



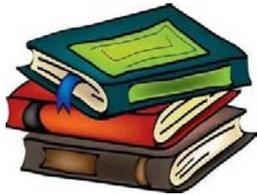
Local 159

IBEW 159

SEPTEMBER 2015

BOOK REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 10, UNION

MEETING AGENDA

will include

- Training Center update
- Location of future union meetings



Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

Sisters and Brothers,

I hope your summer has been filled with fun, and that you have had time to connect with friends and family.

Our training center is taking shape and we are working hard to prepare for the October 10 Grand Opening. Many dignitaries will be present, including International President, Lonnie Stephenson, and Sixth District VP, David Ruhmkorff. All members and your families are invited to see the new office and classroom space, and greet our IBEW leaders.

Greenlee has made its final shipment of equipment. On hand now are: an 881 table bender with complete set of shoes; a 555 DX bender, with rigid, IMC and EMT shoes; and 6505 tigger, with torque meter and foot pedal.

A big thank you goes out to Local 159 member and instructor Brian Genz for his donation of control equipment and accessories for the teaching lab. We are still completing our collection of lab equipment. If you have something to donate, or know someone who does, please contact us.

To date, 16 apprentices have been indentured, and last week we interviewed more than 35 apprenticeship applicants.

The JATT has changed the reimbursement policy for JWs/CWs/CEs. All classes taken at the training center will be free, except for any required textbooks.

As always, the entire staff is working hard to serve you, and working to develop and enhance our political connections within this jurisdiction to promote labor-friendly legislation and CWAs (Community Workforce Agreements).

Our hearts are heavy after the tragic loss of Christopher Lord, the young carpenter who fell 60' on a McGann job site downtown. Every day, on every job site, everyone's safety is on the line. There is nothing so important that it's worth risking someone's safety to get the job done.

The office is closed for Labor Day, on September 7. Hope to see you and your family at LaborFest, from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the Labor Temple. Volunteers are needed. Set-up begins at 8:00 a.m. Take-down at 4:45 p.m. Please tell us when you will be there, a.m. or p.m.? Email sblue@ibew159.org, or lgoodman@ibew159.org

Robert Doyle
rpdoyle@ibew159.org

Referral Agent's Report

Staff Electric has the first phase of the Union Corners project, and the job is due to begin any time now. Also coming up, Nickles has the Anchor Bank remodel on Capital Square. Epic will possibly be taking more workers before year end.

Judge Doyle Square is coming down to the wire. At press time, the Board of Estimates (BOE) has forwarded the project to City Council for a final vote on September 1, provided that several conditions are met by that date. If the conditions are not met, The Council will move the project to their September 15 agenda. Your support makes a difference.

- **Tuesday, September 1**, Madison Common Council, 6:30 pm, Room 201, City County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

If you can stop by, please sign a registration form supporting the project. You can also choose to speak, if you want. You do not have to stay for the entire meeting. Anyone can show up and register. To contact Madison alders to show your support, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/Council>.

Stay tuned for updates on the Waterloo pumping station job (part of the Enbridge pipeline). Your support may be needed at a future meeting.

The Building Trades Council (BCTC) just filed for union recertification for trade workers at the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). Every year, trade workers need to pass a vote with $\geq 51\%$ (recertify) to keep being represented by unions. Others who recertify include Dane County and UW System employees. Not long ago, City of Madison employees did not recertify, and so are no longer represented by unions.

For anyone interested in Holiday Fantasy in Lights preparations, we have a meeting and volunteer work day at the Local 159 office on September 1, at 9:00 a.m. Please bring hand tools. I hope to see you at the Chicken Shoot on Saturday, September 12, from 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Deerfield Rod and Gun Club. Local 159 and our RENEW chapter are co-sponsors.

If approved, the Judge Doyle Square Project is expected to have a CWA/PLA in place. The BCTC also reports the MMSD/Madison Schools will add CWA language to the bid documents for \$44 million worth of work coming up at five schools.

Apprentices and CWs/CEs: if you get laid off, contact the office immediately so we can get you back to work. Also, if you need help with anything, anytime, let us know. Whether it's a "how-to" question, or a question or concern about work or school, contact the office. We can help.

In brotherhood,

Jeff Crocker

jcrocker@ibew159.org

Membership Development Organizer's Report

August has been busy, and September is shaping up to be even more so. A major part of my time is spent organizing here in Local 159, visiting non-union job sites, homes and contractors' offices. I am just back from an organizing blitz in Green Bay. Each month all Wisconsin organizers meet in a different local, split into teams and go out organizing, visiting non-union electrical workers and contractors around that

local. The new training center has been a great organizing tool. That's one more perk we can offer prospective contractors, the chance for employees to take advantage of our continuing education classes.

Another chunk of my time is spent at job fairs. We're attending a major job fair at the Alliant Energy Center on September 16. We're also working with WRTP/Big Step to put on another job fair, in partnership with Madison alders.

Attending public meetings --like the six-hour BOE meeting--is another part of my job. The relationships built by attending these meetings are very valuable. It demonstrates to council members and other officials that we care about our community and its future.

Looking back, we have come a long way. Much of what we have accomplished has to do with our many strong relationships. Whatever the situation, relationships can make the difference between success and failure. Two years in, we are well acquainted with everyone from contractors to elected officials. Knowing who to call, and how to get things done, makes our work more effective and efficient, and helps us better serve the needs of the membership.

United we stand,
Casey Healy
chealy@ibew159.org

Outreach & Communications Report

Training Center furniture is due to arrive soon. The NFPA 70E class scheduled for September 8 will be the first class held at the completed facility.

We continue to meet with educators to advance our outreach work with students in local schools. In addition to being a good community builder, this is part of our workforce development effort. With the aging workforce and the current demand for more young people to enter the trades, every trade needs to plan for the future. Many non-union trades already participate in programs with local students. Our work with the schools ties directly into our CWA efforts.

We still want to hear from anyone (apprentices, CWs/CEs, JW-level members, retirees – and contractors, too) who might be interested in donating a few hours sometime this fall. For those who have children in area schools, or who are recent high school graduates, maybe we can arrange something with your school. Let us know if you are interested.

CWAs, Briefly

We keep hearing about CWAs and PLAs, but what are they? Community Workforce Agreements and Project Labor Agreements, and other similar documents, are legally-binding agreements.

[“CWAs include language and terms about hiring workers, engaging firms from targeted populations, or other ways to help the community. They are legal, binding, collective bargaining agreements, entered into between a local Building Trades Council and a government entity or the owner of a construction project. The general contractor and all of its subcontractors on the project must abide by the terms of the agreement.”](#) (Excerpted from a report at [jff.org](#), a partnership that includes the AFL-CIO.)

For example, the Northwestern Mutual Life building, in Milwaukee, used small local businesses for at least 25% of the total construction cost, and Milwaukee residents for 40% of the hours on the construction site. Northwestern Mutual hired about 50 Wisconsin-based companies, including more than 30 local

small-business enterprises, or SBEs, to help with various aspects of the project such as design, remodel, demo, and relocating utilities.

“PLA” is sometimes used interchangeably with CWA, and other similar documents, but they are not the same. A PLA typically specifies an all-union workforce. Right now, there are PLAs in place on two Dane County jobs. While the specifics may vary, the general intent of these types of agreements is the same.

Now, more than ever, CWAs and PLAs are a valuable tool for us; especially since the state legislature’s recent attacks on PLAs --not to mention Act 10. You will continue to hear about CWAs and PLAs, and Local 159’s efforts to help enact them on local jobs.

Lisa Goodman
lgoodman@ibew159

The future will not belong to those who sit on the sidelines. The future will not belong to the cynics. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” – Senator Paul Wellstone

Retirees Club



We met at Fitz’s On the Lake in Lodi on August 10. We had a nice turnout of 25, plus Robert Doyle and Casey Healy, from the office. We had a moment of silence for Florian Stamm, Bob Feuling, Nat Williams, and Sue Blue’s mother, Shirley Phelan, who was the 159 bookkeeper for two decades. Terry Stamm stood up and eulogized his father. Robert gave us an update on the remodeling. Plans are to start working on Fantasy in Lights on September 1, at 9:00 at Local 159. Door prize winners were Terry Stamm, Lee Lemens, Don Dushek, Bernie Braun, Rich Gorst, Tom Corcoran, John Zwettler, Don Small, Don Boe, Tom Kepler and Del McGregor. Join us on September 14, at Toby’s Supper Club. Hope to see you there, *Elmer Racek*

Happy September Birthday to These Retirees

Peter Broadley	9/1	Robert Schultz	9/8	Timmy Mani	9/19
Ron Disch	9/1	Roger Vondrasek	9/8	Charles Englehart	9/20
John Paske	9/2	Delmar Thomas	9/9	Dennis Strander	9/20
Baxter Brown	9/3	Ray Byrne	9/10	James Stewart	9/26
William Feeney	9/4	Ralph Gomez	9/10	Garret Wiersma	9/27
Howard Frey	9/4	Howard Czoschke	9/11	Delbert McGregor	9/28
Keith Hutzler	9/4	Douglas Avery	9/12	Warren Taylor	9/28
Larry Schroeder	9/4	Denio Sanchez	9/12	Donald Crawford	9/29
Howard Diehl	9/6	Richard Viney	9/12	Wayne Mylrea	9/29
Millard Christianson	9/7	Phillip Springman	9/15	Gordon Vandervelde	9/30

Get Well Soon to our Brother Duane Ruhland, at home recovering from torn bicep muscle surgery earlier this month. Surgery went well and he is hoping for a speedy and full recovery. We wish you the same!

Congratulations to Brother Kyle Erickson and fiancée Margo Edge who will be tying the knot September 26. We wish them a lifetime of happiness and good health! Best wishes and congratulations!



Correction – At the recent Golf Outing, honors for the longest put went to Cam Knuteson.

Union Picnic Recap

The union picnic was a great success. The weather was hot, but didn't put a damper on the kids enjoying the giraffe bouncy house or making a trip over to the zoo. It was great to see everyone and see how this event continues to grow each year.

This year we had about 75 people; last year we had fewer than 20. Thanks to Jim Virnig for providing the games. Thanks AGAIN to Tom Lemens for doing some shopping and helping with set-up and clean-up. Thanks also to Jeff, Casey and Robert for helping with all the prep work that it takes to pull off events like this. A big thank you goes to Jeff's boss, Nadly, for all her help. Thanks again to PNC Bank for their generous contribution to the picnic. Can't wait til next year. Enjoy the rest of summer.

Calendar

September 1 – Fantasy in Lights meeting and work day at Local 159

September 7 – Annual Labor Day Festival, 12:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Labor Temple. There will be magic shows, face painting, bouncy house, a caricature artist and balloons. Plus music by V05 and Cris Plata. Please bring travel-size toiletries, toothbrushes, laundry soap and food gift cards for SCFL's community drive. Volunteers are needed for set-up and take-down.

September 10 – Union Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Labor Temple.

September 12 – Chicken Shoot (trap shoot), 12:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Deerfield Rod and Gun Club.

September 29 - October 1, Sixth District RENEW Conference, Detroit.

There is still space for anyone interested in attending. Please contact the office.

October 10 – Training Center Grand Opening, 11:00 – 3:00. Volunteers needed.

October 17 – Work day at the Aldo Leopold Center in Black Earth. Volunteers are needed to help with painting, repairing windows, and other fix-up projects. Starts at 8:00, and lunch will be provided. Sponsored by the Building Trades Council. To volunteer, contact Dave Branson at (608) 256-3161, or email btrades@sbcglobal.net.

Pro-Union Contractor Class: Still need people

We are still looking for people interested in taking a three-day Pro-Union Contractor Class in Madison, worth 20 CEUs. (Probably in December.) But we need participants. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the office.

Bookkeeper's Corner

For month ending July 31, 2015

General Fund Accounts: \$1,747,214.22

Total Assets: \$2,497,965.00

For month ending July 31, 2014

General Fund Accounts: \$1,926,175.93

Total Assets: \$2,004,180.19

Our Fall is off to a great start! The annual audit is wrapping up nicely. We entered the adjusting journal entries for the fiscal year end (June 30, 2015) and are preparing the LM-2 and are waiting to review our annual tax return Form 990. The CPAs needed only one and a half days this year (versus three days last year) to perform their "field work" in our office.

The continued refining of bookkeeping procedures aided in a more efficient year-end audit. Findings of the audit will be made available to the membership at a union meeting, once we receive them from Wegner, our CPA.

In case you missed it: an annual budget was presented to the membership at the July 2015 union meeting. This budget is based off of our income and expenses for the previous year and accounting for anticipated costs/revenue for this fiscal year. At the August union meeting, a Budget vs. Actual report was provided. This report illustrates the budgeted amount for an account versus the actual amount recorded. Any member wishing to view the budget or the report please contact the office.

Another report I prepare for the union meeting is a Building Expenses report for the previous month. For the month of July, there was \$864.03 in expenses that we had not had before (utilities, general maintenance, grounds maintenance, disposal services, etc., all items for operating the building (excludes phone, internet, etc.)). As you can see, being in the building is saving the Local thousands! For a five month period of not paying rent (March 2015 – July 2015) the Local has spent \$9,903.81 on regular building expenses (NOT construction expenses – just expenses listed above, including insurance for the building and what the Local had to pay for taxes). When compared to paying \$3,405 per month for rent at the Labor Temple over the same five month period, the Local would have spent \$17,025!

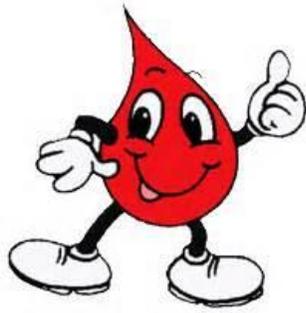
While our Current Assets (cash/liquid assets, CDs, Money Markets etc.) are down from the previous fiscal year by \$222,457.40 our Total Assets (includes fixed assets, building, land, etc.) are up by \$358,825.55! A point we must focus on is re-growing our Current Assets. In the Sixth District Investment Policy it *strongly* recommends each Local maintain *18 months* of liquid reserves (current assets) in the treasury. Our average annual operating expense (over last three years) is \$1,609,378.40; which means we would need \$2,414,067.60 in Current Assets to meet their recommendation. As of last fiscal year end, June 30, we are shy of this by \$594,907.22. What are the consequences of not meeting this recommendation? The *minimum* amount of reserves is six months of operating expenses, which we DO meet; so by not having 18 months liquid reserves it restricts *how* we can invest our monies.

I'm in the office Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Cheers,
 Kara L. Menzel
kradloff@ibew159.org

Sixth District Reserve Investment Guidelines

Surplus Liquid Reserves	Investment Options
That portion of reserves equivalent to less than one year of operating income.	Government guaranteed investments with up to 5-year maturities. FDIC insured checking and savings accounts, Government insured market funds, CD's, T-bills, and Government Bonds. Bank Cd's, in deposits not over the FDIC insurance limit unless secured by a collateralized note from the repurchase agreements.
That portion of reserves equivalent to more than one but less than two years of operating income.	5 to 10 year Government notes and more bonds, Government National Mortgage Association and Federal National Mortgage Association.
That portion of reserves equivalent to more than two years operating income.	Not more than 20% may be invested in equities traded on the NY stock exchange, NASDAQ, or the American stock exchange, S&P Index funds, no load mutual funds, corporate bonds rated AA or better, Guaranteed Investment Certificates, AFL-CIO Housing Fund.



Blood Drive – It takes all types!
We're looking for a few good veins (a few dozen, actually)

We want to host a blood drive this fall. But first, we need the names of 25 potential donors
Call (608) 255-2989, or sblue@ibew159.org, or lgoodman@ibew159.org

We hosted a blood drive in 2007 – collecting 35 units!

We invite our contractors, partners and friends. Let's see who can send the most donors, and the most first-time donors. All are welcome, Local 159 members and family members.

Every day about 38,000 people in the U.S. need blood

RENEW

We are co-hosting the second Chicken Shoot on September 12, at the Deerfield Rod and Gun Club from 12:30-6:30. We are sending people to the Sixth District RENEW conference in Detroit, from September 29 - October 1. *Space is still available for anyone interested in attending. Contact the office (608) 255-2989, or sblue@ibew159.org.* We invite anyone interested in being part of RENEW to come see us at the next union meeting. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month, around 4:00 at the Local 159 office. If you are interested, contact me to confirm the date and time (262) 753-3074.

Your brother,
Cam Knuteson
cameronknuteson@ibew159.org

Dollar Bank Transfer Needed

If you have six months or more of health insurance premiums in your dollar bank, you can give a dollar bank transfer to a member in need. Right now we do have a member who needs your help. Please contact the union office and ask Sue to get you a form.

Did you know... We recently emailed the membership, looking for more people for the NFPA 70E class. Of the 657 emails we sent, 210 recipients opened that email within 24 hours.

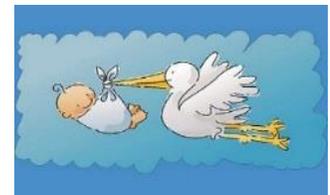


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Misplaced News?

Baby News - A member stopped by a while ago and gave me new-baby information for the newsletter. I'm not sure that ever got in there. If you would like us to print a notice in the newsletter, please contact our office or send me an email sblue@ibew159.org. Sorry if I missed anyone. *Sue*



Remember to use our new address when you send mail to Local 159!



Save the Date
Training Center Grand Opening

October 10, from 11:00–3:00
Ribbon cutting at noon

**Invited guests include the International President and Sixth District VP
as well as elected officials and other dignitaries, and -- you!**

Let's show Local 159 at its best!

Please call the office if you can help -- the day of, or the day(s) before

If you are receiving this newsletter by U.S. Mail,
you may choose to receive it by email instead. Just let us know.

