



The Sparkie Sentinel

1602 S. Park Street – Madison, WI. 53715

PHONE – 608-255-2989 – FAX – 608-255-3014 – www.ibew159.org

Business Manager/Financial Secretary- Robert Doyle

Brothers and Sisters,

“Our labor unions are not narrow, self-serving groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours, and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor.”

John F. Kennedy

The IBEW membership was still growing when this was written. Our founder, Henry Miller is proof that one individual can change labor history. He tirelessly organized his fellow linemen and wiremen into the framework of what became the IBEW.

Local Union #159 and our contractors have seen our market share diminish. We have lost the small job market. Now is the time to make our stand and fight to recover this market.

Now is the time for action.

- Work hard – Give 8 for 8
- Organize – Every one of us can influence people, either positively or negatively. If we don't grow, we will fade and continue to lose more and more of our market share.
- Work together as a team and teach our apprentices the skills they need to be successful.
- Vote – Get involved in your local elections, as well as those on the National level. Be the pro-union voice of reason.
- Consider signing up for a class on how to become a union electrical contractor

- Finally, I am asking all members to submit a mission statement for our local. Unless we know where we are going, we will never get there. Here is an example of UW Eau Claire's mission statement – “Excellence: Our measure, our motto, our goal.”

Please show up for meetings, get involved and make the change you want to see happen.

September 12th Membership Meeting Agenda:

- Vote on new phone system
- Labor Power referral system
- Information on Contractor Class
- Cost saving measures – Using our website to post the monthly newsletter at www.ibew159.org

Go to our website for more details regarding the proposed phone and referral system or come to the meeting to have all your questions answered

We are currently spending 60-100 hours a month on just the re-sign aspect of the referral system; answering phone calls for those on the book to find their current number, resigning hundreds on Book II and updating the books.

With the proposed systems implemented, much of that time could be re-directed to serve the needs of our members, to address job issues and concerns by members and contractor, to make sure there is compliance with our agreements and to make regular job site visits.

With the current work picture and an outlook for a very steady work picture, our general fund is in good shape. The purpose of the dues we pay is to promote our industry and better serve the members of this local. These new systems will do both.

STATE WORKERS MEETING

All state craft workers are invited to attend a meeting with Dave Branson, Exec. Dir. of the Bldg. Trades Council on Thursday, September 5th at 4:30 p.m. at the Memorial Union Terrace.

Referral Agent **Jeff Crocker**

Inside

Book I – 2 Book II – 327

Residential

Book I – 2 Book II – 1

VDV

Book I - 0 Book II – 2

New Policy on Book Signing and Strikes

To sign any Out of Work Book in #159
The following documents are required:

Letter of Introduction (Good Guy Letter)
Termination from last employer
Paid up dues receipt

Strikes will be given for EACH contractor call that is declined. If you are called for multiple contractors, you will get a strike for each job refused. Third strike, you will be removed from the book and must resign in person.

Job Report

Amp is slowing down. There is not definite timeframe when the next phase will begin. There have been some Book II layoffs.

Portage – Westphal reports their scrubber project is close to peaking. We have had a few calls continuing there. Pieper Electric also has been awarded a project there and have called for manpower. They should also be close to manned up.

I will be meeting with **Staff** regarding the new eastside hospital project and the chiller on campus.

Nickles project at the Edgewater Hotel has yet to call for any additional manpower. I will also be contacting them to get more details on how this project is progressing and what the need for additional manpower will be.

If any of you are on good sized projects where you believe a steward is needed, please contact me. We are also looking at holding an additional stewards class at the hall.

I also met with the State Building Trades regarding our state workers negotiations. I want to meet with our state workers personally. A tentative meeting is set for 9/15/13 at 4:30 p.m. at the Memorial Union.

I attended an arbitration course at the School For Workers on the UW campus in July and also interviewed applicants for the inside apprenticeship.

Membership Development **Casey Healy**

So who is Casey Healy? I have been a union worker since 1979, starting out with Paper Workers Local 1201. In 2002, I began my VDV apprenticeship with Local #159, graduating in 2005.

In the summer of 2006, I began my instructor training at NTI (National Training Institute). This is a full week of training every summer for four years. In 2006, I also started teaching Structured Cabling in night school to 2nd year inside apprentices, 1st year VDV apprentices and JIWs for continuing CEU credit.

In 2008 I accepted an offer to teach the day program for the 3 year VDV apprenticeship program.

In 2009, I also accepted a position on the education committee. These positions have helped me continue my path for the betterment of this union.

Some of my initial responsibilities in the office have been, cross-training of day to day office operations, referrals, resigns, and writing a new VDV exam for testing and organizing nonunion technicians. I am also working on implementing some additional night classes for the benefit and education of all our members.

I have been visiting jobsites to hand out contracts and assisting members in resolving any labor agreement issues.

If any instructors out there are having issues, concerns or just have a question about their class or materials needed, please give me a call.

“If you want change, you have to make it. If we want progress, we have to drive it.”

Organizers Update **Jeremy Waugh**

I recently attended a COMET Train the Trainer class. We are looking at doing this training for our members October 17th. If you are interested, please contact the hall for more details and to sign up. Members who have not attended a COMET class recently and for those who have never attended, you will be contacted and requested to attend.

This course deals with labor history, why we need to organize and answers questions member have on this subject. A majority of this presentation will be done by the IO. You are encouraged to ask questions.

There has been a wave of very qualified applicants wanting to join our union. I have been doing several question and answer sessions with these individuals to help determine their skill level. They are already doing electrical work, so by organizing them into the proper classification and treating them with respect, they will become a valuable part of the IBEW and help us gain even more of our market share.

The Local is putting on an “IBEW #159 Industry Night” Friday, September 6th from 3-8 p.m. at MATC-Commercial Ave. We welcome all candidates who are interested in the electrical field, already working in the field or those just interested in getting more information about the electrical industry.

We are partnering with some of our contractors, as well as the apprenticeship office to put this event together. We could use the help of members to talk with people attending and to do various other tasks as needed. Please let us know if you can help out in anyway. Even spreading the word will be a great help. Talk to your family, neighbors and friends.

Please come to the September 12th union meeting to vote on the purchase of a new phone/computer system for the office. We have had several issues with the current phone system.



Retirees Club **Elmer's Corner**

The Retirees met at Fitz's On the Lake August 12, 2013. The following were in attendance:

Roy Holm, Don Boe, Dave Krey, Rich Gorst, Marvin Milleville, Dennis Wieczorek, Jim Stewart, Gerald Huggett, Del McGregor, Gerald Miller, Don Small, Thomas Riechman, Dave Baltes, Jim Virnig, Howard Hanson Sr., Tom Corcoran, Bob Quackenboss, Casey Healy, Tom Kepler, Clarence Dresen, Jeff Rowley, Terry Putman, Bill Kracke, Elmer Racek, Steve Lease and Steve Greenheck, We had a nice turnout again this month with 26 showing up for lunch.

Casey Healy came and informed us of the new officers taking their position and then an update of the work situation. He also mentioned the Venetian boat parade (Lights on the Lake). We will have two displays, the American flag and the biplane with snoopy. This will be September 1, 2013.

Next month we will be at the 5th Quarter in Verona – Monday, September 9th. See you then!



In Memoriam -



Brother Benedict Lapinski passed away August 3, 2013 at the age of 93. He was a 61 year member of IBEW #159. Ben started his employment as an electrical apprentice with McEntire Electric Co. in Stevens Point, WI. He moved to Madison in 1952 where he started working at Madison Newspapers, then Endres Electric, Lokken Electric and H&H Electric. In 1985 he retired after working 40 years as an electrician. He enjoyed spending time at his cabin in Winchester hunting and fishing. He was a member of VFW Post 7591. He was a life member of the Knights of Columbus Council 531. On September 8, 2018, Ben and son, Joe traveled to Washington, DC on the Badger Honor Flight.



Brother Marc McCarville lost his wife Lynda on August 6, 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. Marc and Lynda were married in 1993. With Marc's encouragement, Lynda became a full-time artist. They traveled across the U.S. to art shows where her sculptures were sought after. They shared their life together on a beautiful farm in Deerfield. Lynda was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She will be greatly missed.

The condolences of the members are extended to the Lapinski and McCarville families.



Brother Marc McCarville has small bales of wheat straw \$2.50 and small bales of canary grass \$3.00 bale. Call 608-438-9563 and leave a message.



Brother Daren "DJ" Sherwood is at UW Hospital in intensive care. Your thoughts and prayers would be greatly appreciated. Any Brothers or Sisters who would like to visit him are welcome to do so.



Robert Palmer Classic Golf Outing

The golf outing will be held Saturday, September 21st at the Norsk Golf Course in Mt. Horeb. For more information or to sign up, call the union office.



On August 21, 2013, Columbia Power Plant AQCS celebrated an all crafts 1,000,000 hours without a safety incident. Keep up the great work. Safety First.

Baby News

Madison, WI. 53715

Brother John Geiger and wife Mary are The proud grandparents of Matthew Lucas Geiger born 8/16/13, weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz 20". Congratulations and enjoy your new grandson.

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

“A” members should send death benefit payments along with their dues payment (\$1.00 for each death benefit). We are currently on #197.

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 an automatic \$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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