



The Sparkie Sentinel

1602 S. Park Street – Madison, WI. 53715

PHONE – 608-255-2989 – FAX – 608-255-3014 – www.ibew159.org



Mark D. Hoffmann,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

In case you haven't heard, implementation of the electrical licensing has been delayed. What was supposed to take effect April 1, 2013, is now delayed twelve months. This is due to a bill (AB 35 or SB 36) which was passed in the most recent legislative session. The Wisconsin Manufacturing Commerce, in the 11th hour, sought this delay because they thought it was unfair that the State was making their maintenance electricians become licensed.

The WMC bent the ears of their Republican legislators and had them draft the bill to delay licensing. When we heard what was happening, Dave Boetcher prepared arguments, which were approved by myself and IBEW State Conference President, Chris Gulbrandson, and testified at a surprise hearing against delaying the licensing process.

Amendments to the bills were asking for such things as omitting the manufacturing electricians and continuing with the construction electricians, but amendments fell on deaf ears. We offered an amendment to delay this for six months but they wouldn't hear any of that either.

In the end, the WMC prevailed when their Republican friends passed the bills in the Assembly and Senate. At this point in time the law will not take effect this April, however, I ask that each member who would be required to

be licensed, to continue your efforts to get this done. This law will come back and will be implemented within the next 12 months.

Some Republicans have suggested they will propose another bill in June or October to make it happen.

There was discussion at the March membership meeting about this issue and whether or not it should be a part of our referral process. There was a vote taken to recommend I put it in the referral process. The motion passed 18-16, with approximately 50 members in attendance. While I heard the recommendations and the results of the vote, I still will not be making it a condition of referral. And let me tell you why.

One of my duties in this office is to refer journeymen inside wiremen, residential journeymen and vdv technicians out to work for our contractors. I will not put an obstacle in the way of doing that. I have recently spoke with a traveling brother who came through signing book II. He just spent seven months in North Dakota in a supervisory position and told me of manpower shortages due to their requirements in the referral process that kept people from going there to sign their books. This brother agrees with my philosophy that I refer qualified electricians, according to the IBEW.

Some members say we should be the best and require our members to be licensed. I agree we should be the best and I ask each of you to take it upon yourself to be the best. I shouldn't mandate you to be the best, you should.

Before this delay was passed, five of our contractors had notified their employees that they will either be licensed by April 1, 2013 or they will no longer be employed at that shop. The enforcement of this law will be the responsibility of each contractor who wanted this in the agreement.

How I intend to handle this situation is, when you come in to pick up your referral and you do not have a license, I will hand you a beginners application and suggest you get that done before you get to the contractor or they may spin you. You are the one who will limit your employment opportunities, not me.

I have had conversations with some members who have gone through the re-class program. Their concern was how unfair it was that with all the training they had received, they have no completion certificate to use to get their license, meaning they must take the state exams. This is true because the re-class portion of their training was not registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards.

Some of the re-class members have said they will not take the exam or may be afraid of taking the exam because they are not good test takers, while at the same time, they are damn good hands on the jobsite.

I say to these members to put forth the effort, enroll in our journeyman's or master's prep classes we have been putting on for a number of years. Because by not taking the exam, you are limiting your employment opportunities at the shops that will require the license.

Let's all take responsibility for ourselves and get our licenses. Be the best we can be without mandates from this office.

Education Committee

We are looking for a couple of individuals who would like to serve on our Education Committee. There are some individuals who are stepping down, so we need some members who would like to keep our education system going in the direction we need, to keep our members at the top of their game. We have a quality education system and it takes individuals who realize the importance of education for our members. If you are that person, we want to hear from you. Contact our office at 608-255-2989.

Famous Quote

“The bitterness of poor quality last long after the cheap price is forgotten.”

Benjamin Franklin

Pension Seminar

For those who missed the March 11th pension seminar, you have another opportunity to attend. It will be Saturday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m. at the Labor Temple, in room 201. Please call the hall to sign up. Spouses are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Joel Kapusta Business Agent/Referral Agent

Inside

Book I – 23 Book II – 199

45 long calls since last month

Residential

Book I – 2 Book II - 2

VDV

Book I - Book II –

We've started putting calls for Westphal at Portage for the scrubber project.

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

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

In the last month we have been visiting non-signatory contractors and jobsites in our area. We have been finishing up the list from the blitz. We needed to visit every contractor in our area so that we can clean up OARS.

Local 494 in Fond du Lac had a contractor blitz February 11th, 12th and 13th. We had five teams and visited four contractors on Monday Night. Then on Tuesday each team visited over twenty contractors each. We were handing out fliers about the licensing law coming up. The contractors that we visited were interested in the continuing education and also the prep classes for their electricians.

On Wednesday we had a State Organizers meeting and a blitz de-briefing. In the de-briefing all of the teams reported back to John Jacobs, organizer for #494, about what we found and how we were received by the non-signatory contractors.

We put an ad on Craig's list looking for entry level electricians for the CW/CE program. These are individuals with one to five years of construction experience that are not in an apprenticeship. The CW/CE's will be used to gain market share in areas where we don't currently have a presence.

I would like to thank those members who have been keeping their eyes and ears open and letting me know what they see. Everybody think SPRING thoughts!!

**David Boetcher
Governmental Affairs Coordinator**

**You Have Three Times The
Voting Power on April 2nd**

A political truth is that presidential elections always have the best turnout. Wisconsin is no exception and in fact, is the strongest proof.

In November 2012, 70% of Wisconsin voted in the election and that number is pretty true in our history. Wisconsin voters tend to be right around 68-70% voting in presidential elections. But in non-presidential years (i.e. 2010) we only vote around 45-50%. Quite a drop off and unfortunately most of it is Democratic/Liberal (and strongly pro union) voters.

It is even worse in spring elections. The turnout is only 20% (the highest year was the Joanne Kloppenburg Supreme Court race at 34%). The worst trend continues though in that again more drop-off occurs among the Democratic/Liberal side of the voting. This means each person that turns out has a three times greater impact on the outcome. And the outcome in this election matters, as we see a Supreme Court that will be deciding parts of Act 10.

So take advantage of the increased voting power you will have on April 2nd and triple your effect on this election.



**Retiree's Club
Lee Lemens**

The Retiree's Club met on Monday, March 11th at Monona Gardens. Twenty-one members were present. They were, Elmer Racek, Lee Lemens, Rich Gorst, Ron Dommershaunsen, Roy Holm, Bob Call, Jerry Miller, Dave Krey, Carmon Howe, Donald Boe, Ken Goss, Lester Gammeter, Bill Kracke, Bob Quackenboss, Scott Gomez, Tom Corcoran, Jim Virnig, Mike Stassi, Bob Bolle, David Baltes and Tom Kepler.

The local was in negotiations. No BA was available to give us a report. April 2nd is election day. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE VOTE!** You are electing judges, including Supreme Court, mayors, council members and school boards.

These people affect your daily lives and set your property taxes.

Winners of the drawings were Jerry Miller, Dave Krey, Bill Kracke, Bob Quackenboss, Scott Gomez, Jim Virnig, Lee Lemens, Mike Stassi and Tom Kepler.

We are checking into getting a charter from the IBEW for the retiree's club. Mark Hoffmann and Sue have found the Club was started about April 1992. Ken Goss and I were among the first members.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 8th at noon, at Alt N Bachs, 2602 Whalen Lane, next to American TV on the West Beltline. Hope to see you there.



Illness and Injury

Brother Dave Johnson had right knee replacement on March 5th. The cancer medication he was taking caused damage to his bones, necessitating the surgery.

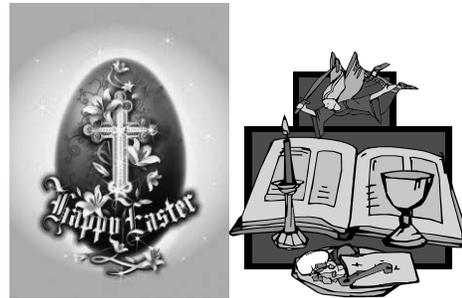
All went extremely well and Dave is up and ready to begin his rehearsals for the next Dancing with the Stars. Good luck. We will be voting for you!

Brother Joseph Reyes is recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. He is doing better and anxious to get back to work.

Wishes go out to Dave and Joseph for speedy recoveries.



Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary, March 15th, to brother Brian Murphy and wife Kris. Hope you enjoyed your vacation get-away.



For our members observing the upcoming holidays we wish you a holy Easter and Passover



Retired Brother, Newton Vander Woude has remarried and is very happy. The bride is Esther Vant Hoff. The wedding took place in the home of Newt's daughter on March 16th. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing him and his bride at the June retiree's luncheon. Best wishes for a long, happy and healthy life together.

Reminder

Members who have their vacation deducted should check their bank accounts on a regular basis to make sure the money is being deposited. Members should also check and make sure if they have chosen to opt out of the vacation, that deposits are not being made into your account in error so they can be corrected immediately.



Brother Rick Jahn was presented with his retirement watch by Business Manager, Mark Hoffmann at the March 14th membership meeting.

SPRING ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS - VOTE APRIL 2ND

Below is a list of endorsements. These candidates have been interviewed and filled out questionnaires about their stands on the many issues that affect us. If you have questions about a specific candidate or race call Dave at the office for more information.

Supreme Court – Ed Fallon (it is critical to vote in this race as the supreme court will be deciding parts of Act 10 later in the year)

Dane County Executive – Joe Parisi
Dane County Judge – Rhonda Lanford
Madison Common Council
2nd District – Bryan Post

3rd District – Lauren Cnare
5th District – Shiva Bidar-Sielaff
7th District – Steve King
8th District – Scott Resnick
9th District – Paul Skidmore
10th District – Maurice Cheeks
11th District – Chris Schmidt
13th District – Sue Ellingson
14th District – Tim Bruer
15th District – Hawk Sullivan
17th District – Joe Clausius
19th District – Mark Clear
20th District – Matt Phair

Columbus City Council District 2 – Rod Melotte
Columbus School Board – Mary Arnold

Fitchburg City Council District 7 – Steve Arnold
Fitchburg City Council – Jason Gonzalez

Janesville School Board – Fred Jackson
Janesville School Board – Cathy Myers
Janesville City Council – Sam Liebert

Lake Mills School Board – Dawn Delany

Marshall School Board – John Bunch

Middleton School Board District 1 – Dave Dahmen

Mt Horeb School Board – Leah Lipska
Oregon School Board – Rae Vogeler

Stoughton School Board – Francis Sullivan

Sun Prairie City Council – Andrea Gage

Verona School Board – Patricia McPartland
Verona City Council District 3 – Luke Diaz

Waukegan School District – write in David Boetcher



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

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 168

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 1st day of the month or quarter for which you are paying.

1st Qtr. – January 1

2nd Qtr. – April 1

3rd Qtr. – July 1

4th Qtr. – October 1

“A” members should send death benefit payments along with their dues payment (\$1.00 for each death benefit). We are currently on #193.

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.

2012-2013 FALL/SPRING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE OFFERINGS

DATE	COURSE	DAY & TIME	LOCATION	HOURS	COURSE #
04/06/2013 & 04/13/2013	Competent Climber / Competent Rescuer Instructor – Dan Brein	Saturdays 8:00a-4:30 pm	MATC – Room TBD Course Fees - \$57.16	16 hours Pending	549
04/23/2013— 05/28/2013	Master Electrician Exam Prep Instructor – David Pitzner	Tuesdays 4:30-8:00 pm & Wed 5/8/13	Madison Labor Temple Room 201B Course Fees - \$60.00	21 hours 18 CEU	499
Upon Demand	Journeyworker Electrician Exam Prep ACTIVE WAITING LIST	OPEN	Madison Labor Temple Course Fees - \$60.00	21 hours 18 CEU	563
Upon Demand	Electrical Safety-Work Related Practices (NFPA 70E) ACTIVE WAITING LIST	OPEN	MATC – Room TBD	16 hours 16 CEU	498
Upon Demand	Residential Electrician Exam Prep Instructor – Jeremy Crabb	Wednesdays 4:30-7:30 pm	Labor Temple Room 201C Course Fees - \$60.00	21 hours Pending	516

Class Registration

To Register, call the Apprenticeship Office at (608) 221-3321

1. Registration deadline is 2 weeks prior to the class start. This allows ample time to order and receive textbooks and workbooks prior to the start of class.
2. If a course is being provided by Madison College (MATC), all students should attend, as planned, after registering for the course. If they do not, they will need to personally withdraw from MATC, by calling Kimi Conners at 608. 246.5202. If they do not withdraw personally, the tuition charge will remain on their MATC records forever. They will not be permitted to take any courses at MATC, in the future, without first paying the outstanding tuition (regardless of whether they attended the course, or not).
3. JWs have sixty (60) days following the last day of a course in which to request reimbursement of the tuition paid (regardless of whether the course was provided by the JATT or by MATC.) Additional reimbursement information is available at www.wijatc.org listed under the menu "Forms".
4. Reclass enrollees and apprentices have fixed deadlines each year for requesting reimbursement (March 1 for courses that end in the fall semester of a year, and August 1 for courses that end in the spring semester of a year).
5. Local 159 members (regardless of their classification) should NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, submit their reimbursement request BEYOND THE REQUIRED DEADLINES. If they are missing part of the documentation required for reimbursement (e.g., either proof of payment or proof of completion), THEY SHOULD STILL SUBMIT THEIR REQUEST BEFORE THE DEADLINE. The JATT will give a journeyworker/reclass/apprentice extra time to submit missing documentation, but they will almost NEVER grant a request that comes to them after the required deadline.
 - a. If the class was completed through Madison Area Technical College, proof payment and completion can be obtained through your myMadisonCollege account. All students have an account located at <http://madisoncollege.edu> A tutorial is available at www.wijatc.org listed under the menu "Forms".

2012-2013 FALL/SPRING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE OFFERINGS

6. UPON DEMAND classes all maintain a waiting list of students that are interested in taking the course. When enough names are on the waiting list, a firm date will be set and the newsletter insert will be updated. Please contact the Apprenticeship Office to have your name placed on the waiting list for a specific course.
7. All courses must be pre-approved for REIMBURSEMENT. Courses sponsored by the committee are already pre-approved. The Apprenticeship Office should be contacted to determine which courses have been pre-approved by the committee.