

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

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NEWSLETTER - 193RD EDITION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

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Darrin L. Helget- Vice President
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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

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

Minneapolis: **October 4 & November 1, 2018**
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane

Becker: **October 18 & November 15, 2018**
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall

Mo Valley: **October 30, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.**
St. Anthony - Union Hall
November 30, 2018- 7:30 p.m.
Grand Rapids Union Hall
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids

Great River : **October 11 & November 8, 2018**
6:00 p.m. - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall



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

L.U. 160 general email address - 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.

Local Union 160 Retirement Club

The Retirement Club will be starting up their meetings again on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 10 a.m. and will be continuing every 4th Wednesday (with the exception of November and December) through May 2019.

Postcards will be sent out each quarter as a reminder. So come and join your fellow retirees each month.

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

Cost is \$20.00 per year.

NOTICE TO ALL 'A' MEMBERS

The Delegates of the 39th IBEW International Convention in 2016, approved in 2019 a \$1.00 increase per month that will be deposited into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

'A' members currently pay an additional \$18.00 per month into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund, whereas, the 'BA' members do not.

Any IBEW member may be an 'A' member if you so choose. If any 'BA' member would like information on the Pension and Death Benefit Fund, please contact me at (612) 781-3126 or email me at rme@ibew160.org, and I would be more than happy to answer any questions for you.

All members 'A' or 'BA' are currently paying \$19.00 per month into the IBEW Per Capita. That will remain the same in 2019.

Again, any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Rose Eiden
Bookkeeper

Any member who has/or does work under the Mo Valley contract or Tree Trimming contracts and has money in your NEAP account, please read:

If you recall a few months ago I told you how you can get your up to date NEBF account hours. Now you can do the same for NEAP account.

Just go to <https://onlinebenefits.nebf.com>. Login and click on NEAP at the top of the page. Then click Account Balance Request on the left hand navigation menu. Click on Submit and you will see your request appear below. As soon as it processes, you'll be able to download a letter, which details your current balance.

If you haven't registered yet, you will need to do that first, then you can login.

Any questions, feel free to call me.
Rose

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It's hard to believe how fast the summer has gone and now the children are back in school and fall is approaching.

This election that will be held on November 6, 2018 is a very important one. Your choice for Governor is Tim Walz - Democrat and Jeff Johnson - Republican. One of them is for labor and the other supports Right To Work legislation. I am asking you to please take the time to go vote. If you are not registered, please do so. Choose wisely for your Governor, Senate and representatives. Watch out for your paychecks and jobs.

The 35th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The Lineman's Rodeo attracts the best lineman from around the world to compete in events based on traditional lineman tasks. The first Lineman's Rodeo was held in September 1984, with twelve participating teams from Kansas and Missouri. The Rodeo has grown now to over 200 teams and more than 300 apprentices that come to compete. Local Union 160 will be once again participating in the Apprentice Events. This year's team instructor is Dave Audette and participating are Ron Hakala (4th Step), Cole Johnson (6th Step), Benjamin Kelly and James Vearrier who are 7th Step Apprentice Linemen. They will be competing in the Written Test (which will be held on October 12, 2018), Hurt man Rescue, Pole Climb and Two Mystery Events. Good luck everyone, we will be cheering for you.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Mo Valley Executive Committee (Clayton Kaeter, Charlie Sable, Jeff Bryczek, Kenny Conrad, Kevin Peterson, Mark Potter and Travis Doll), and Mike Ringstad for taking the time to install the soundproofing panels up in the Grand Rapids Hall. They all volunteered to hang them up to improve the acoustics in the building.

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren
Cell: (612) 308-5520



Brothers and Sisters,

As you are all aware the season of politics is upon us and until November we'll need to put up with the endless political ads fighting for our attention. What you may not be aware of is just how pivotal these elections could be for organized labor in Minnesota.

Our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin had one such election in 2010 where large numbers of anti-union politicians were elected and immediately attacked organized labor. Between 2010 and 2017 in Wisconsin, union membership has dropped by 41.5%, largely as a result of anti-union legislation. If we compare our two neighboring states we can see the effects of regressive labor law. 2010-2017 data shows that Minnesota has had a fairly steady 15% union workforce and as a result a real wage growth of +2.4%. In the same period, Wisconsin with a declining 8% union workforce has had a real wage growth of +.3%. Without strong unions pushing for better wages and benefits the trend becomes a race to the bottom where workers suffer.

Now more than ever we must push candidates to adopt pro-union positions. If we fail to vote for pro-union candidates, we will be giving away that which our brothers and sisters struggled to achieve.

[Statistics taken from Bureau of Labor Statistics and Economic Policy Institute](#)

In solidarity,

Andy Kieffer
Membership Development Coordinator

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., Sept. 18 at 6:30
Grand Rapids Hall

Tues., Oct. 2 at 6:00
Becker Hall

Tues., Oct. 9 at 6:00
St. Anthony Hall

All members are welcome!

Each meeting will start with food & a viewing of the movie,
“Labor’s Turning Point”

Contact Andy (612) 258-5833 with any questions.

On August 16, 2018, myself and 2 union stewards from Monticello Nuclear Plant, Aaron Mann and Jason Weber had the privilege of meeting Jeff Baran, NRC Commissioner and Robert Krsek - NRC Tech Assistant.

The Commissioner came to Monticello for a visit from Washington D.C. where he was given a tour of the plant. He also took time out to meet with the Local Union to discuss a variety of topics.

The Commissioner is one of five who make up The NRC Board. These positions are appointed by the President of the United States. Each Commissioner serves an eight (8) year term. Mr. Baran was appointed in 2014.

I would like to say thank you to the NRC and site management at Xcel Energy for allowing us to spend time with him.

Fraternally,

Kurt Zimmerman
Business Representative

Pictured below (L to R) Robert Krsek, Jason Weber, I & C Steward, Kurt Zimmerman, Aaron Mann, Scheduler's Steward and Jeff Baran.



Managing Fatigue in the Workplace

Brought to you by the National Safety Council

Busy schedules can often lead to interruptions in the body's annual sleep cycle. Sometimes we work longer shifts, rest at odd hours and don't get the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep each night. We don't often think about how these risk factors have the potential to jeopardize our overall health, well-being and productivity in the workplace.

According to OSHA, our bodies "operate on a circadian rhythm sleep/wake cycle." This means that naturally we are programmed to be alert during the day and sleep at night. NSC provides lots of resources to help get your employees engaged in managing fatigue.

Who is at Risk?

Unfortunately, everyone is at risk for fatigue. We might work long hours, perform tedious tasks for extended periods of time or stay up late taking care of children. Life happens - with situations both in and out of our control - that can cause us to experience a level of fatigue that could become a physical, mental or social impairment.

More than four out of ten U.S. workers suffer from lack of sleep. Look at your co-workers. Do you see many coming to work sleepy - or even exhausted? This can result in absenteeism, poor performance and workplace injuries.

What can Employers do?

Nearly 13% of work-related injuries are attributed to fatigue, but much can be done for the safety of your employees. For starters, adopt a workplace culture that supports getting a full 7-9 hours of sleep between shifts. This could mean paying more attention to scheduling workers, providing frequent breaks to employees and possibly establishing a rest area. Educational activities can be implemented through corporate wellness programs to provide resources to employees and managers, alike.

Steps for Employees to Take.

As an employee, make sure to create a consistent personal sleep schedule even on your days off. This will help align your natural body clock (circadian rhythm). Avoid large meals before bedtime, and evaluate any medications you are taking and how they might impact your sleeping patterns. It might be time to check in with a doctor to make sure you don't have sleep apnea or other sleep disorders.



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The August 2018 GATT Rate will be used for 2019 Retirees, let's update you Plan!

What is the new GATT rate?

How does this interest rate affect my Pension Benefits?

Is this the right year for me to retire?

How do I plan for my retirement?

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

Your Retirement Team!

Office: (651) 447-2235

Email: jeff.kolodjski@uadvisors.com

mike.dolezal@uadvisors.com

Website: www.uadvisors.com



Se- curities 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.

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Missouri ‘Right to Work’ Goes Down in Flames

By Judy Ancel - Labor Notes

For years I used to say that when you looked at a map of Midwest “Right-to-work” states, Missouri stuck into them like a thumb plugging a hole in a wall leaking sludge.

Then a flood of Trump votes netted us a hardcore anti-worker governor, Eric Greitens. The Republican-dominated legislature passed a right-to-work law almost immediately, and Greitens signed it in February 2017.

But Missourians have an unusual constitutional right to a “citizens’ veto” of unpopular laws. So unions began a petition drive to put it to a popular vote.

On August 18, 2017—just 10 days before the right-to-work law was set to go into effect—labor turned in 310,567 signatures, three times the number required to place the referendum on this year’s ballot.

In a partisan move, legislative Republicans moved the vote up from November to the August 7 primary, hoping to suppress turnout. But their maneuver didn’t work. An astounding 67 percent of voters rejected right to work.

Labor’s win in Missouri defies current wisdom about the decline of unions. We won with an even greater percentage of no votes than in the celebrated 1978 defeat of right to work in Missouri—despite the fact that union density has fallen by two-thirds since then.

Amazingly, even if none of Missouri’s quarter-million union members had voted, right to work would still have been defeated. Given the number of ballots cast in the Republican primary, at least a third of the no votes must have come from Republicans.

Only four counties favored Clinton over Trump in the last presidential election. Yet 100 of Missouri’s 115 counties voted no on right to work.

ON THE DOORS

The campaign didn’t really start until May. It was statewide and primarily volunteer-driven, though some paid canvassers were hired too. “It was a very personal issue for a quarter-million Missourians,” said Jessica Podhola, who took leave from her job at the Painters union to work on the campaign. “That’s what turned so many volunteers out.”

My own experience canvassing in Kansas City was sweaty and positive. We were told not to lead with the term “right to work.” But when you asked people if they’d heard of Proposition A, they said, “No, what’s that?” When you said “right to work,” the typical response was “oh, I’ll vote no.” We were targeting likely primary voters who were open to our message.

The campaign passed out 100,000 “No on A” yard signs all over Missouri. The Koch Brothers’ Americans for Prosperity printed up signs at a union shop, probably by mistake. Rumor had it there were 25,000, but they had no grassroots organization to distribute them. Our side clearly won the sign war.

MESSAGE AND MONEY

The campaign’s messaging was mostly economic. What worked, according to many, was the simple message that right to work would hurt all working people, whether union or nonunion.

The campaign highlighted the fact that annual wages average \$8,700 less in right-to-work states. It emphasized that Prop A was driven by wealthy special interests who benefit from exorbitant CEO pay, already 361 times what the rest of us make.

The other side will say they lost because of the money. It’s true that labor outraised them significantly, \$18 million to \$5 million.

DON’T LET DUST SETTLE

There’s a risk that the legislature in 2019 will vote for right to work all over again. To avoid that, labor needs to continue building a movement that reaches beyond union members.

We can do that by putting forward a progressive economic program and pushing democratic reforms. The two propositions on the November ballot are a good start; one would raise the minimum wage, and the other is a constitutional amendment to get money out of the legislature and end gerrymandering.

The late Jerry Tucker, a chief strategist of the successful 1978 campaign to defeat right to work, wrote in 2005, “The many-layered, multi-textured anti-right-to-work campaign stunned a fast-growing new anti-labor right wing in America. Unfortunately, the campaign’s architecture, its strategies, tactics, energies, and social dimensions, which had ‘movement-building’ stamped all over them, quickly and summarily wound up in a dusty trophy cabinet. The victory had given U.S. labor a momentary glimpse of its potential, and U.S. labor couldn’t handle it!”

Let’s hope this history doesn’t repeat itself.

LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jesus Atariguana	Christopher Brown
Kyle Cromwell	Keegan Decker
Justin Diederich	Aaron Erkenbrack
Bradley Falde	Kaleb Fehn
Jeffrey Foust	Andrew Freihammer
Grant Friendshuh	Jeremy Glarner
Casey Glaser	Kevin Grangroth
William Haines	Elijah Hance
Christopher Hanly	Cole Hanson
Derek Hoger	Reid Inman
Treshon Johnson	Todd Jude
Trampis Keller	Andrew Koenig
Brian Krebsbach	Jared Kritzeck
Brock Larson	Nathan Legatt
Wesley Lund	Trevor Lyseng
Spencer Maloney	Mathew Moeller
Robert Myhran	Corey Napper
Brady O'Neill	Daniel Pecoraro
Joe Poots	Randy Prawalsky
Antoine Richardson	Lane Ristamaki
Joshua Rogers	Michael Sakry
Nicholas Scheiblaue	Penny Schmitz
John Siebenaler	Brandon Skalberg
Jesse Slover	Kyle Stanius
Andrew Telehey	Dustin Tuley
Cole Zeise	

Membership Count = 3210

Local Union 160 has purchased new t-shirts with two new designs on the back of the shirts. They come in short sleeves and long sleeves and in three different colors.

Go to www.ibew160.org. Click on the About tab at the top of the home page, then click on 160 merchandise to see the new shirts. This will also give you the amount.

Now I know some stores are already putting Christmas decorations up, but maybe buy a shirt for one of your Christmas presents.

GOOD LUCK TO LOCAL 160'S APPRENTICE LINEMEN WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S 35TH ANNUAL-LINEMEN'S RODEO HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2018.

GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:



Ronald Borell - Connexus Energy
William Gerlach - Xcel Energy
Luke Villeneuve - Xcel Energy

IN MEMORIAN

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

Donald A. Anderson - Retired NSP - Died 7/26/18

Kenneth Aucutt - Retired NSP - Died 8/17/18

Arthur Finklea - Retired NSP - Died 7/11/18

Walter Kantorowicz - Retired NSP - Died 8/19/18

James D. Proctor - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 8/2018

Constantine (Dino) Psihos - Retired NSP - Died 7/20/18

Leon Reinharts - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 8/13/18

Robert Thompson - Retired Mo Valley - Died 2/26/18

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Timothy Bothun - Xcel Energy

Randy Carron - Mo Valley

Thomas Halverson - Xcel Energy

Keith Heck - Xcel Energy

Kenneth Henry - Veolia

Martin Immerman - Xcel Energy

Randal Keegan - Xcel Energy

Jaime Nelson - Xcel Energy

Wesley Pagel - Xcel Energy

Thomas Schneider - Xcel Energy

Walter Stemig - Mo Valley

Richard Voigt - Xcel Energy

Dave Wehr - Xcel Energy

John White - Xcel Energy

Daniel Witschen - Xcel Energy



To all active and retired members. If you have any ideas for future newsletter articles, please feel free to call me with suggestions or email me at rme@ibew160.org. You know the number (612) 781-3126.

Rose