

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

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NEWSLETTER - 186TH EDITION

MAY/JUNE 2017

OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

James D. Dufour
Kevin J. Kaeter
Scott E. Knight
Mark A. Ring
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. Johnson - Receptionist/Referral Clerk

General Membership Meetings

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

Minneapolis: **June 1 & July 6, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane

Becker: **June 15 & July 20, 2017**
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall

Mo Valley: **June 27, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.**
St. Anthony - Union Hall
July 28, 2017- 7:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Union Hall
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids

Great River : **June 8 & July 13, 2017**
6:00 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall



Stacy - Ext. 102
Kurt - Ext. 105
Mike - Ext. 108
Bob - Ext. 109
Andy - Ext. 126

Local 160 Phone Ext.

Ami - Ext. 101
Rose - Ext. 103
Shari - Ext. 104
Tom C. - Ext. 106
Dan - Ext. 205
Jon - Ext. 125

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
Marty C.- (763) 262-1197
Eric S.- (763) 262-1198
Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189
Fax # (763) 262-1168

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.

IBEW Local Union 160 Retirement Club

The retirees would like to welcome new members Tom Hall, Paul Laberda and Rod Pfeifer to the club.

May's meeting date is 24th at 10:00. This will be the last meeting for the summer and will start up again in October 2017.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS:

With the upcoming elections it is very important that all members **receive their ballots and vote.**

If you have moved please remember to call Local 160 with your change of address.

Thank you

TO ALL 'A' MEMBERS

There are still so many IBEW Local 160 members that don't realize that there is a small pension and death benefit with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

For example: All members under the Mo Valley contract have two (2) pensions and their annuity. You have the IBEW pension which is at \$4.50 per years of service, NEBF which is at \$32.00 per years of service and NEAP.

Any IBEW member may be an 'A' member if you so wish to. The dues are currently \$18.00 more per month than the 'BA' members.

If you would like more information on the 'A' membership benefits and how it works, feel free to contact me at the hall and I will be more than happy to sit and explain everything to you.

Sincerely,
Rose

In order to properly follow IBEW policies and procedures, effective June 2017, IBEW Local 160 will no longer be able to immediately process payments for expenses incurred (mileage, time off, attendance fees, hotels, etc.) by Local Union members, officers and staff. Checks will be disbursed as soon as possible and should be available within one month after expense statements are submitted.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we make this required change to our procedures.

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Summer weather is finally becoming predominate. Along with that, construction activity of all kinds is increasing, which makes the business we are in busy. Longer days of summer also brings the likelihood of storms with power outages and wind damage. My point here is to keep an eye on the weather at work as well as on your off hours. Safety gets no time off at home, work or on vacation.

With this wonderful weather and summer coming, so does outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, softball/baseball etc. I would just like to remind everyone to not forget about safety. I want all of you and your families to enjoy your vacations and activities.

One other note on safety related issue; Local 160 has met with Xcel Energy officials on supporting laws for roadway safety. The goal is public recognition of UTILITY WORK AHEAD signage on highways and with that better enforcement of reduction in speed in these areas.

Last item, I want to remind and encourage all members of Local 160 that you have an important union election at hand. Please exercise your right to vote. When your ballot arrives in your mail, cast your vote and send it back promptly to avoid a late ballot.

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren

A few weeks ago we held our first ever directional boring training at the Grand Rapids Hall. It consisted of two, two day classes with ten members in attendance. The members that participated this time were: Steve Shaffer, Travis Halbakken, Nikolaus Jensen, Ross Pettit, Aaron Sparby, David Vandervort, Tait Gronli, Joseph Wappel, Tyler Brisbin and Constantin Moraresco. The training covered basic skills for people with interest in working around bore rigs. The ground was rocky, the weather was cold but as drillers do: we dealt with the conditions at hand.

There are a lot of people I'd like to thank for helping me set this up. Ditch Witch supplied us with both equipment and trainers for the week. Michels/Xcel for sending our members and Xcel's EUC division for the tools. I'd also like to thank Bob Boogren and the Executive board for their approval. Without their interest and foresight I would not have been able to get this idea off the ground.

Please do not be upset if you were not asked to participate. Space was limited and this was just a pilot session covering basic boring skills. This field is one with a lot of potential growth and if we establish a training program it would be the only one in the state.

If you have any questions please give me a call.

Fraternally,

Andy Kieffer
Membership Development Coordinator
IBEW Local Union 160

612-258-5833



2017 ELECTION NOMINEES

President:	Kenneth R. Conrad Barbara L. Oakes Alan P. Rademacher
Vice President:	Jason P. Alms Darrin L. Helget
Recording Secretary:	David. A. Audette Mark A. Ring
Business Manager/Financial Secretary:	Robert J. Boogren Kevin J. Peterson
Treasurer:	Matthew J. Dausg Dan A. McConnell
Executive Board:	Thomas S. Carlson Travis M. Doll James D. Dufour Martin J. Halter Clayton E. Kaeter Kevin J. Kaeter Bret D. Kitner Scott E. Knight Raymond E. Labrecque Randal L. Nass Michael S. Parker Jeffery R. Polson Kellen A. Schmidt Noah C. Smith James M. Tobin

All ballots will be mailed out no later than May 18, 2017. If you do not receive a ballot it could possibly be that you have moved and forgot to give Local Union 160 your new address.

All ballots should be at the P.O. Box (NOT DROPPED OFF AT THE UNION HALL) no later than June 19, 2017 by 9:00 a.m.



**THIS IS YOUR UNION
SO BE PROUD
AND VOTE FOR YOUR OFFICERS
AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

IBEW 160 MEMBERS YOU'RE INVITED

Mark Reichow of Union Retirement Alliance
Invites you to an Appreciation BBQ Picnic

When: Saturday, August, 26th, 2017

Time: 11:30am – 1:30pm

**Where: Como Park Pavilion – South
(Attached to Como Zoo)
1199 Midway Parkway
St. Paul, MN 55108**



Fun for the whole family! Bring your spouse, children and grandchildren and join us for good food, games and prizes. Come when you can, and leave when you need to!

Mark Reichow, from Union Retirement Alliance, is making a donation to the Como Zoo on your behalf, so come for the food and feel free to stay and visit the zoo!

RSVP by 08/15/17 via email to Susan at susan.stuppnig@lpl.com, or call (952)683-9100

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC

Quotes to Ponder

I used to eat a lot of natural food until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Why does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?

Why don't we ever see this headline: **PSYCHIC WINS LOTTERY?**

Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'Broker'?

Who tastes dog food when it has a 'new & improved' flavor?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why are a wise man and wise guy opposites?



UADVISORS

Identify. Plan. Pursue. Independent Advice.
Goal Based Planning.

INTEREST RATES ARE RISING

Will this have a negative effect on the GATT Rate and your Pension Benefits?

*Is this the right year for me to retire?
How do I plan for my income in retirement?*

Reach out to our office to discuss how this could effect you individually.

Your Retirement Team!

Office: (651) 447-2235

Email: Info@UAdvisors.com

Website: 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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The first week in April 2017 I attended the National Safety Conference and the IBEW Safety Caucus.

Throughout the week there were different information meetings set up. One thing that the National Safety Conference is focusing on for 2017 the big push for 'Awareness of Distracted Driving' and it's affects. Some states are moving ahead with Legislation that requires "Hands Free" driving. Please do not text and drive.

On the IBEW Safety Caucus side I am sad to report that the IBEW has had four (4) fatalities so far for 2017. With that said, April is always dedicated to the Workers Memorial month. So even though April flew by, let's remember all those who have lost their lives. I urge all of you to look out for each other and work safe. Please make good decisions and don't be in a hurry. We all know that we are doing more work with less personnel.

Fraternally,

Kurt W. Zimmerman

Business Rep

IBEW Local Union 160

RIGHT TO WORK THREAT

With Minnesota surrounded by Right To Work States it is a must to get the word out on the importance and urgency of the Right To Work Threat that unions in Minnesota face. Here are some of the issues, that are important yet often overlooked by those buying union printing.

When working with a union printing company (or a company in any industry) be sure to ask:

- If the company is union, what local(s) represent the employees. This is a simple yet very important question to ask.
- Do they perform all of the work with their union employees? If they don't where do they send the work? If a union printing company subcontracts with another union printing company then the company doing the actual printing is required to have their own union label on the work, not the label from the company sending the work.
- If the work is going to be sent out to another printing company, ask where it is going. You have the right to know where it's going and you should ask because if it is going to a shop in a "Right To Work" state pull the job and find a printing company in Minnesota that can do the work!
- Some union print buyers work with brokers and there is no reason to do that, especially in Minnesota. Brokers may not only send the work to a "Right To Work" state with the goal to increase their profit margin and charge you more, but, also, brokers are notorious for sending work to non-union shops that use counterfeit or illegal union labels. If you must use a broker, ask to see the union label from the printing company doing the work and check with the printing union local offices to ensure that the label is legit.
- If you are active or involved in political or issue-based campaigns, please insist that those in charge of the effort use legitimate union printing companies in Minnesota. It's sad but true that a number of Minnesota elected officials use union printing companies in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Maryland, etc. and don't support the union workers that support them AND can vote for them!
- The cost of sending union work to "Right To Work" states is real and directly impacts union workers. For example if a Minnesota political campaign (that wants union endorsement) or local union in Minnesota that spends about \$210,000 in a year in Wisconsin or Iowa on their printing displaces one Minnesota union printing employee. That's one union employee that could have (should have) voted for the candidate that supports unions. That doesn't include the revenue loss and impact to mailing companies, paper and ink vendors, etc. But the question is: Even though the candidate is seeking union/labor endorsement does that candidate really support unions/labor if he/she sends their printing, and possibly other services, to Right To Work states?
- The Right To Work Threat is more pressing and immediate than it has ever been in the history of unions. Minnesota is now an island, surrounded by Right to Work States and we need to seal up the borders to keep union work in Minnesota and to keep the Right To Work advocates out!
- If there are any questions as to who is doing the work, insist on a plant or facility visit to see firsthand the employees and equipment that should be doing the work. If the vendor hesitates or doesn't want you to visit, that should be a very strong hint that they are not a legitimate union vendor for your project.

Bottom line is: Keep work in Minnesota! Use legitimate union vendors whenever possible. Do your due diligence to ensure that they are legitimate and to address the questions/issues listed above. Spread the word about legitimate union vendors and really spread the word about vendors that are not legitimate.

When you've been through an unexpected change, the old you dies and a new one is born. And therefore you must allow yourself to be a baby. Get emotional and moral support any way you can. Give yourself a limited time each day (about an hour or so) to focus on the adjustment. And don't make big decisions until you've got your legs under you. You don't even know who the new you will grow up to be, so postpone large commitments, giving yourself time and love. Everything else will take care of itself.

Martha Beck

LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Greg Anderson	Dana Cooper
Charles Dreier	Jacob Eikos
Lucas Fobbe	Julio Fuentes Aguilar
Brian Geske	Andrew Grass
Robert Helmbrecht	Kyle Hendershot
Wade Johnson	Daniel Kim
Nicholas Kromminga	Jonathon Messner
Troy Middelstadt	Zachary Moran
Jack Neumann	Dwayne Peterson
Ryan Peterson	Nicholas Pounder
Darin Pragit	Joseph Ramlet
Chance Roberts	Juan Rodriguez
Joshua Rogers	Jack Rudeen
Tyler Schummer	Thomas Segner
James Shepherd	Dustin Stewart
Michael Tautges	Nicholas Taverna
Cory Tiedeman	Aaron Weis
Michael Weiss	

Membership Count = 3168

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Craig Bugella - Mo Valley
John Hackey - Xcel Energy
Steve Horn - Mo Valley
Bruce Karna - Xcel Energy
Jay Law - Xcel Energy
Joel Mohagen - Asplundh Tree
Jeffrey Motl - Mo Valley
Paul Schommer - Xcel Energy
Joseph Steffl - Benco Electric
Steven Thoresen - Xcel Energy
Michael Truax - Mo Valley
James Voita - Mo Valley



GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE

FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



Ryan Beacom - Great River Energy
Steve Curtis - Xcel Energy
Kevin Kaeter - Xcel Energy
Gary Kulkay - Xcel Energy
Jason Matthies - Mo Valley
Grant Miller - Mcleod Coop
Mark Muench - Great River Energy
Roy Robison - Xcel Energy
Jeff Sawdy - Veolia
Scott Sweely - Great River Energy

IN MEMORIAN

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

James Steinert - Retired NSP - Died 3/13/17

Kevin Sweere - Retired Mo Valley - Died 4/15/17

ELEMENT OF GREATNESS

Every job has an element of greatness. It matters little if it is that of a custodian, the president of a large corporation, or any job in between.

On a visit to a popular casino, I observed the custodian maintaining a men's bathroom. When I entered he was singing, "Here's a little son I wrote, you might want to sing it note-for-note. Don't worry, be happy..."

This Jamaican-born gentleman was on in years, but sang and greeted every man as they entered the washroom. Many knew him and shook his hand. He made everyone smile.

His melodic voice echoed through the room while he kept the facilities spotless. He sang and worked, worked and sang, "In every life we have some trouble, when you worry you make it double. Don't worry, be happy..."

He created an element of greatness in that job. He did it by becoming more than a custodian and more of an inspiration. Every person who left that washroom had a smile on his face because of the singing that came from this man.

To find the element of greatness, in your job, you need only to look within.

Bruce L. Buchler