



# The Sparkie Sentinel

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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

At the January membership meeting, there was much discussion about the electrical licensing coming into effect, April 1, 2013. A newly topped out journeyman stood at the mic and asked "When will you enforce the contract?" referring to Article III, Section 3.27 – All journeymen must possess a Wisconsin State Electrical License by April 1, 2013. It seems to be a simple question, but it is not.

It has been said by me that I will not be making this part of the agreement, a condition of referral. One of the issues the brother had was that because he had to take the State Journeyman's test to complete his apprenticeship, he would be working side by side with someone who had not taken the test and making the same money.

In the eyes of the IBEW, both of these members have carried the classification of Journeyman Inside Wireman. While it may seem unfair, I would tell you it is the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards that requires today's apprenticeship to take the state test.

The reason for this movement is to make our new Journeymen Inside Wiremen more employable by reciprocating their license with other states who will not reciprocate without journeymen wiremen taking our state exam. This means those of us who have used our apprenticeship completion papers to obtain our journeyman electrical license, will need to take the exam in other states, if we wanted to work there.

Believe it or not, this is a benefit to our apprentices becoming journeymen.

The membership might think that Article III, Section 3.27 would mean those who do not have a Wisconsin state electrical license by April 1, 2013 would be terminated. This is not the case. As you read Section 3.27 in the agreement, it does not detail any penalties should someone not obtain this license. If we were to require termination of these not possessing the license, we would have less people to perform the work, therefore we will be doing less of the work in our jurisdiction.

Another reason I will not require the state license as a condition of referral is that we are charged with the task of manning our work in our jurisdiction. If we require the license, we will be putting limitations on who would be able to be referred out to work.

So why do we have the language in our agreement? We never wanted it and I didn't agree with the previous language requiring journeyman electrician certification. The contractors wanted this language in the agreement.

In fact, they wanted the language to say Journeyman Electrician License, but we were able to negotiate that down to its present language of Wisconsin State Electrical License.

Our reason for this was to allow anyone who does not possess a Journeyman Electrician License, to be able to obtain a Beginners License to man our calls. This would be primarily Book II hands, but could apply to local members as well.

The enforcement of Section 3.27 will come from the contractors. I have spoken with one contractor who says they intend to have everyone in their employ to possess the Journeyman's Electrician License. Others will make it a special skills on their request for manpower and because it is State law, we will honor that request.

Some of the discussion went to the fact that we lobbied for electrical licensing and we boast that we are supposed to be the best trained electricians in the field, so we should demand our members become licensed. I agree we should be licensed and I encourage all our members to obtain this license. In fact, for two years or more we have been putting on Masters Prep and Journeyman Prep classes to help the members obtain their license. By getting your license, you will make yourself more employable, not only here but in many states throughout the country.

I am asking each of you to step up and get your license. Whether you are a journeyman inside wireman, residential wireman or an apprentice inside wiremen. We should get this done. If you have an apprenticeship completion certificate, you may use that to obtain your license, if you had not already done so for the journeyman electrical certification and let it lapse.

I know we have spoken about the various levels of license but I recently heard that the apprentices are surprised they too will need one.

The following is a chart of licensing fees:

**Category      App. Fee   Exam Fee   License Fee**

**Licenses**

Master License	\$35	\$30	\$200
Res. Master Lic.	\$35	\$30	\$200
Journey Electr.	\$35	\$30	\$100
Res. Journey Lic.	\$35	\$30	\$100

**Registrations**

Beginner Elec	\$15	N/A	\$20
Elec. Apprentice	\$15	N/A	\$15

Master Electrician, Residential Master Electrician, Journeyman Electrician and Residential Journeyman Electrician are four year licenses with 24 CEUs during the four years to renew.

Beginning Electrician is a one year registration with 24 CEUs in that one year period to renew.

Electrical Apprentice is a one year registration and exempt from CEUs, if in a registered apprenticeship program.

For information and applications to obtain your license, go to <http://dsps.wi.gov/Licenses/Permits/Credentialing> and click on Trade Professions.

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

**Inside**

Book I – 11                      Book II –315

**Residential**

Book I – 2                      Book II- 0

**VDV**

Book I- 0                      Book II- 4

Black and Veatch has confirmed that Westphal & Company has the majority of the scrubber project.

Perry Group’s portion of the electrical is still waiting to be let.

International Cooling Tower , who has the cooling tower portion of the scrubber project, will be using Berwick Electric, a union contractor out of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Thanks to the following for their help with this seasons Fantasy In Lights:

- Matthew Koch
  - Dan McGrath
  - Jim Virnig
  - Tom Corcoran
  - Brian Goldade – Nickles
  - Jonathan Jones – H&H
  - Cameron Knuteson – Westphal
  - John Sheehan – H&H
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**Business Agent/Organizer  
Report by Chris Crossen**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

In the last month, we have been getting ready for the blitz that will be taking place in our jurisdiction on January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. The organizers from all over Wisconsin will converge in our area to contact non-signatory contractors in our area.

We have over 219 non-signatory contractors in our jurisdiction. We will not be able to hit all of them but we will be able to contact quite a few.

This will help us clean up our OARS ( ) and allow me to locate and concentrate on the most viable contacts.

We have also been checking out jobsites in the Madison area.

I would like to thank all the members who contact me about work in our area.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and here's to a prosperous and healthy 2013!

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**David Boetcher**  
**Governmental Affairs Coordinator**

Remember, Remind or Return

In the October 2012 IBEW Electrical Worker paper, a brother from Local 57 in Salt Lake City wrote a letter about Scott Walker and how private sector workers don't or shouldn't support public sector workers. Our local brother Tim Coger wrote a great response to it that was published in the IBEW Electrical Worker December 2012. Tim gave a great statement on the large support of collective bargaining and the other issues around the protests and how Ed Hill and other IBEW members from around the nation came to support us.

One thing I remember from the protests was talking to some older union members who were around when the original collective bargaining was instituted for public workers.

They mentioned the great support from the private sector unions and how many of the same arguments used back then were being brought up again in Governor Walker's attack on their rights. A lot of Walker's reasoning was portrayed as something new, but really it was just the same old attacks told to a new generation. Unfortunately Wisconsin didn't do a good job of remembering why we created the collective bargaining in the first place.

This legislative cycle will be bringing back a lot of old memories. The republicans have promised to try to go after the wind siting rules and repeal them. We had this fight over the last couple of years and lost 3 major wind projects because the rules weren't in place and the majority of those projects were then sited and built in Iowa instead. The republicans have also promised to bring up repealing the state's renewable energy portfolio standard – the law that requires energy companies to have 10% of their energy come from renewables. Again this law has led to a lot solar, wind and bio-energy projects for us. There are also republicans talking about going after prevailing wage projects to raise the threshold – when we lowered it a few years ago we saw a good increase in those projects.

Some have forgotten already the great outpouring and brotherhood of the protests and accepted Walker's divide and conquer strategy (which relies in us forgetting how and why we fought) turning on those we stood with. If we forget, if we become silent, if we don't vote, then we will return the problems of the past.

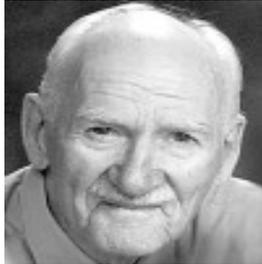
We have had all of these debates in the past and we have had good results from what came out. We need to remember that and we need to remind our fellow Wisconsinites why we made the decisions we did. That means talking to legislators, friends, coworkers and family.

Remember, Remind, and Recommit – we will always keep up the fight and as history has shown when our union brothers and sisters won the original fights years ago (with far less than we have now), we can win.

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## Retirees Club



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of retired Brother, Harold "Gus" King, age 90. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy and five daughters, Joan (Phil) Traxler, Pamela (Stuart) Vorpaga, Constance (Roger) Joppa, Susan (Thomas) Holmes and Debra (Barry) Marcus, 15 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. Harold was a 50 year member of Local #159.

Gus joined the Army and then the Navy after his best buddy, a medic, was killed action. He was among the first qualified to serve in a special forces union, Scouts and Raiders, a precursor to the Navy Seals, based at the time in Ft. Pierce, Florida. He passed rigorous tests of physical stamina including training in underwater demolition,

He was employed by OT Havey for over a decade prior to being hired at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. He was also the Electrical Inspector for the city of Baraboo. The most memorable work experience was the joy he took in lighting up Holy Name Seminary in Madison.

Gus was a lifelong Democrat and strong union supporter who railed against the 2011 union busting policies. He was very proud to a member of IBEW Local #159.

Brother Allyn "Pat" Donner's Mother passed away earlier this month.

The thoughts and sympathies of our membership are extended to the families.



The Retiree's Club met on Monday, January 14, 2013 at the Fifth Quarter in Verona. Seventeen members were present. They were Donald Boe, Scott Gomez, Ken Hillebrand, Jim Virnig, Terry Stamm, Bill Kracke, Lester Gammeter, David Baltes, Roy Holm, Ken Goss, Rich Gorst, Elmer Racek, Tom Junck, Dave Krey, Marvin Milleville and Lee Lemens.

Business Manager, Mark Hoffmann talked about the current work situation and some on the health insurance.

The donations from the Holiday Fantasy in Lights were down a little from last year but still very good.

Thanks to the members who helped count and sort the donations. They were, Roy Holm, Jim Virnig, Lee Lemens, Rich Gorst, Bill Kracke, Marvin Milleville, Dave Baltes, Elmer Racek, Bob Call, Jim Davis, Don Dushek, Ron Dommershausen and Ken Goss.

Winners of the drawings were, Don Boe, Jim Virnig, Ken Goss, Rich Gorst, Elmer Racek, Dave Krey and Marvin Milleville.

The next meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Innkeeper in Waunakee. Hope to see you there.

Lee Lemens

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### Baby News

Brother Andrew Johnson and Amanda Krieser welcomed daughter, Ellie Grace on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:23 a.m., weighing 4 lbs. 2 oz. and 16" Everyone is doing great and ready to go home.

Brother Justin Olson and wife Quinn, welcomed their second daughter, Norah, born 11-11-12, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz and 21” She joins big sister, Vienna.

Brother Kyle Dziubla and wife, Anna welcomed their second son, Levi Taylor, born 1/1/13, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and 21”. Danny is enjoying being a big brother.

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## **New Year’s Resolution**

Active and retired members, please take a moment to update your information with our office. For many of you, we have no beneficiary on file. This could prevent any future problems for your family by taking a few minutes to update any changes.

Have you moved and not updated your address with our office, along with any changes in phone contact information, email, address etc.?

Have you gotten married or divorced or had any change in a designated beneficiary for your pension, death benefit and/or life insurance?

Please make sure you have provided our office with your accurate and updated information.

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## **Sly’s Back on the Air**

Sly is pleased to announce that he has joined 93.7 WEKZ-FM starting February 4<sup>th</sup>. His distinctive talk radio program will air across south central Wisconsin and northern Illinois, with areas including Monroe, Beloit, Freeport, Rockford, Platteville, Janesville, Dubuque and Madison.

Sly will take the air from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. weekdays. His show will also be streamed live on the internet and on a smartphone app. The success of slyoffice.com will continue with a redesigned website that will feature Sly’s on-air interviews and choice segments from his show on 93.7

## **Reminders**

### **Retirement Planning Session**

It’s never too early (or late) to plan your retirement. See how much monthly retirement income you may receive from:

- Your Pension Plans
- Social Security
- Your Retirement Plan

Make your plans to attend this event on March 11, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. here at the Labor Temple in room 201 A & B. For reservations call 608-255-2989.

Refreshments will be served and spouses are also welcome to attend.

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### **Significant Changes to the 2011 NEC**

February 9, 2013 – 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Madison Labor Temple – 8 CEUs

March 9, 2013 – 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Madison Labor Temple – 8 CEUs

Sign up by calling the Apprenticeship office at 608-221-3321.

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### **Famous Quote**

“We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

## ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

### Basic Dues

“A” Members –Effective 1/1/2013

Monthly - \$31.75

Quarterly- \$95.25

Semi-Annual -\$190.50

Yearly-\$381.00

“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 #192.

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 one week from the time you sent your payment, please call the office to make sure it was received.**

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