



IBEW LOCAL 159

JANUARY 2021



BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Greetings 159 Family,

As we gladly say good-bye to 2020, we can't help but take away some very valuable lessons. COVID 19 has affected each of us in varying ways and to varying degrees. We see the continued devastation this virus is costing us in lives lost, financial destruction for many small businesses and deepening the divides, not only in our Country, but in our own union. We are seeing this Country's most vulnerable suffer the most, with no significant help from those elected to serve and protect their constituents, all while the richest, become even richer.

Moving forward into a new year, I want our focus to be about controlling the things we can and stepping up to the plate. I want this to be a year where Local 159 will see great strides towards becoming a local that appreciates and values what being a union member should be. We are not perfect individuals and we will never have a perfect union but, 2021 is the year every member needs to do their part. We are not going to become a stronger membership and continue to regain our market share, if we do not have members who live and teach true solidarity. That does not mean we agree on everything and want members to blindly follow someone else's path to get there. It does mean, we all have a responsibility to make our union better, stronger, inclusive, unified and an organization we can all be proud of.

I've spent a lot of time over these past nine months talking with our members regarding issues from COVID, unemployment payments, to personal issues and tragedies they have gone through. The pandemic has significantly impacted many of the initiatives we had hoped would be up and running. In 2021 this administration is going to focus on several ways we can improve the quality of life for our members. Some of these initiatives will involve implementing our mentoring program, craft certification, helping assess members skill deficiencies and offering hands on training to overcome those. We will be putting on more Code of Excellence training and short seminars dealing with understanding your union by-laws, the IBEW Constitution and your agreement. We are hoping to continue to grow the number of stewards we have placed and have them on all major jobsites and for every contractor to have at least a shop steward in place appointed by the union. We are very confident that we will have two new contractors signed shortly after the New Year. One will be focused on solar work, mainly on commercial buildings and the other will be doing Audio and Video work.

We are encouraged and mandated by our International to continue to grow our membership. Numbers alone will not strengthen our local. It is the individual behind the number. We need to encourage and educate our members to become strong union members. How do we make strong union members? Volunteer for committees or projects, show up to work every day on time and take pride in your work, follow your agreement and by-laws, watch out for your sisters and brothers on the job and in their life, stay educated, give back in any way you can to pay it forward for others in this union and in your local community

We had thirteen applicants for the open business agent position. Ten people were interviewed by a panel of six union members. Three individuals were brought back for a final interview, Pablo Baxter, Sam Everly and Lisa Goodman. The panel had a lot of discussion and it was a very difficult decision because they all have so much to offer the members and IBEW 159. The final decision was made to hire Lisa Goodman who will take on these responsibilities January 4, 2021. Thanks to everyone who applied and for the hiring panel for all their time and commitment during this process.

We will also address our current needs for office space and additional training space. Shortly after the new year, I will reactivate the building committee and any member, active or retired who would like to participate, is welcome.

I want to thank and acknowledge our two new apprentice representatives on the Inside JAC, Kitri Bussey a third year and Kaleb Crane, a second year. They are both going to do a great job representing over 200 apprentices. Thank you both again for your willingness to take this on. I still am asking for representatives from every class for both the Inside and VDV apprenticeship to be their class liaison to meet with me as needed.

I would like to take a moment to send out the thoughts, prayers and support of the union to all our members who have lost a family member this year or gone through any traumatic or life-altering experience. We also remember all our members who have passed away and hope their families will find comfort in the memories they shared. We need to remember that empathy and kindness are choices we make in life, to care for others and then act to make a difference.

I am very blessed in life to have had a strong, loving and groundbreaking Grandmother, Regina (Dorothy) who was the first woman to be in the print press union in Madison and run her own press at Campus Printing. She taught me to be a strong woman and a fighter. I was equally blessed to have one of the most loving, kind and caring women as my Mother, Shirley, whom many of you knew from her years working for 159. She taught me kindness and compassion. To honor their memory, in 2021, at the end of each quarter, I am going to donate \$250 to a union member's non-profit of choice that they have directly participated in for at least five hours. I am calling it the "I Gave Five" initiative. Any member who submits a written summary of their involvement to me, will be put in the drawing. Also, in May, I will also award four, \$250 scholarships for the child, grandchild or great-grandchild of any union member in good standing attending any post high school education. These awards will be done by lottery pick. I will be getting out more details to you on both of these shortly.

There are a lot of exciting things coming up in 2021. Your union wants and needs you to be a part of them. Together, we are stronger.

"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming."

Mike Dooley

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

Referral Agent, Kenneth Jungenberg

Greetings Brothers & Sisters;

We are still waiting for work to pick up. There are many projects in the works. Some of the major ones are Cuna (Staff), Sauk Prairie high school (Staff), UW Natatorium (Pieper) Projects being bid on are, Cottage Grove solar field located on Hwy AB, Truax F-35 Simulator, and the second phase of Badger Hollow solar. There are more still in the design stage.

Obviously, COVID has changed all our lives, some more than others. It has affected the work picture by slowing or delaying jobs. I think we are all tired of hearing about it, as we continue into the new year. Let's do our best to stay positive, and let's try to have patience and tolerance for those who have lost loved ones along this journey.

We've been noticing that many members have let their credentials and dues laps. You can risk losing benefits, hours, your good standing, along with the inability to be referred out. Many jobs are asking for a current OSHA 10 certification. This can be acquired online. A current Wisconsin State Electrical license is required for any person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining equipment or systems that operate at 100 volts or more. Please check your credentials and dues receipts.

Please remember to resign between the 10th and the 16th of each month. I still have a few that haven't resigned that will be taken off the book and will need to call me to resign them to the book.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR!

Buy Union-made/U.S.-made whenever possible.

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

Membership Development /Organizer Report - Casey Healy

SEASON'S GREETINGS! It's the holiday season, everyone is busy. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We want you to know that here at IBEW Local 159, we value and appreciate each one of our members. I hope you have a great holiday season and enter the New Year refreshed and reinvigorated. This is the season to recharge and make plans for the best-possible 2021 for all organized labor. Working together, we can make that happen! Whatever the situation might be let's rise and show each other what Brotherhood & Sisterhood is all about. Let's treat everyone with respect, kindness and compassion. Let's find the good in each other not the negative. With all that has changed in Wisconsin and its law's now is the time we need to unite and organize from within and move forward together.

We must look out for and help our brothers and sisters on and off the jobsite. Maybe it's a question about,

- Certain skill or a task on the job.
- Issue with a fellow worker
- Insurance and benefits
- Education, training, CEU's
- Personnel issues

If you have a friend or relative that is an owner of a non-union electrical shop, talk with them and let them know why you are a **UNION ELECTRICAL WORKER**. Local 159 would also appreciate if you would encourage them to contact Casey at chealy@ibew159.org or Damon at dglenn@ibew159.org This would

BOOK #'s:

INSIDE

Book I – 75
Book II – 33

Apprentices - 15

RESIDENTIAL

Book 1 – 1
Book 2 - 0

VDV

Book I – 5
Book II – 4

help open the door for discussion about, how does one become a union contractor and benefits of being a union contractor.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present"

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

IBEW 159 Brothers, Sisters & Members,

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year! Good riddance to 2020! Hope everyone & their families are healthy and well. As the New Year approaches, I always take a time to reflect on the past year, & 2020 is/was any & every word you personally want to use to describe. I didn't see this coming. I speak with different business agents around the country and most speak of hard times in their state and jurisdictions post COVID-9. I think IBEW 159 has been very fortunate to have a local economy (Madison & Dane) stable enough to stay afloat during a historic chapter (COVID-19) in humanity. Now, not all our brother & sisters agree that they have been fortunate this past year. I mean we do have members on the out of work list for no fault of their own other than RIF. From what I'm hearing from General Contractors, City of Madison Plan Commission and the news media, the core of demand for Electrical Labor in our jurisdiction will be strong again in 2021-2023. The work will be there, the question is, how much will belong to IBEW 159? We all have a stake and voice to be heard on how much of that work will be ours!

ALERT, ALERT, ALERT IBEW 159 Is looking for New Electrical Contractors!! IBEW 159 Brothers & Sisters Interested in starting & opening their own Union Electrical Shop. PLEASE CONTACT IBEW 159.

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 up together for the greater good. We defend one another like family.

SUE CARNEY

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

STRAIGHT FROM THE OVAL OFFICE - PRESIDENT TOM LEMENS:

Official notice of nominations and elections has been sent by post to all members. An absentee ballot request form has been included in this mailing.

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. The following positions are open for nomination.

Nominations will be held for 3 delegates to the International Convention and one alternate (the next highest vote).

In order to be nominated, a member must be without felony conviction in the last 13 years and have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 159. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. No apprentices shall be eligible to hold office [IBEW Local 159 bylaws Article III Sec. 8(f)].

If you have any further questions or concerns, they may be sent to the Election Judge by email at electionjudge@ibew159.org

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 at Olin Park will be operational 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.

The Fantasy in Lights event for 2020 has been a huge success, and hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to drive through & view this holiday lighting event.

Fraternally, **Tim May ~ IBEW 159 Retiree**



EDUCATION CORNER

Dear Members,

I Hope everyone has been enjoying the holiday season. Spring classes will be starting soon with most still utilizing virtual teaching methods. I know this has been a change this year and our instructors and students have done a great job adapting. I would like to thank everyone's hard work this fall because of the difficult situations COVID-19 has caused.

I would also like to inform the membership of two added classes that are coming up in near future. The first one is a codeology course on January 26th and the second one is a grounding terminology course on February 9th. Both courses are 4 hours long and will be running over zoom meeting. They are approved for 4 CEUs each. This is a great opportunity for CWs to have an introduction to the code. It would also be a good review for anyone taking the classes.

Next, I would still like to invite anyone who wishes 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 still hosting our meetings using video conferencing methods. If you would like to attend these meetings, please get a hold of me in order to get the link to you for joining the video conference. Our normal meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM.

We are also starting to look at classes for next year and currently are looking to a few instructors for a third-year course. An advanced conduit bending course was added for next year's group of apprentices. The course covers rigid conduit as well as the use of the electric and hydraulic conduit benders. It will also use the NJATC's Blended learning software. So if you would like to apply please reach out to 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,

2020 certainly was a year to remember and while the recent vaccine announcement has dimly lit the end of the tunnel, we've got a way to go until we can resume our usual union activities. RENEW has planned out its tentative calendar for 2021 and as soon as it is safe to resume activities we plan to do so.

With union approval ratings at new high of 65%, the new union-friendly administration entering the White House, and IBEW President Stephenson being selected to serve on President-Elect Biden's transition team advisory board, we're in a great position in America as union members. Make sure you have your "Proud Union Home" sign planted firmly in your yard, share the benefits of unions with your friends on social media and in person, and support your brothers and sisters across the country and world who are already in unions or are in the process of joining or forming one. Unions are only as strong as their members and it's time we collectively showed off that strength!

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."

Pablo Baxter ~ Chairman, RENEW 159



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a happy, safe holiday! IBEW 159 EWMC will be attending, it's 31st National leadership conference on January 15th and 16th. Do to covid-19, the conference will be held virtually. ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING

Conference Speakers

Lt. General Roland Bailey, Vice President, NECA Gina Cooper, 4th District International Vice President, IBEW. Kenneth Cooper, International Secretary-Treasurer, IBEW Maria Elena Durazo, CA. State Senator Rev. Alvin Herring Executive Director, Faith in Action Network David Long, President, NECA Liz Shuler, National Secretary' Treasure, AFL- CIO Grace Smith, National Vice President, EWMC Lonnie Stephenson, International President, IBEW Sherilyn Wright, Executive Assistant to the President, IBEW

Workshops

Alternative Pathways To Apprenticeship Program Financial Management and Security From Bystander to Upstander Managing Anxiety, Stress and Uncertainty in 2021 Movement Building, Voices United for Justice & Equality Political Action!
Understanding Micro-Aggressions, Impact Bias and Discrimination, Women of Power

I would like to invite and encourage anyone interested in learning more about the EWMC and what we stand for to attend. Please contact the union hall or me by e-mail.

ewmc@ibew159.org

In solidarity **Shaun Daniels ~ EWMC President**

OFFICE MANAGER & BOOKKEEPER:

I hope you all had a very good holiday and are starting off the New Year energized and excited!

There are a couple of things I want to mention:

- All first-year and second-year apprentices get reimbursed for their registered license fee.
- 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.
- All lost time/instructors wage requests are due to the office by Monday 4:30pm.



In terms of the monthly IBEW Local 159 Newsletter, there are 2 ways to receive this Newsletter. You can receive it via email (which is the standard method) or you can receive it via USPS mail. If you would like to change the way you receive this Newsletter, please let me know. If you would like to be removed from the USPS mailing for the Newsletter, please let me know

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

OFFICE UPDATE: Yalanda Daniels ~Office Administrator ~ Email: ydanields@ibew159.org

I would like to start by saying hello and hope everyone had a happy and safe New Year. There will now be a **\$20.00** fee for the Apprentice Application, unless you are submitting for a re-interview. Please remember that when submitting your application for the re-interview you must include your hours and a copy of a Valid ID. This Apprentice Application round will end on Friday April 16, 2021. All application will be provided via E-mail. We accept Credit and Debit card over the phone or you can send us a check in the mail as well. Be well and stay safe.

EWMC/RENEW Project Update

Mitchell Johnson, Co-Chairman RENEW 159, Recording Secretary EWMC 159

Throughout the month of November, members of Local 159 accomplished something that I was incredibly honored to be a part of, and that I hope can be an inspiring reminder of the value that we as union electricians have in society.

In 2019, when COVID, social distancing, and all the recent pandemic jargon had yet to enter our lexicon, RENEW volunteered an afternoon with the River Food Pantry. River fills a critical need on the northside of Madison, connecting locals facing food insecurity with hot meals, groceries, a mobile lunch program for kids, as well as a care closet that provides clothing and other household essentials. That afternoon, RENEW volunteers lent a hand distributing food to those in need. I was personally struck by the varied clientele. Young and old, and having every combination of gender and color; hardship did not discriminate. I took the opportunity to let River leadership know that we were electricians, so if they ever needed our skillset, to please let me know, and I'd see what I could do.

Fast forward a year into a few months ago 2020, and River gave me a call. Explaining they'd qualified for an emergency COVID grant. They were looking to install a brand new walk-in fridge and freezer system, and wondering if we could assist with the electrical. I said I'd come take a look.

Alongside a couple of far more experienced members, and fellow brothers of EWMC, Shaun Daniels and Manassehs Rivera, we walked through with River staff, taking in the scope of the project. After the tour, in consultation with Shaun and Manassehs, it was agreed we could do this, but it'd be a lot of work and we'd need a contractor.

Sue Blue helped connect us with Alex Sell, a project manager at 1901. He would go on to pull the permit we needed as well as provided many of the tools and materials we ended up using. 1901, having just joined our local, leapt at the chance to do some good, and what a wonderful initial act it was!

Alongside Shaun, Manassehs, and I was Pablo Baxter, who would join us in putting 30+ hours each into the project, alongside members Barrett Locatelli and DeAndre Newson.

We went in after work hours and on weekends, and we got it done. Volunteering our labor, saving this nonprofit pillar of the community in excess of \$10,000. Money that will go into feeding men, women, and children; neighbors who'd suffered the worst in this pandemic. By the time we'd passed electrical inspection with no issue, River forever a bustle of activity, had those walk-ins full, tirelessly doling food out to those in need.

An equally daunting and yet uplifting fact is that there is always work to be done, ensuring that our individual efforts will always be valuable. It is my desire to be motivated not by fear in these difficult times but by what I hope for in the future. It is a sentiment that I extend to everyone. Here's to the amazing work that we can all accomplish together and to a bright future ahead. I cannot express enough thanks to all those that joined me in this endeavor and asked nothing in return.





THOMAS	ALBERTI	SHANE	GIBSON	JAMES	PURVIANCE
EDWARD	ALEXANDER	CURTIS	GOODYK	DAVID	RAHN
JAMES	ALLEN	JOSEPH	GUASTELLA	JOSEPH	RAUPP
YOUSSEF	AMRAOUI	MICHEL	GUELTZOW	MITCHELL	RAY
LAUREN	ANDREWS	WILLIAM	HALE	RICHARD	REIS
KYLE	ARENZ	BENJAMIN	HARTT	JOSEPH	REYES
ANDREW	BANGERT	PAUL	HAUGH	CHRISTOPHER	REYNOLDS
AMY	BARKER	KEVIN	HELLENBRAND	RANDY	ROBERTSON
LEON	BARRETT	STEVE	HENRY	KEVIN	ROCKWOOD
STEVEN	BERSING	THOMAS	HERTZBERG	MATTHEW	RUHLAND
CALVIN	BINGER	KIMBERLY	HOEKSTRA	DAVID	RUHNKE
LAMAR	BLAKLEY	ROBERT	HUGHES	PATRICK	RYAN
FREDRICK	BLASER	KATHLEEN	HUNT	ROBERT	SANDERS
LLOYD	BLEDSOE	TRACY	HUSTAD	WILLIAM	SAXBY
DONALD	BOE	AUSTIN	JOHNSON	JOSHUA	SHELL
TANNER	BOEHNEN	CORDELL	JOHNSON	MARK	SCHMIDT
TIMOTHY	BORTZ	ROBERT	JONES	JEFFREY	SCHOENMANN
TYLER	BREUNIG	KEVIN	KAPRAL	TITUS	SCHULZE
JASON	CAMPBELL	ROMAN	KRUEGER	CHARLES	SERRA
CODY	CARNITZ	SEAN	KUHNE	ROGER	SPRECHER
KIMBERLY	COUGHLAN	DANIEL	KVALHEIM	KYLE	STIER
DANIEL	COVARRUBIAS	ANDREW	LANGE	DREW	SUKUP
RANDALL	DEBRUYNE	KEAGAN	LASWELL	TRENT	SULLIVAN
CORY	DEGROFF	STEVEN	LEASE	JOHN	TERASA
TYRONE	DICKINSON	DALLAS	LEMOINE	THOMAS	TOMLINSON
JAMES	DOBRATZ	CHAD	LEWIS	RAYMOND	VALDEZ
JED	DUFEK	JEREMY	LIEGEL	ROBERT	VALEK
BRENDA	EGLI	MICHAEL	MARFORI	JAMES	VANDER VELDE
DANIEL	EITH	EVA	MAXWELL	SEAN	VOLKER
CLIFF	ENGLERTH	ELDON	MCDANIEL	CHRISTOPHER	WAISBROT
JOSEPH	FARNSWORTH	DANIEL	MCGRATH	JEFFERY	WAISBROT
NATHAN	FAUL	EZEKIAL	MOORE	JEFFREY	WAYMAN
MARTIN	FERGUSON	JUAN	MORENO	DALE	WELLS
AIDEN	FLORIN	TIMOTHY	NOBLE	TROY	WIEDENBECK
KURT	FOLMER	BRAEDON	O'BOYLE	BOWEN	WILEMAN
BRENT	FOLMER	ROBERT	ODEGAARD	MATTHEW	WILKINSON
STEVEN	FOSTER	BRADY	OHLIN	DAVID	WILLIAMS
NOAH	FURSETH	ROBERT	PAGE	RICHARD	WOERPEL
BRIAN	GENZ	DAVID	PALMER	JEFFREY	ZANDER
ZANE	GEYER	EDWARD	PETERSEN		

OBITUARIES

David D. Haefer, age 84, of Reedsburg, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at the Reedsburg Area Medical Center following an extended illness. He was born on Nov. 10, 1936, in the Township of Excelsior. David was one of seven children of the late Henry and Leda (Reinfeldt) Haefer. He was united in marriage to Barbara Krey on June 29, 1959. To this union was born three sons, Martin, Wayne and Bobby. He was a self-employed electrician and also worked in Madison until his retirement in 1998. David enjoyed his retirement at his home in the woods that he and Barbara built themselves. He was an avid hunter, loved to fish and enjoyed the wildlife around his home in the woods. David served his country in the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Edward and Marvin; sister, Arlene Brandt; and his granddaughter, Samantha Haefer.



David is survived by his wife, Barbara; three sons, Martin of Madison, Wayne (LeAnne) of DeForest, and Bobby at home; granddaughters, Megan, Alexis, Mercedes, Ciera, and Kelsey Rose; two great-grandsons; and one great-granddaughter. Also surviving are sisters, Betty Hinze and Karen (David) Allen, both of Reedsburg; brother, LaMoine (Elaine) Haefer of Cottage Grove; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Per David's wishes, no services will be held. The Farber Funeral Home, Reedsburg, is assisting the family.

Jon Brian Cummings of Reedsburg, age 64, passed away unexpectedly in Madison, Wisconsin on December 23, 2020.

Jon was born on March 23, 1956 in Frederic, Wisconsin to Royce and Leona Cummings. The second of four brothers, Jon's life was shaped by hard work at the family lumber yard. His father taught him to drive a fork-lift by the time he was in long pants, and his mother taught him the value of a hard-earned penny.

But Jon's life was filled with fun too. The Cummings brothers were avid fishermen and hunters, and visit to their house was like a trip to the taxidermist. Jon loved to drive fast—cars, snowmobiles, and dirt bikes. One of his brothers described him as “the Evil Knievel of the family.” Growing up, Jon's brothers were his best friends and the outdoors was his playground.



Jon was a graduate of Dunwoody Technical Institute and worked as a master electrician for more than 40 years, most of that time for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jon rarely met a motor or transformer he could not fix, and colleagues relied on his extraordinary trouble-shooting skills to literally keep the lights on. In 1983, Jon married Judy Dodge. Life with Jon was never dull. Jon and Judy were partners for 41 years and married for 37.

Jon was the proud father of three children: Nicole, Zachary, and Benjamin. Jon was a genius in terms of his trouble-shooting skills and ability to think abstractly. But that genius came with a price. For the past decade, Jon has struggled with bipolar disorder, and on December 23, this cruel illness took his life. Our hearts are breaking at the loss of this brilliant man, but we take solace in the fact that Jon has finally found peace.

Jon was preceded in death by his father, Royce Cummings. He is survived by his wife, Judy Dodge Cummings, and their children, Nicole Cummings, Zachary Cummings, Benjamin Cummings (Katie), his beloved granddaughter Eva Cummings-Garcia; his mother Leona Cummings, and his brothers Jeffrey, Jay (Julie), and Gene, and many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service is being planned for some time in January. Because of Covid restrictions, the number of people who can attend in person will be limited, but we invite others to join us in celebrating Jon's life via Zoom.

For more details on this service, please email Judy at judydodgecumplings@gmail.com.

Cards can be sent to Judy at 5325 Century Ave., Apt. 8, Middleton, WI 53562. Any donations will be given in Jon's name to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

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

\$19.00 IBEW Pension

\$20.00 Due to IBEW General Fund

\$ 1.75 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 #269. **If you currently have your union dues set up on auto 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
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	(608) 276-9111, weebf.org
(Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit 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 April 16th, 2021.** To receive an Apprenticeship application, email office@ibew159.org, or give us a call (608) 255-2989, between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021