



The Sparkie Sentinel

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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Have you seen enough yet? Are you ready to be involved in the fight? On June 5th you have that chance. Don't sit home on the sofa on June 5th and let someone else do the talking for you. We need, no, you need your vote.

By now you must have seen the video showing Governor Walker meeting with billionaire, Diane Hendricks, talking about making this state, a totally red state and work on these unions. He stated, "The first step is to deal with collective bargaining for all public employee unions. Just use divide and conquer."

As one of the largest donors to his campaign, you can bet he's listening intently to her every word because he knows where the money is. Right to work is coming brothers and sisters. The question is, are you willing to accept Wisconsin moving backward and becoming a right to work for less state?

What is it in your budget that you want to give up? Maybe it's dinner out a couple times a month. Maybe it's your son or daughter's dance recitals or ballgames. What is it? Take a look, because if Governor Walker stays in office, those are some of the choices you will get to make.

While your pockets are picked, the 1% will thrive. Remember he said, "divide and conquer." It is up to you and I, brothers and sisters. We must elect Tom Barrett to be Governor of Wisconsin on June 5th.

You are seeing a barrage of pro Walker ads these days on TV. He claims to have created 33,000+ jobs thus far. This couldn't be further from the truth. Governor Walker didn't like the report released from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, so he created his own numbers.

You also hear on a radio ad that Governor Walker takes credit for a supposed 10,000 new businesses created in the first quarter of 2012. Nothing but lies. It's the oldest campaign tactic around. Tell a lie enough times and people will believe it to be true.

In the early stages of this recall campaign, Local 159 endorsed Kathleen Falk for Governor, as the only Democrat who had thrown their hat into the ring. As time went by, three other candidates entered the race, with Tom Barrett winning the primary.

We support Tom Barrett and are working very hard to get him elected. At the IBEW State Conference level, we had a meet and greet with Tom Barrett in Milwaukee at IBEW #494's union hall. We fully support Tom Barrett for governor and Mahlon Mitchell for Lt. Governor.

Let's do the right thing and get out to vote June 5th for Tom Barrett and Mahlon Mitchell.

Now is the time to stand united in defending our worker rights and maintain our standard of living. With the support and mobilization of the union members and their families and friends, we stand a much better chance of taking back the Governor's office. Please make the effort to vote in what will be the most important election in recent history.



Meet and Greet with Tom Barrett at #494

Call To Action

Calling on all Local 159 members

June 2 – IBEW GOTV Kickoff
 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (4 hour shifts)
 Canvassing and phone banks
 Labor Temple – 1602 S. Park Street

Please call the office to volunteer for at least a four hour shift. Food and drink provided.

Please take a day out of your life and engage in the battle of your life to maintain worker rights and a good standard of living.

Today in Labor History

May 23, 1934 – 10,000 strikers at Toledo, Ohio Auto Lite plant confront police who come to break up their strike for union recognition. The next day, two strikers are killed and 15 wounded, when National Guard machine gun units open fire. Two weeks later, the company recognizes the union and agrees to a 5% raise.

At the May 10th union meeting, we voted on the allocation of our \$.50 increase. Here's what was decided by the few in attendance:

Base Rate	\$32.94 (+.39)
Pension	\$ 8.24 (+.10)
Insurance	\$ 7.38
Flex	\$ 1.24
NEBF	\$.99 (+.01)

The VDV negotiations have been settled here at home. The short version goes like this. Three year agreement with a \$.75 increase each of the next three years. The scope of work was opened a bit to allow the VDV classification to work on fire alarm, nurse call and temperature control in conduit. This was done to enable the contractors to be more competitive with their bids, so they do not lose the entire project.

One attachment to the opening of the scope is a 1 JW to 1 VDV ratio to do the work.

We have sent out ballots to allocate the increase for June 1, 2012. We will notify you of the final results.

Famous Quote

“All that serves labor, serves the nation. All that harms is treason... If a man tells you he loves America, yet hates labor, he is a liar... There is no America without labor and to fleece one is to rob the other.”

Abraham Lincoln

Joel Kapusta
Business Agent/Referral Agent

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Staff Electric has been awarded the UW Nursing School, set to break ground May 21st.

EC is the apparent low bidder on the University Commons renovation project.

Forward is the low bidder on the Oakhill Electrical Improvement Project.

REMINDER

Change in Re-sign and Strike policy

At the IBEW 38th International Convention resolution 35 called for parity among local for re-sign procedure.

In a letter dated April 2 we received a letter from the International office instructing us to make the following changes to our policies.

- 1) Re-sign shall be required monthly
Beginning on the 10th and ending on the 16th of each month.
- 2) Re-sign may be accomplished by mail, fax, e-mail, or in person. **Phone calls will no longer be accepted.**
- 3) Re-signs will require the following information: Name, address, home local #, and IBEW card #, or if not a union member a driver's license or government approved ID.

In addition to the new International rules Local 159 will make the following additional changes.

- 1) We will implement strikes on the **short call book only**. Registrants on the **short call book** will be allowed two (2) turndowns without penalty and be rolled completely off the book for a third (3rd) turndown. You must re-register in person after being rolled off.
- 2) Local 159 will not give any reminder calls about re-resigning.

These changes will take effect on June 1st 2012

The implementation of a bid system referral was discussed at the May membership meeting. Those in attendance asked for more information on this before making any changes.

As details become available, this information will be provided at the next union meeting or by future newsletter or separate mailing for the member's consideration and decision making.

Business Agent/Organizer
Report by Chris Crossen

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

In the last month we have been continuing to contact non-signatory contractors in our area. In these meeting we try to figure out their needs that we may be able to help them with. It could be man power, insurance benefits, or training. This takes a few meetings with the contractor to find out what we can do to support their business.

We have also been visiting the Parade of homes sites and talking to the builders and the electricians on the sites. We are trying to get the builders to use our contractors on the high profile sites.

Some of these builders have been using the same contractors for years, so we have been trying to show how we are better trained and safer. We have also been talking to the guys working for these contractors and letting them know about our pay and insurance.

I would like to thank the Sisters and Brothers who are diligently keeping an eye on our jurisdiction. It is very appreciated and nice to see that we continue to support our local.

President Report

Fred W. Brown

A new safety act became effective as of February 1, 2011. This has been a little known fact that

- ✓ All single family and two-unit homes – **new and existing** – shall install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm on every floor level, and near each sleeping areas.
- ✓ New construction after February 1, 2011 must be hard-wired with a battery back-up.
- ✓ Existing homes may install any type of CO alarms; battery, plug-in, or combination smoke/CO devices.
- ✓ A carbon monoxide detector required under this act shall bear an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., listing mark.

Part of the confusion in the act is where to or not to install the CO detectors. The detectors must be installed outside the sleeping rooms (in Madison within 6 feet of the door to the sleeping area) and located on each level of the structure. These detectors are to be installed in any one-and two-family dwelling that has fuel appliances or cooking sources using coal, wood, petroleum products, or other fuels emitting CO as a by-product of combustion.

Do not install the detectors in areas that get cold (unfinished attics), and areas that may have a normal high level of CO during

normal living (kitchen, furnace room, garage). If there is a dwelling that does not have appliance that use fuels that emit CO **AND** does not have an attached garage, then CO detectors are not required. This is a big IF!

Most of us do not want the government to tell us how to live our lives and spend our money.

But Carbon Monoxide has proven to be an odorless killer of our loved ones. **Just put the detectors in.**

Be safe and may the Code be with you.

– DIVIDED BUT NOT CONQUERED –
WE CAN WIN ON JUNE 5th

Many of you have probably already seen the video of Governor Walker telling his billionaire donor in Beloit that his plan to make WI a Right To Work (for less) state was to divide and conquer unions. (For the video and coverage type in: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujiIMIDbuDI&feature=relmfu>).

Probably lesser known is what happened the following week. GOP Assembly Member Chris Kapenga told constituents at a listening session that Republicans “have Right to Work legislation ready to go” and just “have to wait until it is politically feasible.” (For the whole story go to: http://www.salon.com/2012/05/15/new_video_could_damage_walker/singleton/).

Over the past year two private companies have tried to force union breaking clauses into their contracts worded just like what Governor Walker did to public workers.

Both unions went on strike over it. One in Manitowoc Crane involved IBEW Local 158 whose members were told by the company to accept the same provisions. Luckily they fought and have held on.

The attacks continue though as another company is using the same language and we may see the third strike in Wisconsin soon.

For years you have heard that the Republicans are out to destroy unions. Often it seemed to be hyperbole and just the same old beating of the drum to get union members to vote against Republicans. These stories though make it very clear – the Republicans in Wisconsin are out to destroy both public and private sector unions in Wisconsin.

Governor Walker has divided Wisconsin over the past year, but he has not conquered us. We have a choice left to us in this fight.

We can give up and become a right to work state, lose wages, lose benefits, lose workplace safety, have employers require us to buy gang boxes and powered tool sets (just like the nonunion employers do), basically lose most of the meaningful language in our contracts. Or we can take the few minutes of time to VOTE ON JUNE 5th.

Our choice seems clear vote Tom Barrett for Governor and Mahlon Mitchell for Lt Governor or watch our pay and benefits drop. Governor Walker has made it clear what he wants. Will we make it clear what we want?

VOTE JUNE 5th

**OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES
SUPPORT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AND OPPOSE RIGHT TO WORK**

**GOVERNOR: TOM BARRETT
LT GOVERNOR: MAHLON MITCHELL
STATE SENATE: LORI COMPAS**

If you are unemployed the International has funding if you come and help with this election. If you are employed we also hope you will come in volunteer. To learn how and times contact the Hall at 608-255-2989.

Retirees Club



The retirees met at Rex’s Innkeeper on Monday, May 14th. The following were in attendance:

Ken Goss, Eldon McDaniel, Bill Kracke, Gary Gander, Jeff Rowley, Mike Stassi, Ken Hillenbrand, Jim Virnig, Dave Ruhnke, Dave Conrad, Roy Holm, Tom Junck, Rich Gorst, Don Small, Michael Sullivan, Tom Kepler, Tom Corcoran, Lester Gammeter, Elmer Racek, David Baltes and Dave Krey.

We had a moment of silence for retired Brother, Gary Davison.

Chris Cross gave us an update on union affairs and also on the Governor Walker recall, asking for help.

There were three birthdays this month; Ken Goss, Ken Hillebrand and Dave Krey.

It was a good turnout and great to get together. The raffle winners were: Ken Goss, Bill Kracke, Roy Holm, Tom Junck, Rich Gorst, Michael Sullivan, Tom Kepler, Lester Gammeter, Elmer Racek and Dave Krey.

Next month the luncheon will be provided by #159 at the Labor Temple on June 11th. Call the office and make your reservation now. We always have a great time seeing our retirees and their guest. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Thanks to Ken Goss for helping out with the May lunch.

Elmer “the man” Racek.



Retired Brother Gary Davison passed away on May 7th. Gary was a member of 159 for 42 years.

Sympathies go out to Brother Richard Heding for the loss of his Mother and Brother Czoschke for the loss of his Brother.

The thoughts and prayers of the membership are extended to all our families experiencing a loss.



Illness and Injury

David Palmer is recovering from right hip replacement. Because of his speedy recovery, he expects to be ready for Dancing with the Stars next season.

We do have members in need of dollar bank transfers. Please consider making a donation if you have six months or more in your dollar bank.



Baby News

Brother Colin Kepler and wife, Lindsey, welcomed baby girls #2, Karly, born May 10th weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz and 19.5 inches. She joins big sister Kacee (3). Colin is the son of retired member and new Grandfather, Tom Kepler.

Brother Josh Sheaffer and wife Hope, welcomed baby #3, Jacob Morris Sheaffer, born March 19th weighing 9 lbs. 10 oz and 21.5” Jacob joins big sister, Kayde and big brother, Ryan.



June 24th will be IBEW 159 Day at the Mallards.

Members are allowed up to four tickets. Contact the office to sign up.

The Mallards face Eau Claire Express at 3:05 p.m. It is Meriter and Physicians Plus Fleece Blanket Giveaway.

IBEW 159 Website

Local #159’s website is up and running. If you haven’t checked it out yet there’s a lot of good information there.

Take a couple of minutes and sign up. As of this time, we have 57 members who have registered. There are areas of the website that only 159 members can access.

You can only access this portion if your dues are paid up. Retirees are able to register.

If you have any questions or comments, please share them with the office.

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 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

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 #182.

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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