

**LOCAL UNION 160, IBEW**  
**2909 Anthony Lane**  
**St. Anthony, MN 55418**

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## **NEWSLETTER - 196TH EDITION**

**2nd Quarter 2019**

### **OFFICERS**

Robert J. Boogren- Business Mgr/Financial Secretary  
Alan P. Rademacher- President  
Darrin L. Helget- Vice President  
Mark A. Ring - Recording Secretary  
Dan A. McConnell - Treasurer

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Clayton E. Kaeter  
Kevin J. Kaeter  
Scott E. Knight  
Randal L. Nass  
James M. Tobin

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Daniel J. Kieffer - Assistant Business Manager  
Jon D. Michels - Business Representative  
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Representative  
Thomas D. Cassidy - Business Representative  
Martin A. Carey - Business Representative  
Eric W. Spielmann - Business Representative  
Michael J. Ringstad - Business Representative  
Andrew D. Kieffer - Membership Development  
Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper  
Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager  
Stacy L. Helget - Secretary  
Ami L. Wilson - Receptionist/Referral Clerk

# General Membership Meetings

## Local Union 160 Retirement Club

The meetings are held at Local Union 160's Union Hall at 2909 Anthony Lane, St. Anthony, MN 55418.

The next two meetings are April 24, 2019 and the last meeting before summer break is May 22, 2019.

The Retirees would like to welcome new member Greg Holcomb.

All retirees are welcome to join. Cost is \$20.00 per year.

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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

All scholarship applications are available online at [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org). Click on the Resource Tab and then on Scholarships. All the forms are on the right side of page. Just click on the forms and print them out.

All the scholarships do have the deadline date on them for when they have to be back at the hall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ami at (612) 781-3126.



### Reps Cell Phone #'s

Bob Boogren - (612) 308-5520  
Dan Kieffer - (612) 309-8640  
Jon Michels - (612) 750-3755  
Kurt Zimmerman - (612) 991-0022  
Tom Cassidy - (763) 213-3536  
Marty Carey - (612) 723-2001  
Eric Spielmann - (612) 799-3997  
Mike Ringstad - (763) 355-7283  
Andy Kieffer - (612) 258-5833

**Minneapolis Tel #** (612) 781-3126

**Minneapolis' Fax #** (612) 781-4225

### **Grand Rapids Phone Number**

Tel. # (218) 326-0533

Fax # (218) 326-0534

### **Becker Office Numbers**

Marty C.- (763) 262-1197

Eric S.- (763) 262-1198

Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189

Fax # (763) 262-1168

**Local Union 160 web site - [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org)**

**L.U. 160 general email address - [160@ibew160.org](mailto:160@ibew160.org)**

**From the Editor, Rose M Eiden**

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, & the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Local Union does not guarantee that contents of the publication are correct, & statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Local Union #160.

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## JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGE.

The General Membership meeting in July at the St. Anthony Hall happens to land on the 4th, which we all know is a holiday.

The new date will be July 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Please change your calendars.

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1. Local Union 160's office will be closed on Friday, April 19, 2019 for Good Friday.
  2. The newsletter will no longer be distributed every other month. I will be doing the newsletter on a quarterly basis starting with this newsletter. I have reflected this by adding a 3rd month under the General Membership Meetings.
  3. There are many ways a member may pay union dues. You may pay by credit card, check, cash or have your dues automatically taken out of your checking or savings account either the first or third Thursday. Any questions, please feel free to call the office.
  4. I would like to thank Kevin Kaeter for getting the Retirement Board and Scholarship boards all up to date and for keeping it up to date. Great job Kevin.
  5. If there is a human interest story about a member of Local 160 or if you would like to see anything specific in the newsletter, please contact me. Rose

# *A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary*



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Our annual Steward's Training was held on March 2, 2019. In attendance were approximately 44 of Local 160's Union Stewards who gave up their personal time on a Saturday to get updated information.

Dan Brennan from the Gadtke Law Firm shared with everyone some of the new changes in Workman's Compensation. One of the big changes is that PTSD is now covered for work comp benefits. Eric Albertson, a former manager at Connexus Energy spoke about attitudes, perceptions, and about the advantages of working together to solve problems.

Local 160 has approximately 200 union stewards. I would like to thank all of our stewards for the help that you provide myself and your Business Reps throughout the year. You are greatly appreciated.

For those members who carry Xcel Energy's health insurance and are having problems due to the company switching health care providers, please contact myself or your rep so we can get the issues fixed.

Xcel Energy's Monticello Nuclear Plant and Local Union 160's Business Reps Kurt Zimmerman and Mike Ringstad negotiated an agreement to take member's off of Local 160's groundman books to help man the upcoming outage.

I would like to welcome back two of my employees. Jon Michels and Shari Johnson (see their stories on the next page). It is good to have you back.

It has been a tough winter with members falling and getting hurt. So please be safe out there and watch each others backs and of course, my door is always open for any of you.

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren

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## **Electrical hazards: BE aware**

**ON-THE-JOB ELECTRICAL HAZARDS** are more common than people may realize.

"Many workers are exposed to electrical energy while completing their daily responsibilities," NIOSH states, "and many are unaware of the potential electrical hazards present in their work environment - making them more vulnerable to the danger of electrocution."

According to OSHA, approximately 350 electrical-related deaths occur on the job every year.

How can workers stay safe? To start, they need to understand the specific ways they can be injured or killed by electricity. Here are a couple of common causes of electrical injuries and deaths, as listed by OSHA.

### **Generators**

Used often on construction sites, most generators are powered by gasoline or diesel, which turn an alternator to produce electricity. These devices can be extremely dangerous if not used properly because they produce carbon monoxide - a colorless and odorless gas that can cause headaches, loss of consciousness and even death if inhaled.

Never operator generators indoors. "Generators should be placed outdoors in a location where the exhaust gases cannot enter a home or building," OSHA states, adding that good ventilation is key to operating a generator safely. Before refueling generators, workers should turn them off and let them cool down.

### **Electrical equipment**

Electrical equipment can show wear, which can cause insulation breaks, short-circuits and exposed wires. Also, according to OSHA, if the equipment lacks ground-fault protection, it can cause a ground-fault that sends electrical currents through a worker's body.

To reduce this risk, OSHA suggests using ground-fault circuit interrupters "on all 120-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20- ampere receptacles that are not on an existing building's permanent wiring, or have an assured equipment grounding conductor program." Additionally, use double-insulated electrical tools, and be sure to visually inspect all equipment before use. If a tool has missing prongs, frayed cords or cracked casings, remove it from use.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_Hurricane\\_facts/elect\\_safety.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_facts/elect_safety.pdf).

## SAFETY

The following are two stories. One is a potentially life-sustaining event that happened on December 5, 2018 and the other is about two of Local Union 160's employees. Both these stories are about slipping and falling on the ice.

*Story told by Joan Kuenzi - Safety Consultant, Metro West, Xcel Energy.*

Kellen Schimdt (*Lineman at Xcel Energy*) and I left the University of Minnesota campus yesterday after we presented a guest lecture to students there. Kellen and I were in my personal vehicle, preparing to leave the Washington Ave. ramp. We started to head down the levels of the ramp, but the way was blocked by another vehicle. To the right, a woman was assisting a man who had just fallen to the pavement after slipping on ice. He was walking with a cane and it looked to us as if the cane made contact with his left cheek/eye area as he fell. That side of his face was covered in blood, and blood was pouring from the bottom of his left eye. The woman with him was obviously concerned but could not get the man to stop walking to his vehicle; his intent was to drive away. I stopped the car, and we both got out to help. Kellen stopped the man and brought him to the elevator bay of the ramp, while I got my first aid kit from the car and went to help. We comforted him, while Kellen applied a large pad and head-wrap. He applied pressure to try to stop the bleeding. Another bystander called 911. We stayed until police arrived to transport the man to care.

I am happy we were where we were because I believe that the man may have had a concussion, and if he did get into his car to drive, he would soon have lost quite a bit of blood, risking a loss of consciousness, while driving in a heavily congested area - the University of Minnesota east bank campus, during a time when students and vehicles crowded the streets. I thank Kellen for being quick on his feet, and for quietly getting the man away from his vehicle to safety. I have to say it was nice when one of the bystanders asked us if we were medical professionals, and we got to say, "No, we work for Xcel Energy."



On Sunday, January 13, 2019 Jon Michels, Business Rep for Local Union 160 had slipped and fallen on the ice. He broke his leg in four (4) places. The swelling was so bad the doctor could not do surgery until the swelling went down. The surgery was performed on January 25, 2019. Jon is recovering well and is back at work, still on crutches, but is moving pretty quickly on them. He told me that he anticipates (with a huge smile on his face) in a couple of weeks he will be able to get rid of the boot and the crutches.



On Thursday, January 23, 2019 at around 5:00 pm Local Union 160's Office Manager, Shari Johnson, had an appointment. After she got out of her vehicle, she took one step and slipped on the ice and fell backwards hitting her head, knocking her unconscious. Fortunately, Stacy Helget, Local Union 160's Secretary, drove by a short time later with two of her boys, noticed Shari's vehicle, then saw her lying on the ground next to her vehicle. She rushed over to Shari, and woke her up. While the boys gathered her belongings, Stacy got Shari to sit up. Stacy said she notice Shari was not bleeding but had a huge bump on the back of her head. She and the boys got Shari inside where it was much warmer while they let Shari comprehend her where about. Stacy got a hold of Shari's husband, who brought her to Urgent Care, there the doctor immediately told them to go to the hospital to have a ct scan done. Shari ended up having a brain bleed and severe concussion and was in the hospital for two (2) days. She recovered at home for a few weeks and she too is back at work. Thank you Stacy, Cole and Bryce for driving by at the right time.

Welcome back Shari and Jon. We are thankful you both are better.

As we all know this has been a very long winter and again this last weekend it rained, freezing rain and snowed again. Under the snow it is very icy, so please everyone be careful out there. Winter is not over yet.



# **Member Orientation Class**

## **What is covered?**

- The history of your union**
- How your union operates**
- How your membership works**
- How your hiring hall works**
- How your union affects the economy**
- Your rights as a union worker**

## **When and Where?**

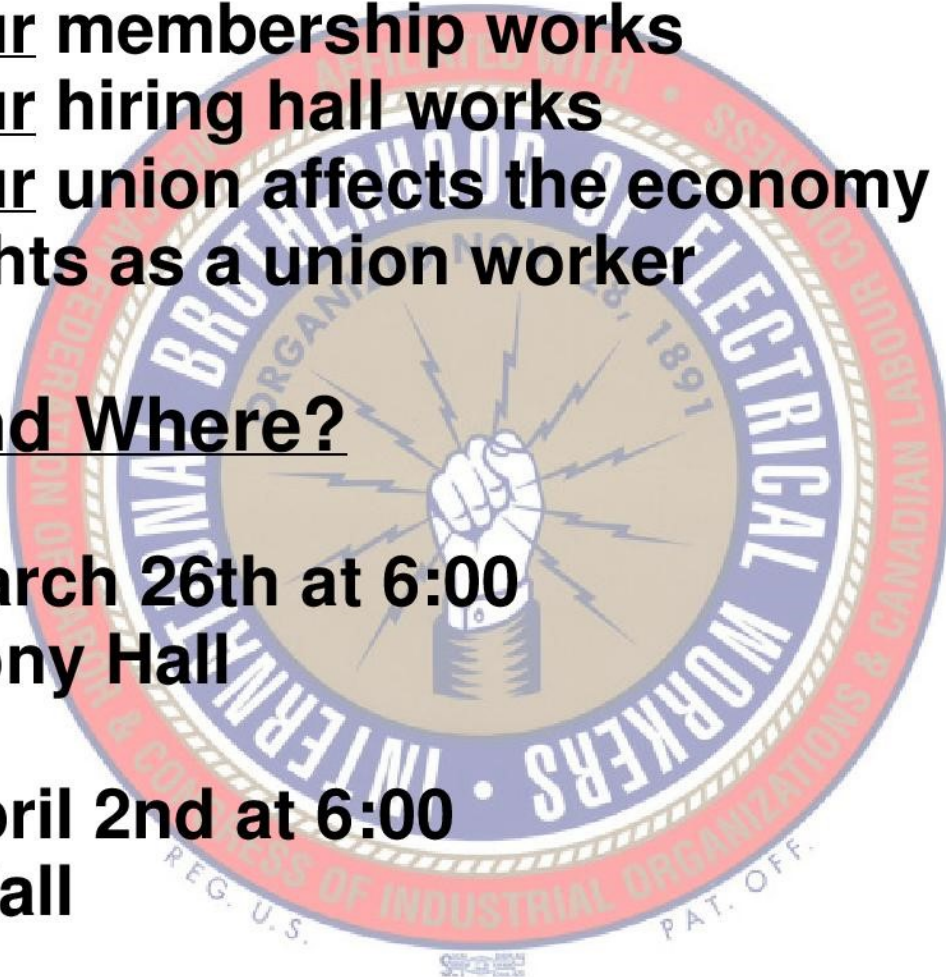
**Tues., March 26th at 6:00**  
**St. Anthony Hall**

**Tues., April 2nd at 6:00**  
**Becker Hall**

**All members are welcome!**

Each meeting will start with food and a viewing of the movie, "Labor's Turning Point"

**Contact Andy 612-258-5833 with any questions**





## **UADVISORS**

Identify. Plan. Pursue

Independent Advice. Goal Based Planning.

### ***We Are Your Retirement Team***

## **ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RETIRING IN 2019?**

### **WHAT WE HELP MEMBERS WITH:**

Pension Option Questions

Social Security Benefit Planning

Retirement Income Strategies

Long Term Care Planning

Pension Application Questions and Execution

**We have extensive experience working with members like you, a solid understanding of your pension plans, and a strong focus on retirement income planning.**

***Please contact Mike Dolezal or Jeff Kolodjski with U Advisors to schedule a complimentary, no obligation meeting. We look forward to helping you pursue the answers you are looking for!***



### **Your Retirement Team!**

**Office:** (651) 447-2235

**Email:** jeff.kolodjski@uadvisors.com

**Email:** mike.dolezal@uadvisors.com

**Website:** [www.uadvisors.com](http://www.uadvisors.com)

*Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Great Valley Advisor Group, a registered investment advisor. IBEW 160, Great Valley Advisor Group, U Advisors and LPL Financial are separate entities.*

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence...

The rest of the year went very smoothly.

### **The Moped Race**

An elderly man on a Moped, looking about 90 years old, pulls up next to a Doctor at a street light.

The old man looks over at the sleek shiny car and asks, "What kind of car ya got there, sonny?"

The doctor replies, "A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million dollars!"

"That's a lot of money," says the old man. "Why does it cost so much?"

"Because this car can do up to 220 miles an hour!" states the doctor proudly.

The Moped driver asks, "Mind if I take a look inside?"

"No problem," replies the doctor.

So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then, sitting back on his Moped, the old man says, "That's a pretty nice car, all right...But I'll stick with my Moped!"

Just then the light changes, so the doctor decides to show the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 150 mph.

Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer!

He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly WHOOOSSSHHH! Something whips by him going much faster!

"What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?" the doctor asks himself.

He presses harder on the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 180 mph.

Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the Moped!

Amazed that the Moped could pass his Ferrari, he gives it more gas and passes the Moped at 200 mph and he's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him AGAIN!

Astounded by the speed of this old guy, he floors the gas pedal and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 220 mph.

Not ten seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again! The Ferrari is flat out, and there's nothing he can do!

Suddenly, the Moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end.

The doctor stops and jumps out and unbelievably the old man is still alive.

He runs up to the banged-up old guy and says, "I'm a doctor...Is there anything I can do for you?"

The old man whispers,

"Unhook my suspenders from your side view mirror!"

## **LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Jeremy Anderson	VanJon Arvidson
Douglas Bell	Daniel Bright
Tyium Brown	Derek Carter
Raymundo Correa	Clate Dawson
Craig Mackey	Salvador Martinez
Chance Meyer	Christopher Ortwerth
Clay Peckman	Chad Peterson
Edward Peterson	Daniel Praska
Brice Richter	Eric Solie
Milissa Stevens	Tylor Wilson

**Membership Count = 3221**

On particularly rough days,  
I like to remind myself  
that my track record  
for getting through bad days  
so far is 100%  
and that's pretty good

**MARCH 20, 2019**



## ***GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:***



Beau Hamacher - Xcel Energy  
Shari Johnson - Local Union 160  
Jon Michels - Local Union 160  
Ryan Schuff - Xcel Energy

## **IN MEMORIAN**

*We are deeply saddened by the loss of our brothers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families & friends.*

Ernie Klossner - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 1/2019  
Mark Roach - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 2/27/19  
Hilary Skiba - Retired NSP - Died 2/25/19  
John Trebtske - Retired NSP - Died 1/25/19  
James Ulrich - Retired NSP - Died 1/24/19

## ***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.***

Brandon Diggs - Xcel Energy  
Gary Faber - Willmar Municipal  
Duane Good - Xcel Energy  
Robert Goulet - Xcel Energy  
Robert Klym - Xcel Energy  
Bruce Leblanc - Xcel Energy  
Sheri Meier - Mo Valley  
Ellis Pfeffer - Xcel Energy  
Joel Ruter - Willmar Municipal  
Joseph Shea - Mo Valley  
Roslyn Steinert - Xcel Energy

