

# General Membership Meetings

## Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:** Dec. 3, 2015, January 7, 2016  
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:** Dec. 17, 2015, January 21, 2016  
7:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:** December 29, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
January 29, 2016- 7:30 p.m.  
Grand Rapids Union Hall  
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids



Stacy - Ext. 102  
Kurt. - Ext. 105  
Charlie- Ext. 108  
Bob - Ext. 109  
Kevin - Ext. 126

### Local 160 Phone Ext.

Jenny - 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

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

## **Local 160's Holiday Closings:**

Local Union 160's office will be closed on the following days:

- November 26 & 27, 2015 - Thanksgiving  
December 24 & 25, 2015 - Christmas Eve & Day  
January 1, 2016 - New Year's Day

---

**Notice To All Members:** Effective January 1, 2016 all IBEW members will have a \$1.00 increase in their dues.

This \$1.00 will go to the International Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rose at (612) 781-3126 or email her at [rme@ibew160.org](mailto:rme@ibew160.org).

---

## *Retirement Club*

The Retirement Club has resumed their monthly gathering. All retirees are welcomed to join.

Meeting dates: November 18th

December 16th - Christmas Party

Postcards will be mailed out with future dates.



The Officers, Executive Board Members and the Office Staff would like to wish all of you and your families a very safe and joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

---

### **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.

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

On September 24, 2015 Local Union 160 held their 32nd Annual Pig Roast. Despite a gloomy beginning, the day turned out quite nice. Along with one of our larger lunch crowds, it seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves. Thank you to everyone who came and helped make this a successful Pig Roast. This pig roast is for you, the members, to say thank you for help in making Local 160 a great union. Also, I would like to thank the cooks, Executive Board, Reps and staff for their hard work and to all the contractors who contributed door prizes. It is greatly appreciated.



The new Grand Rapids Office is completed. The address is 300 S.E. 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. To all Mo Valley members, your November 20, 2015 meeting will be held at the new hall and **NOT** at the Sawmill Inn.



The fall hunting season is upon us and I would like to remind everyone to be careful in the fields and tree stands. There are still too many needless injuries and deaths each year.

Although we are still about a year away from Xcel Energy negotiations to begin, the members should take note of the company's position on many of our current grievances and their unwillingness to settle or resolve them without a prolonged fight or arbitration. There is concern that this type of attitude may carry over to the negotiations. Our members do need to be prepared both mentally and financially for any contingency. The joint bargaining committee will meet in January 2016 and begin our preparations.

Finally I would like to wish all of you a very joyous Holiday Season. Remember to stay warm and safe but enjoy the holidays.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Boogren



The 5th Annual Union Sportsman's Alliance Sporting Clay Shoot put on by the Twin Cities Roofers and Water Proofers at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays in Clear Lake Minnesota was a complete success. The turnout was excellent and the weather cooperated with mild temperatures and very little wind.

Local 160 was well represented with 6 teams for the event. A special thanks goes out to Mike Follese with Principal Financial and Mike Dolezal with Union Advisors for sponsoring some of our teams.

Congratulations to Xcel Energy's Sherco Plant team Tom Klemik, Mike McCarthy, Nick Dunning, Barry Dunning and Ken Dirkes for bringing home honors for High Team Score and to Barry Dunning for achieving the High Individual Score with an 88 out of 100.

The Union Sportsman's Alliance, local unions and Minnesota General Lori Swanson spoke afterwards and then a huge buffet lunch was served along with a drawing for door prizes.

Below are the 6 teams that participated.



## 32ND ANNUAL PIG ROAST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

IBEW LU 160 and Missouri Valley Apprenticeship and Training, would like to give a shout out to our Apprentice Linemen that competed in the 2015 International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas on Saturday, October 17th. Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy were the host utilities. Just as last year, the weather was perfect. The Apprentices start the day bright and early at 6 am, standing in line at the competition site waiting to take a 100 question test that they have only 15 minutes to answer. After that the Apprentices were ready to get after it. They were so pumped. Then, like a shotgun blast, they are all off in different directions to compete in their events which were the Hurt Man Rescue, Speed Climb, Rope Splicing - Knot tying and a Mystery Event.

The competition was done around 4pm and the guys were exhausted. The awards ceremony was held that evening at the Overland Park Convention Center. The guys were on top of the world that night. There was a lot of trash talk, good ribbing and laughs as they discussed who had the better times and scores on the team. As the night went on and the awards were being handed out for 5<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> place, the guys starting thinking that this just wasn't going to be their year again to "bring home the trophy" for the Local. Then, the Master of Ceremonies called Robert Weber to the award staging area! The whole table lit up with excitement. We all sat and waited to hear what award he would be presented with. The Master of Ceremonies then announces "3rd place in the Overall Apprentice Contractor Division Award goes to Robert Weber"! The table erupted with shouts and yells for OUR guy! As the night came to a close, all of the guys had a great time and were already planning on what they needed to work on for next year!



September 24, 2015 was Local 160's 32nd Annual Pig Roast. Even though the weather wasn't the greatest that day, it did not stop the 518+ members, retirees, contractors and neighbors from enjoying the wonderful food, Plinko game, and visiting with friends.

This year there were four chefs who did a fantastic job with the pork, ham and beef. They were John Harris, Dan Gardas, Steve Adams and Troy Gutzwiller (who experienced his first time as a chef). As usual guys, you did a great job and we would like to thank you for all your hard work.

Big thanks also goes to Bill Cort (East Central Energy) for getting the delicious food, all the contractors who donated door/COPE prizes and to the office staff, officers and executive board members for all their hard work before, during and after the pig roast.

### COPE PRIZE WINNERS

Dave Sunde - \$100 Home Depot Gift Card  
Bob Minell - \$100 Cabela's Gift Card  
Jon Steinhagen - \$100 Best Buy Gift Card  
Rod Pfeifer - 3/8" Drill/Driver Kit  
Mark Machovec - Cordless Cutoff Tool  
Ted Stang - 3/8" Drill/Driver Kit  
Steve St. Sauver - Compact Drill/Driver Kit  
Chelsea Cook - \$100 Best Buy Gift Card  
Chelsea Cook - Cordless Reciprocating Saw  
Dan Rice - \$100 Best Buy Gift Card  
Dan Seawell - \$100 Cabela's Gift Card

Brad Loun - Knife & Tool Sharpener  
Bryan Shopbell - Trimmer w/Accessories  
Alexander Mitchell - Cordless Screwdriver Kit  
Wayne Zimmerman - \$100 Home Depot Card  
Pat Garman - Hammer Drill/Driver  
Jeremy Thorson - \$100 Cabela's Gift Card  
Dan Kieffer - Cordless Circular Saw  
Jim Tobin - 3/8" Drill/Driver Kit  
Mitch Hunn - \$100 Cabela's Gift Card  
Merrilyn Paulson - 3/8" Drill/Driver Kit

This picture was taken after the award ceremonies. Pictured from L to R: Jason Fratzke (6<sup>th</sup> Step), Charlie Sable (Business Rep. LU 160), Leigh Conducy (Mo. Valley Instructor and Coach), Robert Weber (7<sup>th</sup> Step) with his 3rd Place Award, Joey Silva (4<sup>th</sup> Step), and Ryan Chudecke (7<sup>th</sup> Step).

That next Monday, Leigh Conducy received all the results for the team. Out of 300 plus Apprentices, his team had 3 guys in the top 10! Great job guys. We are proud of all of you.

So again, congratulations to all of the Apprentices on their hard work and a special congratulation to Robert Weber for his 3<sup>rd</sup> place standing this year!

In Solidarity,  
Charlie Sable

Mark Reichow with Union Retirement Alliance held a drawing for an Accura V2 Rifle. The winner is Larry Schmidt.

Jeff Kolodjski with Union Advisors had a drawing for DeWalt 18v Cordless/Corded Wet/Dry Vac - winner is Charlie Wilson and a Dewalt 20v Lithium Ion - Cordless 4 Tool Combo Kit won by Dan Boe.

Mike Follse with Principal Financial Group had a drawing for 2 Fishing Poles. The winners are Shari Johnson and Vincent Zeimet.

Congratulations to all the winners.

## Scott Walker Vows to Spread his Union-Busting Policies Nationwide

**Republican presidential hopeful Scott Walker declared all-out war on unions at a town hall meeting in Las Vegas on Monday, September 14.**

The famously anti-union Wisconsin governor unveiled a set of proposals designed to roll back decades of labor law, including scrapping all federal government employee unions, eliminating the National Labor Relations Board and making right-to-work the law of the land unless individual states opt out.

“His campaign is floundering and so he does what he always does when he can’t think of real solutions, he attacks workers,” AFL-CIO communications director Eric Hauser said, calling Walker a “one trick pony” and a “national disgrace.”

“Working people want leaders who will protect their freedom to speak up on the job,” he said, “not demagogues like Walker who will do and say anything to get ahead.”

“He has been a disaster for working people in Wisconsin,” said IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson, “and now he is trying to inflict the same pain on working people across America.”

Ann Hodges, a professor at the University of Richmond who has studied labor law for more than 40 years, called Walker’s proposals “draconian.”

“I’ve never seen anything like this,” she told the Associated Press. “This will take the breath away from anyone who’s worked in labor relations for any length of time.”

In addition to the top-line proposals, Walker also pushed a plan to make organizing more difficult, blocking union officials’ access to employee information like phone numbers and banning the automatic withdrawal of union dues for any political activity.

“He made it almost illegal to be a union member in Wisconsin,” said Milwaukee Local 715 Business Manager Mark Biedenbender. “To take his Wisconsin policies national would just be devastating.”

Walker first gained national attention during a protracted fight with unions less than two months into his first term as governor, where he effectively ended collective-bargaining rights for state employees despite a huge outcry from Democrats and working people of all stripes.

Embraced by the conservative billionaire Koch brothers and their affiliated organizations, he successfully fought off a recall election in 2012 and won re-election in 2014.

For months, he led the Republican presidential field in the crucial state of Iowa, but his poll numbers have dropped precipitously in recent weeks. On the day of his latest anti-union proposal, his support in Iowa placed him fifth among Republican hopefuls at just 5.7 percent, down from more than 20 percent at the beginning of August.

Walker now trails Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz and Carly Fiorina in the first caucus state. And, in a sign that his faltering support is causing concerns among campaign staff, Walker announced over the weekend that he would cancel events in California and Michigan to refocus his efforts on like-minded conservative voters in Iowa and South Carolina.

After Walker’s announcement, Denis Hamill, the son of a longtime Local 3 member told the story of his immigrant father’s life-changing induction into to IBEW brotherhood in the early 1960s.

*“My father’s union rewrote the life story of my family. The year after my father became a Local 3 man, we had our first-ever vacation, in a bungalow in Keansburg, N.J. The brotherhood of my dad’s union lifted my family out of tenements and housing projects into the middle class. Before every Thanksgiving dinner, my father would look over the bounty and raise a toast to ‘Local 3 President Harry Van Arsdale Jr.’*

*So when I hear a clown like Scott Walker promising to bust unions from sea to shining sea, I see a guy who wants to send American middle-class workers back to the sweatshop and into a two-tiered nation of haves and have-nots.”*

## LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Alferness	Ross Atkinson
Baron Bluhm	Derek Carter
Matthew Decker	Michael Downer
Timothy Frink	Tait Gronli
Kenneth Heffington	Aaron Hutchens
Cole Johnson	Gar Johnson
Kyle Johnson	Benjamin Kelly
Roger Knutson	Jeremy Larson
Robert Lindeberg	Logan Martell
Joseph Michalski	Ross Miller
Joshua Mitchell	Tony Nagel
Douglas Neisess	Philip Patch
Donald Porter	Brad Reinschmidt
Colin Roberts	Bobbie Roering
Robert Schewe	Dennis Schiltz
Chase Stanlake	Thomas Wilmes
Ian Witt	

**Membership Count = 3121**

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. “That laundry is not very clean; she doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.” Her husband looks on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hangs her wash to dry, the young woman makes the same comments. A month later, the woman is surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and says to her husband: “Look, she’s finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?” The husband replies, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.” And so it is with life... What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look.

If you want to be happy, you have to be happy on purpose. When you wake up, you can’t just wait to see what kind of day you’ll have. You have to decide what kind of day you’ll have.

Joel Osteen

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



Jerold Barnes - Willmar Municipal  
Newell Liebelt - Xcel Energy  
Daniel Ratke - Xcel Energy  
Bruce Rokala - Xcel Energy  
Eric Spanier - Xcel Energy  
Eric Wiger - Xcel Energy

## IN MEMORIAM

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

Keith Barker - Active Mo Valley - Died 9/16/15  
Jim Dearborn - Retired NSP - Died 10/15/15  
Robert Gemlo - Retired NSP - Died 10/19/15  
Daniel Kornmann - Active Mo Valley - Died 10/22/15  
Timothy J. Peterson - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 9/15/15

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

Alan Carlson - Xcel Energy  
Jeff Behm - Willmar Municipal  
John Dahl - Xcel Energy  
Wayne Knopik - Xcel Energy  
Tom McKinney - Veolia  
Bruce Nelson - City of Madelia  
Rickie Vaughn - Xcel Energy

