



IBEW 159

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Newsletter-October 2014

Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

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UNION MEETING AGENDA:

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

DISCUSSION ON CHANGES IN APPRENTICE ROTATION

GET OUT THE VOTE

Brothers and Sisters:

At the last Union meeting the membership voted to fund a building/training facility authorizing up \$800,000. The Building Committee and office are now tasked with the process of selecting and presenting options. I believe quality education is our assurance of a bright future. We all need to work towards that end. To date, our method of providing education is cumbersome and difficult. Many different entities need to be contracted and input sought before a class can even be ran.

Fortunately, the Education Committee has bridged the “gaps” by helping recruit instructors and help keep our system running. For the past year Casey Healy has chaired this committee. What I have come to realize is, the Ed-Comm, particularly the Chairman, is grossly overworked and underappreciated.

Our Local needs a Training Director who sets up classes, rooms, recruits instructors, submits courses for CEUs and manages our education while seeking new opportunities for our members through new technologies and techniques.

By streamlining our education process, purchasing a building, hiring a Training Director and opening up greater opportunities for our members through mini-courses we will change our trade for the better.

Many of you have heard about the JATC’s decision to stop rotating apprentices. I supported this and this is why:

Accountability: As a JATC member I have seen some of our apprentices and employers fail to live up to the training agreement. Many apprentices have huge numbers of hours in “OTHER” categories. Frankly apprentices, contractors and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee will develop an accountability system that provides job training opportunities that will meet industry standards.

Discretionary Rotation: Work migrates through different shops; consequently if a particular employer lacks work, apprentices assigned to that employer will be moved. Additionally, apprentices assigned to employers who specialize in residential service or controls will also rotate. The goal is to turn out competent Journey workers with the skills necessary to compete in our market. Additionally, should an apprentice not receive diversified skill driven training, corrective action will occur.

Apprentice Referral: Once the original assignment takes place, future apprentice referrals will occur through the Local union. This additional contact with the apprentices will better insure diversified training as the local will connect them to various local and regional contractors. Lastly, unlike the past, apprentices will not sit for extended periods, as the Local will actively seek employment opportunities for them.

I encourage and invite you to come to the October 9th union meeting.

There will be lengthy discussion on this as well as several other very important upcoming issues and decisions facing Local #159.

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

[John F. Kennedy](#)

Referral Agent Jeff Crocker

I have been working with the building trades to get our City workers a raise for 2015. It's going to be a hard fight. Please call your City Councilperson and ask them to support a raise.

Work remains slow but steady here. Other locals in the state and around the area remain busy, with a good outlook for work.

Robert and I attended the 6th District Progress meeting in Chicago. A lot of good things are happening in the Chicago area and around the district. The biggest thing I brought back was we have to get out and VOTE for union friendly candidates. We win, IF we vote!

Fantasy in Lights is ready to be set up. Thank you to all of the retired members who showed up to help. Thank you again.

Saturday, October 4th from 2-5 p.m., please come show your support for George Ferriter at his fundraiser at 702 Elizabeth Street in Cambria.

In Brotherhood, Everyone Wins

Membership Development Casey Healy

At this last month's membership meeting a budget was approved to move forward with complying all the cost associated with purchasing a building. There is a building committee that will research and put together all of the information such as building purchase price, monthly expenses, improvement cost, etc. This committee will be meeting weekly on Monday nights at 4:30 pm.

There was a Dane County Job Fair on 9-10-14. Present was myself, Ellicia Pluemer and Fernando Farres. I would like to personally thank both of these individuals for their time, knowledge and passion in promoting our electrical apprenticeship program. It was a great opportunity for those individuals attending this job fair to speak to two of our electrical apprentices and get firsthand information on our program and their personal experiences.

Please check Local 159 homepage for classes being held this fall. Go to the left column under member resources and then class offerings. Some classes that we have available now are,

- JW Exam Prep starting 9-30-14 Tuesday nights at the Labor Temple running for 7 weeks 4:30-7:30 with 18 CEU's.
- Working Spaces and understanding DSPS requirements starting 9-29-14 Monday night at the Labor Temple 1 night 4:30-7:30 with 3 CEU's.
- OSHA 10 starting 10-15-14 Wednesday nights at the Labor Temple running for 4 weeks 4:30-7-30 with 10 CEU's

There will be additional classes being offered this fall. We are looking into 1stAid/CPR, NFPA 70E, Motor Starter Control Wiring, Transformers, Conduit Bending, etc. Call the Apprenticeship Office at 608-221-3321 and register for any of these classes.

Just a reminder any class that runs for more than 1-2 night will have a course fee. This fee can be reimbursed after the completion of the course and paperwork submitted by the student to the Apprenticeship office.

John Whitesel Registrar, IBEW Local 159

Is “Right to Work” right for Wisconsin?
A quick look at “2012 House Enrolled Act No. 1001” or better known as “Indiana’s Right to Work Law” seems innocent enough, but what the simple language hides is a simple truth.

This law was not enacted for any other reason than to weaken your ability to effectively lobby legislators on behalf of your own best interests. Interestingly enough, lobbying, or issue advocacy, on behalf of members’ interests is one of the most important functions of your labor Union.

The Indiana law is an almost exact copy of the ALEC model and its language claims that it “is not intended, or should be construed, to change or affect any law concerning collective bargaining, or collective bargaining agreements in the building and construction industry other than:

- (1) a law that permits agreements that would require membership in a labor organization;
- (2) a law that permits agreements that would require the payment of dues, fees, assessments, or other charges of any kind or amount to a labor organization; or
- (3) a law that permits agreements that would require the payment to a charity or a third party of an amount that is equivalent to or a pro rata part of dues, fees, assessment, or other charges required of members of a labor organization;

and as a condition of employment.

That sounds simple, and at first glance, appears to protect our rights. How does that affect me, you ask? Well, here it is in the proverbial “nutshell.”

- (1) **It outlaws closed shop agreements.**
Employers are banned from voluntary agreements.
- (2) **It outlaws “agency fees.”** A share of the costs of collective bargaining cannot be required of those who wish to enjoy the benefits without the obligations of union membership.
- (3) **It weakens your union.** If you can’t require membership as a condition of employment, your union can’t afford to lobby government to pass laws that establish and protect your right to act and bargain collectively. Remember, strength is in the will of the number of members. Voices are heard when spoken together!

Will this happen in Wisconsin? Consider this: What became known as 2011 Wisconsin Act 10 was just a rumor that no one was really serious about before the general election of 2010. Here we are on the eve of another general election and they are saying that “Right to Work isn’t on the radar” in Wisconsin. Fool me once, shame on you! Fool me twice.....

Wages, benefits, and working conditions are the basis of why any of us are union members. These are the issues that bring us together in common cause. When you consider which candidate merits your vote in the upcoming election, ask each candidate how they stand on “Right to Work.”

Then ask yourself how you stand on “Right to Work.” I’m asking my legislators to show me clear and convincing evidence that wages, benefits, and working conditions have improved in any state that has adopted a “Right to Work” law. So far, no response.

In Solidarity,
John Whitesel, Registrar, IBEW Local 159

Union dues **INCREASE** for 2015

Monthly	\$ 34.75
Quarterly	\$104.25
Six Months	\$208.50
Yearly	\$417.00
At press time, we are on death benefit 210	

There will 2014 Code Update classes held on Saturday - February 7, 2015 and Saturday -March 7, 2015 at the union hall 7-3:30. Call the apprenticeship office to sign up. Call the apprenticeship office 608-221-3321

Looking for another option to pay union dues? Many members are using automatic bill pay that is set up between you and your financial institution. A check is sent by your bank directly to us for dues. You can always check on death benefits and catch up later



The Retiree's luncheon was held at Toby's on September 8th. The following attended: Roy Holm, Don Boe, Gary Gander, Jeff Crocker, Marvin Milleville, Carmon Howe, Dennis Wiezcorek, Dave Krey, Tom Junck, Rich Gorst, Ken Goss, Bernie Braun, Steve Greenheck, Bob Call, Steve Lease, John Zwettler, John Holler, Dennis McGinley, Tom Kepler, Tom Corcoran, Mike Sullivan, Bill Kracke and Russ Thomas.

Jeff Crocker gave an update on the work situation and Fantasy In Lights.

The next retiree's meeting will be Monday, October 13th, at noon, at the 5th Quarter in Verona. Hope to see you there.

Jim Virnig

New Business Relationship with US Bank

US Bank has set up a relationship with IBEW #159 to assist our members with personal loans, Mortgages, car loans, etc. If you are in need of financial assistance, call Robert Cassidy, Branch Manager – Fitchburg Office at 608-270-4481 or email him at Robert.cassiday@usbank.com and tell him you are a #159 member.



Local #159 has received the download of this documentary. It is available to view at the union office. We are also looking at having a movie night with other local unions to view it as a group at the Labor Temple in the very near future. We will keep you up to date on when.

Training Talking Points on Voter ID

With the implementation of the Voter ID law, we are adding an extra task to our canvasses. If someone has identified as a Burke supporter or leaning Burke, we want to make sure they have an acceptable ID for voting.

After the question has been asked about if a supporter can volunteer, you will say: “We also want you to know that Wisconsin is now requiring all voters to have an ID at the polls, starting with the November 4th election. Do you have a current or valid ID?”

You will record the voter’s answer.

- If they have a valid ID, remind them that they will need to bring it to the polls on Election Day.
- If they are unsure if their ID is valid, you can review with them the list of acceptable IDs provided in your packet. Confirm their phone number and let them know we can have someone follow up with them to confirm they are ready to vote. *We are working with organizations that have a team in place to handle these calls across Wisconsin. They are able to walk each person through the process of obtaining an ID.*
- If they do not have a valid ID, ask them if they know how to obtain a free one. If they don’t, confirm their phone number and let them know someone will follow up with them to walk them through the process. *We are working with organizations that have a team in place to handle these calls across Wisconsin. They are able to walk each person through the process of obtaining an ID.*

Zone 3 Canvass Location: Madison Labor Temple, 1602 South Park Street, Madison

Contact: Greg Neil – 608-556-9521; gneil@wisafclcio.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM
4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM
5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM		

Zone 3 Phone Dialer Location: Madison Labor Temple, 1602 South Park Street, Madison

Contact: Greg Neil – 608-556-9521; gneil@wisafclcio.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	10:00 AM
6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		1:00 PM

There are bumper stickers in the office reminding people to vote and the power of each and every vote. If you are interested in a bumper or yard sign, please let us know.

IBEW LOCAL 159

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