



IBEW CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938 LOCAL 160

225th EDITION | 1st QUARTER 2026
NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER/ FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you well and starting to thaw out after another long winter. As we head into spring, there's a lot happening at the Union Hall in 2026.

First, we will be holding our Local 160 Steward Training on April 29th and 30th. Please watch your mail for your RSVP card with your assigned date to attend. We've put together a strong program this year and look forward to seeing you there.

This spring we will also be holding our Local 160 Officer Elections. Nominations will take place at the May 7th General Membership Meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in running for a position, please review the information included in this newsletter. We will also be electing delegates to attend the International Convention, which will be held September 21st–25th. Because the Convention falls during the last week of September, we are moving the Annual Pig Out up one week this year. The new date will be September 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please watch for more information as we get closer.

I'm also excited to remind everyone about IBEW Local 160 Family Day at ValleyFair on July 18th. This event is for active members in good standing and their immediate family. To request tickets, please complete the registration form. You can scan the QR code in this newsletter or visit ibew160.org to access the form. Once eligibility is verified, tickets will be distributed directly through ValleyFair. Each ticket includes park admission, water park access, parking, and a food voucher – compliments of Local 160. We are limited to 2,850 tickets, so this will be first come, first served.

Later this year, Local 160 will participate in the Toys for Tots campaign. We will be collecting toys and monetary donations at the Union Hall beginning September 2nd through December 15th. Donations may be dropped off before membership, retiree, or committee meetings, or Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We will continue to share reminders throughout the summer. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

In closing, thank you for your continued commitment to Local 160. I look forward to a strong and successful 2026. As always, please stay safe and take care of one another.

In Solidarity,

Kurt Zimmerman
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local 160

General Membership Meetings

Held at the Plymouth Union Hall on the first *Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- July 2
- August 6
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

*Note: If a meeting date falls on a holiday, it may be rescheduled for another date.

Mo Valley Unit Meetings

- March 26 @ 7:30 p.m. | Grand Rapids
- April 28 @ 6:30 p.m. | Plymouth
- May 28 @ 7:30 p.m. | Grand Rapids
- June 30 @ 6:30 p.m. | Plymouth
- July 30 @ 7:30 p.m. | Grand Rapids
- August 25 @ 6:30 p.m. | Plymouth
- September 24 @ 7:30 p.m. | Grand Rapids
- October 27 @ 6:30 p.m. | Plymouth
- November 19 @ 7:30 p.m. | Grand Rapids
- December 15 @ 6:30 p.m. | Plymouth

Hall Closures

- Friday, April 3
- Monday, May 25
- Friday, July 3
- Monday, September 7
- Thursday, November 26
- Friday, November 27
- Thursday, December 24
- Friday, December 25

Retiree Club Luncheon

- March 25
- ~~April 22~~ CANCELLED due to scheduling conflict
- October 28
- November 25
- December 23

**Please visit ibew160.org to
check for updates or
cancellations each month.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE 160 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Winter's here. Work might slow down a bit. Nights are long. That makes it a good time to get to a union meeting at the hall. Bring a coworker with you. Set a goal this year to make a few more meetings than you did last year.

This is your union. It only works if we show up and stay involved.

We've got some new employees coming in. Take a minute to mentor them. Teach them

the work rules. Explain the history of the IBEW and how we earned the wages and benefits we have today. That pension didn't just appear. A lot of folks fought hard for it. Some places don't have a pension at all. We do — because the ones before us stood together.

Help your stewards out. Know who your steward is. When there's a problem on the job with work rules, write down the date and time and go through the proper process. Yeah, it takes time. But those rules were fought for by your brothers and sisters so you can earn a good wage, overtime benefits, and bring home a paycheck you can be proud of.

Safety matters too. The IBEW pushed for safety standards so we have the right tools and protections to do the job and go home the same way we came to work.

Look out for each other. Be your brother's keeper and stay safe.

In Solidarity,

Scott E. Knight
Executive Board Member
IBEW Local 160

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our Brothers. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to their families and friends.

- DAVID J. HEISER - XCEL ENERGY - 10/26/25
- JOHN E. ROBERTS - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY (NSP) - 12/1/25
- MICHAEL P. GLEASON - XCEL ENERGY - 12/4/25
- KEITH R. WAMPOLE - MO VALLEY - 12/5/25
- JEFF W. MCCONNELL - XCEL ENERGY - 12/13/25
- GARY A. GRAMS - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 12/15/25
- WAYNE W. BENOIT - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 12/16/25
- RICHARD M. THUNSTROM - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY (NSP) - 12/25/25

A MESSAGE FROM THE 160 PRESIDENT



Brothers and Sisters,

Spring's coming—believe it or not. Work will start picking back up, the days will get longer, and we'll all be back at it before we know it. Just remember to take care of yourselves and the folks you're working alongside. Drink your water, get some rest at night, and keep your head on a swivel out there.

All that stuff matters. It keeps you sharp and keeps everyone going home in one piece.

I know we all feel the push sometimes to hurry up and get the job done, but rushing usually just leads to mistakes and injuries. And none of us do any good laid up on the bench hurt. That kind of thing hits hard—not just at work, but at home too. So watch out for one another. We're our brother's keeper, plain and simple, and we're all better off when we stick together.

Try to carve out some time this year for your family. I say that because the older I get, the faster time seems to fly. Looking back, there are times I wish I'd slowed down and spent more time with the people that matter most. Some things that happened with my family this past year really put things into perspective for me. Take a minute, think about what's important, and do what you can to make some good memories with your loved ones.

I wish you all nothing but the best in the year ahead, and I hope to see some of you out in the field. Funny thing is, every time I head up north, I seem to run into our Brothers and Sisters in places I'd never expect. I always try to stop and say hello when I can—so long as it doesn't interfere with the job or safety. Here's to a strong and safe 2026.

In Solidarity,

Kevin J. Kaeter
President
IBEW Local 160



THINKING OF YOU

Well wishes were sent to the following members:

- JOE CEBALLOS - CONNEXUS
- DEAN JENKINS - XCEL ENERGY
- LUCAIS MCGOVERN - MO VALLEY

WELCOME!

NEW 160 MEMBERS

BRADY AASMUNDRUD
NOAH ABDULLAHI
ROBERT ADAMSON
DIONY ANTIGUA
RICARDO ARREOLA SALTO
BRANDON BAKER
CALEB BAKKE
KEVIN BANKS
AUSTIN BARNIER
DANIEL BASTYR
AARON BENSON
MICHAEL BERTHIAUME
CRAIG BLANKENSHIP
JUSTIN BLOMMER
JORDAN BOLANOS
RYAN BOOMGAARDEN
JOSHUA BORASH
JERICK BRAA
LOGAN BRAUSEN
BRODY BROMELAND
WILLIAM BROWN
JACK BURNETT
RONALD CALIX
TAYLOR CALINS
MATTHEW CAMP
SERGIO CAMPUZANO
YANDER CARRION
DAKOTA CARTER
AUSTIN CHAPMAN
SAMUEL CISNEROS
BLANDON COATS
DAVID CONNELLY
LARRY CONRAD
JEREMY COOK
JAYDEN CREVER
CANDY CROOKSHANKS
JOSEPH DAHLEN
DENNIS DAVIS
DEVIN DENNY
MURPHY DESPARD
TREYTON DONELOW
GRANT DURAINE
MATTHEW EDGAR
TRAVIS EVANS
KOLEMAN FABIAN
ANDREW FALTYNEK
JESSE FERGUSON
ANTHONY FITZWATER
DANIEL FLEIGLE
JARED FOSTER
EMILIO GARCIA
FABIAN GARCIA GARCIA
ANTHONY GASTELUM
MITCHELL GETTING
KYLE GILBERT
MICHAEL GILBERT
MATTISON GLASER

ERLIN GONZALEZ GAINZA
TUCKER GRATHWOHL
AUSTIN GREENWALDT
AXEL GRUSEBECK
GARRETT HALUSKA
LANE HANNA
SAMUEL HARDEL
HUNTER HARRAH
JACOB HAWES
WILLIAM HOBBS
KORY HOFFNER
TANNER HOFFMAN
JESSE HOKE
CURTIS HOLMES
SCOTT HOUSMAN
JOSHUA HUGHES
DUSTY HURLEY
RAYMOND INGALLS
JOSEPH IRISH
TRISTEN JENSEN
HUNTER JOHNSON
JOSH JOHNSON
MIKE JOHNSON
ROBERT JOHNSON
SHAWN JOHNSON
STEVE JOHNSON
TANNER JOHNSON-MORK
KADEN JONES
ROBERT KAYLOR
BRYAN KELLY
TRISTAN KIRIAGO
RICKY KLEIN
BRADY KOOPAL
DAINE KRUMVIEDE
GREGORY KUHN
JARRET LAMBERT
SHAWN LANG
ULYSSES LARA
BRIAN LEE
WALTER LEON
THOR LINNEROOTH
WALTER LIZOTTE
ROBERT LOCH
STEPHEN LOCH
AXEL LOPEZ CASTRILLO
ANDREW LOTHERT
TALEN LUKEN
AUSTIN LUSK
DUSTIN LUSK
JAMES LUSK
TRAVIS LUSK
JERRY LYNCH
MICHAEL LYNCH
RAULIN MAGNUSON
AARON MAHNKE
CULLEN MARSH
LIANET MARTELL BENITEZ

LAURA MCCAWLEY
JAMES MCCORMICK
VINCENT MCGUIRE
ZACHARY MCMAHON
JOSHUA MEHRKENS
STEVEN MIRA
CABOT MITCHELL
CRYSTAL MITCHELL
ROXY MONTILUA MORA
NORVIN MONTOYA RIVAS
JANNY MORALES HERNANDES
DANIEL MORTENSEN
ZACHARY MULLINS
CARTER MURPHY
JESSE NELSON
BENJAMIN NEWMAN
DUTCH NORDBY
DANNY NOTTINGHAM
COLE NYE
ELIJAH O'BRIEN
LUKE OPATZ
JOSHUA PANGLE
AARON PARKER
DANIEL PARKER
JULIAN PAVON
JACOB PETERSON
KYLE PETERSON
JESS PHILLIPS
COLBY PINER
GAVIN PINK
JOHN POWERS
JOHN RADEMACHER
JUAN RAMIERZ OLVERA
STEVEN RAMOS
EDGAR RAMOS HERNANDEZ
ROWDY RANKIN
JAMEY REDDEN
WESLEY REDDEN
KEVIN REINEKE
PABLO ROBLES
RAYMOND RODMAN
SORELYS RODRIGUEZ
JOSE RODRIGUEZ RUIZ
JOSE RODRIGUEZ VASQUE
CHAYDEN ROSS
DORWIN SANABRIA
JONNATHAN SANDOVAL
CASEY SCHLICKENMAYER
JOSHUA SCHMITZ
SEAN SCHWEFEL
JERAMEY SILVEY
JONATHAN SILVEY
ZEPHANIAH SIMS
DESHAN SMITH
ZAKARY SMITH
AYSIA STIFFLER
HUNTER STONE

TRISTAN SWANG
BRYAN TATE
HUDSON TETRICK
JEREMY THOMSON
JOSUE TORRES
PATRICK TROTMAN
AARON TSCHAEKOFESKE
JARIEL VALDES
DARCY VANDERPOOL
ANDERSON VELASQUEZ
MARCOS VELASQUEZ RAMOS
LUIS VERA SANDOVAL
JOHN WADDELL
JACOB WALTERS
REESE WHALEN
TIMOTHY WHIPPS
MARK WHITELY
JOSEPH WIGGINS
JACK WITTE
ERIK WRIGHT
TIMOTHY YLITALO

**TOTAL MEMBER
COUNT 4,224**



IBEW
CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938
**LOCAL
160**
**PIG
OUT**
THURSDAY
SEPT 17, 2026
11AM-5PM
FOOD TRUCKS • FRIENDS • FUN
**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

CELEBRATE
WITH US AT

Valleyfair & SoakCity

IBEW
CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938
LOCAL
160



Local 160 Family Day is July 18!

Visit www.ibew160.org to request your **FREE** tickets! First come, first served.



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IBEW Local 160 Scholarships

IBEW Local 160 awards multiple scholarships for dependents of CURRENT Local 160 members in good standing in three categories:

David C. Ring Scholarship

For Graduating High School Seniors - 8 Scholarships Total

- 4 × \$1,500 (College/University) & 4 × \$1,500 (Vocational/Technical/Trade)

Amy O'Sullivan Scholarship

For Ongoing Education - 8 Scholarships Total

- 4 × \$1,000 (College/University) & 4 × \$1,000 (Vocational/Technical/Trade)

Nathan Blomquist Memorial Scholarship

For Graduating Seniors Entering Trade School

- 4 × \$500

Applications for the Minnesota AFL-CIO, MN State Council, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Founders' scholarships must be mailed or delivered to the Hall.



Deadline: April 20
visit www.ibew160.org
to view application
packet



MO VALLEY JATC UPDATES

LET'S TALK SAFETY

Let's Talk Safety

There are many work methods, but only 2 choices. We can choose to work a task "hot" or "not". If we choose to work a task "hot", that means we have to have the appropriate step level apprentices, the appropriate supervision/crew make up, and the appropriately rated PPE. If we choose to work it "not" that means we need to ground and bond.

Grounding and Bonding is one of the most important things you will do, and you will do it repeatedly and often. Understanding the procedure and adherence to the policy and good work methods will keep you safe from a difference of potential.

Every 2nd step Mo Valley apprentice and above knows the steps and the order. If you're not sure, now is the time to commit it to memory for the rest of your life.

Identify – Know where you are about to start working. Know the circuit you are about to test. Making sure you are on the correct circuit helps ensure you're in the right work location.

Isolate – Opening the circuit. Switching it out. This is what is also known as de-energizing the circuit. Depending on where you work, either the contractor crews or utility crews will complete this. It is usually accompanied by a switch plan and circuit map. It will always come with a clearance number. Your clearance number is the crew's authorization to move to the next step.

Test – Testing for the absence of voltage with an approved tester, on a live line tool that is long enough to keep you outside of MAD for the system voltage it was previously energized at.

Installation of Grounds and Bonds – This is the final step. Each previous step, if any abnormality occurs or something tests energized, you stop, regroup and figure out what's wrong. The installation of grounds & bonds must be done with a live line tool. No questions asked. Testers have failed, induction exists, and mistakes happen. Using the correct live line tools and not holding onto grounds while installing them will not let you down. If anything goes wrong, it keeps you out of the hazard.

Mistakes happen. Switch plans can be incorrect. Equipment fails. Taking our safety into our own hands is our last line of defense and the easiest to rely upon because we can control it at the worksite. Before you go to grab any conductors, remember that if you can't see the grounds & bonds on what you are about to work, they do not exist. Visually follow it out. Take ownership of your own safety. If you have any doubts, ask. It's better to ask a question and make sure it falls inline with the safe work practices that you have been taught. If you have any questions, reach out to the office for support.

In Solidarity,

Dave Audette

160 Journeyman Lineman
Executive Director @ Mo Valley JATC/Midwest Line College
(651) 238-3823 | daudette@movalleyjatc.org

BY THE NUMBERS



981 Total Apprentices and Trainees

- 812 Line Apprentices
- 150 Substation Apprentices
- 4 Cable Splicing Technicians
- 15 Traffic Signal Apprentices



SAFETY WALLETT

Safety Wallet is a digital training and certification database for Mo Valley Members. It allows you to upload your certifications—such as First Aid, OSHA 10, and more—so you don't have to carry physical cards. Your profile can be viewed by you and your current employer, and you can easily send your full training record to new employers when needed.

Login to your Safety Wallet account using your Last Name and Phone Number to view your digital ticket.

SCAN QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP:

ANDROID



APPLE



Visit: ibew160.org/mo-valley-unit



SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 14-17, 2026 | OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER

LINEMANSRODEOKC.COM

REPRESENT LOCAL 160!

Local 160 is excited to announce that we will be sending a limited number of Missouri Valley JATC Apprentices to represent Local 160 at this year's rodeo. If you are interested in learning more about the rodeo and/or are interested in competing on behalf of the local, please contact Dave Audette (651) 238-3823.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 160

The nominations for all officers of Local Union 160 will be held on May 7, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the local meeting hall located at 13220 County Rd 6, Plymouth, MN 55441.

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. NO member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

President / Delegate to International Convention

Vice President

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Business Manager / Financial Secretary / Delegate to International Convention

Five (5) Executive Board

UNIT OFFICERS

As per Local Union Bylaws Art. XIII, Sec. 2, Unit Officers shall be nominated at the regular meeting of each Unit in May and elected in June of the of the year the Local Union elects officers.

The Missouri Valley Unit Officers shall be nominated at the regular meeting on May 28th, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. at Local 160 meeting hall located at 300 SE 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55774. These Officers shall be elected by secret ballot on June 30th , 2026, at 6:30 P.M. at the Local 160 meeting hall, 13220 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55441.

Per Local Union Bylaws Art. XIII, Sec 5., only members of each Unit in good standing are eligible to nominate and vote for the Unit's officers.

Additionally, nominations will be held for ten (10) delegates to the International Convention. The President and the Business Manager shall be candidates for delegate positions contingent with their offices as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws. This leaves eight (8) delegate positions open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for offices of Business Manager or President may be nominated for the at-large delegate positions if they are delegates by virtue of their offices.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 160. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations (Apprentices cannot be nominated or elected to any office.) (See IBEW Constitution Article XV, Section 14 and Local Union 160 Bylaws Article III, Section 7 (f).

As per the IBEW Constitution and our Local Union Bylaws, an election judge and tellers have been appointed prior to nominations. None of these is a candidate for any office.

The election shall be conducted by mail ballot and they shall be counted beginning at 9 a.m. on June 10, 2026.

All members in good standing shall be mailed a ballot not less than 15 days prior to the above specified date. Ballots received after 8 a.m. on June 10, 2026, will not be counted.

Instructions on the use of the mail ballot will be enclosed with the ballot.

If you do not receive a ballot in the mail by May 22, 2026 please call the election judge immediately at 612-781-3126 and request a replacement ballot.

In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on July 1, 2026. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election.

Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 2, 2026.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. (The candidate themselves may be the observer.)

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election results.

Further, protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW.

In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Zac Scheele
Election Judge
IBEW Local 160

LOCAL UNION 160, IBEW
13220 County Road 6
Plymouth, MN 55441

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 4274



CONTACT US

PLYMOUTH HALL

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Fax (612) 781-4225

GRAND RAPIDS HALL

Tel (218) 326-0533
Fax (218) 326-0534

WEBSITE

www.ibew160.org

EMAIL

160@ibew160.org



OFFICERS

Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Mgr./Financial Sec. - (612) 991-0022
Kevin J. Kaeter - President
Wade S. Crittenden - Vice President
Jeffery R. Polson - Recording Secretary
Travis J. Sullivan - Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Tom S. Carlson
Kenneth R. Conrad
Clayton E. Kaeter
Scott E. Knight
Randal L. Nass

OFFICE STAFF

Eric W. Spielmann - Assistant Business Manager - (612) 512-8018
Michael J. Ringstad - Assistant Business Manager - (763) 355-7283
Nicholas J. Steckelberg - Business Representative - (612) 655-5210
Darrin L. Helget - Business Representative - (763) 276-8908
Justin M. Arbach - Business Representative - (763) 213-3536
Mike K. Enerson - Business Representative - (612) 368-6299
Joshua S. Laven - Business Representative - (612) 258-8617
Crystal A. Reeves - Membership Development - (612) 258-5833
Joe P. Foss - Business Representative - (763) 461-1906
Jeff V. Bryczek - Business Representative - (763) 461-1897
Stacy L. Helget - Office Manager
Anna J. Wilson - Bookkeeper
Jessica M. LaRocque - Secretary