



1602 S. PARK STREET ♦ MADISON, WI. 53715  
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 WWW.IBEW159.ORG

# The Sparkie Sentinel

OCTOBER 2013

IBEW 159

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## Business Manager's Report: Robert Doyle

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Robert F. Kennedy

First of all, I want to thank the Brothers and Sisters of this local for their support in purchasing a new phone system and referral software. Casey, Jeff, Jeremy and I have been working very hard these past two months to get a grasp on moving this local forward and those changes will be of considerable assistance. We are comparing different options to make sure we are spending your money wisely and efficiently. In addition to implementing these systems, the office clutter is slowly being tossed and the entire office/classroom areas have a fresh coat of paint. Stop by when you're in the area.

MONEY WATCH:	
2012 HOURS WORKED	
INSIDE -	1,061,451.17
VOICE-DATA VIDEO HOURS	
	64,641.75
RESIDENTIAL	
	36,231.00

We have all been extremely busy attending trainings, visiting jobsites and contractors, writing policies and procedures and addressing the issues of our members. Being in this office and serving you has truly opened our eyes to the personal commitment we all need to make to accomplish the goals we set forth. Every agent in this office has gone well beyond their 46 hour week to make sure things are being taken care of. We truly appreciate all the positive feedback we are getting from our members.

A great deal of time has been dedicated to addressing issues with our contractors as well as looking at ways to improve service to our members and cooperation with our contractors. Looking forward, we need to address our overtaxed education system. Many specialty calls come in and most of our members simply do not have the skills to fill those calls.

Currently we have 250-300 members who do not have their electrical license. We are also looking at resolving the issue of providing CEU's for our members to retain their licenses. We need members to step up to be instructors. Please contact the hall and we will assist you in any way we can.

I also want to thank the members who have stepped up to volunteer for committees and encourage those who haven't to consider doing so. Your union needs you and we can use your skills to improve Local #159.

If there are any members out there with a strong IT background, we could use your input and direction.

A few other items to consider:

- Sparkie Runners – Do you like to run? We are looking at the possibility of doing a run for a fundraiser to benefit the members of #159.
- Sparkies Spouses – Please consider getting involved in a new initiative to have the spouses of our members meet in small groups to lend support to each other. Imagine the untapped resources....my wife is in!
- Involvement: Communicate your ideas to us and then participate and together we will change and grow.
- Work on our Mission Statement and submit your ideas to this office

Finally, we who have been elected and selected to serve you, do not take this charge lightly. Together we can and will overcome.

Please show up for meetings, get involved and make the change you want to see happen.

**KNOW YOUR AGREEMENT**

We will be putting sections of the Inside, Voice-Data-Video and Residential Agreements in each newsletter for members to familiarize themselves with the language in your agreement. Also, for all members working under the Inside or Residential agreements, these contracts expire 6/2014.

We are asking all of you to read your agreement cover to cover and let us know what changes/additions etc. you want addressed in negotiations. This is your livelihood, get involved and remember, language is as important, if not MORE important than the amount of a raise.

**Inside Agreement:** - Section 4.12 – Each job site shall be allowed a ratio of 2 apprentice(s) for every 3 Journeyman Wiremen(man)

Number of Journeymen	Maximum Number of Apprentices/Unindentured
1 to 3	2
4 to 6	4
Etc.	etc.

A jobsite is considered to be the physical location where employees report for their work assignments. The employer's shop (service center) is considered to be a separate, single job site. All other physical locations where workers report for work are each considered to be a single, separate job site.

**Voice-Data-Video Agreement** – Section 11.08 – One apprentice to one Technician, or Technician level.

**Residential Agreement** – Section 4.08 – Two apprentices to one Residential Wireman.

## **Referral Agent** **Jeff Crocker**

### **Job Report**

**Amp** - As of this writing, no contract has been signed yet for the next phase at Epic. I will update the members as this information becomes available.

**Portage** – Westphal unlikely to have any more requests for calls to Portage. Both Pieper and H&H Electric have projects there that may look at adding some but the chances for that are slim.

**Staff** - After meeting with Staff, I was informed they are looking at late fall, early winter to add workers to the east side hospital. No recent update has been given on any of their other projects.

**Nickles** – The Building & Construction Trades had a luncheon in September at the Edgewater to take the trades through the project. We were not given any firm date from Nickles on the future of job requests.

**EC** – There have been about 5 long calls for EC in the past month, so it seems they are picking up work.

If any of you are on good sized projects where you believe a steward is needed, please contact me.

Dave Branson of the Building Trades is working with the trade unions to update and identify our workers to vote on recertification.

Robert and I attended a negotiating class put on by the School for Workers at IBEW #494 in Milwaukee on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The second half of that course will be held on 10/19 and will be put on by CJ King and Terry Roovers from the 6<sup>th</sup> District.

## **HELP US WITH THIS YEARS 25<sup>TH</sup> FANTASY IN LIGHTS ANNIVERSARY**

We will need volunteers to help with this years' Fantasy in Lights 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Olin Park. Help is needed especially the week of November 11<sup>th</sup> with the Lighting ceremony taking place,

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all those members who are currently assisting us with Fantasy in Lights. We appreciate your time and effort in getting this event ready.

Special Projects pay is available for those interested.

## **Membership Development** **Casey Healy**

I would like to start out by thanking everyone that volunteered their time at the # 159 Industry Night Out, which was held at Madison College. It was great to see and be part of everyone's positive attitude and their willingness to share their beliefs to other individuals as to why IBEW Local 159 is a great organization to work for, get involved with, and start a new career with.

Thanks again to Madison College for letting us use their facility to host our Industry Night Out. We were able to utilize their hallway space for setting up of tables so that volunteers could greet individuals, gather some personnel information, and sign them up for a guided tour of the classrooms and instructors labs.

While on tour individuals were informed as to our education process, the benefits of becoming a union worker, the different classifications we offer, and all the different ways to be organized into becoming a # 159 member. Thanks again, for everyone's hard work and dedication, JOB WELL DONE.

Some of our members have been asking for a list of all the classes that are offered in our locals education system, so I contacted the WIJATC and they furnished me with one. It will be published in this month's newsletter, and # on 159 homepage. Many of the classes are full or have limited seating available due to the large class sizes of our apprenticeship program and due to the class size limitation with are lab-based classes.

We are all aware of the issues this causes especially with JW's trying to get their CEU's. I am presently working with vendors and part houses to see what classes they may offer for CEU's, and working with our own instructors on different venues that would offer shorter class time hours with CEU's attached to them. Hopefully shorter classroom hours would benefit those with busy schedules.

This will be an ongoing process of writing syllabuses, course outlines, and submittal for state CEU's. I will post on #159 homepage and publish in the Sparkie Sentinel when these new classes become available.

Just a reminder to all part-time instructors, let me know if there is anything you need help with, class material, scheduling conflict or classroom assistance.

To all Voice, Data, and Video technicians and apprentices, I'm looking to have a meeting later October or sometime in November, to discuss issues like night classes, instructors, and our future. I will inform you with the date and time when it is available either through E-mail or a phone call.

If you haven't already, please supply the union hall with your E-mail address.

**"We must become the change we want to see."**

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## **Organizers Update** **Jeremy Waugh**

The organizing efforts have been reined into a new direction. There are two shops that are currently in the crosshairs of Local 159.

Testing / organizing has been modified. If we were to have every electrician in our jurisdiction under representation of the union.

For one - we would control everything.

So what's the answer? The answers are in the questions. We want all qualified electricians, yet the other electricians that are not union are still doing "our work".

There will be a Comet class on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. by the IO about Construction workers and Construction electricians. If you have questions or concerns about this program, I strongly encourage you to sign up for the class at the hall, or call in to attend 608-255-2989

Let's take a look at "our work". In Madison, we are losing contractors annually. Our Market share is the percentage of electrical work we do Union, compared to non-union shops.

We are also looking into holding contractor classes for those who are considering opening a shop. Casey and I will be representing the local at a job fair on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the fifth annual Madison West High School job and career fair from 10-2:45. If you are interested in being a helping hand, please contact us at the hall. We could take along one or two.

In Brotherhood  
Jeremy Waugh

### **October 10th Membership Meeting Agenda:**

- Promotion of JW classes
- Update on the phone/referral systems
- Feasibility of relocating
- #159 Family Holiday Party
- November Meeting - Brat Fest and Auction to raise money for the sick and needy



## Retirees Club

The retirees met at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter in Verona on September 9, 2013. The following were present: Mike Bullock, Lee Lemens, Howard Czoschke, Don Boe, Casey Healy, Davie Baltes, Roy Holm, Jim Virnig, Ron Dommershausen, Dennis McGinley, Bill Kracke, Elmer Racek, Jim Stewart, Dennis Wieczorek, Tom Corcoran, Ken Hillebrand, Bob Call, David Krey, Marvin Milleville, Ron Disch, Tom Kepler and Rich Gorst.

A moment of silence was held for Roger Lune, Bob Emerson and DJ Sherwood.

Casey Healy report on the work situation and also the on the Lights on the Lake (boat parade)

We had four birthdays this month, Denny Wieczorek, Mike Bullock, Ron Disch and Howard Czoschke.

It was good to a such a great turnout.

Next month, October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Village Green in Middleton at noon. Hope to see you there.

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### **In Memoriam**



**Brother Fred Shepard** passed away 9/7/2013, unexpectedly, but peacefully at the Columbus Nursing and Rehab Center. He was born September 27, 1941. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and proudly served 6 years of active duty and 6 years in the reserves. He received a purple heart and was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Assn, US Seagoing Marines Assoc., USS Oriskany CVA-34 Reunion Assoc., Post Commander of Lange-Ostrander-Hurd Post

62, a life member of VFW Post 8090. Fred was initiated into IBEW #159 July 7, 1993. He worked for Stadler Electric, H&H, Hill and Staff.

Of all his many hats & experiences during his lifetime, Fred will be most remembered as a talented sign painter, something he loved to do from the age of 14. Fred is survived by his "Hon" Joyce, daughter Bridgette, son Fred, stepdaughter Deana, stepson Damon, along with numerous family members.

He enjoyed the Packers, Brewers, Badgers and watching NASCAR. Semper fi.  
(full obituary available at [jensenfuneralandcremation.com](http://jensenfuneralandcremation.com)).



**Brother Daren "DJ" Sherwood** passed away on 8/23/2013. He was proud of his 31 years as a member of the IBEW. To all of us who knew and loved DJ, he had a heart of gold and cared deeply and passionately for his brothers and sisters. He was a skilled and knowledgeable journeyman, always happy to mentor an apprentice, help a buddy or give his opinion. And he always had an opinion. He was a real character and he will be greatly missed. Private funeral services will take place in Kansas. There will be a celebration of life for DJ at the Labor Temple following the October 10<sup>th</sup> union meeting. You can bring a small dish to pass and a story to share about DJ.

It is also with great sadness that we report the passing of retired **Brother Robert Emerson**, who passed away August 25<sup>th</sup>. Robert was initiated into IBEW #159 May 1, 1958. He is survived by his sons, Roger and David. Always a proud union member.

The sympathies of the membership are extended to all our families.

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## Baby News

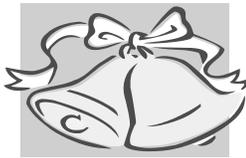


**Brother Aaron Weiland and wife, Daisy, became new parents with the birth of their daughter, Lily Anne Start Weiland, born 9-26-13, weighing 7 lbs. 21”.**

**Kyle Syverson and wife, Nicole welcomed son, Bryson on April 24, 2013, weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and 22 “.**

**Best of luck to our new families in their adventures in parenting!**

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**Mitch Katze and fiancé Shanna will be tying the knot on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We wish them all the best for a long, happy and healthy life.**

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## Can you help?

Local 159 has a problem with very low attendance at union meetings. There are generally fewer than 5% of all members who show up the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.

The other 95%+ keep missing all the fun, excitement, free entertainment, free food, free beer or pop, chances to mingle with those people you used to hang out with at the jobsite who have moved on to new jobsites, opportunities to win wonderful prizes, roll your eyes at those speaking in the microphone, excuses to yell, “Out of Order!” and have people pay attention, the ability to be the one speaking into the microphone, seeing people who get filthier at work than you do, being lucky enough to sit in any of the entirely empty first three rows of chairs, meeting apprentices and those newly organized in, schmoozing with the union officers, chances to look at the great mural and the

new artwork in the Labor Temple hallways...so many missed opportunities.

Oh, and let’s not forget the chance to have your say and VOTE on decisions that the local makes. You can offer up suggestions, ask for donations to worthy charities, offer up changes to bylaws, and vote down things that you disagree with. Meetings are where you’ll learn about changes going on, what your elected officers are doing or not doing, what the union’s money is being spent on, how much is being spent, what the executive board and education committee, etc. are up to, and so much more.

How can you help? By emailing or calling me to let me know:

- A. If you do not attend meetings, what are the reasons why?
- B. What can the union do to entice you to attend? What changes could be made to make it so you are able to or would want to show up?
- C. If you do attend our monthly meetings, why the heck do you show up? And if you ask others to attend, what reasons do they give for not coming?
- D. If you used to experience all the excitement (see the first paragraph) but no longer do, why is that?

Your information, ideas, and suggestions, no matter how wild and crazy they are, will be greatly appreciated and unless they are ideas that lead to jail time, they may even be implemented. Thanks in advance, and the <5% sincerely hope to see you at the next meeting.

Maggie Freespirit 608-242-1632 or  
[Maggie\\_freespirit@yahoo.com](mailto:Maggie_freespirit@yahoo.com)

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**Know History, Know Power**  
**By Cindy Johnson, Librarian and #159 spouse**

**Part one in a series**

### **"The Most Dangerous Woman in America"**

Who was Mary Harris? An Irish Immigrant who lost all of her kids and Union husband to Yellow Fever, then lost her seamstress shop to the Chicago Fire.

At five feet tall and 60 years old, she became a brazen agitator and labor union organizer for the next 30 years.

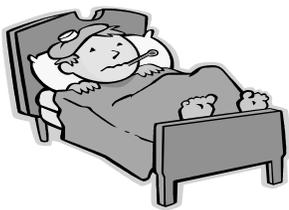
To poor working class people across America, she became known and loved as Mother Jones. To the mine, mill, and textile owners and their private thugs, and to the shady politicians and their militia, she was known as "The most dangerous woman in America." And she was simply unstoppable.

**Sit down and read. Educate yourself for the coming conflict."**

Mother Jones

**"She Crooks Her finger and 20,000 Contented Men Lay Down."**

To the miners, Mother Jones was always "The Miner's Angel." For years she worked for the United Mine Workers. She fearlessly marched into the company coal and copper fields. She unionized thousands of her "boys" to stand up against horrible working conditions and terrible pay. She also educated and organized the women and children to fight off company thugs and scabs. She brought food and clothing to the families whenever she could and taught them to cooperate with each other. Mother Jones was so successful at organizing that she was constantly being, threatened, arrested, and jailed. But she was never held up for long.



**Illness and Injury**

**Brother Dave Ruhnke wants the members to know he is recovering from having his leg amputated . He is doing very well and looking forward to getting back to the retiree meetings.**

**Brother "Butch" Hyatt is recovering from heart surgery and doing well.**

**Give these Brothers a call and check up on them from time to time.**

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**This could be your last MAILED newsletter**

If you haven't given us an email address, and you have not requested a mailed copy, you will not receive the newsletter after this issue. To opt in, contact the office at 608-255-2989 or by email [sblue@ibew159.org](mailto:sblue@ibew159.org).

The newsletter is also available on our website: [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org)

**Referral Agent**  
**Jeff Crocker**

**Job Report**

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# IBEW LOCAL UNION 159

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Madison, WI 53715



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## DUES NOTICE

Please pay your 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Dues by October 1<sup>st</sup>, or monthly dues by September 1<sup>st</sup>. **IF YOU HAVE MOVED** or changed classification, please notify the office. Your receipts should arrive within one week. Remember, failure to pay dues may result in a \$30 reinstatement fee, or loss of employment. “A” members, we are currently on #199 of death-benefits. Please send an additional \$1.00 along with your dues payment for each death benefit.

### “A” Members:

Monthly	\$31.75
Quarterly	\$95.25
Semi-Annual	\$190.50
Yearly	\$381.50

### “BA” Members:

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

Call 606-255-2989 if you have any questions about your dues—we’ll be happy to help!







