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WWW.IBEW159.ORG

# The Capitol City Chronicle\*

IBEW 159

FEBRUARY 2014

## BOOK REPORT

INSIDE	
BOOK I (+28)	<b>119</b>
INSIDE	
BOOK II (-20)	<b>300</b>
RESIDENTIAL	
BOOK I	<b>4</b>
RESIDENTIAL	
BOOK II	<b>0</b>
VDV	
BOOK I (+3)	<b>7</b>
VDV	
BOOK II (+4)	<b>8</b>

## MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE JANUARY MEETING TRAVELED:

< 10 MILES:	
<b>23 (54%)</b>	
10 TO 20 MILES:	
<b>5 (12%)</b>	
20 TO 30 MILES:	
<b>3 (7%)</b>	
30 TO 40 MILES:	
<b>6 (14%)</b>	
> 40 MILES:	
<b>5 (12%)</b>	

## Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

It's winter and it sure is cold, but we can look forward to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in less than a week. It's inspiring and motivating to listen to the athletes' stories. Just like Olympians who train to become faster, stronger and better at what they do, we have to look at the challenges we face as individuals and as a union as opportunities—instead of threats to our security.

The demand for higher productivity will always exist. If we don't keep up with the market we cannot compete. Madison is currently full of non-union contractors. Most of the big jobs are staffed by a single non-union electrical contractor. Others jobs are being installed by smaller, non-union contractors who have grown considerably in the past two years.

What can we do to reverse this trend of non-union contractors taking over completely? We, as union electricians, are not allowed to bid work; our livelihood is dependent on the success of our NECA contractors. In recent meetings, the contractors informed us that the market is tight and getting work is a fight. Lowering the composite rate or the amount charged per worker keeps their prices competitive, but just barely. **Simply put, the market is choosing non-union electricians because they can be paid less.**

Something has to be done about this and that will be the focus as we begin negotiations in March. Here are some things YOU can do as a union member to be competitive and turn the tide:

- Treat all jobs as Code of Excellence jobs – work eight for eight.
- Learn new skills and sharpen your existing skills. Contact Casey Healy with information on how to enroll in Spring continuing education classes.
- Share your ideas with our contractors and the union leadership. Come to the next Forums on February 6<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> and let's discuss how we can improve our skills, our union, and the market for Union Labor.
- Consider becoming a union contractor; sign up to take a contractor class.
- Get involved in one of our Committees—look for details in this newsletter.

We can make progress. We have a skill set that will always be in demand. Let's work together to figure out a way to grab that torch and run with it.

In Solidarity,  
 Robert Doyle

## Membership Development

**Significant Code Changes for 2011** will be held at the union hall from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, **Significant Code Changes for 2014** will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Each class is worth 8 CEU's (16 for both). Anyone interested in one or both of these classes, call the Apprenticeship Office at (608) 221-3321 to and register for the class.

We're still trying to put on an OSHA 30 class but we only have 3-4 people signed up so far. We will need at least 10 people to hold the class. We are also in the process of arranging CEU's for this class. Even if you signed a sheet at the union meeting to let us know you want OSHA 30, you must still call the Apprenticeship Office to register. Thank You.

I just attended an apprenticeship conference where every IBEW apprentice in the State of Wisconsin was in attendance. It was a good opportunity to talk with them and to listen to some of the issues they face during their schooling, training and on-the-job situations. Schooling can very demanding at times, especially first year where they have school once a week, night classes, and some weekend classes.

Maybe we should start a mentoring program for apprentices. That would involve a journey worker to be a mentor for an apprentice. Some things that might be shared with them is your knowledge and work experiences. You could answer questions about the trade, how things are wired, safety, job issues, etc. Maybe you don't have all the answers but could lead them in the direction to find the correct answers. It's something to think about.

As a local we can all mentor one another by teaching the importance of unionism, brotherhood, sisterhood, and solidarity. Stand united as one and we will be strong; stand divided and we shall fall.

In unity there is strength,  
Casey Healy

## Referral Agent's Report

We've been working with Building Trades Council on some different projects. We hope to get a Project Labor Agreement on all or some of them. (PLA's ensure a baseline wage for each trade.) Please help us send postcards to Cabela's, asking them to build with 100% union labor. Postcards are available at the union office. I will also bring them to you at your jobsite. Call me at (608) 255-2989 and tell me how many you need. Thank you for your support.

I was interviewed on the Labor Radio program, on the station WORT 89.9 FM on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. (You can listen to the interview at [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org).) I talked about how Findorff and Cullen aren't hiring union electricians if they can help it; they're bringing people from out of state instead.

You could help out by showing up to the meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. at Monona Terrace, in Ballroom C for the Judge Doyle Square project. Wear a union T-shirt to send a message—USE UNION LABOR. It can be boring, but this is the best place we can make a difference in the decisions about who gets the bid.

Once again, come watch us jump into the lagoon at Willow Island beside the Alliant Energy Center on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We won't know our plunge time until that morning. Plunges begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Please come out to cheer us on and laugh at those of us who chicken out.

Jeff Crocker

## Organizer's Report

As I make contact with contractors and city planners, I am hopeful about our future.

All the small, non-union contractors have grown. Companies like Advanced Electric, Electric One, The Electrician, Oimoen, Steve's Electric, Walkowiak Electric and Walser have done well through the slow times.

*(continued on page 3)*

They used to feed off all the crumbs we threw their way, the small jobs we didn't bid on because, "If we bid it, we would just lose." Those shops have grown and now **they** let many small jobs go by the wayside. Now they're creating a perfect opportunity for **us** to re-capture this work. If, in twos or threes, competent Local 159 journey workers among us want to begin partnering up to launch successful union shops, we will do everything we can to help you get started.

- In the office, we receive a newspaper that tells where the jobs are, and how much each is expected to cost.
- We have resources to teach you how to bid on a job.
- We have an empty shop and tools, if you are interested in renting space and/or tools to get started.

We can get you the help you need. Just ask, we are here for you.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, I learned that Faith Technologies has won another high-rise job in Madison. I will meet with Faith to learn about their manpower issues, if any, and to try to figure out where they will be shorthanded, either to help in some capacity, or to gain information.

We **can** turn things around, but everyone needs to pitch in. **You can open a signatory shop.** With innovation and perseverance, we can build a brighter future. **The time is now and the future is yours.**

In Brotherhood, Everybody Wins  
Jeremy Waugh

<i>~ Save the Dates ~</i>	
<b>Feb 6</b>	Member Forum, 4:30 p.m. Labor Temple, Room TBA (RSVP by 4:30 p.m. Feb 5)
<b>Feb 8</b>	Polar Plunge, Alliant Energy Ctr., Willow Island Lagoon Plunge-time TBA
<b>Feb 10</b>	Retirees at Alt N Bachs, Noon
<b>Feb 13</b>	Union Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Feb 15</b>	Significant Changes to NEC 2011
<b>Feb 18</b>	VOTE Spring Primaries
<b>Feb 19</b>	WEEBF Health Care Seminar 5:00 p.m., Labor Temple, Room TBA
<b>Feb 21</b>	Newsletter Submission deadline
<b>Mar 6</b>	Member Forum, 4:30 p.m. Labor Temple, Room TBA (RSVP by 4:30 p.m. Mar 5)
<b>Mar 15</b>	Significant Changes to NEC 2014
<b>Mar 19</b>	WEEBF Seminar: Pension 5:00 p.m., Labor Temple, room TBA
<b>Mar 24</b>	Newsletter submission deadline
<b>Apr 1</b>	NO FOOLING—VOTE Spring Election
<b>Apr 31</b>	Deadline for early registration (\$20 off!) for Bob Palmer Golf Classic



*Jordan Egli was part of the crew HAMMERING through a frozen layer of snow to free extension cords during Fantasy in Lights take-down.*

## Office Update

Please remember to keep the office up to date with your contact and beneficiary information. We would like to receive as many member emails as possible. If you have changed your email or haven't given us your email, please do so. If you have a new phone number or address, please provide our office with that information.

This is also a very good time to update your beneficiary forms. MANY members have NO beneficiary information on file. Please take a few minutes to request these forms and make sure you and your family are taken care of properly.

**COME SUPPORT THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE TEAM!  
FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> WILLOW ISLAND, ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER  
ACTIVITIES 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.**

Check the Facebook page, or [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org) to get our plunge-time.

**TO DONATE**, go to: [www.sowi.kintera.org/MadisonPolarPlunge2014](http://www.sowi.kintera.org/MadisonPolarPlunge2014)

Click on "Donate" and search for one of the following team members:

**Jeff Crocker, Robert Doyle, Casey Healy, Kathleen Wolf,  
Audrey Kaczor, Gerry Smith, Lisa Goodman, or Tom Lemens**

**REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE**

**Member Forums**

The next Forums will be February 6<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., Local 159 office. Tell your officers what's most important to you. Learn why we've been losing market share and help us plan for the LONG-TERM success of our union. We'd appreciate an RSVP to [sblue@ibew159.org](mailto:sblue@ibew159.org) so we can order food.

**Residential Reclash**

Contact Casey Healy with your name, address, phone number, and email if you have one. We'll set you up with classes to finish your program.

**Instructors Needed**

If you know someone you think would be a great teacher, please give their name to Casey Healy and we'll persuade them from there. Email [chealy@ibew159.org](mailto:chealy@ibew159.org), or call the Hall (608) 255-2989.

**Traveling**

Work prospects around the country look good. For information about work on the road, please contact Jeff Crocker. You'll need to fill out the ERTS form, get a travel letter from the Local, and make sure your dues are paid. (The IBEW Electronic Reciprocal Transfer System helps ensure proper crediting of travelers' pension and health and welfare benefits.) Some Locals require a state license, First-Aid, CPR, OSHA 10, and so on. Always call first.

**Resign Instructions**

ALL classifications must resign between:

**FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Sign in person, by fax, U.S. Mail, or email

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

*If you're on a short call, you must still re-sign.*

**Job Line**

If you're wondering about work in Local 159, **check out the Job Line**. Phone after 5 p.m. to hear about calls to be dispatched on the next work day (608) 255-0169. Updates are made daily.

**Photo of the Week**

We want to highlight Local 159 members' photographic skills. Send in your best photos showing "a day in your life." The cold weather provides many interesting photographic opportunities. Capture the spirit of Local 159. Be creative!

**Stay safe** and follow all rules at your job site that prohibit use of phones or cameras while working. Every week, we'll post the "Photo of the Week."

Send your best JPEG images and your name to [newsletter@ibew159.org](mailto:newsletter@ibew159.org), and view member photos on [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org)



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**Executive Board**  
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Jeff Kerwin Keith Miller

### Union Dues for 2014

Monthly	\$ 33.75
Quarterly	\$101.25
Six Months	\$202.50
Yearly	\$405.00

Contact the office for the current death benefit

If you are paying dues for the full year and sending your payment by mail, we will send you a coupon for a free gift.

You do not have to pay in person. Dues payments may be made by check, money order, cashiers check, or cash. Feel free to contact the office at (608) 255-2989.

## Baby News

Brother Jed Smith and wife, Jenn welcomed their first child, Lola Marie, born December 28th, weighing 8 lbs., 10 oz., 21 inches long. Congratulations and enjoy your new adventure as parents.



Brother Dan McGrath has been entered as one of the contestants at the first Mad City Chili Cook-off, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday evening, February 8th, at the Essen Haus Restaurant. The chili will be judged by local celebrity judges Christine Bellport of NBC 15 News, and Mary Jane Connor of Isthmus, and the crowd will also vote. Check out the Essen Haus Facebook page for ticket information and discounts. Support a Local member, come out on a cold night for some of Madison's hottest chili!



*Organizer Jeremy Waugh uses the Lull to pull up stakes at the Fantasy in Lights take-down.*



## Mary Harris “Mother” Jones

part three in a series  
about Mother Jones

*by Cindy Johnson,  
Local 159 Spouse*

The 1890’s brought a hard economic depression and severe joblessness. Mother Jones crisscrossed the country, refusing any permanent residency while organizing miners, textile and steel workers from NY to CA. She organized wives of laborers into radical “mop and broom” brigades that often successfully thwarted scabs and company thugs. At the turn of the century, she led a walk known as the “Children’s Crusade” to pressure the President to fight against child labor.

In Ludlow, CO, copper miners, their wives, and children were shot and burned in conflicts with the mining company. Mother Jones helped organize copper miners into the Western Federation of Miners; and coal miners in West Virginia into the United Mine Workers. She was a founding member of the Industrial Workers of the World with the goal of organizing all workers into one big union, regardless of sex, race, or skill level.

Mother Jones helped organize one of the biggest strikes of her day, the Homestead Steel Strike in Pennsylvania in 1892. Later, 400,000 workers walked off the job to strike for livable wages and safe working conditions.

With organizing came huge backlashes from corporate thugs and the National Guard, along with union smear campaigns. Mother Jones continuously fought to free organizers who were illegally thrown in prisons in the US and Mexico. She continued to fight off thugs and crooked officials up into her 90’s, and died in 1930. Her most famous quote is “Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.”

*For more on Mother Jones, go online to  
[www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com)*

## Congratulations to our 2013 Retirees!

Gerald Bartelt  
Peter Broadley  
William Feeney

David Johnson  
James Kolb  
Gerard Leigel

Craig Swenson  
Gordon Vander Velde  
Mary Volkman

Ralph Gomez  
Francis “Butch” Hyatt  
Rick Jahn

Charlie Little  
Kevin Olson  
Terry Putman

Roger Vondrasek  
John Zwettler



Please let us know if we missed anyone. Enjoy your retirement but stay involved. Your Union needs you! Consider volunteering for a committee or making an occasional appearance at the membership meetings. Your experience and knowledge is a valuable asset to share.

## Speaking of Retirees—thanks to all the retirees who helped take down Holiday Fantasy in Lights!



*Nick Garcia does his best arctic explorer imitation.*

## Committee Corner

Would you like to help improve the union, help a brother or sister in need, or help work with our legislators to create more union-friendly laws? Join a Committee, become a volunteer, and help make the changes you want to see!

**Entertainment:** Help run activities such as the Mallards Game, Labor Day, or the Christmas Party, and help think up new activities for members to connect and have fun!

**Volunteer tasks:** Plan, organize, arrange food and locations, set-up and take-down.

**Time commitment:** varies with the activity.

**Contact:** Tom Lemens [president@ibew159.org](mailto:president@ibew159.org)

**Community Outreach:** Build real community among union members, create a visible presence in the cities and towns we live in, fundraise for causes we believe in, help recruit new members, and do good in our communities.

**Committee member tasks:** Planning, recruiting volunteers, helping with events. Share your own ideas for outreach.

**Time commitment:** One planning meeting every 3 months, planning time varies with activity

**Contact:** KT Wolf, [wolf.kathlean@zoho.com](mailto:wolf.kathlean@zoho.com)

**Friends and Family:** Help members of Local 159 by easing the financial burdens that come up when they have a crisis (medical, disaster, death in family, etc.).

**Committee tasks:** Help the President set up the fund and make a plan for fundraising.

**Time commitment:** Email for more info

**Contact:** Tom Lemens, [president@ibew159.org](mailto:president@ibew159.org)

**Legislative Committee:** Educate legislators and union members about the most important issues facing our members and unions.

**Committee tasks:** Contact your local aldermen, attend school board meetings, email and call legislators.

**Time commitment:** Attend one school board meeting every 3 months; and as much or as little as you can commit to.

**Contact:** Andrew Traverse, [legislation@ibew159.org](mailto:legislation@ibew159.org)

All members are welcome to join committees and volunteer, including apprentices, retirees, family members, and friends. To get involved with any other committees or to share ideas, email [president@ibew159.org](mailto:president@ibew159.org), or contact the office.

## RETIREES

The Retirees' Club met at Toby's on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Twenty members were present:

Jim Virnig, Lee Lemens, Roy Holm, Dave Baltus, Donald Boe, Steve Lease, Mike Stassi, John Zwettler, Tom Kepler, Denny Strander, Tom Junck, Rich Gorst, Carmon Howe, Dave Krey, Elmer Racek, Stephen Greenheck, Bill Kracke, Dennis Wiczorek, and Scott Gomez.

Business Agent Casey Healy gave a report on the work situation. He thanked the retirees who worked on the set up of the Holiday Fantasy in Lights. Lee Lemens reported on the donations from the Holiday Fantasy in Lights.

Winners of the drawings were Jim Virnig, Roy Holm, Dave Baltus, Tom Kepler, Denny Strander, Tom Junck, Carmon Howe, Elmer Racek and Bill Kracke.

The next meeting will be at Alt N Bachs on Monday at noon on February 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there.

Lee Lemens

## Illness and Injury

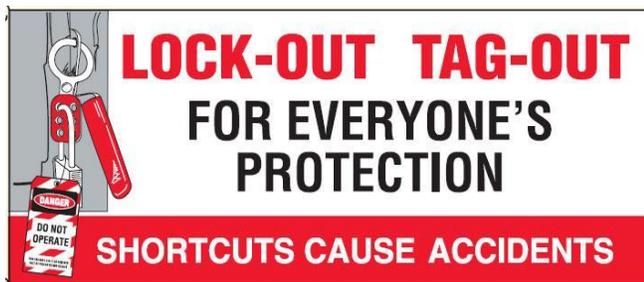


**Brother Keith Attleson** is recuperating from heart surgery and on the road to recovery. Take care Keith, and get well soon!

**Brother Joseph Rott** will be going in for heart-valve surgery on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Our thoughts will be with you. We wish you a speedy recovery!

## “Be safe! Check Lock-Out, Tag-Out.” ~Brother Mark Roughen

Brother Roughen was bit by 4160 volts while working in Williston, North Dakota. The electrical gear was supposed to be locked out and tagged out, but obviously it wasn't. Mark burned both hands; the left is better but the right hand has a ways to go.



Remember - Safety first and always!

## The Donation Dilemma: Part II

“You don't know where you're going unless you know where you've been.” Here are a few results from the online survey about Local 159 members and charities:

*Which organizations have helped members of Local 159 in the past?*

Food pantries, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, American Legion, Lions Club, Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee, Salvation Army

*Which organizations do we personally donate money or volunteer time to?*

Local church and neighborhood centers  
Food Banks and Homeless Shelters  
Research on cancer and specific illnesses  
Public TV and Radio, The Humane Society  
St. Vincent de Paul  
United Way  
Compassion International  
St. Judes  
Agrace Hospice  
Habitat for Humanity  
American Red Cross, Lions Club

*What were the TOP FIVE priorities members want to give time and money to?*

- #1: Aid for 159 members in crisis
- #2: Providing food & shelter for those in need
- #3: Stopping domestic abuse
- #4: Emergency disaster relief
- #5: Helping specific illnesses or disabilities

*In 2013, the membership approved a total of \$4,300 in donations at membership meetings, to the following causes:*

- \$1550 IBEW Locals/Unit/45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- \$750 Union Sportsmen's Alliance
- \$350 Disabled American Veterans
- \$350 Donations/memorials to 159 members
- \$250 Community Action Coalition
- \$250 Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice
- \$200 Alzheimer's Association
- \$100 American Lung Association
- \$100 Wisconsin Society of Respiratory Care
- \$100 4PeteSake
- \$100 Muscular Dystrophy Association
- \$100 Special Olympics
- \$50 Easter Seals,
- \$50 Fishing Has No Boundaries

Please help create guidelines for giving, or get specific survey results, by contacting KT Wolf at [wolf.kathlean@zoho.com](mailto:wolf.kathlean@zoho.com)

## Spring Elections Update

Spring Primary elections are fast approaching. Mark your calendars:

Tuesday, **February 18<sup>th</sup>** PRIMARY elections (in some municipalities)

Tuesday, **April 1<sup>st</sup>** Spring Elections

All counties in our Local are voting for judge for the Court of Appeals.  
Dane County voters will be electing two Dane County Circuit Court Judges.

The South Central Federation of Labor has endorsed the following candidates for the April 2014 elections. These candidates were selected for their commitment to working families.

<b>Dane County Supervisor</b>		
District 1: Mary Kolar District 3: Nick Zweifel District 4: Kyle Richmond District 5: Leland Pan District 6: John Hendrick District 7: Matt Veldran District 8: Carousel Bayrd District 10: Jeremy Levin District 11: Al Matano	District 12: Paul Rusk District 13: Chuck Erickson District 14: George Gillis District 16: Dave de Felice District 17: Jeff Pertl District 18: Michele Ritt District 21: Andrew Schauer District 22: Maureen McCarville District 23: Sheila Stubbs	District 24: Robin Schmidt District 25: Tim Kiefer District 26: Sharon Corrigan District 27: Dorothy Krause District 28: Abigail Wuerst District 30: Pat Downing District 32: Pat McPartland District 33: Jenni Dye District 34: Patrick Miles District 35: Carl Chenowith

<b>Madison School Board</b>	<b>Verona Mayor</b>	<b>Verona Alder</b>
Seat 6: Michael Flores	Chad Kemp	District 4: Mike Bare

<b>Voter Contacts</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Clerk Telephone</b>		<b>City/Village</b>	<b>Clerk Telephone</b>
Columbia	(608) 742-9654		De Forest	(608) 846-6751
Dane	(608) 266-4121		Fitchburg	(608) 270-4200
Dodge	(920) 386-3605		Madison	(608) 266-4601
Green Lake	(920) 294-4005		McFarland	(608) 838-3153
Iowa	(608) 935-0399		Middleton	(608) 821-8350
Marquette	(608) 297-3016		Monona	(608) 222-2525
Sauk	(608) 355-3286		Stoughton	(608) 873-6677
			Sun Prairie	(608) 837-2511
Government Accountability Board			Verona	(608) 845-6495
South Central Federation of Labor			Waunakee	(608) 850-8500
AFSCME				
League of Women Voters, Wisconsin				

## Opinion

Yes. You can write an opinion article, and we may well publish it. There are a few rules:

- If you propose a problem, propose a solution.
- Write about things that are relevant to union members in general.
- No bashing. No ripping on coworkers, leadership, or even political parties, either—we're all "Brothers" and "Sisters," and we all come by our opinions honestly.
- Respect gender, race, age, etc.
- The opinions are not necessarily those of the officers or the editors, but remember; 6<sup>th</sup> District / IO / and the public read, too.

As this month's layout-editor (and yes, if you want to volunteer to help with the newsletter, welcome aboard), I'll go first.

When my car doesn't start on a cold morning, yelling at it doesn't get it running again. I have to figure out what's wrong with it; battery dead? Water in the fuel lines? Heaven forbid, antifreeze in my oil-pan, time for a new engine? We could get a lot done by looking at union problems in the same way. Don't yell at it; figure out why it isn't working and then figure out how to fix it.

How do we get people to union meetings? If guilt worked, the hall would be **full** every month! Let's start by figuring out why people don't come. Is it distance? As you can see on the front page, over half of the members at the last meeting came from less than ten miles away.

I've heard people say "If you can't make it to a meeting, your opinion doesn't matter." Is that really "brotherhood"? Does that make the union stronger? I've been on jobs where a Brother would have had to drive 50 miles to get to the meeting from work, then another 60 miles to get home. If a member has children, it really can make it difficult to make it to a meeting.

Is it the attitude at the union meetings? Some people seem to look at the meetings as a place to push their agenda about petty issues.

More people would come if everyone stays focused; the purpose of meetings is to work together to shape our future.

If a Brother or Sister isn't coming to the union meetings, we need to find out what's keeping them away, and fix it, not exclude them from this organization that belongs to all of us.

## Suchoman Scholarship Report

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The Local 159/Suchoman Scholarship Committee would like to express our gratitude to Damon Glenn. Damon won the 50/50 raffle and donated much of it back to the Committee.

We are moving forward with the new Local 159 Scholarship. With it, we can give out smaller amounts than the Suchoman Scholarship can award, and we can give more often. The goal is to help 159 members and their families, those enrolled full time at an accredited two- or four-year college. It will take a little time to get everything in place.

We need your input on some suggestions we have received. Would you attend a dart tournament? A bowling tournament? We want these events to be well-supported and successful. Please share your thoughts with a committee member, or call or email me, [regocmit@yahoo.com](mailto:regocmit@yahoo.com), (608) 513-4897.

Finally, only three months left for \$50 early-bird registration in the Bob Palmer Golf Classic (includes 18 holes, a cart and a meal). Don't let it slip away! Sign up by April 30. Event registration closes on May 31, at the regular rate, \$70. Mark your calendar for a day of fun on June 21.

We are selling embroidered, union-made sweatshirts on a pre-paid order basis. Stop by the Hall to see samples; the "Wisconsin 159" hoodie is \$60; the "IBEW 159" hoodie, \$80. We also have a brown duck, union-made jacket with the same designs, for \$125.

Tim Cogger



JW Eileen Stuntebeck is really in there, somewhere.

Apprentice Toni Seals takes down the tunnel display.

Business Agent Casey Healy directs the take-down.

## What's in a name?

Does it matter what we call this newsletter? If we care enough about it to seek a name change, then let's come up with a good name.

People may not realize what goes into producing our monthly newsletter. Behind the scenes, each month someone thinks about what the newsletter should contain. The newsletter team ponders many details. Tries to answer old questions and ask new ones: What has happened? What is coming up? What ideas do members want to share or explore? What are the committees working on, and what do they want to tackle next?

With the list of newsletter stories in hand, someone assigns the work (to not enough writers) and reminds about deadlines. There are gaps, so the invisible hands write everything else. They round up graphics and photographs (they probably also took those photographs).

When the stories come in, there's fact-checking, editing, and layout. Ultimately, the team sends out the newsletter early enough to arrive by U.S. Mail (and email and web site); and well before the next meeting.

Once that newsletter goes out, rest assured that the next issue is already under way.

It sounds simple, but it's surprising how much time and care goes into each newsletter. Please take five minutes (perhaps over break, or over lunch) to brainstorm with others, "What should we call this newsletter?"

We look forward to hearing your ideas, and we welcome all interested hands and writers to help continue the behind-the-scenes newsletter work. Apprentices, Retirees, friends, family. L.G.

Food for thought. Names of some other newsletters:

**Relay**, Local 494, Milwaukee

**The Electrical Workers' Brotherhood News**, Local 158, Green Bay

**Keeping Current**, Local 292, Minneapolis

**The Circuit, Keeping You Current**, Local 429, Nashville

**The Tradition**, Local 1, St. Louis

**Watt's Up?!!!** Local 890, Janesville

Thank you! The February newsletter team is: Sue Blue, Tim Coger, Jeff Crocker, Robert Doyle, Lisa Goodman, Casey Healy, Cindy Johnson, Lee Lemens, Jeremy Waugh, Kathleen Wolf.

## IBEW LOCAL 159

1602 S. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715



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### Want to Help Rename the Newsletter?

A member pointed out at the last meeting that “Sparkie” isn’t the best way to represent ourselves—if we’re doing our jobs right, there are NO SPARKS! However, this Local covers a lot more territory than just the Capitol City proper. Let’s not leave ANYONE out! **Send your suggestions to rename the newsletter to [newsletter@ibew159.org](mailto:newsletter@ibew159.org)** and be entered to win a free T-shirt!

☞ **Member Forum February 6, 2014** ☞

☞ **Union Meeting February 13** ☞

**Negotiations start soon • Seeking Residential wiremen for talks.**

**WEEBF will be here on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> to answer questions about your benefits and health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”).**

Deadlines for 2014 newsletters: February 21, March 24, April 28, 2014.

Share your newsletter ideas, stories, feedback at [newsletter@ibew159.org](mailto:newsletter@ibew159.org), call (608) 255-2989, or send us a letter at 1602 S. Park Street, #115, Madison, WI 53715.

**To receive the newsletter by U.S. Mail, contact the office to opt in.**

The Capitol City Chronicle is always available by email or at [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org)