



1602 S. PARK ST. MADISON, WI 53715  
 PHONE (608)255-2989 ♦ FAX (608)255-3014

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

# The Local 159 Line

IBEW 159

JULY 2014

## BOOK REPORT

INSIDE BOOK I	63
INSIDE BOOK II	129
RESIDENTIAL BOOK I	2
RESIDENTIAL BOOK II	1
VDV BOOK I	1
VDV BOOK II	2

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Office reports
- Retiree's report
- Golf Outing
- Poker Run
- #159 Picnic
- Safety Report
- Obituaries

## Business Manager's Report

**Robert Doyle**

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

As we conclude the first year of our term I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what we set out to accomplish and track our progress towards those goals. Additionally, I have asked the President to instruct the elected officers and Executive Board members to give an annual progress update.

In one of my campaign letters I addressed what I hoped to accomplish. Some of those are:

- **Education and Technology** – develop our educational system to enhance training and skill level
- **Referral Office** – upgrade to a modern facility that motivates and benefits members
- **Future** – develop a strategic plan to map progress and evaluate goals.
- **Budget** – create a budget that supports members and invests in the future. Use money wisely. Keep members updated and informed of financials.

In order to be held accountable to what I campaigned on, here is a list of things the office has accomplished this year:

- **Education**
  - Assisted in creating/facilitating mini-classes with State CEUs
  - Over 80 JIWs took advantage of these courses
  - Worked with contractors on the Joint Apprenticeship Committee to decelerate the Inside Apprenticeship Program
- **Organizing**
  - 5 new contractors signed
  - Developed organizing plan to regain market share
  - Apprenticeship applications will be filled out in the hall starting July 1, 2014

- **Office**
    - Jobline
    - New phone system
    - New referral system (Labor Power)
    - Technology updates
      - Computers
      - Website
      - Social Media
    - Reorganized and painted office
  - Developed a Business Plan for the Local
  
  - **Financial**
    - **Recovered \$80,000 in un-invoiced income**
      - Instructor Payroll taxes – billed to MJATT
      - Lost-time rollups
      - Special Project pay for Fantasy in lights – billed to LMCC
    - **Future savings**
      - \$3,400/year in additional payroll taxes for Local to pay fringe benefits instead of rolling it up and paying it all on the check for Lost Time
- Members also benefit by paying less income taxes by paying the fringe instead of rolling it up on the check**
- Charging a service fee to MJATT for being paymaster
  - Refined recordkeeping practices
  - Developed a budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year
- 
- **Negotiations**
  - Residential
  - Inside
- 
- **LMCC**
  - Currently working with NECA on rebranding how we advertise ourselves and the contractors.

Those are some of the exciting things they office has been working on this past year. We still have a lot of ground to cover and things to accomplish. Going forward do not be a fence sitter, get involved! Insist that your union works for you. We want to hear your ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

In solidarity

## Organizing Analysis

This is just a brief overview of an analysis put together between our office and the Sixth District, IBEW. For a complete presentation, log-in to the “Member Resources” section of our website: [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org). If you are not a registered user, it is simple to set up an account.

### Snapshot of where we stand:

- 795 construction members (down from 947 in 2007)
- 812 non-union electricians in jurisdiction
- 41% market share
- Currently we have 25 active contractors employing 505 members (average shop size of 20 workers)
- On average 218 active non-union contractors in our jurisdiction on a weekly basis (average shop size of 3.5 workers)

### What can we do about it?

- In order to control more than 50% of the market, at the end of 10 years, every one of the 25 union contractors would have to **PERMANENTLY DOUBLE** its average workforce
- In order to control more than 80% of the market, at the end of 10 years, every one of the 25 union contractors would have to **PERMANENTLY TRIPLE** its average workforce

### OR...

- Sign between 57 and 70 shops (6-7 shops per year, with an average of 3.5 workers each) while growing the current union contractors by 10-20% would put Local 159 at 51% market share in 10 years.
- Sign between 50 and 70 shops (5-7 shops per year, with an average of 10 workers each) while growing the union contractors by 20% would put Local 159 at 70% market share in 10 years.

**IF THIS INFORMATION DOESN'T ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED,  
WHAT WILL??**

## **Referral Agent's Report**

June has been a busy month for meetings with the School District, County and City regarding the negotiation of contracts for our members working under those agreements. It has been a frustrating ordeal for our members who have faced wage freezes and additional benefit costs. Our state workers continue to fight a hostile work environment with a great deal of uncertainty of what the future holds. If you don't think voting for union-friendly, family-friendly candidates matters, talk to one of your sisters or brothers working under one of the above agreements, and then VOTE. A lot is riding on the upcoming elections at all levels of government.

Work is improving and the outlook remains steady. This office has been visiting several jobsites and talking to our contractors on a regular basis. We are doing our part to make sure the agreement is protecting our members and being enforced. We ask that of each of you as well.

**In Solidarity,  
Jeff Crocker**

## **Membership Development**

The new referral bid system is up and running as of 6-17-14. Just a reminder to all members, you need to place a bid for a job either online at [ibew159.org](http://ibew159.org) or by phone at 608-255-2989 in order to be considered for a job. . Bidding starts at 5:00 PM and goes till 7:00 AM. By placing a bid it does not guarantee you the job it only puts you in a pool selection with other bidders for that job. The next morning starting at 7:30 AM calls will be made to the individuals who bid on jobs. The order in which phone calls are made to bidders is in accordance with their position on the books. You must answer your phone and verbally accept the bid you submitted.

Website bidding is done by going to [ibew159.org](http://ibew159.org) which is our homepage. Go to the upper left corner and click on Referral/Resign Login (highlighted in red). Your username is your card number and your password is your last name and the last four digits of your social security number. Click login, it will then request for you to change your password. It will prompt you to type your new password twice and click submit. Click on the Personal Info tab and check to make sure that all of your information is correct. If you have make changes to your personal info make sure you click on submit changes tab. Go to and click on Jobs Available. You can click on view all details and it will give you some information about the job. To place a bid click on the empty box under the "Bid on Job" column to each job you are bidding on. A check mark will show up in that box. You may bid on multiply jobs if they are available. After checking all the job boxes you are bidding on click "Submit Prefs" tab. If you have an Email address entered in your personal info area you will receive an email back stating what jobs you have placed a bid on. If by chance you forgot to check a box you can always go back in and submit another bid.

Bidding by phone call 608-255-0169 and leave your name, card number, phone number, and what job you are bidding on. If you are having any problems with logging into the referral/resign login please call the office at 608-255-2989.

You can know resign on are homepage by clicking on Referral/Resign Login tab between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month and sign in with your username and password and click login. You will then see a message that says you have automatically been resigned for this month. Otherwise you can still resign in person, by mail, or fax 608-255-3014, please supply us with your name, original sign date, card number, and what book you are signing.

**In Solidarity  
Casey Healy**

## **Organizer's Report**

What Brotherhood means to me. At first it is all new, there are others out there that will take you in and guide you. Traveling allows us to take care of our loved ones while there is no work at home. You find someone you trust, split the cost of gas and motels while you are out chasing down the dream, this is why we are called Journeymen. When you finally land a job call, make sure you take your name off of all book two's that you have signed. Others on the job will notice if you are a stand up human being, by your actions and your support.

I suggest you go to cookouts and purchase a shirt here and there to support others that have had tragedies and need cash fast to get home for one reason or another. This is where Brotherhood begins to be noticed even more so.

The job comes to an end or there is something worth chasing that is better for a million reasons, Brothers start to drag up and you will be invited to go with if you haven't screwed anyone over while getting your dispatch or on the job with the contract.

Brotherhood begins to become second nature to you and all along you have been providing for your family while finding another side of life new to you, never give up on the ones you love, at home or on the road, and you shall prosper. You have found there is another way of life that you are willing to fight for.

This feeling inside cannot be put into words on paper, but when you are there, you'll know it.

### **In Brotherhood Everyone Wins**

**Jeremy Waugh**



Be sure to like the new IBEW Local 159 page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159> and follow us on Twitter, @IBEWLocal159, to stay up to date with information from the office. These pages will be the face of our organization as we build relationships with one another, other Locals, Trades, Associations, current and future contractors, and our community.

***Kara L. Radloff***

## **Retirees' Notes**

The June 9<sup>th</sup>, union-sponsored retirees luncheon held at the Labor Temple was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

We had a delicious lunch provided by Angelo's with enough to have take home packages.

Business Manager, Robert Doyle thanked the retirees for all their contributions in making #159 what it is today. He also asked them to continue to be involved by volunteering, coming to the union meetings or just providing their input to issues that concern organized labor.

Dave Baltes was the Master of Ceremonies for Lee Lemens who was recovering from surgery. You did a great job Dave.

We missed Lee and Elmer Racek who were unable to attend and thank them for all their hard work.

Next meeting July 14<sup>th</sup> at Fitz's on the Lake in Lodi at noon.

---

Retired member Ken Goss is recovering from complete right knee surgery he had in May. Get well soon.

Brother Doug Kirkeeng is also recovering. We wish all our members a speedy recovery and please let us know if we are leaving anyone out.

---



## **Union Picnic – August 9<sup>th</sup> at Warner Park.**

Need Volunteers to help with set up - Children's game - Clean up

Families to sign up ahead of time because we need to order food. On the menu – Brats – hot dogs – BBQ chicken – potato salad – beans – soft drinks and water.

The union will not be providing any alcoholic beverages. Members are free to bring their own.

We are asking members to bring a dessert. There will be games for the kids (and adults) a bouncy house and lots of fun. This is a great opportunity to share time with your #159 active and retired brothers and sisters. Please call the hall by August 1st to sign up. See you there

## Safety Committee



Keith Bailey and I attended the National Safety Council-Labor Division and IBEW Safety Caucus, May 18-22 in St. Louis, MO. The Labor Division Meeting is for Safety Committees, Instructors, Business agents, and other safety minded Union members from a variety of Locals. For instance many attendees were from the USW, UAW, TWU, IAM, Teamster's and IBEW's multiple classifications. We cover a wide assortment of topics in breakout sessions like, Silica, Accident Investigation, Dealing with an Active Shooter, Evolution of FR clothing, and Organizing with Safety to name a few.

At the IBEW Safety Caucus we listened to a great presentation by Brady Hanson, a brother from Local 77, about their experience in the Republic of Suriname. IBEW members volunteer to help improve infrastructure and help educate local linemen how to do their jobs safely. Palmer Hickman also gave an update on recent changes to NFPA 70e.

Having the opportunity to attend trainings and network with Safety professionals from across the country helps me better inform us as members of the IBEW work safely and return home every night.

Dan Brein

---

## NSF Checks

A little reminder on how we handle NSF checks:

Once we are notified that a check is returned for insufficient funds we will immediately draft a letter to that member informing him/her of the situation. In the letter it asks to remit payment via money order or cashier's check within seven (7) days. The amount is to be the amount of the original check plus \$7 for the bank service fee. Please contact the hall if you have any questions regarding this.

---

## **Instructors Needed**

We're still looking for a few good people. If you know someone who would be a great teacher, please give their name to Casey Healy. Email [chealy@ibew159.org](mailto:chealy@ibew159.org), or call (608) 255-2989.



Happy Anniversary!

Can you guess who this happy couple is celebrating 30 years of marriage on 7/28? Answer on bottom of page.

### SAVE THE DATE

<b>July 19 - Golf Outing</b>
<b>July 26 - Frist Annual Poker Run</b>
<b>August 9 #159 Family Picnic - Warner Park</b>

<b>Union Dues</b>	
Monthly	\$ 33.75
Quarterly	\$101.25
Six Months	\$202.50
Yearly	\$405.00
<i>We are currently on death benefit 207</i>	

#### SNAPZ CD.

If members would like to purchase one, the cost is \$40. There are tests for both The Journey and Master included. We have 50 copies available at this reduced rate.

(John and Mary Geiger)



### Retiree June/July Birthdays

Anderson, Robert - 7/28  
 Anderson, Rodney - 7/29  
 Barrett, Carl - 6/16  
 Bickle, Dale - 7/5  
 Bolle, Robert - 6/4  
 Braun, Bernie - 6/23  
 Cassels, Don - 7/17  
 Chandler, Pat - 6/5  
 Clausen, Bob - 7/14  
 Dommershausen, Ron - 7/29  
 Emden, James - 6/20  
 Fritz, Robert - 6/5  
 Jahn, Rick - 6/29  
 Johnson, Ed - 6/11  
 Larsen, William - 7/19  
 Lemens, Lee - 6/10  
 Lund, Terry - 7/26  
 McCabe, Richard - 7/20  
 Miller, Robert - 6/7  
 Miller, Gerard - 6/18  
 Miller, Gerald - 6/29  
 Moll, Armond - 7/20  
 Nachreiner, Don - 6/14  
 Olson, Kevin - 6/12  
 Richardson, Dale - 6/11  
 Robson, Gerald - 7/11  
 Rust, James - 6/17  
 Seddon, David - 6/29  
 Small, Ron - 6/28  
 Small, Don - 7/12  
 Stassi, Mike - 7/22  
 Stenback, Thomas - 7/18  
 Swenson, Craig - 7/8  
 Thomas, Russ - 6/18  
 Virnig, Jim - 6/15  
 Ward, Mike - 7/7  
 Wilkinson, Lynn - 7/18



**Wife of Brother Kyle Hendrickson**

**PORTAGE** – Kristina L. Hendrickson, age 33, died on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at UW Hospital in Madison.

Kristina was born on July 14, 1980 in Terre Haute, Indiana, the daughter of David and Sonia (Royer) Reed. She married Kyle Hendrickson on February 4, 2010.

Kristina is survived by her husband, Kyle Hendrickson, and her son, Christopher, both of Portage; her father, David Reed, other relatives and many friends. Kristina was preceded in death by her mother, Sonia.



**Retired #159 Brother**

Madison/Cross Plains-Rex Alan Fritz, age 65, passed away unexpectedly, at his home in Cross Plains, Wis., on Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Rex was born on Jan. 3, 1949 to Marvin and Jeanette (Morrell) Fritz, in Madison, and grew up on Lake Monona. He spent his youth playing on the Madison

lakes and having many adventures.

He graduated from Monona Grove High School in 1967 and married his high school sweetheart, Jayne Durnford, on May 13, 1972. Rex completed his apprenticeship and then began a lifelong career as an electrician and member of IBEW Local No. 159, spending the last eight years at UW Hospital and Clinics. He retired this past January and was looking forward to doing the things he loved; reading, hiking, biking, fishing, boating, golfing, skiing and throwing the ball for his beloved dog, Lokee. Rex’s real passion was playing hockey. He played in recreational leagues his entire life and it was one of his favorite weekly activities.

Rex’s greatest joy was spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Jayne (Durnford); daughters, Stacey (Randy) Malek and Shannon (Luke) Batzko; grandson, Fletcher Batzko; siblings, Bruce (Celeste Woodruff) Fritz, Denise (Mike) Butler, Roy (Diane) Fritz and Nancy (Larry) Clemens; father-in-law, George “Dutch” (Lylas) Durnford; brothers-in-law, Roger (Michelle) Durnford and Jacque (Karen) Durnford; and many nieces and nephews. Rex was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Jeanette (Morrell) Fritz; and mother-in-law, Carolyn (LeMoine) Durnford.

Rex was kind to everyone he met and will be remembered as a hard-working and generous

man. It’s hard to express in words what an enormously special and generous soul he was. He will be missed beyond measure by all who were blessed enough to know him.



**Mother of Jeff Crocker and Grandmother of Adam Crocker.**

Jeanette was born June 12, 1928 in Adams, Wisconsin to George and Ruth (Heitman) Pease. She grew up in Adams-Friendship before joining the Army during WWII, where she was among the first women stationed at West Point. Jeanette married Charles Payton Crocker on December 11, 1955 in Dubuque, Iowa. She worked as a teacher’s assistant at Edison Junior High School in Milwaukee. She and Charles returned home to Adams, WI in 1989 following their retirements.

Jeanette enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and especially her great-grandchildren.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents, George and Ruth Pease; and daughter-in-law, Colleen Crocker.

## **UPCOMING POLITICAL EVENTS**

Democratic candidate speakers in Portage – whether or not you live in the Portage area, this is a good opportunity to see/meet candidates.

Mark Harris fundraiser - Democratic candidate for Sixth Congressional District - Thursday, July 10 - 4- 6 pm - Columbia County Democrats' office  
309 DeWitt Street – Portage - Suggested contribution \$25  
Mark wants to meet as many people as possible, no contribution is required

Candidate forum (and Columbia County Dem membership meeting)  
Thursday, July 10 - 6:30 to 8 pm - Portage Public Library  
253 W. Edgewater Street - Portage WI

Expected speakers include:  
Mark Harris, candidate for Congress, Wisconsin's Sixth District

Democratic Attorney General candidates:  
Jon Richards  
Ishmael Ozanne  
Susan Happ

Democratic candidates for 81st Assembly District (includes Portage)  
Margo Miller  
Dave Considine  
Peter Vedro

Jesse Weaver, Democratic candidate for Columbia County sheriff

1ST ANNUAL LOCAL 159

# POKER RUM



**Pre-register TODAY!!!**

# JULY 26, 2014

Starts at BADGER HARLEY  
6200 Millpond Rd • Madison • WI • 53718

**\$20 per bike**

Registration 9 am – 11 am • Kickstands up @ 11 am

Door prizes at each stop (must be present to win)  
End of ride party with live music, food, water and soda

*All proceeds to benefit Tats 4 Tots*

All forms of transportation welcome  
to participate!

Please contact the Local 159 Hall  
at (608)255-2989 for more  
information.

Sponsored by LMCC



**IBEW LOCAL 159**

1602 S. Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715



Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 168