



SPARKIE SENTINEL

IBEW LOCAL 159

JULY 2020



BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Greetings 159 Family,

Summer is officially here and anyone driving around our jurisdiction can plainly see, it's construction season. Within the city of Madison alone, you can drive down East and West Washington Ave., Park Street, University Ave., and the East and West Beltline and see endless construction projects. It's obvious, the outlook for construction in our jurisdiction is booming.

So how can it be the position of management's side during our Inside negotiations that there is so much uncertainty for the construction industry in our area? Where is the uncertainty with the Bricklayers who just settled a three-year agreement for \$2.10 / \$1.90 / \$1.75? Or the Carpenters' three-year agreement for \$1.95 / \$1.75 / \$1.60, or the Cement Masons: \$1.97 / \$1.70 / \$1.75, or the Iron Workers: \$2.10 / \$2.00 / \$2.00, or the Laborers: \$1.45 / \$1.35 / \$1.35 or the Operating Engineers: \$2.10 / \$2.00 / \$2.00. All three-year agreements, all frontloaded. Is there only uncertainty in the electrical industry? If that is the case, why were our contractors unable to provide us with information that any projects were cancelled, and very few were even temporarily postponed in our jurisdiction? The only uncertainty we are facing is if we will have enough workers.

These were the last proposals given by both sides at our Interim CIR meeting on June 15.

Employers presented the following proposal as a package, on all six remaining issues:

ISSUE #1, SECTION 1.01: A two-year agreement.

ISSUE #8, SECTION 3.04: Four ten-hour days work week.

The Employer, with 24-hour prior notice to the Union, may institute a workweek consisting of four consecutive 10-hour days between the hours of 6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or Tuesday through Friday, with one-half hour allowed for a lunch period. After 10 hours in a workday, or 40 hours in a workweek, overtime shall be paid at a rate of 1 ½ times the regular rate of pay.

ISSUE #10, SECTION 3.06: Increase the total wage/fringe benefit package as follows:
July 5, 2020, \$1.00 per hour; May 30, 2021, \$1.30 per hour.

ISSUE #23, SECTION 4.12: Apprentice Ratio 3:2, then 1:1 thereafter.

ISSUE #30, SECTION 9.21: Reverse layoff. Union to withdraw.

ISSUE #31, SECTION 9.22: Spin pay. Union to withdraw.

The Union rejected the Employers' proposal, and presented the following counter proposal as a package:

ISSUE #1, SECTION 1.01: A three-year agreement.

ISSUE #8, SECTION 3.04: Four ten-hour days work week. Employers to withdraw.

ISSUE #10, SECTION 3.06: Increase the total wage/fringe benefit package as follows:
June 1, 2020, \$2.25 per hour; May 30, 2021, \$2.30 per hour; May 29, 2020, \$2.35 per hour.

ISSUE #23, SECTION 4.12: Apprentice Ratio. Employers to withdraw.

ISSUE #30, SECTION 9.21: Reverse layoff. Union to withdraw.

ISSUE #31, SECTION 9.22: Spin pay. Union to withdraw.

The Employers rejected the Union's proposal, and the parties remain deadlocked. The case will be presented at the July session of CIR.

So, labor's side was being asked to agree to every proposal the contractors had on the table, take off every issue we had, and accept a \$1.00 increase (not retroactive) as of July 5, and then \$1.30 the following year. The contractors' final offer.

Thank you for the feedback from members on the email sent to update you on this issue. For members who are uncertain what CIR (Council on Industrial Relations) is or does, there was a front-page article in the April 2020 Electrical Worker that explains how it began and what its function is, www.ibew.org/articles/20ElectricalWorker/EW2004/index.html

Some members had questions about our rejection of the Four ten-hour day work week language (Issue #8). We talked a great deal about this topic, and all previous offers made by contractors did not include consecutive days or pay overtime. That was language we had added in another proposal they rejected. When proposals are made as packages, as our final offers were, it requires agreeing to everything in that package, or agreeing to nothing. We were not going to settle for a \$1.00 increase for our members.

The VDV, Residential, and Stock Person agreements have all been settled.

Residential Agreement

Increase the total wage/fringe benefit package as follows:

Effective June 21, 2020: increase the total wage/fringe benefit pack from 72% of the IJW total wage/fringe benefit package to 73%. The amount will also increase when the current inside agreement is settled.

Effective May 30, 2021: increase the total wage/fringe benefit pack from 73% of the IJW total wage/fringe benefit package to 74%

Effective May 29, 2022: increase the total wage/fringe benefit pack from 74% of the IJW total wage/fringe benefit package to 75%

*Only applicable if CIR renders a decision calling for a three-year term for the Inside agreement.

VDV Agreement

Effective 6/21/20: \$1.30 wage/benefit package increase.

Effective 5/30/21: \$1.40 package increase. Then on 12/26/21, \$0.25 increase for Local 159 (\$1.65 total increase).

Effective 5/29/22: \$1.50 package increase. Then on 12/25/22, \$0.50 increase for Locals 159 and 430 (\$2.00 total increase).

Stock Person Agreement: Renewed without changes.

The new craft certification booths will be built in the next month, fall classes are getting put together, and work on Fantasy in Lights is starting. In the very near future, a lot of energy, effort, and time will be spent on upcoming local, state and national elections. We have Biden yard/window signs and t-shirts available now, at the office.

We have to remember, as union workers, we need to lend our support and votes for those who are committed to working families and the protection of union workers. It is very easy to look at politics as Democrats, Republicans or Independent, or for many of you, to not want to be involved at all. No matter how active or inactive you are regarding politics, it affects every day of your life, especially on the local level.

As union members and as a union, we need to have a seat at the table, and the only way that will happen is to be active in the process, to let our issues be known, to let our expectations of our elected officials be clear, and to be seen and heard in every possible way.

We also need to remember, as union workers that labor's struggles and victories have come at a very high cost, through decades of sacrifice, protests and demonstrations. Any movements in this country, labor,

civil rights, women's, LGBTQ+, have faced violence, distortions of the truth, public objection and vilification. As a part of the long history of demonizing union workers, we understand and support the need to fight and stand up for a fair and just country/world.

Susan Blue

Office: (608)255-2989 ~Ext 115 ~ Cell: (608)772-0435 ~ blue@ibew159.org

Acting Referral Agent, Tom Lemens

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have started the Fantasy in Lights preparation. Please call the union hall to sign up to help. The solar project at the Middleton Airport is coming to an end. We may have some Apprentices and CWs coming back on the book because it is an out of town contractor.

Referrals since June 1st

JIW – 10, Apprentices – 4

Book 2 JIW - 5

Residential -1

VDV Tech. – 4, Trainees - 2

BOOK #'s:

INSIDE

Book I – 47

Book II – 39

Apprentice – 1

VDV

Book I – 2

Book II – 1

From the Oval Office

Now that things are getting back to "normal," I'm going to return to "Know Your Contract" and how union meetings are run. Here are the sections on how to handle Picket Lines from the Inside, Residential and the VDV Agreements. There are slight differences, however they say the same thing. As far as whether to cross a picket line, by law the Union Hall can't tell you what to do. You just need to ask yourself how to do you want others to act, if you're on the picket line.

Inside Agreement:

SECTION 2.08 - It shall not be a violation of this Agreement and it shall not be cause for discharge if any employee refuses to go through the primary picket line of a Union, established at the site of the primary dispute between such Union and the primary Employer. It shall not be a violation of this Agreement, nor shall it be cause for discharge if any employee individually refuses to work on the site of any job where non-union conditions prevail.

A non-union condition shall prevail when employees are employed without a collective bargaining agreement with a Union affiliated with the Madison Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. In such event, it shall not be deemed a violation of this Agreement for employees hereunder to individually refuse to work on the job site where such non-union condition exists. To the extent that it is legal, the Union may request employees hereunder to leave such jobs. This clause shall be open for renegotiation should it be declared illegal per se or void, by either legislative enactment or judicial decision.

Residential Agreement:

SECTION 2.08 - It shall not be cause for discharge if an employee refuses to go through the primary picket line of a Union.

VDV Agreement:

SECTION 2.09 (A). It shall not be a violation of this Agreement, and it shall not be cause for discharge or any other disciplinary action by the Employer against any employee, for an employee to refuse to cross or work behind a picket line which is sanctioned by the Building Trades Council, the Central Labor Council or the Local Union.

(B). Any employee exercising such right shall carefully put away all tools, materials, equipment, or any other property of the Employer in a safe manner.

(C). Each Employee will be responsible for any loss to the Employer for neglect in carrying out this provision but only when a safe place is provided by the Employer.

Thomas Lemens

Office: (608)255-2989 ~Ext 114 ~ Job Line: (608)255-0169 ~ President@ibew159.org

Membership Development /Organizer Report Casey Healy

A union is an organized group of workers who collectively use their strength to have a voice in their workplace. Through a union, workers have a right to impact wages, work hours, benefits, workplace health and safety, job training and other work-related issues. Having support from the union to ensure a fair and safe workplace, better wages, a secure retirement and family-friendly policies, *those are* some of the key reasons workers organize.



Organizing is the local's tool to gain market share. A union's market share is the percentage of work performed by union *shops* compared to the non-union shops. Organizing non-union workers into the union --especially key journeymen and foremen-- takes work away from those open (*non-union*) shops and makes it *more* difficult for them to bid future work.

We need to embrace and encourage each other to be organizers by promoting the values of the IBEW to the unrepresented workers and open shops. When we stand united and work toward a common goal, that's solidarity.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

United we stand, divided we fall.

Casey Healy

Office: (608)255-2989 ~Ext 111 ~ Cell: (608)515-3552 ~ chealy@ibew159.org

Organizer/Business Agent

Damon Glenn

Sisters & Brothers of IBEW 159,

Hope everyone had a good Father's Day weekend along with a good start to the summer. Brothers and sisters, I am proud of International President Lonnie Stephenson and his response to the current situations facing our country and the world. Stated by Lonnie Stephenson, "IBEW cannot afford to stay silent as our African-American brothers and sisters suffer in fear of violence at the hands of either the

state or by private citizens"! I believe that IBEW 159 has unlimited potential. Everyone needs to know the importance of SOLIDARITY.

It has come to my attention recently that we have IBEW 159 members who refuse to teach and train other IBEW 159 members, just because of their classification. What's even more disturbing to hear is some of the members that refuse to train other IBEW 159 members, are elected officers. My question to these members refusing to train other IBEW 159 members the trade is, why? What makes one IBEW member better than another? Each one Teach one, was what I have been told as long as I can remember. Every member and elected officer of this local needs to teach another IBEW member the skills and the craftsmanship that has been provided to them, to take their responsibilities seriously and work together to make 159 a strong union that represents and fights for all members, regardless of classification, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. You're doing your sisters and brothers AND our Local, a huge disservice. We need more solidarity and unity, not less. We need members to look at how we serve all members and bring each other together, not how we divide and belittle our own.

At the core, labor unions (we) are working men and women, unified as one force. Despite any personal differences that may exist between us, we have banded together to protect and improve the lives of workers. We rise together for the greater good. We defend one another like family.

SUE CARNEY, "We're Not a Fee-for-Service Organization", The American Postal Worker, March/April 2014

Damon Glenn

Office: (608)255-2989 ~Ext 112 ~ Cell: (608)338-9075 ~ dglenn@ibew159.org

[Retirees Luncheon](#)

Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, and with continued caution, the retiree luncheon will be canceled until further notice. We will be continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation monthly, and advise/inform as to when it is believed safe and allowable to have the retiree luncheons again.

All LU-159 retirees are welcome at these luncheons, please consider joining us monthly, held on the second Monday of each month.

Preparation for Fantasy in Lights is beginning. We will be planning one to two days per week, with a limited number of people to maintain social distancing. Masks will be provided if you need one. Please call the union office (608) 255-2989, if you are interested in signing up for a day. At this time we are looking at Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Tim May ~ IBEW 159 Retiree





Dear Members,

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer so far and the beautiful weather that we have been having lately. This is a wonderful time of year to connect with family and take some time to relax and enjoy outdoor activities.

We are still trying to deal with ramifications concerning COVID-19. This pandemic is changing the way that we do many things. COVID 19 will definitely change the way we run classes. There will most likely be some limitations on how we will run our classes in the fall. Some ways this might be different are: reducing the number of students that can attend a class, or running classes over a virtual platform. Some classes will be more difficult with these limitations compared to others. We are trying and will make the best decision for our membership. Our number one concern is to keep everyone safe but still provide the best instruction that we can.

With all that said, we are still having meetings. The meetings are being held though video conferencing. This is actually a perfect opportunity for people to get involved in a committee as you can attend from anywhere and on many pieces of technology like a computer, your cell phone, or an I-Pad. If you would like to attend an Education Committee meeting, please send me your email address. I will then add you to the invite list for the meeting. As a reminder, the Education Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions!

Have a wonderful week with your friends and loved ones!

Sincerely,

Sam Everly (Part-Time Education coordinator) ~ Email: sam.everly87@gmail.com



If you are 35 or younger, there is a RENEW committee which meets before the meeting at the Labor Temple in Room 201 A&B. The RENEW committee is about developing friendships, doing well for the community, and building brotherhood among IBEW members

While RENEW 159 has been placed on indefinite pause, our spirits and motivation have not. As soon as it is safe to resume activities we plan to do so.

After planning since last year and what seemed like countless emails for info and artwork approvals, we finally have some promotional items! We have hardhat stickers, koozies, and coloring books. We plan to pass them out at meetings and events. However, if you would like some for you and/or your jobsite before

then email renew@ibew159.org and I can meet you in downtown Madison and give you some.

On Thursday, June 11 we had our first ever online election for 2020-21 officers. The results are as follows:

Chairman: Pablo Baxter
Co-chair: Mitch Johnson
Recording Secretary: Josh Stern

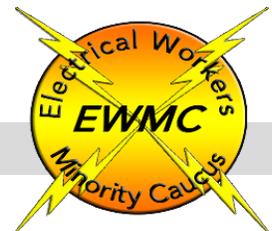
Thanks to everyone who voted. We look forward to the future of RENEW 159!

RENEW 159 began with a handful of members, sitting at a fold up table before the general membership meeting, discussing this thing that was recently proposed by the IO that was aimed at preparing the next generation of members to become leaders in their union. Since then, we have grown to nearly 60 members who have assumed numerous leadership roles ranging from offering ideas at meetings, to coordinating volunteer events at charities in the community, to creating events for outdoor enthusiasts from all trades, to sponsoring local festivals, and more. While the current pandemic has all but precluded us from engaging in a majority of our activities for this year so far, it has offered us time to reflect upon what we have accomplished and how much we have grown and has given us plenty of space to plan out our next steps and goals. We thank you for your continued support and remember that you are welcome at any and all of our meetings and events.

If you do the Facebook thing, search "Renew 159" then give our page a like to stay in the swing of things happening with your young workers committee in between "RENEWsletters."

In solidarity,

Pablo Baxter~ Chairman, RENEW 159



Greetings brothers and sisters.

There is as a social justice movement going on in our country. Staying silent is not an option anymore.

It's time to stand together in Solidarity. **IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson** says it best.

"The cause of labor has always been the cause of human solidarity, human dignity and justice and equality for all, so the IBEW cannot afford to stay silent as our African-American brothers and sisters suffer in fear of violence at the hands of either the state or by private citizens.

"We believe that we as a country are better than what we saw happen in Minneapolis. And we believe that the majority of our police officers, who are dedicated public servants protecting their communities every day, are better than what we saw there as well.

"But it's all too clear that the plague of racism which has beset this nation since its birth remains to be overcome.

“This is the time for all those who love America and care deeply about its values to speak out in the name of justice and against systemic racism. More than ever, every American, regardless of race, gender, faith, sexual orientation, or gender identification, must come together to heal the wounds of division and hate.

“The labor movement has long stood shoulder to shoulder with those fighting for civil rights and a society free from the blight of racism and discrimination.

In Solidarity,

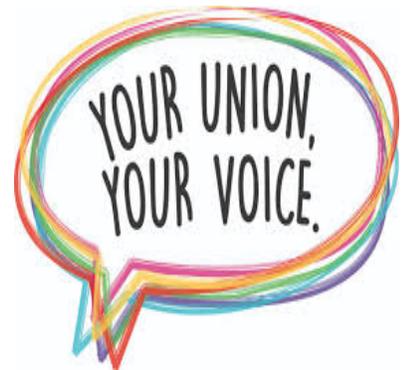
Shaun Daniels ~ EWMC President

Apprentices, CWs/CEs, Installer Trainees: Track Your Hours!

Attention: **You are responsible for keeping track of your hours worked.** If you are due for a pay increase, **you** must initiate that request. By keeping track of your hours, you can be sure you are not late in requesting a raise, or accessing the health insurance coverage you have earned. **See your hours by visiting the WEEBF web site, www.weebf.org** (also see the WEEBF piece in this newsletter). Click on “Login” to log in and see your hours worked. Remember, your username is “WEE” followed by the six numbers on your member card, for example: WEE123456. If you forgot your password, you can reset it on the spot by clicking “Forgot your password?” **Remember, if you have questions, contact the Local 159 office. We are here to help you.**

Know Your Rights: The Benefits You Earn

The Local recently became aware of a contractor that hired a CW, worked them for several weeks, and was only paying them their hourly wage, and not contributing their NEBF benefits. That is not common, but it reinforces how important it is to **know what you have earned.** New Inside CWs, and VDV Installer Trainees earn 3% NEBF benefits upon hire, and they are eligible for Health Insurance the first month after WEEBF receives 900 hours. Inside JWs, Apprentices, CEs and Stock Persons are eligible for Health Insurance the first month after WEEBF receives 300 hours.



Every new member who comes through the office is given a copy of their contract (aka CBA, or agreement), the Constitution, the Local 159 Bylaws, and an **Informational Letter** explaining dues, benefits, apprenticeship, licensing and more. If you need a copy, log into www.ibew159.org/members, then click on “Resources” and scroll down. Or request one by emailing office@ibew159.org, or calling (608)255-2989. **If you don’t know, ask!**

Everyone think back to **your** early days in the union, and how much there is to learn. Take the time to introduce yourself to co-workers you do not know. **Let’s be good union members and look out for one another**, whether that’s helping make sure new people are staying safe on job sites, helping them figure out how to read a pay stub, or whatever it takes.

Where are benefits explained in the contract? In the Inside and Residential contracts, Articles III (Hours, Wages and Working Conditions) and VII (Insurance – Vacation – etc.) explain your wages and benefits. In the VDV contract, see Articles III (Hours/Wages/Working Conditions) and XIII (Benefits). **Know the contract, protect your rights.**



AARON	SCHMITZ	JACOB	RUNAAS	PETER	HAAKENSON
ALEC	JOHNSON	JAMES	BILLS	RACHIA	KRUEGER
ALEXANDER	WATRUD	JARED	CHASE	RANDALL	ZANOYA
ALLAN	SOELLE	JARED	MICHELSEN	RAYMOND	DROESSLER
ANDREW	WELLNITZ	JASON	BRIETZMAN	REID	BRITTON
ANTHONY	HUSTAD	JAY	HOTCHKISS	RICHARD	BALLWEG
ANTHONY	REINHOLD	JEFF	NIESEN	RICHARD	MCCABE
ARMOND	MOLL	JEREMY	MANGANO	RICHARD	HEINZ
ARTHUR	GRAY	JEREMY	DEBOER	RICK	HALVERSON
BENJAMIN	COULTER	JEREMY	WAUGH	ROBERT	DOYLE
BERYL	GRAY	JERRY	SWAAGMAN	ROBERT	GOCKENBACH
BLAKE	SHALLOW	JOHN	WHITESEL	ROBERT	ANDERSON
BRADLEY	TUCKWELL	JOHN	BUNNELL	ROBERT	SPENCER
BRIAN	NICHOLS	JOSEPH	MEYER	ROBERT	CLAUSEN
CANDACE	PRIEBE	JOSH	ELROD	ROBERT	GERMANN
CASPER	PULLARA	JOSH	ALT	RONALD	DOMMERSHAUSEN
CHAD	ANDERSON	JOSHUA	MEYER	RYAN	GOLICH
CHAD	MOLL	JOSHUA	WAHL	RYAN	KAUFFMAN
CHAD	STALKER	KAYLA	MUHS	SAMUEL	REILLY
CHRIS	WOOSTER	KIRK	GJERMO	SCOTT	MCCLUSKEY
CHRISTOPHER	GANDER	KURT	BYSTOL	SCOTT	MATHYS
COLIN	CROOK	LUKE	SPAUDE	SETH	ADELMAN
COLLIN	NEVEL	LYNN	WILKINSON	SETH	REPLOGLE
COREY	DOMINY	MANASSEHS	RIVERA	SHANE	JOHNSON
CRAIG	SWENSON	MARK	KASTIGAR	SHAUN	DANIELS
DAVID	BADE	MARK	CULVER	SHAWN	WALLANDER
DESIREE	EVANS	MARK	ECKSTEIN	SHERYL	SCHREIBER
DILLON	BRILL	MASON	GORSKI	STEPHEN	GREENHECK
DONALD	CASSELS	MATHIAS	KRANTZ	STEVEN	VOGEL
DONALD	SMALL	MATTHEW	KOCH	STUART	SCHWARTZ
DOUGLAS	BUBOLZ	MELANIE	STAHLER	TERRY	LUND
DREW	MCCONNELL	MICHAEL	STASSI	THOMAS	STENBACK
DYLAN	EADES	MICHAEL	WETAK	TIMOTHY	BAKER
ELDON	DODGE	MICHAEL	BUNDERSON	TIMOTHY	KOSHAREK
ERIC	OOSTERWYK	MITCHELL	MARTINGILIO	TIMOTHY	ELLIS
ERIC	PROCES	MITCHELL	TANNER	TREVOR	HEIN
EUGENE	MELO	MITCHELL	JOHNSON	TYLER	FRISBY
EVAN	SPENCER	NATE	FUEHRER	TYLER	KIND
GARY	POEPPPEL	NATHAN	SCHWOERER	WAYNE	MURWIN
GERALD	ROBSON	NICHOLAS	BRUNNER	WILLIAM	BORRER
GREGORY	PETERSON	PATRICK	HEALY	WILLIAM	LARSEN
				WILLIAM	FISH



Brother Theo Gentle and wife Monique welcomed Son Adonis O’Ryan Gentle

Elections: Save These Dates

Tuesday, August 11, Partisan Primary

Tuesday, November 3, General & Presidential Election

You need to register to vote if you have never voted before, or if you have moved to a new address or changed your name since you last voted. See the www.MyVote.wi.gov web site or contact your local city or town clerk. **If you are registered**, the MyVote web site is one way you can update your name or address, any time.

If you are registered, it is a good idea to check now, at MyVote, to be sure your registration is current. Also, if you vote in person, check before you go, to make sure your polling location has not changed.

With coronavirus keeping more voters home, many voters have switched to voting absentee by mail, or voting early at their local city or town clerk’s office. Again, see the MyVote site, or check with your local clerk for details on early voting.

Request an absentee ballot, find your polling place, view your sample ballot, and much more at these sites:

www.myvote.wi.gov

www.elections.wi.gov

*** MONTHLY DUES (effective 1/1/2019) ***

\$19.00 Dues goes to IBEW Pension

\$20.00 Dues goes to IBEW General Fund

\$ 1.75 Dues goes to Local 159 Dues

\$40.75 Total

3rd Quarter (July/Aug/Sept)

Pay by
June 30th

4th Quarter (Oct/Nov/Dec)

Pay by
September 30th

Death benefits are assessed for any active or retired member who passes away. Active members pay \$1.00 for each death benefit. This is also a benefit for all #159 active and retired members. We are currently on death benefit #265. **If you currently have your union dues set up on bill pay with your bank, make sure you are sending \$40.75 each month.** Remember to check on death benefits. We accept checks, cash (in person), debit/credit cards (in person or by phone during business hours) and money orders.

DUES NOT PAID IN A TIMELY MANNER MAY CAUSE THE LOSS OF SOME OR ALL BENEFITS.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY DUES TIMELY. IBEW #159 IS NOT REQUIRED TO SEND OUT BILLING STATEMENTS

**IBEW LOCAL 159
4903 COMMERCE COURT
MCFARLAND WI 53558
(608)255-2989, www.ibew159.org**

Follow us on Instagram at [ibewlocal159](https://www.instagram.com/ibewlocal159)

or like us on Facebook



VDV Update

The 2020 VDV negotiations resulted in a new three-year, statewide contract, effective June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2023. Sue Blue and Casey Healy represented Local 159 on the statewide VDV negotiating committee. To the best of our knowledge, Sue is the first woman, and Casey is the first VDV Technician, ever to sit on the VDV negotiating committee. That committee is typically made up of all Business Managers (typically Inside Wiremen) of all the Wisconsin locals. (except Milwaukee, Local 494, which has its own agreement.)

Local 159's negotiated wage increases are:

\$1.30 raise, effective 6/21/2020.

\$1.40 raise, June 2021; and a \$0.25 raise 12/26/21 for Local 159.

\$1.50 raise, June 2022; and a \$0.50 raise 12/25/22 for Local 159 and Local 430.

Locals 159 and 430 successfully negotiated for additional raises for their members.

Prior to coronavirus, members would vote in person at a union meeting to decide how to allocate the current year's wage increase. This year, due to coronavirus, members voted electronically. The second week of June, an email went out to the 66 active VDV members, explaining the options:

You have a three-year contract. You have a \$1.30 raise, the first year

(Years two and three will be allocated in each of the coming years.)

Of that \$1.30, your pension is 25%, your NEBF is 3%.

Options for VDV Wage Raise Allocation:

Option 1: All on the check. Flex account is \$0.71.

Option 2: Extra ten cents (\$0.10) to Flex account

Option 3: Extra twenty-five cents (\$0.25) to Flex account

Residential Update

Members were contacted by email & phone to vote on accepting the proposed percentage increases. We currently have 10 members in this classification the majority voted to accept.

The Results:

Of the 66 members surveyed, 26 responded (21 Installer Techs, 5 Apprentices).

Of the 26 responses:

18 chose Option 1, All on the check (16 Techs, 2 Apprentices)

7 chose Option 2, An extra 10 cents to their Flex account (4 Techs, 3 Apprentices)

1 chose Option 3, An extra 25 cents to their Flex account (1 Apprentice)

SUN PRAIRIE—David R. Auby, age 97, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2020,

at Larson House in Columbus. He was born on Nov. 8, 1922, in Sun Prairie, to John and Anna (Tjugum) Auby. He married Janette Tuschen on June 23, 1951, at Sacred Hearts Church.

David served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a gunner in the South Pacific. He then went to Coyne Electrical School in Chicago. David worked as an electrician for Greibel Electric and then joined the I.B.E.W. Union Local 159 on Oct. 6, 1958, and worked from 1963 until his retirement in 1987 at the UW-Madison Physical Plant. He was the oldest longtime member of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church. David was an avid gardener, enjoyed antiques and traveling along with Janette on a yearly visit to Las Vegas.

He is survived by two daughters, Cynthia (Steven) Seltzner and Ann (Scott) Crews; two grandchildren, Scott Seltzner and Erica (Zach) Harbath; one great-grandson, Donovan Harbath, and a sister, Irma Larson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Janette; two brothers, John and Darrell; and three sisters Catherine, Margorie and Audrey. A private Interment will be held at Sun Prairie Memory Gardens. A public Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020, at PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1007 Stonehaven Drive, in Sun Prairie. Memorials can be made to Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church. A special thanks to Rita Seltzner and Troy Faust.



Tuschen-Newcomer Funeral & Cremation, Sun Prairie (608) 837-5400



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Contacts

Local 159 Office	(608) 255-2989, office@ibew159.org
Apprenticeship Office	(608) 221-3321, wijatc.org
Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)(Licensing)	(608) 266-2112, dsps.wi.gov
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits	(608) 276-9111, weebf.org
(Wisconsin Electrical Employees Benefits Fund)	or (800) 422-2128

The WEEBF office will be open for phone calls, **but not for walk-in visitors**, email fundoffice@weebf.org
Apprenticeship office, (608) 221-3321 **Apprenticeship applications are due August 21.**

To receive an Apprenticeship application, email office@ibew159.org, or give us a call
(608) 255-2989 ext 113, between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Office Operations: As Sue Blue reported, office operations continue. The office is open to visitors. If you need to pay dues, call the office with a credit/debit card number. If you conduct any business by US Mail, please allow extra time, do not wait until the last minute.