



The Sparkie Sentinel

Mark D. Hoffmann,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We win in the National elections but yet we lose in the State elections. Hard to understand, isn't it? I'll let Dave Boetcher explain it to you later in this newsletter.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to do your part in exercising your rights to have your voice heard at the ballot box. We defeated a huge attack on the working class by keeping Mitt Romney out of the White House.

This stops a nationwide corporate take over of this Country by keeping President Barack Obama in office. So much was at stake here, like stopping the spread of right to work (for less) and continued tax breaks for companies that take jobs out of this Country and well, you know the rest.

In the end, we prevailed and oh yes, congratulations go out to Mark Pocan and Tammy Baldwin on their victories. We do have a lot to watch out for here in Wisconsin however and I hope we can count on your help in the upcoming battles.

Fantasy in Lights kicked off again this year and I want to thank all those involved in helping out. Since our pool of manpower was low this year due to our low numbers on the out of work lists, we asked for help from our contractors to release 3rd and 4th year apprentices to come to the park and help and they agreed.

This proved to be a tremendous boost and really moved set up along. I need to thank H&H Industries, H&H Electric, Nickles Electric and Westphal & Company for sending trucks and

drivers to transport the displays from the warehouse to the park. This is truly a joint effort by IBEW and NECA to put this display together and show the community how we work well together.

Thanks also to some of our retirees, Elmer Racek, Dave Baltes, Jim Virnig and Tom Corcoran. Active members, Fred Brown, Amber Moonlight-Klein, Michael Seney, Al Donner, Wayne Haefer, Jeff Kerwin and Ed Sanders. Thank you also to our apprentices who helped out; Chad Anderson, Joshua Ary, Joshua Austin, Matt Derenne, Sam Everly, Nate Fuehrer, Michelle Giese, Thomas Hamielec, Ryan Kopp, Josh Masarik, Justin Minick, Seth Nelson. Tyler Niesl, Kaleb Pohlman, Tim Rogers, Jerren Ruff, Joshua Wahl, Eric Woodman and Shayna Wright.

I also want to thank Jeff Michaelis and Mike Wagner for continuing to service the displays all the while the show runs. Thanks again to everyone for making this years show a success. Tear down will begin January 2, 2013. We are looking for volunteers again.

Pension Meeting Report – November 6, 2012

Core Balanced Fund – 3 rd Qrt	- + 4.4%
YTD	- +10.7%
12 Month	- +17.7%

By-Law Change

Article III, Section 4(a) Allowing Election Board to be voted on in the month preceding the month in which nominations for officers are made. This By-law was approved.

Pin Ceremony

The December 13th union meeting will also be our pin ceremony. Good food, good friends, good time for the Brotherhood.

Joel Kapusta
Business Agent/Referral Agent

Inside

Book I – 44 Book II –312

Residential

Book I – 4 Book II- 1

VDV

Book I- 2 Book II- 10

Staff is once again the low bidder on the Memorial Union renovation.

H&H has the Sauk Prairie hospital.

The groundbreaking for the Edgewater was held on November 15, 2012.

Set up for Fantasy In Lights was done the week of November 5th, with the lighting ceremony held on Friday, November 9th. The displays will be up through New Year’s. Come out enjoy the sights and get in the holiday spirit.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the set up.

Business Agent/Organizer
Report by Chris Crossen

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

In the last month we have been busy, We had a Blitz in Janesville and I went to Sacramento California to help with Propositions 32 and 30.

We had a Blitz in Janesville, this is where all of us organizers get together to visit non-signatory contractors in each area. This is beneficial to each local as it cleans up their areas, and lets each organizer talk to contractors in other areas. We had 5 teams that visited over 120 non signatory contractors in 2 days in 890's area. We went with flyers and asked if the contractors were ready for the electrical licensing law that goes into effect in April 2013. This is a great icebreaker that gets us in the door to these contractors.

We then had a debriefing and State Organizer Meeting on Wednesday. The next blitz is in Stevens Point, Madison's is in January.

As most of you remember, this last year we had a Senatorial and Gubernatorial Recall. IBEW Local 1245 from Vacaville California sent out some of their members to help us with these recalls all over the state. They asked for help from the Wisconsin state Conference for their Propositions that went on the ballot. I was lucky enough to be chosen to help them. I worked side by side with their release staff phone calling and canvassing the Sacramento area raising awareness that these propositions were going to be on the ballot. Local 1245 also had a member running for school board. Eric Sunderland is a member of 1245 and actually was one of the people to help us with our recalls.

I was thrilled to be able to help him with his campaign. Unfortunately Eric came in second in his race, but it was great to help out. I worked like a borrowed mule everyday that I was there, It was not a vacation by any means.

We all worked very hard and proposition 32 (the special exemptions act, this is like our Act 10 that Gov Walker put through without a vote) failed and proposition 30 (that prevents school cuts, keeps cops on the street and makes the rich pay their fair share) passed.

There were other propositions on the ballot but these were the 2 big ones that the unions in California were concerned about. Local 1245 paid all expenses and Hotel room bills, and wages for me, It didn't cost our local anything. When they sent out their members to help us they paid all wages and expenses. It was important for us to help out our Brothers and Sisters in California. Fortunately my family supported me in this endeavor because they know how important the Propositions and the Brotherhood are to me.

I would like to thank our local members who found out about what I was doing and called and supported me. I also have to thank Locals 340, 6, and 1245 for their hospitality while I was there.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season and stay safe hunting.

David Boetcher
Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Wisconsin – Purple, Red, Blue or just confused?

Another election in Wisconsin (I think that makes 12 in the past 24 months) is over. We have seen so many different outcomes in so many different ways.

We had statewide races for Supreme Court (Red), Governor (Red twice), President (Blue), and US Senate (Blue). On more local races, the WI Assembly stayed about the same in two elections (more Red than Blue) but saw more Dems beat Republican incumbents, while the WI Senate started just barely Red but then went Blue and then back to just barely Red again (although slightly less Red than where it started).

The Building Trades in WI voted 16% higher for Obama than for Romney but that was less than the other union sectors did (which were 26% higher for Obama). White voters favored Romney at 51% with Obama getting only 49% but that was outweighed by minority voters favoring Obama at over 80%.

Union members over all voted for Obama in a better percentage. In 2008 61% voted for Obama and 39% voted for McCain. In 2012 65% voted for Obama and 33% voted for Romney. So we gained an 8% edge. In fact, union members were the only demographic group that supported Obama more this year than 4 years ago. But we were less of the electorate.

In 2008 26% of all voters in WI were union members and in 2012 only 21% were union members. So we did great in educating the members but need to work to get more of them to vote.

So we see a lot of mixed results. How could WI vote for Obama and Baldwin but also vote for Walker and a republican legislature? Some of it can be explained by a lot of people who vote in presidential races but not in other elections (yes, we should all vote in every election – that is what so many veterans and our forefathers fought for, but we

don't). Some of it is drop off voting – people who cast a ballot for President but then didn't mark the rest of their ballot (I guess their pen got dry or their hand got tired).

A major reason though is people who vote on who the candidate is and their personality – not just party line. A lot of people saw a strong candidate in Walker and saw a strong candidate in Obama. It's good to really look at an individual candidate but you really need to look at everything that person is going to do, not just one issue. No matter which reasons you use though, it shows the need for constant voter education, outreach to members and participating in our elections.

If we end up with the Republican Governor and Republican Legislature pushing Right to Work (for Less) in WI we have ourselves to blame. Union members who didn't vote, didn't vote the whole ballot or voted for Walker and the Republican Legislature had to know that attacking unions was part of the deal. We prevented Romney from trying to do Right to Work (for Less) on the national level, but we have a longer road in WI.

We will keep pushing to inform members, keep working to improve wages, and always keep fighting to allow us all to benefit from being in a union. The next two years will need many of us to contact the Governor and Legislature to let them know – we are watching and will fight for our rights at work.

Retirees Club



The retirees met on Monday, November 12th at the 5100 Club (old Park Ponderosa). Twenty-four members were present. They were: Lee Lemens, Lester Gammeter, Dave Krey, Ken Hillenbrand, Dale Bickle, Ken Goss, Steve Mueller, Steve Mueller, Gary Gander, Rich Gorst, Tom Corcoran, Mike Sullivan, Dennis Eley, Don Small, Vern Connor, Steve Lease, David Conrad, David Baltes, Jim Virnig, Elmer Racek, Carmon Howe, Tom Kepler, Marvin Milleville, Bill Kracke and Roy Holm.

Mark Hoffmann reported on the work situation and it's great to have so many members back to work. He also answered questions on the health insurance.

A moment of silence was held for the four retired members who recently passed away. They were, Felix Wildgruber, Jack Wood, Ken Geishirt and Wayne Purves.

Winners of the drawing were, Ken Hillebrand, Dale Bickle, Ken Goss, Rich Gorst, Don Small, Jim Virnig, Carmon Howe, Marvin Milleville and Roy Holms.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 10th at noon at the Madison Labor Temple in room 201. Please call the union office for reservations to this free catered event. Members and a guest are invited. Anyone wanting to bring a dessert would appreciated.

We will start counting donations from the Holiday Fantasy in Lights at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 20th at the NECA office and every Tuesday after that, except in December, we will count on Wednesday the 26th and Friday, January 4th.

A reminder to all retirees currently receiving IBEW and NEBF pension who chose the spousal option; if your spouse pre-deceases you, let our office know and your pension will be increased to its original amount, had you not selected the spousal benefit.



It is great sympathy that we report the passing of retired Brother John (Jack) Wood, age 78, on 10/21/12 at AGrace Hospice Care after a long battle with COPD.

Jack served his country proudly in the United States Air Force from 1952-1956 during the Korean War. He was a fifty year member of IBEW #159. He loved sports and spending time with his family.

Jack is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruth and children Jed, Lori and Toni, along with grandchildren, Riley, Rogan, Braydon and DeClan.

Brother Wayne Purves passed away October 30, 2012 at the age of 87. Wayne was an IBEW member for 50 years. He retired from Badger Electric after working more than 25 years in the Madison area. He was also the former electrical inspector for the city of Columbus. Wayne enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing and golfing. He was an enthusiastic sports fan, happily cheering on the Badgers and Packers. Wayne is survived by his three daughters, Donna, Judith and Kathleen, along with 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

We are also saddened to report the passing of retired Brother Ferdinand (Felix) Wildgruber who passed away 11-3-12 at the age of 73. Felix is the Father of Sister Kristine Zweifel. He is also survived by his wife of 45 years, Ginny and children Stephen, Laurie and Theresa, along with grandchildren, Camille, Eve, Amara, Seth, Sierra, Ella, Jocelyn and Kyle
Felix loved working on cars, soccer and playing cards. He served his County in the United States Air Force.

Brother Doug Kirkeeng lost his Mother.

Brother Mark Hoffmann lost his Mother-in-Law.

Brother Joel Kapusta lost his Aunt/God Mother.

Brother Tim Passage lost his Grandmother.

The thoughts and prayers of the members are extended to all our families.



Baby News

Brother Gordon Casey and wife, Erica welcomed new daughter, Arabella, born, October 9th weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 20.5"

Congratulations and enjoy every day!

2012 Service Pin Awards

Congratulations to all our Sisters and Brothers on their years of service pin.

5 YEAR PINS

Acker, Dustin
Anderson, Axel
Blaschka, Jared
Bloom, Mitchell
Box, Tracy
DeMinter, Justin
Deterding, Steve
Diske, Terry
Esser, Alex
Farnsworth, Joseph
Foye, Ronald
Frame, Jon
Freespirit, Maggie
Goetz, Nicholas
Halverson, Christopher
Hatfield, Craig
Herritz, Ryan
Hotchkiss, Jay
Jensen, Ronald
Johannsen, Jeff
Johnson, Andrew
Kitelinger, Tyler
Koch, Matthew
Kreitlow, Trent
LaBarge, Kyle
McClure, Christopher
Minnema, James
Novoy, Bryan
Ott, Daniel
Passage, Timothy
Pesta, Josphe
Peterson, Eric
Richter, Justin
Rodriguez, Nicholas
Schluter, Matt
Schwoerer, Nathan
Shanks, James
Sperle, Parker
Strasburg, Andrew
Suhs, John
Syverson, Kyle
Vierus, Timothy
Wahl, Justin

Waisbrot, Christopher
Williams, Steven
Winters, Benjamin

10 YEAR PINS

Back, Barry
Bandera, Demian
Bourassa, Joseph
Bram, David
Bystol, Kurt
Clausen, Douglas
Dederich, Brent
Dykstra, Ryan
Erickson, Lynn
Halverson, Erik
Haugh, Paul
Hyatt, David J
Knoche, Brian
Larsen, William
Lashua, Robert
Lemahieu, Matthew
Lentz, Justin
Maier, Ryan
Meyer, Joshua
Olson, Danny
Parpart, Eric
Ramsden, Jared
Schwoerer, James
Straka, Charles
Tanner, Mitchell
Turk, Jeffrey
Waugh, Jeremy
Weidensee, Christopher
Young, Justin

15 YEAR PINS

Adler, Jeremy
Allen, James III
Beirne, James
Broadley, Peter
Crossen Christopher
DeFosse, Jesse
DiCristina, Anthony
Fillmore, Duane
Gould, James
Hiney, Todd
Jacobson, Dan
Jacobson, Donald

Kosharek, Timothy
Krueger, Ronald
Kruser, Kirk
Miller, Todd
Mueller, Richard
Nunes, Kenneth
Patock, Mark
Simonson, Kevin
Smedema, Douglas
Smith, Louis
Sperry, Jason
Swaagman, Jerry
Teresa, Vincent
Virnig, Brian
Weiland, Aaron

20 YEAR PINS

Buften, David
Butor, Theodore
Folmer, Brent
Haskins, Randy
Holland, James
Howard, Rodney
Hughes, Robert
Kaun, John
Killian, Michael
Kroth, Ed
Lee, Gregory
Moll, James
Ruhland, Duane
Schlafer, Ron
Schreiber, Sheryl
Ties, Donald
Waggoner, Kevin
Weisensel, Rodney
Zweifel, Dwight
Zweifel, Kristine

25 YEAR PINS

Avery, Douglas
Besch, Jeffrey
Clausen, Robert
Hutzler, Timothy
Moser, Paul
Stacy, Jeffery

30 YEAR PINS

Bonjour, Robert
Maloney, James
Peterson, Gregory
Rust, James
Sherwood, Daren

35 YEAR PINS

DalSanto, James

40 YEAR PINS

Dobratz, James
Dollard, John II
Dresen, Clarence
Gomez, Ralph
Gross, William
Krey, David
Lund, Terry
MacLean, Wing
Odegaard, Robert
Strander, Dennis
Zwettler, John

45 YEAR PINS

Bledsoe, Lloyd
Bouche, Lawrence
Call, Robert
Connery, Thomas
Dommershausen, Ronald
Flom, David
Havey, Nicholas
Hutzler, Keith
Junck, Thomas
Kimpfbeck, Russell
Leskinen, Siguard
Milleville, Marvin
Riechman, Thomas
Schultz, Gerald
Venden, Stanley

50 YEAR PINS

Baltes, David
Borchardt, Howard
King, Harold
Miller, Gerald J

Nachreiner, Donavon
 Purves, Wayne
 Stluka, Emery
 Vander Velde, Gordon
 Ward, Dennis

55 YEAR PINS

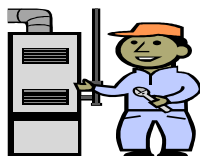
Lemens, Leland
 Ruhnke, David
 Wahl, Andrew
 Wiersma, Garret

60 YEAR PINS

Crawford, Donald
 Dushek, Donald
 Johnson, Edward
 Lapinski, Benedict
 McGregor, Delbert
 Welsh, William

65 YEAR PIN

Feller, Robert



Utility Assistance Program

Are high energy cost more than your budget can handle? You may be eligible for assistance. The Home Energy Plus Program may be able to help. You can either call 1-866-432-8947 or go online to www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov for more information.

Patronize the Madison Labor Temple

When you are out and about doing holiday shopping, stop by the Labor Temple lounge for lunch or dinner. They offer daily specials and are open at 11 a.m. to the public Monday – Sunday.

The Labor Temple also rents rooms to members for weddings receptions, graduation parties and other get-togethers. Call Sarah at 608-332-1886 for more information and details on rental requirements.

Death Benefit Payments

For every active or retired member who passes away, active A members are assessed \$1 which should be paid along with your regular union dues.

This is a benefit that goes directly and immediately to the family of A members. In the administrative notice in the back of the newsletter, there is a current death benefit number reported, currently #190.

When paying your dues, please either check the top right corner of your dues receipt for the current DB# and add \$1.00 for any outstanding amount. You can also call the office and we will be happy to help you with that information.

Some members are significantly behind in paying this benefit. Remember this is also a benefit for your family and needs to be paid with your dues. Thank you for taking the time to get caught up to date.

<u>2013 Dues Increase</u>		
Make note that dues will increase \$1.00 per month in 2013 for A members only.		
A members	2012	2013
Monthly	\$30.75	\$31.75
Quarterly	\$92.25	\$95.25
Semi-annual	\$194.50	\$190.50
Annual	\$369.00	\$381.00
BA members		
No increase		

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 #190.

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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