

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

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**TWIN CITIES, MN**  
**PERMIT NO. 4274**



## **NEWSLETTER - 162ND EDITION**

**MARCH/APRIL 2013**

### **OFFICERS**

Thomas G. Koehler - Business Mgr/Financial Secretary  
Alan P. Rademacher - President  
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Vice President  
Barbara L. Oakes - Recording Secretary  
George G. Huber - Treasurer

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Daniel S. Seawell  
James M. Tobin

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Daniel J. Kieffer - Business Representative  
Thomas V. Arnold - Business Representative  
Robert J. Boogren - Business Representative  
Shawn T. Daly - Business Representative  
Charles R. Sable - Business Representative  
Jon D. Michels - Business Representative  
Kevin J. Peterson - Membership Development Rep.  
Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper  
Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager  
Jenny L. Olson - Receptionist, Referrals

# General Membership Meetings



## Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

**Minneapolis:** April 4 & May 2, 2013  
7:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane

**Becker:** April 18 & May 16, 2013  
7:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall

**Mo Valley:** April 30, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
May 31, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.  
Sawmill Inn  
2301 S. Pokegama Ave, Gr. Rapids



### Local 160 Phone Ext.

Tom A. - Ext. 105	Jenny - Ext. 101
Charlie- Ext. 108	Rose - Ext. 103
Bob - Ext. 109	Shari - Ext. 104
Jon - Ext. 125	Shawn - Ext. 106
	Dan - Ext. 205
	Tom K. - Ext. 115
	Kevin - Ext. 126

Minneapolis Tel # (612) 781-3126  
Minneapolis Fax # (612) 781-4225

Jon Michels, Grand Rapids  
Tel. # (218) 326-0533  
Fax # (218) 326-0534

Becker Office Numbers  
Daryl Tindle - (763) 262-1197  
Dan K.- (763) 262-1198  
Tom A - (763) 262-1189  
Fax # (763) 262-1168

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

**“DO YOU PLAN ON RETIRING IN 2013? NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING!”**

**Take advantage of a complimentary, no obligation retirement planning meeting with Union Advisors.**

**We'll help answer questions about:**

- Pension Options
- 401(k)
- Retirement Income
- Social Security.

**Contact Mike Dolezal or Mark Reichow with Union Advisors at 651-447-2235.**

**2728 East County Road D  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110**

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

## Retirement Club

The Local 160 Retirement Club would like to welcome Bob Brunswick and Jim King Jr. to the club.

All Local 160 retirees are welcome to join the club. They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month. Post cards will be mailed out to members of the club as a reminder.

On a sad note; Retirement Club President, Fred Bones passed away on February 18, 2013. Fred loved being involved with the retirees and worked hard on setting up a guest speaker every month. The Officers, Executive Board and staff and all members wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Fred's daughter Tammy and all his relatives and friends.

People think a soul mate is your perfect fit, and that's what everyone wants. But a true soul mate is a mirror, the person who shows you everything that is holding you back, the person who brings you to your own attention so you can change your life.

*Elizabeth Gilbert  
Eat, Pray, Love*

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

Missouri Valley Line Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program has signed a lease agreement with Dakota Vo-Tech. They will be providing the classroom and pole yard training in a building across the street from the main Dakota Vo-Tech building. Even though I wish they could stay here, there really was no other option and I believe this will be a very good facility to train our apprentices and I wish them well.

The five Local Unions settled the Xcel Energy - Medical Incentive grievance and lowered the premiums for 2013. We also settled the Storm Premium grievance from the Minot flood of last year. In my opinion, both these settlements turned out as well if not better than the Arbitrator may have awarded.

Covanta Energy and Foster Wheeler Twin Cities, Inc. contracts will be open for negotiations this summer. The University of Minnesota has been looking at other providers to operate and maintain the plants. We are hoping to have some positive information regarding the future of the U of M and the Foster Wheeler agreement going into the future.

The Xcel Energy members have received notification for contract renewal and request for amendments. We have tentatively set up the first full week of August to start discussions with the Company.

The Local Union has just started talks with Xcel Energy Management at the Black Dog Generating Plant regarding the discontinuing of coal operations. Xcel Energy filed an updated Energy Resource Plan at the Minnesota Public Utility Commission recently; through those hearings the Company will get authority to either add gas units at Black Dog or be denied. This filing will take some time to get through hearings. The Local Union will try and keep you up to date on this matter.

Fraternally,

Thomas G. Koehler

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Recently while on vacation in Mexico I had a heart attack that required immediate surgery. The hospital was a private one and did not accept insurance because they had a hard time collecting for their services. I was left with no choice but to use two credit cards to pay for the surgery.

On the day I was to be released, the hospital wanted the balance owed to be paid in full or they would not release my medical records. I didn't have that kind of money to pay them and obviously I needed my medical records to get reimbursed from my insurance company for what I already paid for.

I am from the outside construction unit of Local 160 and have LINECO for insurance. So I called Lineco just before closing, and ended up having at least three people from Lineco working with the hospital on releasing my records. The hospital finally came to an agreement with Lineco and gave me all my records. **I am so grateful for union negotiated insurance that I have.**

Moral to this experience í í .

- \* Does your insurance follow you outside the U.S.?
- \* If not, you can purchase primary insurance, but know what you are buying. You can also purchase secondary insurance, which I do most of the time.
- \* Does the country you are visiting accept your insurance? Bring your insurance card either way

Here's to good health my brothers and sisters and happy travels.

Kevin J. Peterson  
Membership Development Rep.  
IBEW Local Union 160  
2909 Anthony Lane  
St. Anthony, MN 55418  
Cell: (612) 387-0857  
kjp@ibew160.org

## Business, Labor Agree: Time to Act on Retirement Security

**It's one of the biggest challenges facing the economy today: providing retirement security for America's work force.**

More than 500,000 IBEW members, retirees, participants, and their beneficiaries are covered by multiemployer pension plans. For decades the plans - jointly managed by labor and management - have provided a decent retirement for electrical workers, as well as millions of other workers in industries ranging from transportation and services to coal mining and manufacturing.

But the 2008 Great Recession, which wreaked havoc on pensions and other retirement funds, has led labor and business leaders to propose new reforms to the multiemployer pension system to keep the funds - which allow workers to accrue benefits even as they move from job to job - solvent and attractive to employers and employees alike.

Says International President Edwin D Hill:

Multiemployer retirement plans are one of collective bargaining's true success stories, showing how labor and management can work together to guarantee retirement security for working families. With the goal of a decent retirement looking increasingly remote for many Americans, this is the time for us to come together to strengthen multiemployer plans as a bedrock of economic security for the middle class.

The regulatory provisions covering multiemployer plans, last updated in 2006 as part of the Pension Protection Act, are scheduled to expire in 2014.

To kick off debate in Congress and among plan stakeholders about revamping the pension regulatory system to meet current economic challenges, the National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans, a coalition of unions, businesses, and retirement experts (including the IBEW), released its reform recommendations in a new report - **Solutions not Bailouts** - this month.

Among the suggested reforms are:

- \* Give plan trustees more flexibility in managing financially troubled plans to avoid having to rely on tenuous government bailouts.
- \* Give plan managers more leeway to partner with other plans to minimize administrative cost.
- \* Change federal regulation to encourage new approaches to plan design that maintain a secure retirement stream for participants while minimizing risks for contributing employees.

Multiemployer pensions are particularly common in industries like construction which are dependent on mobile workforce. Approximately one-fourth of workers are covered by traditional pensions are in multiemployer plans.

Years of outsourcing, plant shutdowns and corporate mergers have devastated single-employer private pension plans, leaving millions of Americans reliant on 401(k)-type defined contribution plans which fall short when it comes to providing sufficient retirement income.

As Michael Fletcher of the Washington Post **wrote**:

Numerous studies have found that workers with defined-contribution accounts often put aside too little money, make too many withdrawals or employ the wrong investment strategies to save enough for old age.

Despite their decline, researchers say that defined benefits plans still give retirees a bigger bang for their buck. The National Institute of Retirement Security finds that the cost to deliver the same level of retirement income to a group of employees is 46 percent lower in a defined benefit plan than it is in a defined contribution plan.

Multiemployer plans held up better than their single employee counterparts, but the Great Recession still caused major damage, with the percentage of plans considered to be financially healthy dropping from 76 in 2008 to just 20 a year later.

That figure has since improved to 62 percent, but more needs to be done on the federal level to protect and expand retirement security for plan participants, says Marco Giamberardino, National Electrical Contractors Association executive director for Government Affairs.

To protect multiemployer retirement security, we need solutions that address the long term challenges facing both employers and employees.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. the federal agency responsible for guaranteeing private pensions estimates that without regulatory changes, there is a strong probability that multiemployer plans could exhaust their assets in the next 20 years.

Says International Secretary Treasurer Sam Chilia:

We urge lawmakers to come together, like we have, to take action on these recommendation to ensure that multiemployer plans continue to provide reliable retirement security for millions of workers while helping to prevent bailouts down the road.

## **Impact of March 1st Cuts on Middle Class Families, Jobs and Economic Security: Minnesota**

Unless Congress acts by March 1st, a series of automatic cuts—called the sequester—will take effect that threaten hundreds of thousands of middle class jobs, and cut vital services for children, seniors, people with mental illness and our men and women in uniform.

There is no question that we need to cut the deficit, but the President believes it should be done in a balanced way that protects investments that the middle class relies on. Already, the President has worked with Congress to reduce the deficit by more than \$2.5 trillion, but there's more to do. The President has put forward a balanced plan to not only avoid the harmful effects of the sequester but also to reduce the deficit by more than \$4 trillion in total. The President's plan meets Republicans more than half-way and includes twice as many spending cuts as it does tax revenue from the wealthy.

Unfortunately, many Republicans in Congress refuse to ask the wealthy to pay a little more by closing tax loopholes so that we can protect investments that are helping grow our economy and keep our country safe. By not asking the wealthy to pay a little more, Republicans are forcing our children, seniors, troops, military families and the entire middle class to bear the burden of deficit reduction. The President is determined to cut spending and reduce the deficit in a balanced way, but he won't stick the middle class with the bill. The President is willing to compromise, but on behalf the middle class he cannot accept a deal that undercuts their economic security.

Our economy is continuing to strengthen but we cannot afford a self-inflicted wound from Washington. Republicans should compromise and meet the President in the middle. We cannot simply cut our way to prosperity, and if Republicans continue to insist on an unreasonable, cuts-only approach, Minnesota risks paying the price.

### **MINNESOTA IMPACTS**

If sequestration were to take effect, some examples of the impacts on Minnesota **this year** alone are:

- ◆ **Teachers and Schools:** Minnesota will lose approximately \$7 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 100 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition about 8,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 40 fewer schools would receive funding.
- ◆ **Education for Children with Disabilities:** In addition, Minnesota will lose approximately \$9.2 million in funds for about 110 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.
- ◆ **Work-Study Jobs:** Around 920 fewer low income students in Minnesota would receive aid to help them finance the costs of college and around 500 fewer students will get work-study jobs that help them pay for college.
- ◆ **Head Start:** Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for approximately 700 children in Minnesota, reducing access to critical early education
- ◆ **Law Enforcement and Public Safety Funds for Crime Prevention and Prosecution:** Minnesota will lose about \$201,000 in Justice Assistance Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.
- ◆ **Child Care:** Up to 500 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, which is also essential for working parents to hold down a job.
- ◆ **Vaccines for Children:** In Minnesota around 2,360 fewer children will receive vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and Hepatitis B due to reduced funding for vaccinations of about \$161,000.
- ◆ **Public Health:** Minnesota will lose approximately \$507,000 in funds to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. In addition, Minnesota will lose about \$1.2 million in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse, resulting in around 1,700 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the Minnesota Department of Health will lose about \$127,000 resulting in around 3,200 fewer HIV test.
- ◆ **Nutrition Assistance for Seniors:** Minnesota would lose approximately \$845,000 in funds that provide meals for seniors.
- ◆ **Job Search Assistance to Help those in Minnesota find Employment and Training:** Minnesota will lose about \$689,000 in funding for job search assistance, referral, and placement, meaning around 23,270 fewer people will get the help and skills they need to find employment.



## Stewards Training - 2013

Local Union 160 held its annual Stewards Training on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the Union Hall. Approximately 45 stewards attended the training.

Business Manager Tom Koehler started the day off with an update on some of the more important issues facing the union.

The first speakers were Joe Herbulock and Todd Gadtke from the Law Offices of Gadtke & Brennan P.A. Joe and Todd are legal experts with Workers' Compensation. They brought the stewards up to date on the injury laws and Joe gave the group working examples of cases he and his firm have litigated. He stressed how important it is for all employees to keep good records when it comes to any work site injury.

Next, Kevin Kuccera from Utility Safety Technologies talked to us about a new product his company is selling that would be used for permanent fall arrest. When using the new device, a person would attach a lanyard to a ring. Kevin had a number of pictures demonstrating the fall arrest device. It looks very simple to install.

Dick Williams from R.A. Williams Law Firm P.A. finished out the training with a short history of the labor movement. Then he spoke specifically about the duties of a steward. He gave us a better understanding of how vital stewards are to the functioning of any union.

We finished up the day with door prizes and a nice lunch.

In Solidarity,

Jim Brereton

Executive Board Member



His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I cannot accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of." And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved his life this time: Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill...His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

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On Saturday, September 15, 2012 at Wild Marsh Shooting Preserve near Clear Lake, the 2nd Annual All Union Sportsman Alliance Clay Pigeon event was held.

Union members participating were: Scott Barnett-Xcel Trouble Dept., Jim Brereton-Xcel Const. Subst., Scott Knight-Xcel Mtka. Overhead, Marshall Zutter-Xcel St. Cloud Gas, Darrin Helget-Connexus Energy, Jeff Hicks-Connexus Energy, Bret Kitner-MN Valley Elec., Randy Breeggemann-MN Valley Elec., Pete Wyffels-Meeker Coop, Wayne Zimmermann-Retired Xcel & 160 Rep, Bill Little-Retired Mo Valley and Dan Kieffer-Local 160 Rep, along with two members from Local 31 and Sponsors Mike Follese-Principal Financial Group, Mike Dolezal and Mark Reichow-Union Advisors.

Approximately 120 members from The Building Trades and IBEW Unions attended.

The event consisted of 100 shot rounds at various angles of 25 different shooting stations and then lunch was served and door prizes given out. Trophies for high scores for various categories were given out. One of Local 160's teams won one of the categories and received a trophy.

A special thanks goes out to Mike Follese - Principal Financial Group, Mike Dolezal and Mark Reichow - Union Advisors and IBEW Local 160 for sponsoring the teams.



## LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Nicholas Albold	Andrew Alferness
Levi Allen	Joseph Bauer
Cody Baumgarten	Nathan Baumgarten
Allen Behnken	Brett Binman
Robert Blanchard	Mike Boxell
Joseph Buckley	Jason Chapman
Jordan Chouinard	Oscar Deleon
Alex Derosier	Brian Edwardsen
Michael Friesen	Jordan Gardner
Chad Grande	David Haegele
Connor Heidrich	Jacob Hennen
Nicholas Holman	Drew Holtan
Richard Holum	Tyler Homola
Joshua Hustings	Eli Jenson
Dustin Johnson	Phillip Johnson
Donald Jund	Jared Kruger
Terrence Kuenzel	John Larson
Gregory Lee	Jeremy Lindberg
Andrew Lynch	JaNet Manning
Riley Maple	James McElroy
Kirt Meyer	Michael Moore
Constantin Moraresco	Michael Nundahl
Nicholas O'Donnell	Michael Ourada
Timothy Parish	Dylan Pierce
Lane Quarnstrom	Nicholas Ratke
Jesus Riojas	Joshua Schillinger
Jon Settergren	Andrew Sjolie
Russell Stuhr	Jamie Swartzner
Aaron Trethewey	Ethan T. Washek
Mark Whichard	

**Membership Count = 2943**

*Wishing all of you and your families a Happy Easter!!!!!!*



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

Philip Felleson - City of Redwood Falls  
Bruce Karna - Xcel Energy  
James Kriptos - Xcel Energy  
Terry McEachern - Xcel Energy  
Arthur Peterson - Xcel Energy  
Kevin Peterson - Local 160 Organizer  
Mark Reberg - Xcel Energy  
James Tobin - Xcel Energy  
Calvin Wright - Xcel Energy

## *IN MEMORIAM*

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

Jason Lloyd Anderson - Active Mo Valley - Died 2/27/13

Fred Bones - Retired NSP - Died 2/18/13

Mark Stoneberg - Active Xcel Energy - Died 2/26/13

## *CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.*

Chester Bijoch - Xcel Energy

Eddy Bruss - Mo Valley

George French - Pine County

Faron Jackson - Xcel Energy

Robert Moran - Mo Valley

Glen Nix - Xcel Energy

Edward Pacholke - Wright Tree

Jerry Pals - Xcel Energy

Jack Reck - City of Redwood Falls



There are times when forgetting can be just as important as  
remembering and even more difficult.

Harry & Joan Mier  
*Happiness Begins Before Breakfast*