



IBEW LOCAL 159 DECEMBER 2020



BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Greetings 159 Family,

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2020, a year unlike one any of us have ever lived through. It has impacted each of us in varying ways. We see how events these past months have united us and divided us, as a Country, state and union. I have heard from many members how they have been personally affected by COVID 19 and all of the ramifications we continue to suffer; delayed unemployment claims, denied unemployment claims, being exposed to it on jobsites, contracting it or having a family member contract it, feeling unsafe at work when co-workers come back to work on a Monday saying all the ways they refused to socially distance, wear a mask or have engaged in mass gatherings over the weekend, financial hardships and job insecurities.

The State of Wisconsin and all its' counties and municipalities are suffering tremendous financial losses and without our representatives in Washington working on AND APPROVING a new stimulus bill, for individuals, businesses and governmental entities, our road to recovery is going to be slow and painful. We can all debate the whys and who when looking to point fingers, but finding fault is not finding a fix. In Wisconsin, our legislatures passed only ONE bill this entire year. Yes, that's correct ONE BILL. Who's needs are being served under that type of governing?

Are we no longer able to agree to disagree, have civil conversations and truly want to find common ground and understanding in varying points of view? I don't want to see our Country, state or union, continue on that path. But, what I do? I can lead by example and be the change I want to see, starting right here in Local 159, just like I encourage you to do. The greatest change we will see and the greatest impact we will have, starts with each one of us. It starts with honest and challenging conversations with family at the dinner table. It starts every day on the job site, listening a little more and judging a little less. We don't have to comment on everything and make sure everyone knows "we're right." Sometimes we just listen, let things sink in and if we need to respond, it's after some pause and thought.

It's good to be passionate and have your own personal beliefs and convictions. When I find myself getting drawn into conversations/situations that are contrary to my beliefs, I remind myself "be proactive, not reactive." Use your time and energy to help make your jobsites opportunities to get to know your co-workers as people first, not political opponents. You never know what is going on in someone's personal life. You may have a co-worker who seems distracted and can't focus on work and not realize they are going through some trauma or tragedy in their personal life, something they don't share. Don't just judge your brothers and sisters on the jobsite without offering an "are you ok? something going on you want to talk about?" Members have confided in me about issues that have never shared but are affecting their lives every day, on and off the jobsite. Let's end this year with a promise to be our sister's and brother's keeper, to make jobsites more respectful and a place to unify around our similarities and tolerate our differences.

Many of our members are not aware we have an employee assistance program through WEEBF. They can help with the following: - Achieve well-being – Manage Relationships and Family – Deal with Workplace Challenges – Tackle Addictions – Find Child/Elder Care Resources – Receive Financial Guidance – Improve Nutrition – Focus on Physical Health. They are available 24/7 1-888-893-6585, workhealthlife.com/NM3.

We continue to see numerous upcoming projects for bid in our weekly Dodge Reports. Right now, one of the biggest factors affecting future projects continues to be uncertainty with curtailing the spread of COVID 19. Some contractors are also facing material shortages and finding it difficult to obtain some, or longer delays in their availability to have orders filled. Through these past nine months I cannot convey strongly enough, what a difference our members have made to ensure projects were completed, no shutdowns, little to no delays in getting projects completed. YOU are the reason our contractors had the confidence AND ABILITY to push through these projects. YOU are the reason they continue to obtain more work to protect and secure the financial future of the electrical industry in our jurisdiction. YOU should be recognized and celebrated for all your sacrifices over these past nine months.

I will be sending out an email in the next couple of weeks for anyone interested in being part of 159 Building Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to evaluate our current and future space needs and look at all available options.

The week of December 7th will be interviews for the vacant business agent position. We had 12 candidates apply. There will be a panel of 159 members who will be doing the interviews. Thanks to those who have volunteered. In addition to the Business Manager position, 159 has one full-time bookkeeper/office staff, one full-time office staff person, one referral agent, two organizers – Damon's priority is internal organizing (assisting 159 members) – Casey Healy's priority is outside organizing of new members. Both organizers work on internal and external contractor organizing and membership development.

Local 159 has completed their fiscal audit (available to all members to review) and quarterly audits are being brought current. I have included the link to the Department of Labor for anyone who wants to view our most recent (and past) LM2 reports.

<https://olmsapps.dol.gov/query/orgReport.do?rptId=736382&rptForm=LM2Form>. Thanks to Eileen Stuntebeck, Tony DiCristina and David Morris, local audit committee members, for all their hard work to make sure our finances are in order and the business of the local is being done properly and according to auditing standards. They do a great job to ensure there is complete accountability and transparency in our financials.

Thanks to all our members who attended the 159 Office Q&A. (21 of you) If you missed it, there will be another one coming up in December. A notice will go out to the members.

With all the upcoming holidays, please remember we are still fighting a very serious virus. Protect yourself, your family and the general public. We will hopefully see a viable vaccine, available to the general public in the coming months. I wish you all a holiday season and New Year with new beginnings filled with good health, prosperity, purpose and peace.

“Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner **peace**.” —Dalai Lama.

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then they become your partner.”– **Nelson Mandela**

Take care, be safe and let me know if you need anything.

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

Referral Agent, Kenneth Jungenberg

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

As we all know, this Covid-19 virus is wreaking havoc on our job sites and our lives. We need to stay vigilant to keep it at bay. Please respect your coworkers as it can be deadly. Let's not ruin the holiday season for anyone, if we can help it.

With this Covid-19, we are trying to do as much electronically as possible to avoid the transmission of this virus. Resign, book signing, bidding, and referral can be done without visiting the hall by using the website, e-mail, or phone. Please call with any questions. In addition, please give me a call when you are laid off. The contractor sometimes delays getting me your termination slip so if you call me, I am able to get you on the book sooner and answer your questions. Only a few calls this month, we do have work coming up, but we do not have any start dates as of yet.

I've been updating records in our system with hours and credentials to make them more accessible for referral. Please help by checking your hours and credentials timely so not to delay raises or referrals.

Thanks to all who helped with the set up of Fantasy In Lights

Please remember to buy Union-made/U.S.-made whenever possible.

Ken Jungenberg, (608)255-2989 ~ Ext 114 ~Job Line: (608)255-0169 ~ referral@ibew159.org

BOOK #'s:

INSIDE

Book I – 86
Book II – 39

Apprentices - 9

RESIDENTIAL

Book 1 – 1
Book 2 - 0

VDV

Book I – 7
Book II – 3

Membership Development /Organizer Report - Casey Healy

Thanks to everyone that helped with the prep work, and installation of the Fantasy of Lights displays. If you didn't know this year is the 32nd Anniversary for the Fantasy of Lights. Lights will be on from now till January 3, 2021. Take your family on a drive through the lights located at Olin Park on Lake Monona. Enjoy the great light display and park music.

Keep in mind that anytime you gather with people you do not live with; the risk of infection increases for everyone.

- **Stay home if you do not feel well or are at higher risk** for getting very sick from COVID-19. Invited guests should stay home if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. Invited guests who live with people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 should think about any added risks to their loved ones.
- **Keep gatherings small.** Beginning Nov 13, there will be a 10-person limit for indoor and outdoor gatherings. All social gatherings are limited to members of only 3 households or less, including the host.
- **Hold small gatherings outside**, if possible. Wear masks and stay 6 feet away from other guests.
- **Open windows and/or doors to allow air to flow**, when possible, if gathering indoors.
- **Wear a mask indoors and outdoors** if gathering with anyone that does not live with you.
- **Encourage guests to bring their own food, drinks, and treats.** Do not share utensils or drinking cups.

- **Always stay at least 6 feet away** from people that do not live with you.
- **Remember who came to the gathering** Keep a list of invited guests in case one of them gets COVID-19. This list will be helpful if you're contacted by a health department case interviewer.

Happy Holidays to all Local 159 Brother & Sisters and your family.

United we stand, divided we fall.

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

Organizer/Business Agent Damon Glenn

Brothers & Sisters,

I hope everyone is continuing to take care of the themselves & family during COVID-19. Like many people I know and talk with day to day, I am happy that the election season is over with. The American people have spoken so let's move forward & forward the labor movement. I did some research lately, asking electrical industry guru's how much of electrical work in our industry is residential. After gathering feedback, I gauged that roughly 50 percent or half of the work we do is in the residential sector. I had to think about that for a second, considering IBEW 159 members perform little to none of the electrical residential work in our jurisdiction. Were not even a thought in 50 percent of the work available for us to perform. That's very disturbing to know, especially when I reside in Madison, Wi and I see properties being rezoned & developed all the time for multi-family properties and to know there is little to no chance IBEW members will not staff those jobs is tough to swallow. I know a lot of members will say "Our Contractors don't bid the work", which is very true. Most, if not all our signatory contractors don't bid this work. We need contractors to bid the other 50% available for us. We need to develop more contractors to do this work. The place to start looking for these contractors is among our current IBEW 159 brothers & sisters. We will be working on some incentive programs to help our members who are seriously thinking or looking to become signatory contractors to IBEW 159. There is opportunity right now to become your own business employing members trained and educated to get the job done. We can't keep turning a blind eye to half of our work! If anyone has been thinking about the possibility of running their own electrical shop, please get in contact with me and I will get you the resources you need to take that leap.

"Nothing counts but pressure, pressure, more pressure, and still more pressure through broad organized aggressive mass action."

A. Philip Randolp

Damon Glenn, (608)255-2989 ~ Ext 112 ~ dglenn@ibew159.org

Your gift is in the mail. We are sending out face masks, agreements and years of service pins to all our members. We have already sent out gift cards, pins and masks to our retirees. We apologize if anyone receives their gift with postage due. Each post office that processes these mailings may decide these are packages and add extra postage. Most are going through fine but there have been a few issues. Sorry about that.

RETIREES UPDATE 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.

Fantasy in Lights progress report

Fantasy in Lights at Olin Park is currently operational for this year as of Saturday November 7th and will run through Sunday January 3rd. Scheduled take-down for this season is on Monday January 4th.



If available/able to assist for the FIL take-down procedures, please call the union office (608) 255-2989 to inquire/sign up. Don't miss out on an opportunity to drive through this year, as there are some surprises, and well worth seeing.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday Season.

Fraternally,
Tim May ~ IBEW 159 Retiree



EDUCATION CORNER

Dear Members,

Fall Apprenticeship classes are close to wrapping up with just a few more running into December. We are still trying to teach the majority of classes by virtual means. This has been a change for both the students and the instructors. However, everyone has been very accommodating with the ongoing COVID-19 issues. I would like to thank all the instructors and students for the work they have put in so far this year.

For the JW and CW members looking for CEU's, the short 1hr classes have been scheduled. The first class will be Monday November 30th at 4:30pm and will be on Conduit Fill. The second will be Thursday December 10th at 4:30pm and will be on Box fill. I will start the meeting 10 minutes early to allow people to log on. When you log into the zoom meeting, please send me your full name and License number over the Chat function so that CEU's can be credited.

If these first two classes have enough interest we will continue offering these short courses. The link to join is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86403491721?pwd=SEZWYXpwZnQ0U1VNTGhLeThFbGUvdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 0349 1721 - Passcode: 423795

I would like to invite anyone interested to attend the education committee meetings. The people who know the most relevant needs for education in the industry are the people doing the work outside of the classroom and in the field. We are hosting meetings using video conferencing methods. If you would like to attend, please get a hold of me for the link to join. Our normal meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM. We are looking at classes for next year and a few instructors for a third-year course. An advanced conduit bending course is being added for next year's apprentices. The course covers rigid conduit, as well as the use of the electric and hydraulic conduit benders. We will use the NJATC's Blended learning software. If you would like to apply, please contact the 159 office to get an instructor application.

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

Members in good standing,

As the holidays embrace us in this year of years to remember, take a moment to consider what you are thankful for. One thing we can all share joy in is being members of this great union. This great union that fights for us to be paid a wage and benefits we can live comfortably on, that fights for us to be able to have a voice in our workplace, that fights for us to be able to spend our free time with our friends and families. This great union, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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.

Employees of local java joint Colectivo Coffee are in the process of organizing with the IBEW. Stop by one of their locations and show your support by asking them to make your drink "IBEW Strong." Also, when asked for a name for your order say, "IBEW."

RENEW 159 stands with Black Lives Matter. The history of the IBEW is filled with blood, sweat, and tears in the fight for solidarity, dignity, equality, and justice for all. As members of this great union, it would be remiss of us to ignore the current and historic struggle that our Black friends, neighbors, husbands, wives, brothers, and sisters are facing. Visit blacklivesmatter.com to learn more.

RENEW 159 now has promotional items! We have hardhat stickers, koozies, and coloring books. We plan to pass them out at meetings and events as soon as they resume. 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.

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,

With the election in the rear view and the holidays just around the corner, our focus is on family and community. EWMC and Renew have been hard at work for the River Food Pantry.

The freezer project is complete. It has been a great opportunity to work as a team representing Local 159.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be Fantasy and Lights. EWMC and Renew will be working the booths starting 12-28 thru 1-1. Thanks to all those who made it possible. Stay Safe and Have A Happy Holiday!

If you are interested in becoming an EWMC member or just curious about the committee, please contact

Shaun Daniels at ewmc@ibew159.org

In solidarity

Shaun Daniels ~ EWMC President

OFFICE MANAGER & BOOKKEEPER: Now, to wrap up the calendar year 2019. At the beginning of January, anyone who received pay from Local 159, will be sent a W-2 form. All employers must get you your W-2 before January 31st.

January 1st, 2021, monthly union dues will increase to \$41.75. Please make sure to update your check amounts whether you mail in your check or have a bill pay setup. You can always check if you owe for death benefits to make sure you are up to date, or add an extra dollar when you make your payment. This way you are always staying current with your Death Benefits.



Please update your beneficiary information or make sure we have up to date forms on file. Keep us updated if you have any changes in your contact information – mailing address, phone number and email.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the financials of the Local, please contact us at the office so we may address them directly.

Ammu Kuricheti ~Office Manager & Bookkeeper ~ Email: akuricheti@ibew159.org

Pension Committee Report - By Committee Chair: Mark Hoffmann

Season's Greetings Brothers and Sisters

It's time to get the Pension Committee Report back into the newsletter. I used to report on the status of our pension committee activities and performances at the union meetings but due to COVID shutting down our meetings this has not been happening so I have suggested to our Business Manager Sue Blue that I put the report back in the newsletter and she agreed. So here we go.

Remember, any fund performances I report are, as of the last quarter, which in this report would be, as of September 30, 2020. It has been a bit of a roller coaster ride in the last year with the markets moving up and down whenever some big news event occurs. For example, last December when the Tariff talk was happening the markets tumbled a bit. There have been other times since that have affected the market as well, but we have to remember you are investing for the long term and patience is a virtue. I always report on the Core Balanced Fund because it used to be our default fund and there is a great deal of our participants still in the fund. These days our Vanguard Funds are the default funds. In other words, if you have not designated where you want your funds invested, they will automatically be going into the Vanguard appropriate to your age. To elect other funds in our self-directed menu you have to make that request through Prudential and can be done online if you have logged into to your account with Prudential otherwise contact the WEEBF office.

CORE BALANCED FUND as of September 30, 2020:

3 rd Quarter:	+5.98%
Year to Date: (Jan. 1,2020 – Sept. 30,2020)	+4.47%
Last 12 months: (Sept. 30,2019 – Sept. 30, 2020):	+9.97%

There have been some changes made to the plan. Most urgent is the implementation of the Cares Act which allows participants to make a withdrawal from you funds for COVID 19 related issues. There is a December 21st deadline for this withdrawal, so you have to move quickly to be eligible for this program. You make application through the WEEBF office and can get that application on the WEEBF Website or the Local 159 office.

For the sake of not taking up the entire newsletter I will report other changes next month.



KEVIN	ANDERSON	DAVID	HYATT	KALE	PROTHERO
DAVID	ANTOINE	DONALD	JACOBSON	KIM	RAMMINGER
CHRISTOPHER	ARMSTRONG	LAWRENCE	JENSEN	LUCAS	REDELL
BRANDON	AUSTIN	MARK	JOHNSON	RONALD	RICH
CHARLES	BADER	THOMAS	JUNCK	TRAVIS	RIPP
ERIK	BAKKEN	AJA	KANESHIRO	PATRICK	ROACH
DAVID	BALTES	JESSICA	KEASTER	ERIC	ROM
WILLIAM	BATES	JAMIE	KEDLEY	JOSEPH	ROTT
AMANDA	BECKER	MICHAEL	KILLIAN	ROBERT	SALZMAN
JARED	BLASCHKA	REGINA	KILLIAN	MATTHEW	SAUNDERS
TAYLOR	BOCKENSTEDT	ADAM	KLAPOETKE	DUSTIN	SCHNELL
SETH	BORGRUD	YURI	KOCHAN	MARK	SCHOENEMANN
MARK	BREITNAUER	JOHN	KOPISH	DANIEL	SCHULTZ
ROBERT	BROOKENS	EUGENE	KRINKEY	GERALD	SCHULTZ
LAMAR	BROOKS	JARRETT	KUHL	SCOTT	SHIVELER
KEVIN	BUNTROCK	DOUGLAS	KUTZ	ROGER	SHROPSHIRE
ROBERT	BURMEISTER	KYLE	LABARGE	JOSEPH	SHROPSHIRE
THEODORE	BUTOR	JUSTIN	LARSON	DEWEY	SKILBRED
ROBERT	CANTER	GREGORY	LEE	NICHOLAS	SLUSHER
TIMOTHY	COGER	JOHN	LENGYEL	JEDREK	SMITH
KYLE	COMBS	CALEB	LEWIS	PAUL	SPATARO
DAVID	CONRAD	CHARLES	LITTLE	BRANDT	SPILE
THOMAS	CORCORAN	DONALD	MAAHS	NOLAN	STAPELFELDT
JAMIR	CROWLEY	PAUL	MAIER	STEVE	STAPLES
JOHN	DAHL	MICHAEL	MARTI	DELBERT	STEINER
BRIAN	DEARTH	COLE	MAXWELL	JOSEPH	STRENGER
TRAVIS	DELEHANTY	BRYCE	MEIER	BROCK	SUCHOMEL
THOMAS	DUREN	JOHN	MEINHOLZ	COLTON	SULLIVAN
GERHARD	ELLERKAMP	ALLEXYS	MEYERS	LUKE	TANNER
FERNANDO	FARRES	CAYDEN	MIEDEN	TANNER	TERRILL
HEATH	FEINER	JUSTIN	MINICK	TIMOTHY	THRONSON
BRADEN	FERRY	VERNON	MOE	ANDREW	TRAVERSE
BERNARD	FORTMAN	NEIL	MORTON	CHRISTOPHER	VAN HORN
CRYSTAL	FROGG	PAUL	MOSER	ISAAC	VAREBROOK
NIKLAUS	GEISSBUHLER	JASON	NELSON	MARY	VOLKMAN
DAVID	GRAFF	JUSTIN	OLSON	STEPHEN	VYSE
THOMAS	HAMIELEC	KYLE	OLSON	DANIEL	WASIELESKI
ROGER	HANDLER	JEFFREY	PALMER	KEITH	WATTS
AGNAN	HASHANI	STEVEN	PORTER	ROBERT	WEISSMANN
MATTHEW	HUGGETT	CARL	POTTER	BRIAN	WINEKE
NICK YAUN					
WILL YOUNG					

2020 SERVICE PIN AWARDS

5 Year Service Pin: James Aellig, Lauren Andrews, Pablo Baxter, Kellen Bletsch, Justin Brown, Tyler Cash, Benjamin, Cisler, Michael Conard, Cory DeGroff, Trenton Diske, Corey Dominy, Robert Dorman, Dylan Eades, Jordan Egli, Bryan Fields, Daniel Friel, Daniel Halloran, Grant Harmes, Paul Haugh, Cody Hollis, Jacob Homan, Robert Humphrey, Brett Jensen, Jackson Jensen, Austin Keller, Terry Kersten, Napoleon Lee, Dallas Lemoine, Barrett Locatelli, Edward Molzof, Gregory Plass, Turner Poad, Joseph Raupp, Kyle Schicker, Andrew Schwartz, Tim Sheldon, Christopher Shirley, Chad Stalker, Timothy Templeton, Robert Valek, Joseph Whittow, Troy Wiedenbeck

10 Year Service Pin: Cole Bader, Kurt Folmer, Nate Fuehrer, Jeffery Heimann, Kyle Hendrickson, Jesse Hiltbrand, Ryan Kopp, Kyle Krenz, Joel Masarik, Bryan Murray, Tyler Niesl, Christopher Owens, Cody Peterson, Joshua Schell, Tanner Terrill, Shayna Wright

15 Year Service Pin: Charles Bader, Timothy Bates, Martin Blankenship, Tyler Breunig, Robert Doyle, Anthony Gehin, Roger Handler, Timothy Henning, Joshua Johnson, Angela, Jones, Neil Kahlow, Aaron Koclanes, Randy Larson, Aaron McCarthy, Brian Murphy, Floyd Nevermann, Eric Oosterwyk, Scott Recob, Travis Ripp, Eric Rogers, Mark Roughen, Brian Russ, Ryan Schoeneberg, Matthew Storkson, Anne Swartz, Wade Tiedeman, Andrew Tollefson, Branden Trager, Derek Vinje Michael Wagner, Shawn Wallander, Brian Wineke,



20 Year Service Pin: Keith Attleson, Chuck Behm, Lonnie Fauser, John Geiger, Lee Gibbs, Michael Heller, Jamie Kedley, Mark Lemoine, Todd Lewellin, Michael Lewis, Christopher Lund, Sam Manderino, Thomas McCauley, Brandon McGraw, David Owens, David Pitzner, Herbert Portz, Randy Robertson, Robert Ryan, Mark Schmidt, Paul Schulte, Susan Stawicki, Kyle Sutter, Russell Thomas, Eric Van Veghel, Joel Vande Hey, Jared Vos, Randall Zanoya

25 Year Service Pin: Asan Asani, Erik Bakken, Steven Blumer, Mitch Danz, Cliff Englerth, Brian Esser, James Handel, Allen Heath, Richard Heding, Raymond Hilgers, Barry Kausboski, Kevin Klepper, Matthew Parks, Dale Richardson, Jason Schultz, Steven Vogel,

30 Year Service Pin: Kevin Buntrock, Troy Coffey, Kevin Daane, Luman Eggleston, Kevin Kapral, Howard Lamere, Kenneth Larsen, Joseph Legris, Dion Okeson, Paul Spataro, Philip Springman, Gregory Storkson, Sean Volker, John Whitman, Jeffery Zander

35 Year Service Pin: Fred Brown, Kirk Eilenfeldt, Anthony Libert, Stephen Mueller, Kim Ramminger, Shane Sparks, Victor Spataro

40 Year Service Pin: John Adams, Richard Alexander, James Borchart, Timothy Bortz, Timothy Coger, Eldon Dodge, Eugene Goldade, Vern Greiber, Karen Ingmundson, John Kinder, Clement Lamere, Brian Smith, John Terasa, James Vander Velde, Thomas Verbsky,

45 Year Service Pin: Kenneth Boe, Nicholas Garcia, Howard Hanson, Wilbert Holler, Rickey Jahn, Steven Lease, Michael McDaniel, James Stewart, Dale Wells, Daniel Wiersma,

50 Year Service Pin: Robert Bolle, Bernard Braun, Howard Czoschke, Howard Diehl, Lorenz Drees, Gray Gander, Joseph Guastella, Gerald Hubbard, Jeffery Rowley, Michael Sullivan,

55 Year Service Pin: Baxter Brown, David Conrad, Merilyn Graham, Elmer Racek,

60 Year Service Pin: Gerard Miller

Meet a Member of Local 159

Youssef Amraoui – 3rd year apprentice – Staff Electric

From: Morocco

Speaks: Five languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Berber). Language is a key, it opens doors, and helps you understand other cultures.

Background: Growing up, I worked as a tour guide. The more languages I could speak, the more people I could work with. I studied linguistics in college. Also went to culinary school. Came to the U.S. in 2000. Married, with three children.

Before IBEW 159: Ran a travel company, leading tours in Morocco, Egypt, France, Spain, and Jordan. Owned Marrakesh restaurant in Madison for a few years. Also worked at the Dardanelles restaurant.

Why the IBEW: I like electricity. Everybody needs electricity. I like work that lets me use my brain. I want to keep learning, and do more challenging work. Some people take time to get used to my accent. But now they know me.

Recently: I was making phone calls for the election. One guy I called thought I was a telemarketer, and he called me something nasty when he answered the phone. I told him I was Youssef, from IBEW 159, and then he realized he knew me. Some people I called gave me a hard time, and did not believe I could be a member of Local 159. They asked me questions to prove I belong to Local 159.

Are there unions in Morocco? Yes, there are a lot of unions in Morocco. But the government portrayed unions as bad and tried to get rid of them. They did a lot of divide and conquer. In Morocco, many people have not gone to college. In unions they have learned to fight for their rights.

It surprises me that some people take the union for granted. If you enjoy your experience in the union, think about the people before you, who have sacrificed. If you find a tree that has fruits in it, someone else has put in the energy, so you can enjoy the fruits. So you should plant trees for the future. If you cannot plant another tree, protect the trees you have. Don't take them for granted. I wish people could see the history of unions. Not just here -- but around the world. If you don't do something to keep it, it will go away.

Where is Morocco?



Upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all. –Alexander the Great



Daniel J. Russell, age 67, died November 11, 2020, of natural causes, in his home near Poynette, Wisconsin.

The son of Dr. William T. Russell and Alice Corcoran Russell, Dan was born June 30, 1953, in Madison and grew up in Sun Prairie with five brothers and five sisters. He lettered in wrestling at Sun Prairie High School, where he was often called "Doc." After working for a year in New Mexico with a number of SPSHS friends, he returned to Wisconsin, became a licensed electrician, and worked for several major electrical contractors before his retirement.

Dan provided strong support to his parents in their long lifetimes and experienced the loss of two brothers, Terry in 1970 and Mike in 2020. Dan is survived by eight siblings--Mary, Pat, Colleen, Tim, Faith, Steve, Julie, and John--by many nieces, nephews, and their children, and also by numerous Russell and Corcoran cousins. We will all miss Dan's stories, fishing lessons, and help with everything electrical.

In lieu of gathering in person, family members held an online meeting to share photos and memories of Dan.



*** MONTHLY DUES (effective 1/1/2021) ***

\$19.00 Dues goes to IBEW Pension

\$21.00 Dues goes to IBEW General Fund

\$ 1.75 Dues goes to Local 159 Dues

\$41.75 Total

1st Quarter (Jan/Feb/Mar) Pay by JAN 31st

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 Local 159 active and retired members. We are currently on death benefit #266. **If you currently have your union dues set up on bill pay with your bank, make sure you are sending \$41.75 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 LOCAL 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
Local 159 Job line	(608) 255-0169, 5:00pm -7:00am
Apprenticeship Office	(608) 221-3321, wijatc.org
Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)(Licensing)	(608) 266-2112, dsps.wi.gov
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits (Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund)	(608) 276-9111, weebf.org 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 December 18, 2020.**
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.

Reminder – Office is closed on Thanksgiving and office staff will be working from home on Friday.