



# IBEW LOCAL 159 NOVEMBER 2021



Greetings 159 Family,

With the holiday season beginning, I know we are all grateful to have a much different situation to celebrate with family and friends. We are far from being back to normal, but with vaccinations and adhering to other safety measures, we are in a better place for now. I received a very informative COVID related Q&A from our 6th District International Vice President, David Ruhmkorff, that I will be sending out in an email. It will help answer some questions and address some issues many of you may have regarding requirements for employment.

Overall, this membership has been very fortunate with steady work and an excellent outlook for work well into and through 2022. We have so much to be thankful for. On that note, **I invite you all to the November 11 union meeting** at 5:30 at the Madison Labor Temple. Afterwards we will share a Thanksgiving meal. **I need you to let me know if you will be attending and staying for the meal. Please email me by November 8.**

I have been working on correcting some of the past issues we have had with our Market Recovery Addendum and the negative effects that has had on both our CWs and apprentices. The NECA Chapter Manager and I will be working on improving that language to benefit and better protect our members. We are committing to meet monthly (minimum) until we agree on a new and improved version for 159 members.

There was some discussion this week at our quarterly Health & Welfare trust of a possible increase in premiums next summer. Overall, the fund is doing very well and there has been no increase in premiums since 2017. Trustees will be taking into account the suggestions from our investment and legal counsels. At this time, smaller incremental increases may be warranted to prevent a large increase further down the road.

I attended virtually the 67th annual International Foundation Employee Benefits Conference that was held in Denver, CO. last week. One topic that crosses through into every seminar I have attended in the past year is mental health. I know I have mentioned this previously and it is a topic of discussion that is not going anywhere. I will forward some good information I received from this conference on this topic and finding ways to live a happy, healthy and meaningful life. There is no doubt COVID has taken a toll on us all, mentally and physically. So, let's start controlling those things we can and look for ways to improve every aspect of our work and home life.

As we prepare for the 33rd annual Fantasy In Lights, there are so many to thank. We have had a great time here with our retirees (and some active members) since June, working on fixing old displays, stringing new lights, welding, painting and basically doing whatever needs to be done. What a treasure these retirees are to 159. They welcome and encourage all retirees to join in (especially you young whipper snappers!) Rich Nelson and Tom Lemens are priceless, and so dedicated to ensuring this is a successful event year after year. Agent Ken Jungenberg helps keep things on track and has spent countless hours after work helping out. We are so fortunate and grateful. I want to also thank all our members who volunteer for events and help out whenever they are called upon.

Thank you to all our day and night school instructors for your dedication and commitment to prepare our members for everything that lies ahead in this industry. You all make a difference and "thank you" doesn't quite seem sufficient. Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving,

and for all our hunters, be safe out there. I will be emailing you additional information and updates on moving forward with our building space concerns, information about our "shares" in the Labor Temple, and updates on future courses we will be running at the training center in 2022.

***Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.***  
**-William Faulkner**

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

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## **Referral Agent Kenneth Jungenberg**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, Work has slowed down a bit with only 4 open calls at this time, 3 for Morse at Epic (night shift); and 1 short call for Accurate. The Inside book numbers are staying consistent with few referrals going out. We do have 3 apprentices out of work, but I think we will be able to place them soon. We have filled the requests for the Badger Hollow Solar field. They think they will have sufficient workforce until spring of 2022. I am expecting a total of 150 calls for Badger Hollow by mid-April.

The Fantasy in Lights is going well with most of the displays being checked out and new photo controls installed in the panels by the retirees. We have one new trailer loaded, wrapped, and ready to go. The second trailer is here, the graphics will have to wait until next year due to some needed bodywork before the wrap goes on. Things are moving along well, while we are ramping up to "Lights On" November 13, at 4:30pm.

**BOOK #'s:**

**INSIDE**

Book I – 39  
Book II – 16  
Apprentice - 3

**VDV**

Book I – 5

**Ken Jungenberg: (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 114; Job Line: (608) 255-0169 ~ [referral@ibew159.org](mailto:referral@ibew159.org)**

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## **Membership Development/Organizer Report - Casey Healy**

- I have been busy knocking on doors, following up on some leads and making phone calls to the non-union worker. If you are on a jobsite where non-union electricians or low voltage technicians are working, please give me a call. This is a great opportunity for all of us to engage in conversation with these workers and talk about why we are proud to be members of the IBEW #159. We also have brochures that we can hand to them in person or leave one for them so they can read it later.
- If you have family member or a friend that is interested in working in the electrical trade, please give me or Damon Glenn a call or send an email. This is a great time for an individual to start a new career. We have employment opportunities with great wages, benefits, training, safety, etc.
- We also have a New Member Organizing Incentive program for Local 159 members who are in good standing. Good standing is a member who is current with their dues payments. This will take effect starting 10-18-21. If you are a current Local 159 member in good standing and have someone that has 6,000 or more hours in the electrical or low voltage industry call Casey or Damon for details and an application. [LMCC New Member Organizing Incentive.docx](#)
- We have open calls now and the work picture looking forward for the local is very good. Now is the time to increase membership and gain market share in our jurisdiction.
- 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.

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

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



## Organizer/Business Agent Damon Glenn

Sisters & Brothers,

I hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for the holidays coming up. If you were at the union meeting October 14, you would have heard from the Business Agents' reports that we are still looking for experienced electricians for current work and upcoming work that we have in our jurisdiction. The upcoming year is looking very good for work scope. Jobs are still coming out of the ground with more on the table to be bid. During these times of good work outlook, it's not only organizing non-represented electrical workers into the IBEW 159 that needs to happen, but also, it's a great time for internal organizing of our own members. Those of us that have been around long enough to see good and bad times know that when work gets slim things can become a little cutthroat when it comes to staying employed. Right now, when times are good let's hold all our brothers and sisters that have pledged and made an oath to IBEW 159 accountable for following the CBA, Constitution and Bylaws. You don't have to walk on eggshells to keep your job when times are good, nor should you ever have to walk on eggshells to keep your job. Trained Electrical Skilled Labor is in high demand! Let's teach each other how to be better skilled electricians every day on the jobsite. Now is the time to get on same accord. Electrical Labor is in a good position! From my research this doesn't happen too often when it comes to construction and electrical labor. Let's make the best of these times to prepare and position ourselves for near future.

***Our economy is out of balance. Growing labor unions, rather than decimating them, is one way to bring a measure of economic stability to our nation.***

**-John Patrick**

### **IBEW Constitution, Article XIX, Sec. 2, Qualification of Members:**

If, after being admitted to membership, it is later found upon investigation that a member is not sufficiently acquainted with the branch or type of work on which he/she is engaged to earn or command the established wages, then a L.U. can, through its executive or Examining Board or a specially appointed committee, require such member to revert to the proper apprentice grade and pay rate, to attend electrical study classes, or devote time toward becoming a competent, properly informed electrical mechanic or employee.

**Damon Glenn, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 112; Cell: (608) 338-9075 ~ [dglenn@ibew159.org](mailto:dglenn@ibew159.org)**

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## Business Agent Lisa Goodman

We encourage you to keep growing, and to stay on top of your continuing education CEUs, if you need them. (Check your status and which classes you have on record at [www.LicenseSearch@wi.gov](http://www.LicenseSearch@wi.gov)). This is the best time of year to sign up for classes. Watch for additions to the schedule at <https://ibew159.org/community/training-center/class-offerings>. The newest addition is an intro conduit class on Saturday, November 6, for 8 CEUs.

As Sam mentioned, there is always a need for new instructors. Even if you are simply curious to learn more, contact the office and submit a one-page instructor application. If you don't try, nothing will happen. Go for it!

In October, the Sixth District held a virtual Women's Conference, at which some of the women's committees in the District reported on what they are doing. New: Local 292 (Minneapolis) introduced a new benefit in September, the Pre-Delivery Health and Safety Leave and Post-Recovery Benefit. Now their members won't be "punished" (their word) by having to use up their disability benefit for pregnancy leave. It provides a total of 20 weeks per birth --12 weeks prior, and 6-8 weeks following birth, with full pay at the member's hourly wage, along with health care coverage and pension credit. There is a cap of 50 weeks per member. The benefit focuses on safety – climbing ladders and working in extreme temperatures being among the criteria. Mudge said it took time to set up, but their labor and management are both "excited" to offer this benefit.

Finally, keep in touch with the Hall. If you are sick or injured, let us know. We are here for you. Stay safe!

**Lisa Goodman, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 122; Cell: (608) 622-2160 ~ [solidarity@ibew59.org](mailto:solidarity@ibew59.org)**

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## Retirees Update

Due to continued caution surrounding COVID-19, and the Dane County indoor mask mandate in effect, the **monthly retiree luncheons** will be **canceled** until further notice.

The annual Fantasy in Lights setup at Olin Park will begin Monday, November 1. If available and interested in helping at the park, please contact Ken Jungenberg at the Union Hall 608-255-2989 ext. 114.

Hope to see you there!

**Tim May ~ IBEW Local 159 ~ Retiree**

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## Education Corner

Our classes for the year are well underway, with some of the night school courses already finishing up. There have been very few issues with COVID this year, and I would like to thank all of the instructors and students in following all the guidelines to keep everyone healthy. With that said, if you are currently enrolled in a course and are experiencing symptoms of COVID, reach out to your teacher to find a way to make up the missed time.

Next if there is anyone interested in becoming an instructor please fill out an application at the IBEW 159 office. This helps us see what your interests and qualifications are. We are currently looking for more instructors and classes targeted at a JW's and CW/CE's so there is a wide range of topics that would be appropriate to be covered. We are also potentially looking to get a few more people certified as test administrators, if this is something you would be interested in, I would suggest filling out the same application and writing in that you're interested in test administration.

I would also like to invite anyone who wishes to attend the education committee meetings. We are still hosting our meetings using video conferencing methods, to make it more convenient for members to attend. 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.

Sincerely,

**Sam Everly, Part-Time Education Coordinator** ~ [sam.everly87@gmail.com](mailto:sam.everly87@gmail.com)



"The mission of the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers (RENEW) initiative is to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active in their local union. All are welcome at our monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM

Members in good standing,

On Saturday, October 23, we hosted our long running Social Club event. This time we visited Treinen Farm Corn Maze. Fun was had by all.

On Saturday, November 13, we will be hosting our recurring event, Labor History Night, at 6 pm in room 109 of the Madison Labor Temple. This year we will be screening the film Matewan with a discussion to follow. Soda and pizza will be provided.

We are currently in the process of acquiring RENEW T-shirts and a banner. More info to come.

RENEW 159 now has promotional items! We have hardhat stickers, koozies, and coloring books. We plan to pass them out at meetings and events. If you would like some for you and/or your jobsite in between meetings email [renew@ibew159.org](mailto: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** ~ [renew@ibew159.org](mailto:renew@ibew159.org)



Brothers & Sisters,

Our EWMC Chapter is currently planning our **National Day of Service, November 20, 2021**. EWMC Chapters nationwide will volunteer our services to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities. We do this in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of civic and charitable duties. During these times of COVID-19 there are plenty options to choose from to offer our labor and finances (if available) to communities and nonprofit organizations in need. A suggestion that was brought up was to feed the homeless community on Madison's East Side at Reindahl Park located off E. Washington Ave. We have our monthly meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 28, at 5pm. There is a good chance we will have other suggestions from our members. EWMC 159 will be participating in Wisconsin and National Apprenticeship Week November 15-21. EWMC will be reaching out to Madison Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee and different affiliates that have a relationship with apprenticeship programs to see how EWMC can help in promoting Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion (DEI) in organized electrical industry. EWMC has also had initial conversation with the NECA District Rep to discuss NECA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association), has a mission **"To empower each and every person regardless of background, race, gender or any other factor to succeed and be able to grow in our industry."** EWMC believes not only will it take the labor force to accept and engage in fairness, equality and inclusion, but also Management for full acceptance of DEI. As always, don't let the word "Minority" confuse you! We are all minorities in the labor movement. *In 2020, the percent of wage and salary workers who were members of unions—the union membership rate—was **10.8%**, up by 0.5 percentage point from 2019, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in January 2021. So 10.8% is the minority, we are in this together.*

We meet on the fourth Thursday, at 5:00 at Local 159.  
In Solidarity,  
**Shaun Daniels, EWMC President** ~ [ewmc@ibew159.org](mailto:ewmc@ibew159.org)

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Hello, Brothers and Sisters!

We are beginning to have our Veterans' Committee meetings at different venues... November's meeting will be held at the Green Lantern Restaurant in McFarland at 4:30pm on Thursday, November 4. Please come out and join us!

At the last meeting, there was a discussion regarding creation of a "one-pager" handout with important information and Points of Contact for our 159 vets and their families. Please reach out to [Raymond droessler@hotmail.com](mailto:Raymond_droessler@hotmail.com) if you have any input, information, or ideas for that project!

### **"Roger that"**

Meaning: Yes

This one is pretty common knowledge, though not all may know why the military says, "Roger that," rather than "yes." Under the old NATO phonetic alphabet, the letter "R" was pronounced, "Roger" on the radio. Radio operators would say, "Roger" to mean that a message had been properly received. The meaning evolved until "roger" meant "yes." Today, the NATO phonetic alphabet says, "Romeo" in place of R, but "roger" is still used to mean a message was received.

<https://www.military.com/undertheradar/2015/06/15-common-phrases-civilians-stole-from-the-us-military>

In Solidarity,  
**Jay Droessler** ~ [raymond\\_droessler@hotmail.com](mailto:raymond_droessler@hotmail.com)

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## **Women's Committee Report**

A creative crew of Women's Committee members and friends hosted a community Trunk or Treat at McDaniel Park in McFarland on October 24. There was a good turnout of Local 159 families and community members, who gave a lot of enthusiastic feedback. This will become an annual event. Thank you to everyone who helped out and showed up!

The Committee is gaining momentum and looks forward to running more events and projects and collaborating with others. Meetings are during the fourth week of each month.

Contact Cassie Schuler, [cbspindler@yahoo.com](mailto:cbspindler@yahoo.com)



***Gratitude can transform common days into Thanksgivings, turn routing jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.***

***-William Arthur Ward***

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Congratulations Sister **Rachia Krueger**, and welcome to the world, Gyda Vallalee Krueger! Born October 21, 2021, weighing 6 lbs 6 oz



## November Calendar

Continuing Education class schedule is posted at [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org)

- Nov 4 1630 (4:30 pm) Veterans Committee, at IBEW 159 (first Thursday)
- Nov 4 4:30, Education Committee, (first Thurs) virtual, [sam.everly87@gmail.com](mailto:sam.everly87@gmail.com)
- ~~Nov 8 CANCELLED: Retirees Lunch (second Mon). See Retirees Update~~
- Nov 11 4:30, RENEW meeting at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs)
- Nov 11 5:30, Union meeting at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs)  
**Invite new union members to get sworn in. Attend together.**
- Nov 14-20 Wisconsin Apprenticeship Week**
- Nov 17 4:00, VDV Apprentice Comm. In person, TBA. (third Weds, odd-numbered months)
- Nov 18 3:00, Inside Apprenticeship Committee (third Thurs) open session

Due to Thanksgiving, the EWMC and Women's Committee meetings will likely be re-scheduled. Stay tuned.



**Emery Stluka**, 11/28/1935 – 9/24/2021

A memorial service will be held in 2022.

**Delbert Steiner** age 82 of Fayette, WI, passed away Sunday, October 3, 2021, at Edenbrook Nursing Home in Platteville, WI. He was born December 1, 1938, at the Darlington Clinic the son of Harold and Phyllis (White) Steiner. Delbert lived in the Darlington area his entire life where he graduated from Darlington High School. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Patsy I. Douglas, on September 9, 1961, at Fayette United Methodist Church in rural Darlington. Together they enjoyed 60 years of marriage. He proudly served as an electrician for over 40 years until his retirement as well as operating the family farm since 1970.

**\*More information\*** <https://www.channel3000.com/delbert-e-steiner/>

**David Hyatt Jr.** It is with deep sadness and broken hearts that we announce David L. Hyatt Jr., 58, born Dec. 13, 1962, passed away, way too soon, peacefully at home on Sept. 29, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/david-hyatt-obituary?id=24746480>

**Howard Joseph Frey**, age 91, died Friday, Oct. 22, 2021, surrounded by his family following a brief illness. He was born in Roxbury on Sept. 4, 1930, the son of the late George and Anna (Lochner) Frey. He was united in marriage to Irene Ganser on July 9, 1955, at St. Aloysius Church in Sauk City. After his service in the US Army, he spent the majority of his working years as an electrician working for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, retiring in 1994. <https://www.hooversonfuneralhomes.com/obits>

# Happy Birthday

PETER	ADAMS	RYAN	HERRITZ	GREGORY	PLASS
JOSHUA	ANDREWS	RANDALL	HILGERS	MICHAEL	POHLMAN
ERIC	BACHHUBER	RAYMOND	HILGERS	MARC	RECHLICZ
RYAN	BAKER	JESSE	HILTBRAND	SCOTT	REPLOGLE
KEVIN	BANES	JESSE	HOLLENBECK	JOSHUA	RICHARDS
BRET	BEINE	JACOB	HOMAN	DYLAN	RICKEY
SAMUEL	BIRCHER	AARON	JORDAN	KEVIN	SANKBEIL
AUSTIN	BROOME	BOBBI	KAHL	BRANDON	SCHAITEL
DANIEL	BUKIEWICZ	NEIL	KAHLOW	TERRY	SCHELLIN
MICHAEL	BURKE	THOMAS	KALLIO	EVAN	SCHOEN
ROBERT	CALL	BRUCE	KASPRZYK	LOGAN	SCHOENENBERGER
DAVID	CATES	AUSTIN	KELLER	MATTHEW	SCHUETTE
DONALD	CHISHOLM	FREDRICK	KEMPFER	CHRISTOPHER	SHIRLEY
MICHAELPAUL	CZECHANSKI	MICHAEL	KENYON	DANIEL	SMITH
JEROME	DAVIS	TIMOTHY	LARSON	LOUIS	SMITH
JUSTIN	DEMINTER	THOMAS	LEMENS	SCOTT	SMITH
GREG	DRESSLER	DYLAN	LEMOINE	VICTOR	SPATARO
COLEMAN	DYBUL	DALLIS	LIDDELL	TERRANCE	STAMM
DENNIS	ELEY	GERARD	LIEGEL	COREY	STATZ
KELLY	FEINER	CURTIS	LYON	JAY	STEPHENSON
GLENN	FLEMING	MICHAEL	MITTELSTEDT	NATHAN	STURMER
RONALD	FOYE	PHILLIP	MUELLER	MICHAEL	SULLIVAN
ERIC	FRAWLEY	RICHARD	NELSON	KRISTOPHER	SUTTER
DANIEL	HALLORAN	JAMES	NEU	DIMITRIS	TOURTOUROPOULOS
JAMES	HANDEL	ADAM	NEUMAN	BRANDEN	TRAGER
ANDREW	HANSON	CODY	O'CONNELL	DEREK	VINJE
HOWARD	HANSON	WAYNE	PEDDER	BLAINE	WADDELL
NICHOLAS	HAVEY	CODY	PETERSON	MICHAEL	WAGNER
TIMOTHY	HAWKINS	MAYNARD	PETERSON	JOSHUA	WANTA
JOSHUA WEBBER			JIMMY YOST		

## Pension Committee Report

First, I start this report with some news about Prudential. Empower Retirement and Prudential have entered into a definitive agreement for Empower to acquire Prudential's full-service retirement business. Empower Retirement is the second-largest retirement service provider in the US and is singularly focused on retirement, with expertise across all plan types, company sizes, and market segments. This was surprising news from Prudential and we have had a very good relationship with Prudential and the services they have provided our plan. According to Mr. Bill Evans, our Representative from Prudential, he has not been told of any changes as far as him or his team servicing our plan. We hope this service from Mr. Evans will continue. This transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2022, subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions.

I'm happy to report the Core Balance Fund is now in the hands of Prudential and is being valued daily like the rest of our funds. This gives you real time reports at your fingertips to make better decisions about actions you may take to be in or out of this fund. Now instead of making that decision once a quarter as it was in the past you now have the ability to choose daily to be or not to be in that fund.

Our fund manager, Andco, has reported they are looking at the Brown, Baron Real Estate and Artisan Partners funds for poor performance and investment style changes. They also report that our plan is and has been performing very well with our growing assets reaching \$347 million as of the end of the second quarter.

-Mark Hoffmann

**See Current Class Offerings Schedule at [www.ibew159.org](http://www.ibew159.org)**

## Contacts

Local 159 Office	(608) 255-2989, <a href="mailto:office@ibew159.org">office@ibew159.org</a>
Local 159 Job line	(608) 255-0169, 5:00pm -7:00am
Apprenticeship Office	(608) 221-3321, <a href="http://wijatc.org">wijatc.org</a>
Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)(Licensing)	(608) 266-2112, <a href="http://dsps.wi.gov">dsps.wi.gov</a>
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits (Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund)	(608) 276-9111, <a href="http://weebf.org">weebf.org</a> or (800) 422-2128

The WEEBF office will be open for phone calls, but not for walk-in visitors, email [fundoffice@weebf.org](mailto:fundoffice@weebf.org)  
Apprenticeship office, (608) 221-3321. **Apprenticeship applications are due Dec. 17, 2021.**  
**To receive an application, email [office@ibew159.org](mailto:office@ibew159.org), or call between 8 AM – 4 PM.**

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