



**IBEW**  
CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938  
**LOCAL**  
**160**

*Happy Holidays*

224<sup>TH</sup> EDITION | 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2025  
**NEWSLETTER**



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER/ FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As I sit here writing this letter, I'm thinking to myself—where has the time gone? It has been a very busy 2025 here at Local 160, with over 20 contracts expiring by year's end. My staff and I have been in negotiations since mid-summer, hoping to get these wrapped up soon.

Just to update everyone: in my last letter, I wrote about our Organizer, Crystal Reeves, and how she was nominated for an Organizer Award from the International Office for her achievements and successes over the last couple of years. I'm happy to report that she did win the award and was recognized for her efforts at the Membership Development Conference in Chicago. Thank you, Crystal, for all you do for Local 160—keep up the great work!

The 2025 Pig Out was a huge success again this year. We were blessed with great weather, and the food was fantastic. It was great to see so many members and catch up a bit. I believe the final count was around 750 members in attendance. I want to thank my staff, the office staff, and the Executive Board for making this happen—I appreciate all of you. Planning for next year's event is already underway, so mark your calendar for September 17, 2026.

Some things in the works for 2026 include Steward Training this spring (depending on the training schedule for the 6th District Office). Also, watch for more information in the coming months about our Local 160 officer election, as well as our delegate election for the 2026 International Convention.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for a great 2025. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2026—and remember, please look out for one another and work safely.

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 PM

- December 4

**2026**

- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- 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

- December 16 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall

**2026**

- January 29 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- February 24 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall
- March 26 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- April 28 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall
- May 28 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- June 30 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall
- July 30 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- August 25 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall
- September 24 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- October 27 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall
- November 19 @ 7:30 PM, Grand Rapids
- December 15 @ 6:30 PM, Plymouth Union Hall

## Hall Closures

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Thursday, January 1

## Retiree Club Luncheon

- December 17
- January 28
- February 25
- March 25
- April 22

Please visit [ibew160.org](http://ibew160.org) to check for updates or cancellations each month.

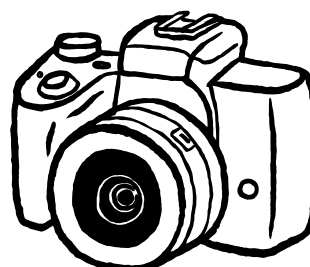




**CONGRATS!**

### 2025 COPE DRAWING WINNERS

\$100 Home Depot Gift Card – Matt Jackson  
 \$100 Home Depot Gift Card – Chad Fossum  
 \$100 Home Depot Gift Card – Tom Akers  
 \$100 Amazon Gift Card – Cory Bosshart  
 \$100 Cabella's Gift Card – Tom Akers  
 \$100 Cabella's Gift Card – Bub  
 Bison Cooler – Alex N  
 Bistro Pro Grill – Syd Barry  
 Meco Portable Grill – George Huber  
 ECE Hunting Gift Basket – Craig Heiden  
 ECE Gardening Gift Basket – Merrilyn Paulson  
 Husqvarna Leaf Blower – Mark Homola  
 Milwaukee Seach Light – Scott Wick  
 Milwaukee Tool Combo Kit – David Egan  
 Milwaukee Tool Combo Kit – Todd Gulickson  
 Husky Mechanics Tool Set – Dave Statz



**VISIT  
IBEW 160 ON  
FACEBOOK  
TO VIEW ALL  
PIG OUT  
PHOTOS!**

## 2025 - 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL PIG OUT

The 3rd Annual Pig Out, held on September 25, 2025, brought together Local 160 brothers and sisters for a truly memorable afternoon. This year's event featured an outstanding selection of food and treats – from Amish Annie Donuts and Smokin' Bonez BBQ to Butcher Salt, What's the Scoop, and Turbo Taco. With a lineup like that, no one went home hungry.

A sincere thank you goes out to the IBEW 160 staff for the planning, coordination, and behind-the-scenes work that made this event seamless and enjoyable for all in attendance.

And, of course, thank you to every member who joined us. Your participation and camaraderie are what make the Pig Out such a valued Local 160 tradition. Mark your calendars:

The 4th Annual Pig Out is scheduled for September 17, 2026. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

**4<sup>th</sup> annual**

IBEW LOCAL 160 MEMBER

# PIG OUT

THURS 🕒 SEPT 17, 2026 🕒 11AM-5PM

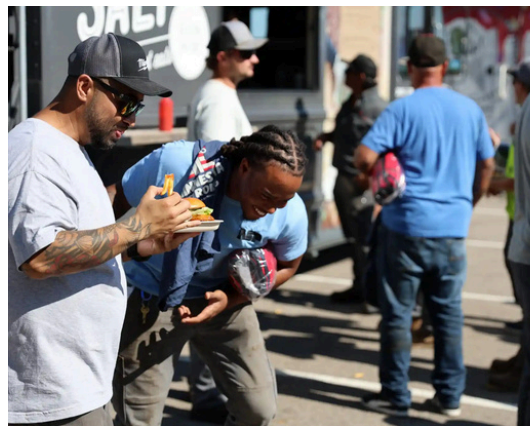
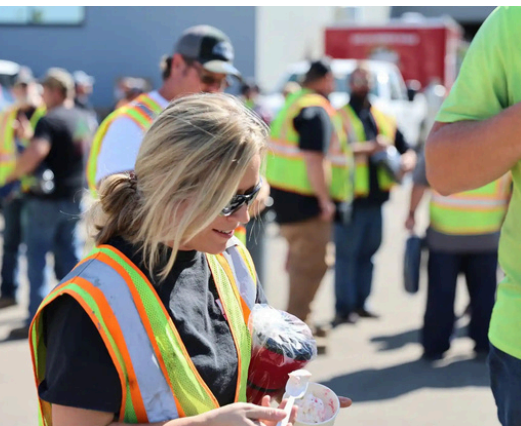
IBEW LOCAL 160 UNION HALL, 13220 CO RD 6, PLYMOUTH, MN

**FOOD TRUCKS \* FRIENDS \* FUN**

IBEW  
CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938  
LOCAL  
160

# SAVE THE DATE!







# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST LOCAL 160 RETIREES!

BRADLEY BECK - MO VALLEY  
JAMES BENOLKIN - XCEL ENERGY  
PETER BERNING - XCEL ENERGY  
SCOTT BLIXT - XCEL ENERGY  
DEAN CUNO - XCEL ENERGY  
ANTHONY FAGNAN - MO VALLEY  
JAMES GILSVIK - MO VALLEY  
DUANE HAUS - XCEL ENERGY  
MICHAEL R. HOWARD - MO VALLEY

MICHAEL KAVENY - MO VALLEY  
DWAYNE LILJEGREN - GREAT RIVER ENERGY  
MICHAEL OBERG - XCEL ENERGY  
BRIAN OLSON - MO VALLEY  
MICHAEL PLUMBO - XCEL ENERGY  
JAMES ROBECK - XCEL ENERGY  
DAVID SARVIE - XCEL ENERGY  
KEVIN THOMAS - MO VALLEY  
MARK ZAHN - MO VALLEY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 160 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Thanks to everyone who came out to the Pig Out in September. It was a great day to get together, catch up, and share some good food.

Every month we're seeing more members join our Local 160 hall, and it's amazing to see how we're growing. With that growth comes a big responsibility — we need to mentor our new members and help them understand what it means to be part of the union.

Why are we in a union? Because we stand together. We've fought hard for fair wages, strong benefits, and a pension — things many folks out there don't have. Being union means having job protection, safety standards, and a voice on the job.

The history of the IBEW runs deep, and it's worth looking into. A lot of people before us put in the work and made sacrifices so we could have what we have today. Let's not take it for granted.

Try to make it to the membership meetings when you can. It's the best way to see what's going on, get involved, and understand why some things take time when we're working through the process.

Be proud to be a union member. We've got a lot to be thankful for — and a lot worth fighting to keep.

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.*

RONALD A. PLOEGER - RETIRED MO VALLEY - 4/16/25  
EDWARD G. ELLING - RETIRED NSP - 7/6/25  
JOEL A. LIESKE - MO VALLEY - 7/25/25  
DARWIN "DOC" GOHMAN - RETIRED NSP - 8/1/25  
DAVID R. MOLINE - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 8/8/25  
MAYNARD J. LAGACE - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 8/7/25

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 160 PRESIDENT



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone's doing well out there, no matter what local or area you're from. Every one of you is important to this Union and the work we do together.

Lately, I've been seeing more talk online about mental health in our trade, and I figured it's a good time to touch on it again. I've spoken about this before, and it's something I truly care about.

It's late October as I write this, and the busy summer work season is wrapping up. We all know those months can be long and demanding — whether you're out there handling your day-to-day work or restoring power after storms. We push hard to get the job done safely and keep things moving. But sometimes, we don't realize what that grind does to us.

One of the biggest things we let slip is sleep. It seems simple, but not getting enough rest can mess with us more than we think. Here are a few things that can happen when we're running on empty:

- Higher risk of accidents or injuries — slower reaction times.
- Irritability, mood swings, and even depression.
- More anxiety and stress.
- Having a harder time dealing with everyday challenges.

Some of you might be thinking, "Kevin, you should've said this before the summer started." And that's fair. But the truth is, these effects can stick around long after the busy season. We've all got to be aware of how we're feeling and keep an eye on the people around us too.

If you notice a Brother or Sister who doesn't seem like themselves, don't be afraid to check in. And if someone asks how you're doing — be honest. It's not a sign of weakness; it's a sign that someone cares enough to look out for you. That's what being our Brother's Keeper really means.

I bring this up once or twice a year in the Union Newsletter because I believe mental health shouldn't be a taboo topic anymore. Over the years, a few folks have reached out after reading these letters, and I've been able to point them toward some resources that helped. That alone makes it worth continuing to talk about.

As we head into the winter months and things start to slow down, take care of yourself — and take care of the people around you, both on the job and at home. We're stronger together, and it's always easier to face things side by side than alone.

Stay safe out there,  
In Solidarity,

**Kevin J. Kaeter**

President  
IBEW Local 160

## THINKING OF YOU

*Well wishes were sent to the following members:*

JOSEPH CEBALLOS - CONNEXUS  
MARTY CAREY - RETIRED 160 BUSINESS REP  
DENNIS CALABRETTO - XCEL ENERGY



# *WELCOME!*

## NEW 160 MEMBERS

BRANDON ALFORD  
DYLAN ANDERST  
DAIRON APONTE LOPEZ  
RAUL AVILA  
GUSTAVO AYALA CERVANTES  
RANDY BAKKEN  
CASEY BALL  
ANTONIO BARCENAS  
LUIS BARCENAS  
CHRISTOPHER BARTELL  
BRIAN BASTIANSEN  
GEOFFREY BENNETT  
AMBROSIO BERNARDO  
NICKOLAS BLAIR  
NATHAN BOLDOC  
ANTONY BONILLA  
BENJAMIN BORNDAL  
BRAYDON BORNHOLDT  
DOMINIC BRANT  
EDI BRIONES SOSA  
JONATHAN BROWN  
MASON BRUDER  
LUIS BUESO  
ADRIANA CABALLERO TOLL  
JAIRO CACERES  
HECTOR YAGN\_\_\_\_ CALZADILLA PUPO  
JOSE RAMON CAMPO GOMEZ  
DUSTIN CARMONA  
PHILIP CARROLL  
LAZARO CASA SUAREZ  
EMMANUELE CEBALLOS VAJAN  
MICHAEL CLAIBORNE  
DANIEL COUNTRYMAN  
JEREMIAH CRANDALL  
MANUEL ALEJANDRO CRUZ GOMEZ  
VICTOR CRUZ GOMEZ  
CALEB CULBRETH  
MICHAEL DANIELS  
LEVI DELBONO  
OSVALDO DIAZ  
PEDRO DIAZ  
YOAN DIAZ CRUZ  
JUANDRAGUSTINOVIS  
RAMIRO DURAN  
BRAYDEN EDWARDS  
BRYCE EISENSCHENK  
RYKER ERICKSON  
ABNER ESPINOZA SANCHEZ  
JEAL ESTRADA  
JESUS ESTRADA MORENO  
MAPLE EVANS  
ADAM FELIPE  
MICHAEL FENWICK  
ALIEK FERRER  
BENJAMIN FICOCELLO  
JORGE FLEITES  
LOGAN FLETCHER  
BRETT FRANKO

ELADIO GALIANO  
LEAH GARCIA  
RODOLFO GARCIA  
CHARLES GEROLD  
JUSTIN GETSCHEL  
GARLAND GIBBS  
ISAAC GOERGEN  
EMANUEL GOMEZ MAGANA  
ALESANDER GONZALES  
BENITO GONZALES  
HERIBERTO GONZALES  
LESDIER GONZALES  
MARIANO GONZALES MORFA  
MARIANO GONZALES SOSA  
REED GORDON  
JUDE GRAY  
WILLIAM GROSCHEN  
ERIK GROSS  
COLE GUDMUNDSON  
DOUGLAS GUNDERSON  
CHRISTOPHER HAMLING  
MASON HARTMAN  
JUSTIN HASE  
CRAIG HAUGEN  
AUSTIN HEIDERSCHIED  
LAYNE HENRICH  
YOAN HERNANDEZ  
FABIAN ALBER HERNANDEZ FAJARDO  
MICHEL ALEJA HERNANDEZ GARCIA  
VLADIMIR HERNANDEZ MAGARINO  
GERARDO HERRERA  
BRENDEN HOLBEIN  
JEFFREY HOLLIDAY  
GRAYDEN HOLTZ-HECK  
AYDEN HOOVER  
LANDON HUESTIS  
YOHANIS IGLESIAS VALDES  
STEVEN IKENS  
MATTHEW INGRAM  
HERTENCIA JAMES ROJAS  
LOREN JAMES  
SULLEY JANS  
JOSEPH JOHNSON  
LUKE JOHNSON  
JACK KAPPS  
CODY KEELER  
BRANDIN KLAUSCHER  
LIANNIS LEBANINO GONGORA  
ALEXANDER LABODA  
MARTINLAHO  
GABRIEL LAPLANTE  
KEAGAN LEITCH  
GENARO LIMA TAMBITO  
ERIC LINDER  
YADIEL LLANES CANETE  
TYLER LOCKLEAR  
ISAIAS LOPEZ  
SAULO ANANIAS LOPEZ LOPEZ

MICHAEL LUGER  
ARMANDOLUNA  
JACOB MABIE  
LEOSDANIS MACHADO FONSECA  
NELSON MALDONADO PINEDA  
ENMANUEL MARRERO PARDO  
OSMEDY MARRERO PEREZ  
CHARLES MARTIN  
DEREK MARTINSON  
BLAIRE MARTY  
ALBERT MATOS RODRIGUEZ  
HUNTER MATTSON  
YETNIEL MAYEA QUINTANA  
BRYCE MCDONALD  
CARLOS MEJIA PORTILLO  
ANDREW MEYER  
MAYKEL MIRANDA MAYA  
NOEL MOJICA ROJAS  
BRYAN MOORE  
ANDRES MORALES  
LUIS MORALES  
DUNIESKY MOYA  
ANDERS MYHRE  
DILLON NAVARRO  
YOVANNY NEGRON RIVERA  
ELLIOTT NELSON  
JOSHUA NELSON  
TYLER NELSON  
CARLOS NUNEZ  
PETER O'MALLEY  
JAZHIEL OCASIO HERRERA  
SEAN PATRICK  
JAVIER PAVON  
ALEXANDER PAYAN VENTURA  
ETHAN PAYONK  
HUMBERTO PENALOZA MOLINA  
ALAIN PEREZ  
ALEXIS PEREZ  
ERISLANDY PEREZ  
ANGEL PILOTO GONZALEZ  
JOSE PINA  
EVAN POHL  
YORDANIS PORTELLES LABRADA  
MIGUELPUERTO  
JORGE PUPO REYES  
ORLANDO QUEVEDO  
MARTIN RAJKOWSKI  
CODY RAMIREZ  
ROBERTO RAMIREZ  
ANTONIO RAMIREZ ARAGON  
JULIO RAMOS AGUILAR  
JULIO RAMOS DE JESUS  
MATTHEW RASH  
BRETT REINKE  
JOSE AMILCAR REYES BARAHONA  
DENNIS RAUL RIVER NIEVES  
DAVID ROBERTS  
SALVADOR ROBLERO

LUIS ROBLES TORRES  
WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ  
YOVANIS ROMERO GUZMAN  
MICHAEL RONNING  
ANGEL RUBIO  
RADEL RUBIO  
ZACHARY RUSSELL  
AGUSTIN SANCHEZ  
MARITZA SANCHEZ  
GEORGE SCHMIDT  
BRENT SCHUETTER  
JONATHAN SWYMOUR  
AUSTIN SHJERVE  
MARCUS SKOOG  
BRYON SMITH  
PORTER SOCHA  
CELESTINIO SOLIS  
DEREK STEFFEN  
MICHAEL SWANSON  
NETZAHUALCOYOTL TAFOLLA REYES JR.  
COLE TALLEGE  
LANE TAYLOR  
JOSHUA THOMPSON  
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ALEX TORRES COLLAZO  
REESE TRAMM  
CARSON TRAANTINA  
DENILSON TRIMINIO  
JACK TRUDEAU  
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CHASE VAN DONSEL  
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ELLERSON VIEIRA  
LOGAN WAKEFIELD  
WILLIAM WALDEN  
JACOB WALDERON  
LEYTON WALSETH  
AZARIA WATSON  
JAMES WEBER  
JONATHAN WESA  
NICHOLAS WHITE  
MITCHELL WITHERSPOON  
AUSTIN ZIMMERMAN

## TOTAL MEMBER COUNT 4,102



# MO VALLEY JATC UPDATES



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 966 Total Apprentices and Trainees

- 815 Line Apprentices (130 Local 160 hands)
- 128 Substation Apprentices (26 Local 160 hands)
- 4 Cable Splicing Technicians
- 8 Operator Apprentices (1 Local 160 hand)
- 11 Traffic Signal Apprentices

## UPDATE

The International Linemans Rodeo was held October 16-18th this year. It was a great turnout and show of support from the Local 160 and at the event. 160 had 6 apprentices competing on their behalf and 3 volunteer judges. Apprentices (and their ranking in the Apprentice Contractor category) were Mitch Thompson 11th, John Webster 14th, Jonah Hamilton 22nd, Nick Roussoploulos 33rd, Lincoln Howard 36th, Lucais McGovern 47th. Judges were Colin Riley, Joe Fredrick and Vance Matejcek. Events for apprentices were a written test, pole top rescue, egg climb, an arresstor change out and event called "How low can you go". "How low can you go" is was a multi-step obstacle challenge that included leaning out 6' to complete a task. It was a tough competition this year with the difference between 2nd place and 18th place only being 5 points! We had many competitors who went without any deductions in the 4 hands on events. Those who have competed in the past know how difficult that is! Well done everyone.

The Rodeo is something the Local 160 has participated in for some time now. That is possible because of the support from the e-board and the membership continuing to vote to support and approve participation in this event each year! I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has made this possible from the office staff, board members, union reps, the business manager and all of the participants! I would recommend that if you know anyone who has attended or competed, talk to them about it. It's a great way to make connections and get involved, especially as an apprentice!

Most individuals who have gone, want to go again if they are eligible to! That speaks volumes right there! If anyone is interested in the rodeo for 2026, send me an email this fall or spring and we can get you more information.

In solidarity,

**Dave Audette**

160 Journeyman Lineman

Executive Director @ Mo Valley JATC/Midwest Line College

(651) 238-3823 | daudette@movalleyjatc.org



# SAFETY WALLET

**ATTENTION MO VALLEY MEMBERS!**

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.

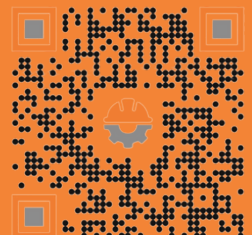
Login to your Safety Wallet account using your Last Name and Phone Number to view your digital ticket.

SCAN QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP:

ANDROID



APPLE



Visit: [ibew160.org/mo-valley-unit](https://ibew160.org/mo-valley-unit)



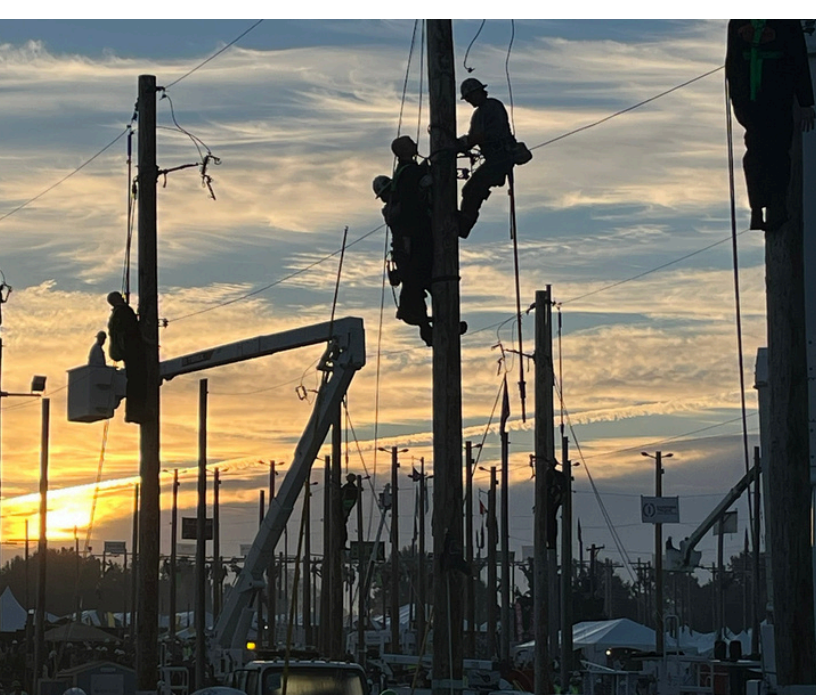
**INTERNATIONAL  
LINEMAN'S  
RODEO**

**SCAN FOR 2025  
RODEO RESULTS  
AND DETAILS!**



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Fax (218) 326-0534

### **WEBSITE**

[www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org)

### **EMAIL**

[160@ibew160.org](mailto:160@ibew160.org)



@IBEWLOCAL160



IBEW-160

## **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

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Jessica M. LaRocque - Secretary