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

# Local 159

IBEW 159

MARCH 2015

## BOOK REPORT

INSIDE BOOK I	71
INSIDE BOOK II	57
RESIDENTIAL BOOK I	2
RESIDENTIAL BOOK II	0
VDV BOOK I	5
VDV BOOK II	3

## MARCH UNION MEETING AGENDA

RIGHT TO WORK  
REMODELING OF  
NEW BLDG  
VDV CONTRACT

## Business Manager's Report

Robert Doyle

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to start on a positive note by thanking all the members who have stopped by to see our new office and future training center. It has been a real pleasure showing you around the facility and sharing the vision of the future for #159. Your positive comments and acknowledgment of all the hard work this endeavor has taken, is greatly appreciated. This is a huge step forward for us to build and shape our own destiny in the electrical industry.

Speaking of our future, I am sure you have all heard about the fast track effort to get right to work legislation through the state legislature. Many of you are asking how this will affect us. Whatever happens with right to work, it is one battle, but it is by no means, the end of the war. I will be sending out a letter to all members that will give details regarding what right to work is, how it will affect union workers and what actions we can and will take to protect our jobs.

For a year and an half, I have been pitching the same message, "Get Involved" "take part in your union." Solidarity is more important than ever but instead of cooperation and participation, it is the same old infighting at the union meetings. Approximately 20 members attended the February union meeting. That translates to about 2.1% of this local. ***2.1% of the members are speaking for you, voting for you, controlling the decisions that are made directly impacting you.***

If we can't, or don't unite, how do we hope to stand against this national anti-union movement. I have asked for your input – few have responded. I have asked for your involvement – only a few have stepped up. Committee positions are unfilled. I have asked for new and innovative ideas to guide us forward – all I have heard is silence.

Month after month, the union meetings are dominated by critics and hours are wasted arguing. The fact that these few members are choosing personal attacks over having open dialogue about the future of #159 has chased many of you away from the meetings. I can understand you not wanting to waste precious time at meetings filled with bickering. I am willing and encourage all members to address any valid issues or concerns you may have about this union and any decisions that are made.

I am not serving the members of this local to be popular and I am well aware of those who do not like me. My job is to lead. My job is to make the tough decisions, to help bring about the changes we need to survive. This is not a political game to me. The future of this local is not a political game to me.

I am willing to listen to differing opinions. I am willing to take the ideas of others into account when serving this local. But I am not willing to allow our union meetings to become a venue of personal attacks. Have we learned nothing from our own union history and the recent history of our State and Nation?

We see what happens in our local and what happens to our government when sides divide and the greater good of our members and the citizens of this State and Country are second to personal agendas. Divided we fall. You make the choice to rise or fall. You make the choice to spend time constructively to be a part of the solutions or divisively, to create our downfall. We have great opportunities to create positive changes but we have to be bold, strong and proactive. Now is not the time to back down and feel defeated. Now is the time for all members to fight the cause of working families and we need to do it now!

See you at the March 12<sup>th</sup> union meeting – 5:30 at the Labor Temple.

“Constant action will defeat despair.”

FDR

## Referral Agent's Report

There will be two County projects with a bid date of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Westphal has the hospital rehab center on the east side. H&H has the new Galaxy project on E. Washington Ave. Staff has the Sauk school project.

There will also be work coming up in the Waunakee and Oregon school districts. I will keep you posted.

Work should be steady for us this spring and summer. I expect the next couple of months to be spotty.

If you are on the book and would like information on travelling, please give me a call and I am happy to help you out.

As you know, a lot is going on at the State Capitol. Don't sit back and do nothing. By doing nothing, you allow others to control everything!

I want to thank the Brothers and Sisters, active and retired, who came to the Capitol this week and stood in solidarity against these efforts to destroy our livelihood.

In Solidarity,  
*Jeff Crocker*

## Membership Development Organizer's Report

Casey Healy

In the first week of February Robert, Jeff and I held two Code of Excellence classes that included 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year inside apprentices. I believe the classes went well. The students engaged in conversation and asked great questions. Some subjects covered were; employer responsibility, IBEW responsibility, jobsite policy and procedures, safety, tools, customer relations, and BROTHERHOOD.

Speaking of BROTHERHOOD, as it pertains to Code of Excellence, it states;

- Any inappropriate behavior toward another member or group of members will not be tolerated.
- Offensive behavior toward customer representatives or employer representatives will not be tolerated.
- The goal of the Code of Excellence is to promote and “esprit de corps” that represents the members of the IBEW in the best possible light. Esprit de corps means the spirit of a group that makes the members want the group to succeed.

I have been speaking with contractors and workers about what we have to offer such as unlimited access to a skilled workforce, hands on training classes, along with safety training, access to a Wisconsin certified apprenticeship program, flexibility to increase/decrease workforce as needed, and we eliminate the need to search for employees and insurance and benefits.

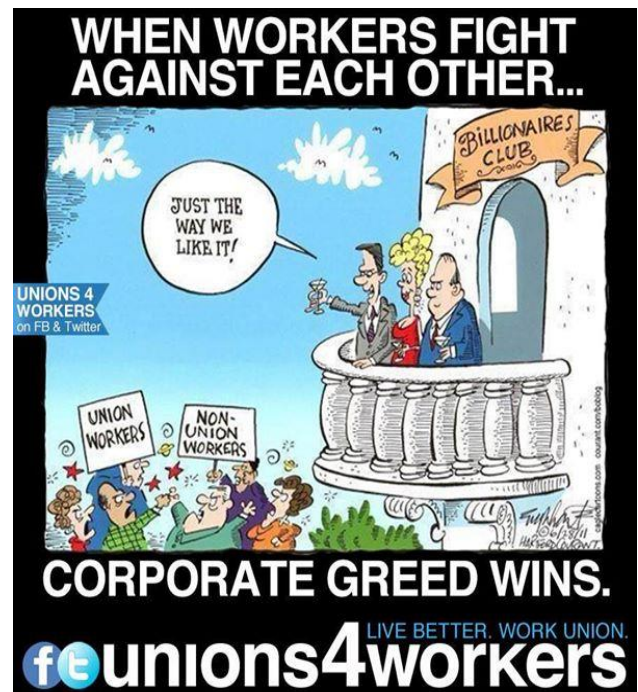
We have a busy week coming up with the Right to Work bill. Come show your support. Events will be posted on our Local 159 homepage, facebook, and e-mails.

United we stand  
Casey Healy

### BOYCOTT GEORGIA PACIFIC PRODUCTS

As many of you know, the Koch Brothers are one of the biggest reasons Scott Walker is our governor and right to work is law. You are not helpless victims in this well-orchestrated plan to destroy the middle class. Here's where you can start – boycott all Georgia Pacific products. Go online for a full list:

<http://www.gp.com/Products/Products-Overview>



### Retirees' Club

We met at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.



Present were Jim Virnig\*, John Zwettler, Roy Holm, Ken Frederick, Dave Krey, John Adams\*, Ken Hillebrand, Jeff Rowley\*, Clarence Dresen,

Bob Fritz, Ray Becker\*, Ken Goss\*, Bill Kracke, Steve Greenheck\*, Marvin Milleville, Rich Gorst, Gary Gander, Donald Leonard\*, Dennis McGinley\*, Jerry Miller\*, Tom Kepler, Elmer Racek and Jeff Crocker.

\*Raffle winners

We had a moment of silence was held for Brother Jim Davis's wife, Elizabeth "Liz" Davis. Our condolences go out to Brother Davis and his and Liz's families.

Jeff Crocker joined us and gave an update on union affairs. He informed us that the Fantasy In Lights displays are now being stored at the new union office location. They can always use volunteers to help with repairs.

We recognized three birthdays this month. They were Tom Kepler, Jeff Rowley and Elmer Racek. Jeff Crocker led in singing happy birthday.

- 3/27 – Steve Dulin
- 3/28 – Robert Bennicoff
- 3/29 – Terry Putman
- 3/30 – Gerald Bartelt
- 3/31 – Ron Jungenberg

Our next meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> will be at Murphy’s Bar, located at 5344 Hwy 113, heading towards Waunakee. It is on the Madison side of Hwy M intersection with Hwy 113. Come and join us!

**March Birthdays**

- 3/2 – Marvin Milleville
- 3/5 – Kenneth Frederick
- 3/6 – Clarence Dresen
- 3/7 – Jim Davis, James C. Hill, Joe Hudzinski
- 3/9 – Robert Breiby
- 3/11 – Bert Tolley
- 3/15 – John Smail
- 3/17 – Pat Weiland
- 3/23 – Sig Leskinen

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**Union Dues Increase**

**Remember monthly dues are now \$34.75. Members who have set up their dues payment on autopay with their bank should make the change in the amount and also to notify them of our address change to 4903 Commerce Ct.– McFarland, WI 53558**

**Keep us Informed – Did you get married - have a new addition – anniversary? Let us know**



**Brother Steve Bersing is recovering from surgery on his other shoulder. We wish you a full and speedy recovery. Please let us know if you would like to put any notice in the newsletter regarding an illness or injury. Please let us know if you would like something in the newsletter regarding any accident or illness.**

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**The Union Worker’s Bible – excerpt**

**“Stay Dissatisfied – Every minute of the day there are individuals undermining and even attempting to destroy your union.**

**This means, of course, that as a good union member you must remain ever vigilant. Never become too satisfied with existing conditions. Continually strive to improve your relations with the management, and your services to the union.**

**Unions simply must not stand still. They either forge ahead slowly or slide backwards quickly.**

**Help strive for more efficient and businesslike methods of operation in your union.**

**Naturally, we cannot expect the respect of the management, if we don’t deserve the respect of one another.”**

### Public Disclosure Notice

In accordance with the IRS requirements for a Non-Profit the 2014 Tax Return and Consolidated Financial Statements (fiscal year July 2013 – June 2014) are available to review in the Hall. Also, annual form LM-2 is available in the Hall or online through the Department of Labor searchable database. As always, if you wish to review (or have questions about) any of our financial reports or records please make an appointment with the Hall to do so.

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### **Save the Date**

The Union picnic will be Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Vilas Park from 10-3. Mark your calendars.

### **Office Update**

Please update your beneficiary information or make sure we have up to date forms on file.

If you haven't given us your email address, please make sure we have that so you will be included in all the bulk emails we are sending out.

Our bookkeeper, Kara has changed her work schedule to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Please keep that in mind if you have any questions regarding lost time or instructor pay.

We are starting to get settled in the new building. Stop by and see it anytime.