



4903 COMMERCE COURT MCFARLAND, WI 53558  
 PHONE (608)255-2989 ♦ FAX (608)255-3014

[WWW.IBEW159.ORG](http://WWW.IBEW159.ORG)

# Local 159

**IBEW 159**

**APRIL 2015**

## BOOK REPORT

INSIDE BOOK I	<b>81</b>
INSIDE BOOK II	<b>57</b>
RESIDENTIAL BOOK I	<b>2</b>
RESIDENTIAL BOOK II	<b>0</b>
VDV BOOK I	<b>5</b>
VDV BOOK II	<b>3</b>

## Business Manager's Report

**Robert Doyle**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Earlier this month, Wisconsin became the 25<sup>th</sup> state to enact Right to Work (RTW) legislation. What does that mean for Local #159 members?

RTW is not a “right to work” rather it is a law that gives workers the option of working for a union contractor without having to pay union dues. Simply put, an employee can take advantage of all the benefits of a collectively bargained agreement, yet pay none of the cost for its maintenance.

The result is a weakening of a union’s ability to represent employees. Consequently, by not bargaining collectively, we are divided and lose wages and benefits.

For the Inside agreement, RTW will not be an issue for another two years and ALL members are required to pay working dues and must abide by our current agreement language. RTW is only triggered when the existing contract is opened or modified.

In the next few weeks, articles will be available on our website and facebook page with information regarding RTW.

The other big issue regarding our wages is proposed changes to the prevailing wage law. This will be addressed in the upcoming budget and I URGE you to contact your legislators and voice your support for KEEPING prevailing wage intact.

One of the main things to remember is, unions have GROWN through adverse times. We CAN and WILL continue to grow but only if members get involved, volunteer, become educators, write articles, be an ambassador for your union and most importantly VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. That is one thing union members can do to ensure our elected officials are representing our best interests, not only financially, but for safety on the jobs and a fair and an equal playing field for all.

Remember, unions are made of individuals, working together for the betterment of all. The labor movement is not just fighting for the rights of workers, it is about the fight for human rights, civil rights and fighting to improve the quality of life for everyone.

“In the history of mankind many republics have risen, have flourished for a less or greater time, and then have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves and thereby of governing their state; and in no way has this loss of power been so often and so clearly shown as in the tendency to turn the government into a government primarily for the benefit of one class instead of a government for the benefit of the people as a whole.” THEODORE ROOSEVELT, speech to the New York State Agricultural Association, Syracuse, New York, Sep. 7, 1903

### MARCH UNION MEETING AGENDA

**RIGHT TO WORK  
PREVAILING WAGE**

**REMODELING OF NEW  
BLDG**

**VDV CONTRACT  
BY-LAW CHANGE VOTE**

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## Referral Agent's Report

Work around the area is good. #890-#494-#127 have had calls and expect things to remain strong. Work here should pickup. Westphal, Forward and H&H have all picked up jobs.

The new County Medical Examiner's Building and East Highway Garage/Salt Storage Facility were approved at the March 26<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting. Camosy Construction has the job, so we have a very good chance at getting the electrical on these.

Anyone who needs MSHA recertification, please call the office and get on the list. The class needs a minimum of 12 to run.

Remember re-sign is the 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 16<sup>th</sup>.

When bidding on jobs online, make sure you click view all details. That will give you all the information on each job posted.

If the office has not been on your jobsite and you would like someone to come out for a visit, please give us a call and let us know where you're at. We will be more than happy to stop by.

In closing, you are your brother's keeper. Don't be afraid to help someone on the job. Take a few extra minutes to show an apprentice or co-worker something they may not understand or have never done. We are strong as one, weak as many

In Solidarity,

*Jeff Crocker*

## Membership Development Organizer Report

I would like to thank Fernando Farres and Brian Russ for their hard work and dedication. We had a booth at two different job fairs where they shared their knowledge, beliefs and passion for the electrical trade with future potential members. We talked about the benefits of being a union electrical worker, and the different classification we offer to enter this profession.

Local 159 and WRTP Big Step are working together to put on a career fair to be held toward the end of April. When the date and location has been confirmed we will notify members so that if you have a family member, relative, or friend that is interested in a career in the electrical trade you can share the information with them.

With the recent signing of the Right to Work bill we as a local need to look internally at ourselves and make sure that we stay organized. We need to have conversations among ourselves and remind each other why we choose to be in a UNION. The union still has collective bargaining rights. We offer our members a living wage, benefits, and a pension. We need to encourage all to be members in good standing with the local, pay our dues, and fight for what we stand for and believe in.

United we stand.  
Casey Healy

## Retirees' Club – Elmer Racek

We met at Murphy's Bar on Monday March 9th. Present were Bob Quackenboss\*, Jim Virnig\*, Michael Sullivan, Tom Corcoran, David Baltes, Steve Lease\*, Dennis McGinley, Tom Kepler, Jerry Miller, William Kracke, Rich Gorst\*, Roy Holm, Lee Lemens, Don Dushek\*, Steve Greenheck\*, John Adams, Gary Gander, Jeff Crocker, Ken Frederick, Mike Stassi\*, Dave Krey, Donald Boe\* and Elmer Racek.



\*Raffle winners

Jeff Crocker joined us and gave an update on union affairs. He brought up Right To Work law and its unknown problems it will cause down the road. We appreciate Jeff coming and sharing.

We recognized one birthday this month – Ken Frederick. It was reported Bob Feuling is having health issues. Bill Kracke has had two attempts to remove kidney stones and still has some left.

He is scheduled to have spinal fusion done on the lower back on April 7<sup>th</sup> (one day after his birthday – so hopefully a good present). He also celebrated his 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with wife Sharon on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter in Verona. Hope to see you there. Come and join us!

### April Birthdays

4/1 – Richard Gorst - Gerald Huggett - Ronald Jahnke - 4/2 – William Gross - Allen Mulderink  
4/6 – William Kracke - 4/10 – John Yurs - 4/13 – Stanley Venden - 4/14 – John Zwettler  
4/20 – Kenneth Phillips - 4/22 – Dennis McGinley - 4/24 – Robin Benton - 4/25 – Robert Feller  
4/26 – Nathan Williams - 4/27 – Herbert Schulz - 4/30 – William Welsh

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## Remember to Buy Union/USA

**Vote with your dollars and use the power of GREEN**

**To support union made/USA made products like those**

**Below as examples:**

### Cookware/Cutlery

Cutco knives—USW

All-Clad cookware—USW

Corning—USW

Fiestaware—GMP

Anchor Hocking—GMP

### Food Products

Kraft/Nabisco crackers—BCTGM

Nabisco (Mondelez) crackers—BCTGM

Keebler (Kellogg) crackers—BCTGM

You can always go online and search union-made products

to get a full list or ask about a specific product or company.

## Notice of membership vote

*A motion was made, seconded and passed to spend up to \$200,000 on the remodel of the training center, pending membership approval.*

*A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay for the luncheon at the Bob Palmer Classic Golf Outing, benefiting the Suchoman Scholarship.*

*These will be voted on at the May Union Meeting.*

*By-Law Change vote – There is a proposed by-law change that will be voted on at the April 9<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.*

*Under Section 7 (a) Under Public Contracts and Public and Private Contracts – Change Maintenance Electricians to ALL CLASSIFICATIONS*

*Under monthly amount – Add City Workers and Madison School District Workers \$1.75 plus \$50.00 per month.*

### **Get Paid to Help Local #159 Organize**

**Help organize a new member - \$25.00**

**Help organize a shop < 5 - \$50.00**

**Help organize a shop > 5 - \$200.00**

**T-Shirts are in for those who paid union dues for the year. Hats should be in by the end of next week.**

**Remember to update your bank with our current address if your dues payments have been set up on auto bill pay. Monthly dues are \$34.75**



