



SPARKIE SENTINEL

IBEW LOCAL 159

JUNE 2020



BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Greetings 159 Family,

It is hard to believe summer is right around the corner. I want to congratulate all the families celebrating a graduation, marriage, wedding anniversary or any other of life's milestones. Even though you may have needed to alter how you are celebrating.

The State VDV negotiations are at an impasse and there will be an interim CIR meeting the second week of June to hopefully get the contract settled. I will keep you informed. We have negotiations Tuesday, June 2nd for the Inside and Residential agreements. We have gotten a lot accomplished our last two meetings and will see what happens on the 2nd. I will let you know. None of these agreements will be settled before the expiration date, and we will be asking and expecting that all retroactive wages and benefits will be paid.

COVID-19 has changed all our lives and what has been our normal. With states beginning to re-open we will see if we begin steady forward movement or find ourselves facing even more of a health crisis. The experts say that will be determined by our actions as businesses open and we do more social gatherings.

Our office is open with very restricted access to the interior of the building. Members can come to the office to take care of dues, pick up paperwork or purchase items Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At this time one person at a time can come into the entryway. There are windows a member can go to for any union business. Limited meetings have been taking place for negotiations with proper social distancing enforced and masks being mandatory.

I have had several conversations with members these past three months, regarding concerns around working during this pandemic. I am grateful that all IBEW members had options of working or staying home. It troubles me to hear that some of our members have faced criticism from their co-workers for choosing to take a temporary furlough. We hear so many people talking about their freedom and rights. I think our members have had the optimum freedom of choice. If members wanted to work, you worked. If members wanted to remain at home, they could. Neither choice should be criticized by the other. We don't always know what is going on in a co-worker's personal life, and many times that is the determining factor in the decisions we make. Be grateful you had/have a choice and show some empathy and compassion for your 159 sisters and brothers.

I recently heard a sociologist speaking about empathy. He stated people are 70% less empathic than they were just 30 years ago. He also stated it is a skill that is developed by repetition. All we need to do is watch our local and national news to see the absence of humanity, compassion and social justice. So, let's make it a point to show more empathy, more often, and one by one we will help create a better, kinder society for ourselves and our families.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have an in-person June union meeting. We are working on possibly doing a Zoom meeting and will let you know the details on that, when available.

I know the 2nd semester of day school has been a challenge for our apprentices and instructors. Hats off to all for making the best of things.

Future newsletters will allow space for a members page – This space will allow members to sell/buy items, post information, request a service, “Looking for childcare” etc. Please submit any information to blue@ibew159.org

Susan Blue

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

Acting Referral Agent, Tom Lemens

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since the June 11th union meeting has been canceled, in accordance with the IO, we will be handling the required union business at the Executive Board. If there is any business that needs to be taken care of before the July 9th membership meeting, you can contact me by phone or email listed below.

We are still in Negotiations for our Inside, Residential and VDV contracts. We're down to the last meetings, with only a wage freeze being offered on the Inside. The Building Trades will soon be starting Negotiations with the State of Wisconsin, UW-Madison, and Madison School District. We need to stand together on and off the job, now more than ever. If you have union gear start wearing it every day at work. We need to talk contract at break and lunch. Remember if you go around bad mouthing the Union, that undermines our ability to negotiate. Believe me, members are out there doing it right now.

BOOK #'s:
INSIDE
Book I – 50
Book II – 39
Apprentice – 1
(by choice)
VDV
Book I – 2
Book II – 1

We have been looking into upgrading to a more user-friendly web page. That will also allow us to integrate a new Local 159 phone app, for better communication with members.

We will be starting the Fantasy in Lights preparation late this year and will need extra help this summer from members after work, if we are going to keep improving the event. I'm still looking for new Fantasy in Lights display ideas and some help building them. We have two new ideas that we hope to start designing and building soon. Please contact me, if you're willing to help.

Referrals since April 20th
JIW - 23, Apprentices - 10,
CE – 3, CW - 17
VDV Tech. – 1, Apprentices – 0,
Trainees - 1

We also need one more person (a tech) for the VDV Apprenticeship Committee. The local still needs to fill a few other committees. I encourage members from all classifications and retirees that are willing to participate to contact me.

We could have as many as 10 new job calls coming the first week of June. And we anticipate a very busy summer requiring travelers to fill the calls. Please check the web site, job line, or IBEW 159 Facebook page daily, www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal159/

Thomas Lemens

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

Membership Development /Organizer Report

Casey Healy

To all members, while on job sites remember that subcontracting, subletting, assigning, or transfer by an individual Employer of any work in connection with electrical or electronic work to any person, firm or corporation not recognizing the IBEW or one its locals unions as the collective bargaining representative of his employees on any sound and communication or electrical and electronic work in the jurisdiction of this or any other Local Union to be performed at the site of the construction, alteration, painting or repair of a building, structure or other work, will be deemed a material breach of this agreement and will be subject to a grievance being filed (Section 2.09, Inside and Residential Agreements; Section 2.11 VDV Agreement).

FYI on our Local 159 homepage under the Pay Dues Online tab there is a link to Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund (WEEBF) that will give you access to a wealth of information. There are forms you can download, links you have access to, view our health and welfare summary plan, retirement plan, and check out the Health Dynamics which is an opportunity to get a free yearly physical through our plan with a preferred provider. WEEBF also has a members only area where you can login to view your member eligibility, work history, flex spending (FSA Account Balance), and claims history. When you became eligible for insurance WEEBF assigned you a username and password. That information was included in your packet that you received through the mail. Your username is "WEE" followed by the six numbers on your member card. If you have forgotten your password, click on "Forgot your password?" to reset it. Or call WEEBF at (608) 276-9111.

Are you willing to get involved in your community in a positive way? How about helping your local at any level it takes to make a positive impact in the community that you live in or work in. Think about it for a while and ask yourself, do I want to wait around and hope for change or do I want to be part of the reason for change?

United we stand, divided we fall



Casey Healy

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

Organizer/Business Agent

Damon Glenn

Sisters & Brothers of IBEW 159,

I came across some literature that I viewed as accurate I would like to share:

Ten Ways to Kill A Union

1. Don't Come to the Meetings
2. But if you do come, come late.
3. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
4. When you are at that meeting start spreading false propoganda and facts to sway members that business agents are ruining our local.
5. Never Accept an office. It's easier to criticize than to do things
6. Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed on a committee. But if you are appointed, do not attend committee meetings.
7. If asked by the Business Manager to give your opinion on an important matter, tell BM you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.

8. Do nothing more than is necessary to stay employed, but when other members roll up their sleeves, willingly and unselfishly using their ability to help matters along, howl that the Union is being run by a clique.
9. If our local officers want to stand together with other members financially struggling during uncertain times YOU CRITICIZE. If Officers/ Agents continue to get paid full wages while working from home during uncertain times YOU CRITICIZE.
10. Don't bother about new members. You won't train a CW, let someone else do.

COULD THIS BE ME?

No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity

Martin Luther King Jr.

Damon Glenn

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

[Retirees Luncheon](#)

Retirees Report

Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, and with an abundance of caution, the June retiree luncheon will be canceled. 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.

Hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Tim May ~ IBEW 159 Retiree



Dear Members,

There have been many changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I believe there is still more to come. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 NTI conference, scheduled for the end of July, was canceled. I apologize to the instructors that had reached out wanting to go and had started to make special plans to attend. With that said, hopefully these programs will resume next year, so we can make sure we have the

best trained instructors for our members. Our number one priority is making sure that everyone stays safe and healthy.

The committees have also been talking about how the COVID situation might affect the 2020- 2021 school year. There are still a plethora of questions surrounding this topic, such as delaying the start of classes or running them in an online format. There is a good possibility that the fall classes will not be the same as they have traditionally been run.

Another change that has been occurring is most of our meetings are being held over video conferencing. If you would like to be involved with the Education Committee, please send me your email address, so I can add you to the invite list for the meeting. The Education Committee meets the first Thursday of the month.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! Have a wonderful week!

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

Members in good standing,

While RENEW 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.

Fortunately, RENEW recently had a small surge of activities that we were able to perform while incorporating proper safety protocol:

On Sunday, April 26th we had our first Highway Cleanup of the year. Thank you to brothers Josh Stern, Cam Knuteson, Mitch Johnson, Josh Webber, Mike Grassy, Dave Boetcher, Cristian Gutierrez, myself, and Jay Hotchkiss. Special thanks to our friends Pete Stern from Iron Workers Local 383 and Lauren Kontzke and Nate Rasmussen from IBEW LU 2304!

On Saturday, May 2nd brothers Josh Stern and myself were able to help IBEW LU 890 in their first Highway Cleanup!

On Saturday, May 9th we were able to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you to brothers Lincoln Rosonke, Derrick Wills, Tim Templeton, Cristian Gutierrez, Josh Webber, Mitch Johnson, myself, Josh Stern, and sisters Rebecca Schave, and Kenzie Tway. Special thanks to Beth Miller from AFSCME Local 1!

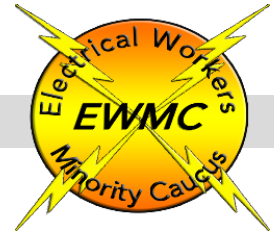
On Sunday, May 17th members from RENEW helped elect delegates from the 2nd Congressional District of WI to the Democratic National Convention in August. Thanks to brothers Shane Gibson, myself, Dave Boetcher, and Josh Stern. Congratulations to Dave Boetcher, Shawn Reents (IO Rep for the Outside Construction in WI), and Laura Beutel, Elizabeth Miller, and John Smallwood from AFSCME Local 1 for being elected delegates!

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."

Stay safe, cough into your elbow, wash your hands, stay home if you feel sick, and purchase no more toilet paper and hand sanitizer than you need

In solidarity,

Pablo Baxter ~ Chairman~ RENEW 159



Hello Brothers & Sisters,

Due to COVID-19, EWMC had its April meeting via Zoom. This month (May 28, the fourth Thursday) the EWMC meeting will also be held via Zoom. Like almost everything else in this country since mid-March, EWMC has been limited in what we can do socially. Once uncertainty dwindles down, we will have a better approach and plan to uphold our mission statement and accomplish our chapter challenges. GOTV (Get Out the Vote) is top of our chapter challenge list for near future. We will be looking at adopting a school here soon, once the school districts decide upon when/how schools will get back in session. Lastly, EWMC brother Damon Glenn was appointed to the City of Madison Civil Rights Division Affirmative Action Committee at the April Madison Common Council, by City of Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway.

AS UNION MEMBERS, WE ARE ALL MINORITIES IN THE BIG PICTURE, WHEN IT COMES TO LABOR.

Shaun Daniels ~ President of EWMC ~ s.daniels0727@gmail.com



an injury to one is an injury to all

Electrical License Info

For those who need to renew any electrical license that requires CEUs, and may need an extension, here is the latest from the DSPS. The DSPS is still accepting your requests for deadline extensions for continuing education hours. Your CE hours will have to be done by January 31, 2021. In order for a licensee to get an approved CE waiver they need to email the DSPS, dspscredtrades@wisconsin.gov, with the following info:

Name, License number, License Type, and Request for a CE waiver (something stating that due to COVID-19 you will need an extension). You still need to pay for your license renewal as usual, this is just a request for an extension for your continuing education hours. Make sure you provide good return address info. You can send any questions, or waiver requests to the above email. Email is the fastest way to get a response. DSPS phone is (608) 266-2112.

More info at <https://dsp.wi.gov/Documents/4.29.2020-TradesCredentialHolders-ContinuingEducationWaiver.pdf>

DSPS approved sources of CEUs

<https://dsp.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/TradesContinuingEducation.aspx>

For anyone who needs to take an exam:

We are doing half capacity per exam, one person per table.
We do ask that people wear masks, please bring your own.
Hand sanitizer and gloves will be on site.
There will be no pencils or calculators provided, please bring your own.

The following dates are open at this time:

July 15, Appleton	October 7, Madison
August 11, Madison	October 20, Eau Claire
August 12, Madison	October 21, Eau Claire
August 25, Eau Claire	November 3, Pewaukee
August 26, Eau Claire	November 4, Pewaukee
September 8, Appleton	November 10, Appleton
September 9, Appleton	November 11, Appleton
September 23, Pewaukee	December 8, Madison
September 24, Pewaukee	December 9, Madison
October 6, Madison	

OFFICE CORNER: Do you want to update Beneficiary Information?

There are special life circumstances that would make you want to update or change your beneficiary form information. Some of those things may be:

- Divorce
- Death of listed Beneficiary
- Marriage
- Birth of a Child
- Family Turmoil

Please make sure to keep your beneficiary information as updated as possible to avoid any further issues for yourself and your family.

Be an Ally

What is an ally? If you have an ally, you have someone who is on your side, like a more experienced teammate who is your *ally* in convincing the coach to give you more playing time. *Ally* comes from the Latin word *alligare*, meaning "to bind to," like nations who are allies in wartime — they will act together, and protect one another. You can also use *ally* as a verb, meaning "join forces with."

An ally can also be someone who supports another individual or group of people. Such as an individual outside of the LGBTQ+ community that supports their fight for equality. Or someone who stands up for non-traditional workers on a job site.

Being an ally is an extension of solidarity. It is part of being a good union member.

Bringing others onto equal footing means we all win. Elevating others not only strengthens those workers, it strengthens the person doing the elevating, not to mention our work crews, and our union. It is good for our industry. With fewer people going into the trades, let's welcome everyone, even if they don't look like you.

According to Chicago Women in Trades: An ally listens to...many voices of those they are allying with, is... constant(ly) learning, and reflects on how someone's status of race/gender/class/religion/sexual orientation (and more) confer an advantage... An ally takes ongoing (public and collective) action to support the communities that do not benefit from... advantage.

You don't have to be an executive board member to set a positive example. Any rank and file member, of any classification, can be an ally.

Take a walk in someone else's shoes.

There are many organizations working to help level the playing field.

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, www.ibew-ewmc.com

On Equal Terms: Gender & Solidarity, an interactive (online) exhibit honoring the experiences of women in the construction trades, by IBEW member, artist and writer Susan Eisenberg, www.onequalter.ms

Pride at Work, www.prideatwork.org, and their union guide to discussing LGBTQ People and Issues, www.prideatwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/LGBTQunionguide.pdf

Reckoning Trade Project, making the trades safer for non-traditional workers, www.reckoningtradeproject.org

Chicago Women in Trades, and the National Center for Women's Equity in Apprenticeship and Employment resources for women and allies in the trades, <http://womensequitycenter.org/best-practices/>. Including a tip sheet called, being a Male Ally: Recommendations for Supporting Women's

Success in the Building Trades.



Thanks for showing Union Pride





Birthdays of the Month

AARON	WEILAND	DUANE	FILLMORE	MARK	HOFFMANN
ADAM	MELKA	DYLAN	TUGGLE	MATTHEW	LEMAHIEU
ALIONA	KRUPSKAYA	ETHAN	NOLDEN	MICHAEL	LAKE
BENJAMIN	CLARK	EUGENE	GOLDADE	MICHAEL	LEWIS
BENJAMIN	CISLER	GARY	VANNATTA	MICHAEL	GEBHARD
BERNARD	BRAUN	GAVIN	MOORE	MITCHELL	KATZE
BRAD	NEITZEL	GENE	FLEMING	MITCHELL	BLOOM
BRADY	KOLLER	GERALD	MILLER	NATHANIEL	KRAUSE
BRANDON	MCGAW	GERARD	MILLER	PAT	ANDERSON
BRIAN	ESSER	GRANT	HARMES	PATRICK	CHANDLER
BRIAN	LENSKI	GRANT	WEBER	RAYMOND	SPRECKELS
BRIAN	HENN	GREGORY	STORKSON	RICKEY	ROYEM
BRYAN	NOVEY	HUNTER	CAPADONA	RICKEY	JAHN
CALEB	O'BOYLE	JACQUELINE	MAIER	RILEY	SCHUETZ
CAMERON	SPINLER	JAMES	RUST	ROBERT	BOLLE
CARL	BARRETT	JAMES	SCHWOERER	ROBERT	FRITZ
CASEY	GRADY	JAMES	VIRNIG	ROBERT	DORMAN
CASSANDRA	TREPTOW	JAMES	DALSANTO	ROBERT	MILLER
CHAD	MUMM	JAMES	EMDEN	ROBERT	KRUG
CHARLES	WALKER	JAMES	AELLIG	ROGER	SWANSON
CHRISTOPHER	NICHOLS	JAY	MEIER	RON	SCHLAFER
CHRISTOPHER	LUND	JEFFREY	MCALLISTER	RONALD	SMALL
CHRISTOPHER	WEIDENSEE	JEFFREY	MOLINE	RUSSELL	THOMAS
CORRINE	DAWSON	JEREMY	RICHMOND	RYAN	YAGER
CRAIG	HEIN	JOHN	KINDER	SHANE	HAMMOND
CURTIS	ZOET	JOHNNIE	WALTON	SHELDON	WARD
DALE	RICHARDSON	JON	KOWALD	STEVE	LANGE
DANIEL	PIERCE	JOSHUA	YAHNKE	TERRANCE	DOYLE
DANIEL	RUSSELL	JUSTIN	RICHTER	THEODORE	ROWLEY
DANIEL	FREIBERG	JUSTIN	WACKER	THOMAS	VERBSKY
DANIEL	FRIEL	KEVIN	OLSON	THOMAS	QUINN
DAVID	SEDDON	KEVIN	MACHESKY	THOMAS	BAYRHOFFER
DAVID	AINSLIE	KEVIN	DAANE	TIM	KILEY
DAVID	PITZNER	KEVIN	KANTER	TODD	LEWELLIN
DEANDRE	NEWSON	LELAND	LEMENS	TONY	ROESSLER
DEREK	FIRARY	LONNIE	FAUSER	TORY	WEIDEMANN
DEVON	STELSE	LUCAS	DEWITT	TYLER	SMITH
DILLON	HASSLER	LUCAS	FARRELL	TYLER	FLAMME
DONAVON	NACHREINER	MANDY	HELD	WADE	TIEDEMAN
DOUGLAS	JOHNSON	MARK	SCHREIER	WILLIAM	BAHR
DUANE	KREKLOW	MARK	BACON	ZACHARY	MANNERS

CONGRATULATIONS APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATES

INSIDE

Baxter, Pablo
Cisler, Benjamin
Houser, Jordan
Jensen, Brett
Jensen, Jackson
Koch, Colton
LaPinske, James
McCarthy, Aaron
Mohelnitzky, Lucas
Ruhland, Matthew
Schwartz, Andrew
Smith, Tyler
Wills, Derrick
Yates, Cole

VDV

Femrite, Christian
Flock, Curtis
Frisby, Tyler
Larson, Justin
Runaas, Jacob

* 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

1st Quarter (Jan/Feb/Mar) ————— Pay by
~~December 31st~~

2nd Quarter (Apr/May/June) ————— Pay by
~~March 31st~~

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





Find breaking news & information at the Local 159 Facebook page: facebook.com/IBEWLocal159

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.

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.