



The Sparkie Sentinel

Mark D. Hoffmann,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The work picture here is still looking very good. Contractors are still bidding and going after work in our surrounding counties as well. We hear of upcoming projects that our contractors are good on but have not been inked yet. So we have to wait and see before announcing.

At the February meeting, I reported on the Medical Trust meeting which was held January 29th. It was reported that as it looks today, there will be no need for an increase in our health premiums again this year. Our net months assets have grown to over twelve months and that is very good.

I also reported on the Pension Meeting which was held February 12th. The Core Balanced Fund recorded a positive 11.1% YTD, with a small 4th quarter of +.3%. We are replacing one of our investors in the Core Balance Fund due to poor performance.

We will replace Vestor Capital with DFA US Large Cap. Remember, we will be holding an investment education meeting on March 11, 2013 right here at the Labor Temple at 5:30 p.m. in room 201 A&B. Please call the office at 255-2989 to register.

There has been a lot of conversation at the January and February meetings about licensing, which will become law April 1, 2013. Many of those in attendance expressed a different view than I do. I have been asked to mention in this newsletter that we will be discussing this once again at the March 14th membership meeting and all who have an opinion on this matter should plan to attend.

Your voice is always important to me and the entire membership and unless you come to the meetings, we can't hear you. Make plans to attend the March 14th membership meeting.

This month in 159 History

February 9, 1983

At the Madison Area Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Annual Completion banquet, the first woman to complete the Local 159 apprenticeship program, Karen Ingmundson, was honored. New journeypersons were presented with certificates, pen and pencil sets and a coin with Ohm's Law on one side and IBEW and NECA on the other side.

Famous Quotes

“With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for developing of character in men than any other association of men.”

Clarence Darrow

Joel Kapusta
Business Agent/Referral Agent

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Nothing is official, but one of our contractors is looking good on the UW Hospital East project.

Nickles is the apparent low bidder on the Fitchburg Park Lighting Improvement project.

**Business Agent/Organizer
Report by Chris Crossen**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

On January 14th and 15th, we had our contractor blitz in local 159. We visited 126 non-signatory contractors in those two days. On January 14th we had five teams that visited five contractors in the Madison area.

We visited smaller contractors, hoping to catch them when they were getting home from work. We talked to them about the licensing law and CEU's for their employees to keep their licenses current. This was a very good ice breaker to get us in the door.

On January 15th each team visited nineteen to twenty-two contractors. These contractors were large and small shops. We had some success talking to the contractors. We found out that some of the shops are out of business or moved. This really helps us by cleaning up our OARS. We spent the time before the blitz gathering info and making routes and teams. After the blitz, I have been visiting the non-signatory contractors that we weren't able to get to in those two days and inputting them into OARS.

We have also been visiting jobsites in the Madison area. We are finding out which electrical contractors are on which jobsites. It seems that Ever-Ready has a lot of condo and apartment jobs downtown.

I appreciate our members keeping an eye open in our area and letting me know what they see. Thank you.

**David Boetcher
Governmental Affairs Coordinator**

When Not To Follow Your Own Advice

At the first of the year I sent an email to my county supervisor in response to several he had been sending out to some of us in Waunakee. He was trying to get someone to run for the Waunakee School Board. The last election had no one run in 2010 and we ended up with a pretty conservative hard line person win the write-in.

No one filed for the race and when I contacted the County Board person, he asked if I would be willing to run as a write-in. He thought with my union connection and the work I had done in the community in previous elections I should be able to get enough people to write my name in. This was the beginning of my failure to listen to my own advice.

Over the years several IBEW people across the state have looked at running and have successfully won elections from school board, to city councils, to county boards and the State Assembly. I have helped many of them in getting endorsements, setting up contacts, mailing lists, phone banks and more. One thing I always warned people about is beware of being on a School Board – no one is ever happy with any decision a Board makes and every parent knows better, plus the meetings go on for hours.

So why would I ever agree to do this? I know how elections can bring out the worst in some who for whatever reason don't want you to be elected. (And yes, there has already been one very personal attack trying to derail what I am doing, it won't hurt the election but it does show the need to have a thick skin and a true sense of purpose to weather it).

I think the main motivation to me was my family and the union. My daughter is in school in Waunakee now and at some point you should be involved in your local school district – whether PTA, school extracurricular, etc. The union part though is what made my final decision.

The Waunakee School District is like many in our area, they are experiencing good growth, have an aging building stock and will need more room. So many local government boards (school districts, city councils, etc), struggle with how to deal with construction issues. They hire consultants and general contracting firms yet often feel in the dark on the basics of what makes a good construction project so they are forced to take the consultants and contractors at their word and vote for whatever is put in front of them. School Board members have little experience with construction yet have to make the difficult decisions on contracts and building options.

Many times you have seen the local ask us all to get involved in our local school district to persuade them to use union, to watch their contractors who cheat on prevailing wage, lack health insurance, use unqualified (and now possibly unlicensed) workers. I have spent many nights at meetings trying to bring up quality construction issues and getting local school boards and city councils to do the right thing – not just the cheapest.

So I decided rather than trying to persuade a school board member to make that right vote, maybe I should just cast the vote myself and work to convince the other board members to join me.

I worry about the extra hours this will take but if more union members would run for such offices we would all save a lot of time in all those meetings standing with signs and making phone calls. So I didn't listen to myself but if I

am elected, I will listen to what we have all been saying for a long time and make the right vote – I hope over the upcoming years, more of you will join me in running for office so you can make the right vote too.

Retirees Club



The Retiree's met on February 11, 2013 at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. The following were in attendance:

David Krey, Clarence Dresen, Ron Disch, Jeff Rowley, Bob Call, Gary Gander, Roy Holm, David Baltes, Marvin Milleville, Bill Kracke, Ken Goss, Ray Becker, Donald Boe, Jerry Miller, Tom Corcoran, Tom Kepler, David Conrad, Michael Sullivan, Rich Gorst, Tom Junck, Jim Virnig and Elmer Racek.

A moment of silence was held for departed brother, Carl Voightlander, who passed away January 21st.

Next months lunch will be held at Monona Gardens, on E. Broadway, March 11th at noon.

A big thank you goes out to all the retirees who helped count money from the Fantasy in Lights donations. It was another great year of donations to help ensure this event continues.



Retired Brother, Marv Smith will be having cataract surgery some time this month. We wish him a speedy recovery.



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of retired Brother, Carl Voightlander who passed away January 21, 2013. He was a 44 year member of #159.

Carl is survived by his wife of 62 years, Thelma "Louise," children, Carl (Sheila), Debbie Brackett, Chris (Patricia), Mark (Tammy) and James, six grandsons and six granddaughters and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

He valiantly served his Country as a member of the United States Navy.

His most cherished times were those he spent with his family. He enjoyed gardening, raising herbs for his own tinctures. He was a bee keeper and achieved brown belt status in Tae Kwon Do. He was also a Golden Glove boxer .

Carl and Louise were regulars at our semi-annual retiree luncheons. He had a wonderful spirit and a kind and thoughtful nature. He will be greatly missed.

The thoughts and prayers of the membership are with his family.

The thoughts and prayers of the membership are also extended to the family of brother Ed Kroth, who lost his father-in-law this month.



Baby News

Brother Michael Mueller and wife, Alyssa welcomed their first child, Catherine Jandrey, born December 4th, weighing 5 lbs 11 oz. and 19".

Congratulations and welcome to the world of parenthood.

Poem by Brother Mark Roughen – Brother's Eye

There is something about my brother's eye;
Something I cannot see.

It's something that makes him the man who stands
before me.

He walks so tall, his steps are so firm.
No one would ever dare to call him a worm.

His eyes are wide and burn like a flame.
You can tell this brother carries no shame.

Yet I don't understand why he cares for another.
He will stand and defend you as if we came from
the same mother.

He travels the country for most of his life,
leaving behind his kids and his wife.

He'll drive thirty hours and never tire.
What gives this man that burning desire?

He will tell you it's for his family and the union he
loves...

This will leave you wondering and won't make
sense, especially when that brother gives you his
last ten cents.

You can see all this in just the brother's left eye.

Please just imagine you could be that same guy who
stands strong and proud to be a union man.

Don't ever doubt this, because you know you can.

SPRING ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Spring Election Day is April 2nd. Below is a list of endorsements. These candidates have been interviewed and filled out questionnaires about their stands on the many issues that affect us. The various groups endorsed based on those answers. If you have questions about a specific candidate or race call Dave at the office and we will try to help get you the information.

Endorsed by the IBEW and South Central WI Building Trades:

Dane County Executive – Joe Parisi
Madison Common Council
2nd District – Bryan Post
3rd District – Lauren Cnare
5th District – Shiva Bidar-Sielaff
7th District – Steve King
8th District – Scott Resnick
9th District – Paul Skidmore
10th District – Maurice Cheeks
11th District – Chris Schmidt
14th District – Tim Bruer
17th District – Joe Clausius
19th District – Mark Clear
20th District – Matt Phair

Waunakee School District – write in David Boetcher

Endorsed by South Central Federation of Labor

Dane County Judge – Rhonda Lanford

Endorsed by WIAFLCIO

Supreme Court – Ed Fallone (it is critical to vote in this race as the supreme court will be deciding parts of Act 10 later in the year)

Endorsed by WI Progress (a coalition of unions, of which the IBEW is a part, and other progressive groups). If a District number isn't listed they are running at large.

Columbus City Council District 2 – Rod Melotte

Fitchburg City Council District 7 – Steve Arnold

Janesville School Board – Fred Jackson

Janesville School Board – Cathy Myers

Janesville City Council – Sam Liebert

Marshall School Board – John Bunch

Middleton School Board District 1 – Dave Dahmen

Mt Horeb School Board – Leah Lipska

Oregon School Board – Rae Vogeler

Stoughton School Board – Francis Sullivan

Verona School Board – Patricia McPartland

Verona City Council District 3 – Luke Diaz

Sun Prairie City Council – Andrea Gage

Lake Mills School Board – Dawn Delany

Columbus School Board – Mary Arnold

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Basic Dues

“A” Members –Effective 1/1/2013

Monthly - \$31.75

Quarterly- \$95.25

Semi-Annual -\$190.50

Yearly-\$381.00

“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 #193.

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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