



# The Sparkie Sentinel

**Mark D. Hoffmann,  
Business Manager/Financial  
Secretary**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012, history has been made here in Wisconsin. United Wisconsin turned in petitions with enough signatures to recall the Governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, whose union busting tactics, not only at the state level but now in the private sector at Manitowoc Crane, are threatening the standard of living of the working class of Wisconsin, union and non-union alike.

These tactics are basically the same as right to work language that Walker's largest contributor is trying to force on the workers at Manitowoc Crane. Right to work language is nothing more than attempts to weaken or bust unions and deteriorate conditions unions have fought for, for your grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and should be kept in place for your children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. This is an important time here in Wisconsin politically and you have the power to see that we don't go back in time, back to the days when people paid the ultimate price and died during labor battles to make our workplace a better place for us to earn a decent, living wage and a safe place to work so we can return home each day to our families.

Brothers and Sisters, I am calling you to action, now. In a short time, barring any

shenanigans by the Republican administration, these signatures will be validated and we will have a recall election.

Governor Walker will be on the ballot and we will have a candidate who can take our state back for the working people. We will make certain this candidate will be a champion for the working class and will fight for you and I. Any candidate may have some kind of issue you may not agree with but as IBEW President Hill said at our last Organizing Conference, "Vote your job. Lobby your interest." Let's put someone in our house (the State Capitol) who will work for all to prosper, not just the elite.

## Website

We are very near completion of our new website. I think you will be impressed with the changes. We invite any good ideas, as we go online with our new look, as we can make changes along the way. ([www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org))

## Fantasy In Lights

We had a great year with our lighting displays this year generating donations to help us bring back the show next year. I want to thank those who volunteered last fall in putting this event together. Your participation represents one of the great accomplishments of the IBEW and NECA to bring the community a display which highlights our work, which is how this show began twenty-three years ago.

If you see these brothers and sisters, give them a huge thank you for their efforts. My apologies for anyone I missed.

Bruce Arnold*	Larry Libert*
Kevin Curtis	Jeff Michaelis
Steve Deterding	Amber Moonlight-Klein
Lisa Goodman	Steven Ostrowsky
Scott Juris	Elmer Racek*
Doug Kirkeeng	Shaun Schaalma
Randy Larson	Eileen Stuntebeck
Wade Tiedeman	Jim Virnig
Michael Wagner	Shawn Weible

I want to thank Fred Brown, Jeff Michaelis and Mike Wagner for their dedication to the show in maintaining the displays daily. Job well done.

\*IBEW #159 retirees

### **Pension Seminar**

A pension seminar will be held on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Madison Labor Temple room 201-A&B.

All members and spouses are welcome to attend.  
Refreshments will be provided.

### **Did You Know**

January 17, 1915 – Radical labor organizer, Lucy Parsons leads hunger march in Chicago: IWW songwriter, Ralph Chaplin write “Solidarity Forever” for the march.

### **Quote of the Month**

“Procrastination is like a credit card: it’s a lot of fun until you get the bill.”

### **Employment Opportunity**

The Building Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin is now taking applications for the position of Executive Director here in Madison. The ability to speak in public and negotiate contracts are just a couple of the many duties this position would require.\*

Send Resumes to:

Building Trades Council of South  
Central Wisconsin  
1602 S. Park Street – Room 226  
Madison, WI 53715

- Applications deadline is February 14, 2012.

### **Save The Date**

On March 10, 2012, the AFL-CIO will be having a rally at the Capitol square. The planning is still going on. I will have more at a later date.

Please plan to attend and show your support on the anniversary date of the signing of Governor Walker’s Budget, which took away the collective bargaining rights of state workers, slashed school budgets, gave tax cuts to the wealthy and balanced his budget on the backs of the working class of Wisconsin.

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**Joel Kapusta**  
**Business Agent/Referral Agent**

### **Inside**

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### **VDV**

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The downtown Madison library project is being rebid.

Nickles is the apparent low bidder on the UW Student Athletic Performance Center.

Portage Powerhouse project is still on schedule for a March groundbreaking. No word yet on the Contractor awarded the project.

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**Business Agent/Organizer  
Report by Chris Crossen**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone had a great Holiday season. I have been continuing to meet with Non-signatory Contractors in our area. There seems to be more popping up each week. I have also been talking with non-represented workers and letting them know of the advantages of becoming Union.

We have been in contact with some of the Faith Technology employees and have found out that things are starting to shake up over there.

Apparently some have been let go and others are worried about their job. I have been in contact with a few of them and they are worried about being “back stabbed” by other workers wanting to get ahead.

I think that this is a sad way to get ahead. They should do it by merit of their work and not by climbing on the backs of their fellow workers. I sympathize with these guys but what a great way to get their ear.

We don't have to go in and beg for a raise or for work with the Union. We have also found out that Faith has opened a new shop in Minnesota. We are working with the Organizers there to help them get up to speed on the practices of Faith and how they

operate. Faith Technologies has become a travelling company about 65% of their man power has signed on as willing to travel. They have satellite shops in Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, and Kansas. I just thought we should know how big this company is getting.

We have been trying to get the Dish Network installers to seek representation. They have been getting poor wages and bad working conditions. There was a union flyer campaign done in every office in Michigan and Wisconsin, all on the same day. Unfortunately in the past two months, interest has slowed on the website.

I know that there is a better way for all of the non-represented workers out there and it is our job to let them know. I would like to ask everyone to talk to a non-union worker when you see them, (at the gas station, grocery store, or bank) and let them know how it is to have representation. If we all did this our market share and our wages would go up.

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**President Report  
Fred W. Brown**

We are off to a much cooler start for the New Year. I have been receiving quite a few questions about when the State of Wisconsin will adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code. This is no longer a simple or short answer.

When Governor Walker took office he changed some of the state departments. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce, which administered our state electrical code, changed its function and the state electrical inspectors were moved to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

This has changed the reference numbering of the state electrical code from COMM 16 to SPS 316 (same code but new numbers).

Governor Walker changed the administrative code adoption process. In past code cycles, the State of Wisconsin COMM 16 committee met, made proposed changes to the Wisconsin electrical code, and then the department submitted these changes to the state legislators for adoption. Now the SPS 316 committee will meet, make proposed changes to the Wisconsin electrical code, and must write economical impact statements for each change, submit the changes to Governor Walker's office for review, and then Governor Walker's office will submit what he feels is appropriate to the state legislators for adoption. The bottom line is, the change and adoption process is now much longer and cumbersome.

The SPS 316 committee met last year and completed their work on proposed changes to adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code. Now the administrative code adoption process will continue. No one knows how long this process will take because it is a new process, without any time limits.

Our electrical installation standards are currently under the 2008 National Electrical Code, with the State of Wisconsin changes to this code in place. The State of Wisconsin electrical certifications tests are still under the 2008 National Electrical Code. We do not need to panic about the changes in the 2011 National Electrical Code cycle right now.

May the Code be with you. It will keep you safe and profitable.

**David Boetcher**  
**Government Affairs Coordinator**

We are One in a Million

I am writing this article the morning after the turn in of the petitions to recall Walker, Kleefisch and the 4 republican senators. Yesterday was a long but exciting day. To see so many signatures gathered and so many volunteers at the evening party was wonderful and a great time for everyone. So many of our members helped and signed those petitions it is hard to know them all but thank you for all of your efforts and energy in this historic effort. Each one of you is one in a million for your signature.

While recalls have been done before, no recall in history has done what we just did. Just for comparison let's look at 3 other recall efforts and how well they did.

Recall Effort	Year	Turnout of Gubernatorial Electorate
California Gov. Grey Davis	2003	23.4%
North Dakota Gov. Lynn Frazier	1921	31.8%
Ohio SB 5	2011	32%
<b>Scott Walker</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>46%</b>

The people of Wisconsin far out did California, North Dakota and Ohio. We have truly made history and shown that we will not let this Governor keep us from having our right to be in a union. There is still work to do and we could use help with doing the data entry of all these signatures. We are in need

of volunteers with data entry of recall petitions.

Data entry is occurring at AFSCME daily from 11am to 7:30pm, located at 8033 Excelsior Drive, Madison, WI 53717.

If you are available to volunteer some time doing data entry, please contact Ben Young at [byoung@wiafscme.org](mailto:byoung@wiafscme.org) or myself at [dboetcher@tds.net](mailto:dboetcher@tds.net).

We will also soon have another data entry site at the Painters Hall in Sun Prairie.

As we celebrate our victory in this effort we now have to look at our next hurdle in this run we are making to defeat Walker and win back our state.

We have all seen the numerous articles and heard all the political pundits talking about who will be the candidate to run against Walker. The polling has shown so far that almost all the names being considered are within 1 to 3 percentage points of each other and a bit ahead of Walker. So the question isn't as much about elect ability of a candidate as it is about what that candidate will do when in office.

Our historic effort in making this recall happen should not be wasted on a candidate who will not be a champion for why we did this. What good is a recall election if the candidate won't fight all the way for collective bargaining or school funding or even the full right to vote? We don't need a democratic candidate who will trade away our collective bargaining for a few changes to business tax laws. We need someone who will fight as hard to restore our rights as Walker fought to destroy them.

Over the next month the candidates will start to emerge. Make sure you always ask yourself when considering them, who do I

think will not give up the fight for my rights, my financial welfare and my family? Who is more concerned about business profit margins than about the middle class and decent paying jobs? Who will look out for me when the business lobbyists want another tax break at the expense of my kid's school?

The IBEW, along with the AFLCIO and SCFL, will be talking to these candidates and getting those answers. We will be giving them to you to help you know that this recall isn't just another election – it is about standing up for our rights and we demand a candidate who will do that.

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## **Retirees Club**

The Retirees met at My Buddies Restaurant on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-six members were present. They were, James Virnig, Richard Voight, Donald Boe, Gary Gander, Rich Gorst, Marvin Milleville, Tom Kepler, Scott Gomez, Mike Stassi, John Holler, Vern Conner, Dale Wells, Dennis Strander, David Baltes, John Whitman, Bernie Braun, Bill Kracke, Lester Gammeter, Dave Krey, Larry Libert, Jim Davis, Roy Holm, Tom Junck, Elmer Racek and Lee Lemens.

Business Manager, Mark Hoffmann reported on the work situation, members out of work, upcoming projects and the recall efforts for Scott Walker.

Donations for Fantasy In Lights were the best we ever had. We thank the following members who helped count the donations. They were, Lee Lemens, Bob Call, Roy Holm, Jim Davis, Larry Libert, Jim Virnig, Marvin Milleville, Elmer Racek, Ken Goss, Don Dushek, Richard Gorst, Bill Kracke,

Dave Baltes, Howard Czoschke and Ron Dommershausen.

Winners of the drawings were, James Virnig, Donald Boe, Gary Gander, Marvin Milleville, Tom Kepler, David Baltes, Bill Kracke, Dave Krey, Lee Lemens and Larry Libert.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2012 at Alt N Bachs Bar – 2602 Whalen Lane (Next to American TV on the West Beltline).

Any retirees on NEBF and IBEW pension who have moved in 2011, should make sure you notify their offices with a change of address to ensure your 1099 is sent to the correct address. We have change of address forms in our office, if you need one.

Lee Lemens



### **Death – Illness – Injury**

Get well wishes are sent to **Brother Jimmy Maloney and Brother Dave Johnson.**

**Retired Brother, Larry Libert** is home from the hospital, under the care of his family and hospice. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Libert family.

**Brother Pat Fahey** is having surgery this month.

**Brother Derek Ward** is recovering from a car/deer accident in December. He is having extensive knee surgery this month and has missed a lot of work.

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Derek is the breadwinner in the family and with the loss of the only family income, a benefit fund has been set up at the State Bank of Cross Plains. Anyone who wishes to help out, can stop by or mail a donation to the: **Derek Ward Benefit Fund at the State Bank of Cross Plains**

Main Office: 1205 Main St. Cross Plains, WI 53528

Telephone: (608) 798-3961

Fax: (608) 798-3591

**Sister Heather Wipperfurth** continues to wait for a kidney match. Throughout the process she has found that she has a large amount of antibodies, making it very difficult to find a kidney that her body will not reject.

With this information she was told that it could be much longer than 5 years before a deceased donor kidney could become available. If you are considering being tested or for more information, please don't hesitate calling the Living Donor Transplant Coordinator, Chris Lillesand (608-890-9363) at UW Hospital, Melissa Jamshidi (414-805-0310 ) at Froedtert Hospital or Kay Kosberg (866-249-1648) at Mayo Hospital. All information (i.e. names, questions, answers) is strictly confidential.



### **Baby News**

Brother Kyle Kittleson and wife Kelly welcomed first child, Landon Kittleson, born November 9, 2011 at St. Mary's, weighing 6

lbs. 9 oz. and 19.5”

Brother Lee Gibbs and wife, Melissa welcomed daughter, Kendall Jillian Gibbs, born, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 8:28 am, weighing 7 lbs – 1 oz and 19.5”

Brother Nate Sturmer and wife, Sara, welcomed Dylan Lucas Sturmer, born January 9, 2012. He joins big brother, Nolan and big sister, Paityn.

Congratulations to all our families.

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#159 Brother and world traveler, Jim Rust sends his best to all the Brothers and Sister for a great 2012.

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### **2012 Pocket Planners**

2012 pocket planners are available at the union office for 159 members, one per member. We can also mail one out to you.

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### **2011 Tax Information**

Working dues deducted from member's checks by signatory contractors are calculated as follows from your W-2:

- Inside – 3.5% of gross earnings
- Residential - 2.5% of gross earnings
- VDV – 1% of gross earnings

To calculate the amount of working dues deducted you should take your gross wages and multiple it by the appropriate percentage for your classification.

Union dues for 2011 were 28.75 per month.

If you need to know the amount of union dues you paid in 2011, you can contact our office.

As with any tax questions and legitimate deductions, contact a tax professional.

**Administrative Notice:**  
**Basic Dues**

**“A” Members –Effective 1/1/2012**

Monthly - \$30.75  
Quarterly- \$92.25  
Semi-Annual -\$184.50  
Yearly-\$369.00

**“BA Members”**

Monthly - \$17.05  
Quarterly -\$51.15  
Semi-Annual - \$102.30  
Yearly. - \$204.60

Basic dues are paid in advance and must be received in the Local Union Office before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month or quarter for which you are paying.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. – January 1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. – April 1
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. – July 1
- 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. – October 1

**Electrical Workers Local #159**  
**1602 S. Park Street**  
**Madison, WI. 53715**

“A” members should send death benefit payments along with their dues payment (\$1.00 for each death benefit). We are currently on #177

The failure of any Local Union #159 member to pay union dues in a timely manner will not only result in membership being dropped, causing the loss of Union benefits, but also discharge from employment. Members who are three months or more in arrears will be charge a \$30.00 reinstatement fee.

**Please check over your dues receipt immediately for accuracy. If you have moved, changed classification or have questions about your dues, please notify the Union office. If you have not been issued a receipt within two weeks from the time you sent your payment, please call the office to make sure it was received.**

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