period," or whenever. Negotiations happen every time a contract is opened (typically every 3 years).

But, your Union also advocates for you and responds to questions on a regular basis. For example a contractor may contact the Hall one day to request permission to work four 10-hour days for a special circumstance, or

sometimes due to a general contractor's schedule. (Working four 10s is not part of our contract.) Your Union makes the call as to whether this is okay.

**Support Tim** - At the December meeting, all Scholarship and COPE raffle proceeds will benefit Tim Baker.

*Tom Lemens*

[president@ibew159.org](mailto:president@ibew159.org)

## Giving Back

The Respite Center had an open house, and the newly remodeled space looked fabulous, thanks to the Local 159 members who helped make it happen. The volunteer work continues: This month, 159'ers pitched in at Heartland Farm in Verona, where the only building on site was a barn for the animals. Heartland got a single-wide trailer, and our members put in a 100 amp service to set up a heated office for staff and volunteers. Viking Electric Supply contributed the parts. Krantz Electric loaned some tools for the job.

## Conference Report

I got a lot out of the Sixth District Women's Conference and Progress Meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to go, and be part of the event. One of the many highlights for me, was getting to meet one of the original Rosie the Riveters.

Here are some of the pertinent topics I heard about, that are useful for all IBEW members:

One major theme was the need to help working families. Meaningful support would include things like

- Universal access to child care.
- Equal pay for equal work.
- Paid family medical leave through employers (not just through the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)).
- Everyone ought to have a voice, and the ability to speak up for what they want and need.

Other things that resonated were

- The grievance system is useful. Use it if you need it.
- Negotiation tools are valuable.
- Our society has a strong need for leadership.
- Mentoring is extremely important, and makes a big difference.

All of this is even more important now, under the Scott Walker administration.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have an apprenticeship, and I want to be involved and give back.

In our Local, we need to step up and be engaged. There were about 20 people at the October Union Meeting. It was disappointing that there were only eight of us there who were not required to be there. We have to be more engaged.

---

In solidarity,

*Katy Hunt*

*Being the Queen is not all about singing, and being a diva is not all about singing.  
It has much to do with your service to people. And your social contributions to  
your community and your civic contributions as well. ~ Aretha Franklin*

---

## RENEW



We've created a team for the **February 13, 2016 Polar Plunge**, in support of Special Olympics Wisconsin. Special Olympics Wisconsin provides year-round sports opportunities to more than 10,000 athletes, of any age and skill level, across the state. Join us in supporting this tremendous organization!

**REMEMBER: You don't have to plunge to raise money!** If you can't plunge, you can still contribute to our team! Not crazy enough to jump into the freezing cold water? Register as "[Too Chicken to Plunge](#)" or as a "[Frozen Fundraiser](#)". It's the best of both worlds—stay dry and raise money for Special Olympics Wisconsin!

Come join in the fun by clicking on:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?langPref=en-CA&TSID=625686>

If you can't join us, please consider making a donation to a cause that's important to us:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=667113&langPref=en-CA>

Please forward this to anyone in our Local who you think may be interested. Let's start talking this up!  
We can do better than last year!

Thanks for your support,

*Eric Proces*

## Fantasy 5k Rundown

The inaugural Fantasy 5K was a great success. Participants from six states and 46 cities around Wisconsin took part in the first ever event. Ages ranged from 5-65 which made it a true family event. The first year goal was to register 150 participants, but with the good weather and strong advertising efforts, more than 225 people participated. The event will grow next year, and each year after, with ongoing updates to ensure a quality event. Starting Line Events will be working closely with the IBEW and The Electric Group to build this event into one of the "must do" events in Madison. Robin and Jerry from Starting Line Events would like to personally thank everyone who helped make the event happen, "We know how busy you are with the Holiday Fantasy in Lights, the extra time that you devoted to helping us launch this run means the world to us." Planning for the 2016 Fantasy 5K will begin in January.

## Stay Strong, Tim!

Tim Baker says, "Thank you to all who have helped me." He is out of the hospital, and staying at the Columbia Health Care Center in Wyocena. He keeps pretty busy with rehab work. Best time to visit is between 4:00 - 5:00 pm. Call the Local 159 office for Tim's phone number.

**Proceeds from the December Union Meeting will benefit Tim**

## Retirees



For our November gathering, we met at the Fifth Quarter in Verona, with about 22 people attending. Next month we'll hold our annual holiday lunch at the Local 159 office.

*Jim Virnig*

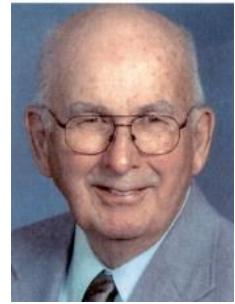
## In Memoriam

**Robert Frederick "Bob" Feller**, 94, of Verona, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, with his son by his side. Bob was born April 25, 1921, to Fred and Bertha Feller. He was raised on the family farm just south of Verona. Upon graduation from Verona High School in 1939, he joined the United States Navy. He was stationed at the U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, aboard the USS Oglala. He was onboard ship on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. He saw a plane coming low right toward the Oglala. He saw the Rising Sun on the wing and assumed it was going to open with machine guns, so Bob hit the stairs to go below deck. He always said he did not remember hitting even one step, as he slid down the handrails. The plane dropped a torpedo that went under the Oglala and exploded upon impact with the USS Helena. The explosion was so powerful it ruptured the hull of the Oglala. That day, and the camaraderie with other survivors, was an important part of Bob's life. Bob served the rest of the war maintaining electronic equipment at Navy Pacific headquarters at Pearl City, Hawaii. Bob was honorably discharged Dec. 11, 1946. He



enlisted in the Naval Reserve in January 1947. In 1954, he joined the Active Naval Reserves until his retirement in April 1970 at the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He began his electrical apprenticeship in Madison, January 1947, working until his retirement in 1985. Bob enjoyed living on Lake Wisconsin; traveling and growing old with his wife, Jean; spending time with his sons and grandkids; watching, and cheering on (and voicing frustration when needed), the Brewers, Packers and Badger football. Bob is survived by his three loving sons, Bob and his wife Misty of Verona, Gene of Waipahu, Hawaii, and Roger of Verona; Bob Sr. loved and adored his three grandchildren, Nathan, Samantha and Jack. Bob also has a stepfamily of Anne (Jerry) Rotar, Guy (Pam) Gust with step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved Uncle Bob; and sister-in-law, Valeria Feller. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rosie, of Hawaii; his second wife and mother of his three boys Phylis (nee Zingg); his third wife Jean; and his siblings, Edwin, Harold, Pearl Bovre, Fritz and Donald. Bob was very thankful for the opportunity to go on a Badger Honor Flight with his son, Roger, in 2010. His sons would like to express their appreciation to the staff at Willow Pointe Assisted Living, Dr. Sorber and Bob's caregivers from Agrace Hospice. Please consider donations to either Badger Honor Flight or Agrace Hospice. A funeral was held on Oct. 31. Burial followed at Verona Cemetery.

**MADISON—Dale M. Bickle**, age 91, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015. He was born on July 5, 1924, in Milwaukee, the son of Clair O. and Bona (Gooch) Bickle. Dale married Ardys Rasmussen on Feb. 13, 1949, in Fond du Lac. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps in WWII from 1943-1946. Dale came to Madison and worked for Kayser Ford in 1950, and in 1952, moved to electrical trades. He became a master electrician for Advance Electric, followed by Rom Electric, Endres Electric and L&L Electric. Dale worked for Madison Newspapers and later for University of Wisconsin Hospitals until his retirement in 1989. He was a member of Bashford Methodist Church since 1952, Zor Shrine where he served as director of staff, Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite Bodies. Dale enjoyed gardening and tending to his apple orchard. He was a general fix-it man. Dale is survived by his friend, Jayne Sprecher; step-daughter, Nan (Doug) Diedrick; grandchildren, Kim (Dan) Gannon, Lori (Charles) Einbeck, Michelle (Rodney) Duke and Jan Hilliard; great-grandchildren, Dawn DiBernardo, Brandon Hilliard, Kelly Einbeck, and Robbie Einbeck; great-great-grandchildren, Devon and Race; brothers, David (Mary) and Delton Bickle; and sisters, Leora Stavn and Lois Lucy; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ardys in 2000; brothers, Donald and Dean Bickle; sister, Bona Deegan and great-granddaughter, Karen Ann Einbeck. Funeral services were Nov. 23, and burial was at Evansville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Shriner's Hospitals. Online condolences may be made at [www.gundersonfh.com](http://www.gundersonfh.com).



## Calendar

**VOTE 2016** Spring elections are coming up. The statewide race for **Wisconsin Supreme Court** is critical. A recent Scott Walker appointee, Justice Rebecca Bradley, is completing the 10-year term of the late Justice Patrick Crooks. Judge JoAnne Kloppenburg will oppose her, but it is too soon to know if there will be a primary. Kloppenburg is experienced, impartial and honest. The last several Wisconsin Supreme Court seats were purchased by deep-pocketed conservatives. Walker's appointee would be one more example of that machine at work. We must vote on **April 5**; and **February 16**, if there is a primary.

After Walker's recent Voter Suppression law, Voter ID law, and his overhaul of the once non-partisan Government Accountability Board, enough is enough. Whether you vote regularly, or not at all, **now is the time to vote**. Do you have a valid photo ID? Find out at [bringit.wi.gov](http://bringit.wi.gov), [lwwi.org](http://lwwi.org), [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) and [wisaflcio.org](http://wisaflcio.org).

*Just because you do not take an interest in politics  
doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you. ~ Pericles*

## WEEBF Plan Changes

WEEBF Plan changes have been mentioned at recent union meetings. At future meetings, we'll discuss possible changes we could pursue. Here is a quick summary of recent changes in language and coverage in the Plan. Please watch your mailbox for an official mailing from WEEBF.

- Participant's "spouse" is covered, if couple is legally married. (Was "one man and one woman.") Effective June 26, 2015.
- Dental benefits (per year), and lifetime orthodontic benefits will both increase by \$200, per eligible individual effective January 1, 2016.
- For dental services provided **prior to January 1, 2016**, maximum benefit have increased by \$500, per eligible individual, per calendar year.

## Pro Union Contractor Class

Last chance! A few seats remain for the Contractor Business Class at Local 159, January 21-23. Earn 20 CEU's. Cost \$550. Spouses attend for free. To register: [LGoodman@ibew159.org](mailto:LGoodman@ibew159.org); (608) 255-2989.

---

Want to receive this newsletter electronically? Let us know.

Your ideas and submissions are always welcome.

Please share email blasts and newsletters at work. Not everyone receives email.

---



**Check Facebook for news, job postings, and more**  
[facebook.com/IBEWLocal159](https://www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159)

## Helpful Contact Info

**Apprenticeship Office** (register for classes) (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) (608) 276-9111, [weebf.org](http://weebf.org)

**Questions?** We are here to help. Office hours are 07:00 - 4:30 weekdays, (608) 255-2989.

## December 10 Union Meeting, Pin Ceremony & Holiday Party

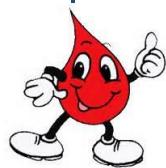
Congratulate those who will be receiving years of service pins (see November newsletter).

Enjoy food and fellowship at our annual holiday party, following the union meeting at the Labor Temple. **Have you checked to see if you are receiving a pin?** We hope to see you there!

### Blood Drive

**Friday December 4, from 12:30 – 5:30 pm  
at McFarland Lutheran Church, 5529 Marsh Rd**

Please eat a healthy meal before donating, and drink plenty of liquids  
Appointments are preferred, walk ins are welcome



Make an appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
or **1-800-Red Cross**, use code "McFarland"

