

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

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NEWSLETTER - 205TH EDITION

MARCH/APRIL 2021

OFFICERS

Robert J. Boogren- Business Mgr/Financial Secretary
Kevin J. Kaeter - President
Darrin L. Helget- Vice President
Mark A. Ring - Recording Secretary
Travis J. Sullivan - Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kenneth R. Conrad
Clayton E. Kaeter
Scott E. Knight
Randal L. Nass
Jeffery R. Polson

OFFICE STAFF

Daniel J. Kieffer - Assistant Business Manager
Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Representative
Thomas D. Cassidy - Business Representative
Eric W. Spielmann - Business Representative
Michael J. Ringstad - Business Representative
Nicholas J. Steckelberg - Business Representative
Andrew D. Kieffer - Membership Development
Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper
Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager
Stacy L. Helget - Secretary
Anna J. Wilson - Referral/Receptionist

General Membership Meetings

Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

Minneapolis: April 1 & May 6, 2021
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall
2909 Anthony Lane

Becker: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE - 12423 Pine St
Becker Union Hall

Mo Valley: April 27, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Anthony - Union Hall
May 21, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE -
Grand Rapids Union Hall
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids

Please Note: Due to Covid - Please make sure you check our website for meeting cancellations each month.



Reps Cell Phone #'s

Bob Boogren - (612) 308-5520
Dan Kieffer - (612) 309-8640
Kurt Zimmerman - (612) 991-0022
Tom Cassidy - (763) 213-3536
Eric Spielmann - (612) 799-3997
Mike Ringstad - (763) 355-7283
Nick Steckelberg (612) 655-5210
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

Eric S.- (763) 262-1198

Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189

Fax # (763) 262-1168

Local Union 160 web site - www.ibew160.org

DUE TO COVID-19 THE ANNUAL STEWARDS TRAINING WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR.

ALSO DUE TO COVID-19 THE RETIREES CLUB MEETINGS WILL REMAIN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

First, we need to thank Rose for her years of keeping this newsletter going. Putting together a newsletter can be a large undertaking and according to my math she is responsible for the printing of 102 newsletters in total. We appreciate all your hard work to keep our local union connected!

Second, I'd like to introduce myself to the many of you that I have not met. My name is Andy and I have been the Membership Development Coordinator for the local since November 2016. It's been my privilege to share our story with the many non-union workers who I have crossed paths with over these years. Recently while speaking with some union brothers it dawned on me that many of us have never heard that story for ourselves.

I have always believed that for a person to truly appreciate what they have they must first understand what it took to get there. My goal with this newsletter is to reforge our connections to our local union, our past and our IBEW. I look forward to sharing this story with you all as the newsletters continue to roll out!

In Solidarity,

Andy Kieffer

From the Editor, Andrew D Kieffer

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.

Hall Closures
April 2– Good Friday

A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I don't need to tell any of you that this last year has been tough. We've all been dealing with the challenges and we've all experienced loss as a result of Covid. It is with a heavy heart that I must report the loss of two past leaders within our local, Dan Pobuda and John Ness. Both brothers served as Business Representatives during their long careers as members of Local 160. We send our prayers to their families, friends and mourn with them.

As I am writing this, we are working on negotiations for both the Line Clearance Tree Trimming Agreement and the Outside Power Agreement. Negotiations on contracts that cover so many members is a large undertaking and I am confident that we shall see a good outcome. We are still planning on having contract votes in person so if you work under these contracts watch the mail for your notice or regularly check the website/Facebook for updates.

On another note I must announce the retirement of our Office Manager Shari. Shari has been with us since 1998 and it will be hard to imagine the place without her. You've always brought a cheerful attitude to the office which in our work is often hard to find. Thank you for all you've done for the local and we wish you a happy retirement up North!

In Solidarity,
Robert J. Boogren

A Message From Your President

Dear Members,

I'd like to bring the topic of union participation to light. Unions were created by work groups that wanted to bargain collectively as a whole, to become united as one and to make safety a definite priority topic.

To make all of this work, it takes participation of union members. The members are what makes a local union strong and their participation; whether its attending meetings, being stewards, being a union committee member or being elected into a governing position. These roles are all vital and take commitment from all.

As your acting president, I ask you to take a minute to ask yourself, "What can I do to participate and to make my local union better?". By no means am I asking everyone to attend every union meeting. Yet, can you commit to attending some? I realize our local union covers the whole state of Minnesota and its hard to travel great distances to attend union meetings. With greater participation, comes greater strength, with greater strength we become more united.

I will close by saying we all understand that strength in numbers is important and participation is the main key to strength.

In Solidarity,

Kevin J. Kaeter

The Reps' Reports

Dan Kieffer

Slowly, ever so slowly it appears the Rural Electric Cooperatives are inching back to pre-covid business.

Last fall Agralite Cooperative, Lyon Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative contracts were up for negotiations on renewing the Collective Bargaining Agreements. Negotiations are completed with terms of 4 year, 4 years and 2 years.

Currently negotiations are about to get underway at North Itasca Electric Cooperative and East Central Energy Cooperative negotiations will be later this year.

Thank you to all stewards of Local 160 for all you do. This is a thankless job at times, if you did not believe in it you'd never put up with it.

Thank you,
Dan Kieffer

Kurt Zimmerman
Nothing to report

Tom Cassidy
Nothing to report

Eric Spielmann

If you have any questions for me, please feel free to call my cell.

612-799-3997

Mike Ringstad and Nick Steckelberg

It's been a year since COVID hit and changed the lives of many members and their families. We all have had to adapt to many changes in our daily lives, quickly becoming ESSENTIAL employees. Throughout the state it seems clear that our type of work, no matter your classification, was and will always be important.

The biggest impact we have seen was with the members doing Line Clearance Tree Trimming, whose numbers were greatly reduced in the metro area only. The urge and concern to get those members back to work was a priority for the whole membership. When we were able to hold meetings, this was always discussed. I believe that had an impact on the duration of time they were to be out of work. Thank you to everyone for keeping this a brotherhood and sticking together.

At this time our tree trimmers contractors are at full force and still hiring. Work seems to be busier than ever and contractors are often paying over the normal starting wages. If you know anyone looking for work, tell them about this opportunity and send them my way.

The outside contracts are all up this year, so make sure that you attend when we hold contract meetings. The books have been steady throughout the year thanks to the calm winter we have had. Transmission work has been busy and we are anticipating another busy year come spring. Upcoming work and locations are usually brought up in meetings and often change week to week.

Feel free to reach out to myself or Mike with any questions.

Fraternally yours,
Nick Steckelberg
Mike Ringstad

Andy Kieffer

After a hectic end of the year, its been nice to have a little bit of a breather. We wrapped up negotiations for The City of Lake Crystal, The Lake Crystal Public Utility, Pine County Social Services Supervisors and The City of Rushford.

I would also like to report the inclusion of two new members from the City of Truman. Recently after talks with the City, they have decided to voluntarily recognize the inclusion of two new classifications into the contract.

If any of you would have spoken with Marty a year ago this employer surely would have been wearing heavy on him. After the City moved to dissolve the Utility, things had gotten pretty hostile. Thankfully, after many meetings and our brothers in Truman playing their part, things have improved significantly.

So welcome to our two new Sisters, Thea and Amy!

In Solidarity,
Andy Kieffer

A Tribute to Brother John Ness

Retired Business Representative John Ness passed away October 9, 2020, just 4 days shy of his 77th birthday.

John was born and grew up in the Sioux City, Iowa area. After high school John joined the U.S. Air Force with an honorable discharge after 4 years of service. John was stationed at an Air Force base right in the Northwestern corner of Iowa. At that time, he met the love of his life, Norma Jean in the town of Chandler, MN. Shortly after, John was transferred to Germany where he served for 1 ½ years.



John started employment with NSP on July 11, 1966 at the Riverside Generating Plant. He worked as a Plant Equipment Operator(PEO) until June 1983 when he became a Business Representative for Local 160.

John was a very gifted speaker with a memory, "like a steel jawed trap". John's knowledge of power plant operations made him an authority to reckon with. He also had a unique style of communication. In meetings with management, usually defending a union member, in a contentious setting, John was often bordering offensive to management, but his style would not be perceived as that.

John had a very colorful and articulate manner. He never forgot a joke and had an endless list. Just when you thought you'd heard all he knew; John would tell new ones. John added a lot of laughter, humor and color to the everyday business at Local 160.

After John's retirement, June 2002, he enjoyed his classic car collection. Every weekend was reserved for a car show someplace. His garage wall has a full-length shelf full of trophies won at these shows. John and Norma moved up to the Brainerd Lakes area when he retired and he enjoyed fishing with his grand kids and of course his cars.

John became sick with the Covid virus last fall and passed away on Oct. 9, 2020.

The officers and staff send their condolences to Brother Ness's wife Norma, 2 sons John and Jeff, grandchildren and friends.

Respectfully,
Dan Kieffer

Organizing Update

Organizing is one of those things where its either feast or famine and lately things have been busy. I have been working on two campaigns in Southern Minnesota this winter. In both the workers feel they've been left short-changed by not having a seat at the table. We're still working on bringing in more people but things have been moving positively.

As reported previously the workers at Princeton Public Utilities voted to go union a little while ago, now we've got the challenge of working on a first contract for them. We've gathered amendments and soon we should be sitting down with the utility to negotiate. Hopefully we can welcome those workers into the fold in an upcoming newsletter!

In Solidarity,

Andy Kieffer

History of the IBEW 160 Scholarships

Local 160 administers three Scholarships, Amy O' Sullivan, Dave Ring and Nathan Blomquist Memorial Scholarships. So who were these people and why were these scholarships created?

The Amy O' Sullivan Scholarship was established on May 13, 1996, Business Manager Dave Ring presented Amy with this scholarship in recognition of 50 years of service to Local Union 160.

Amy was hired in 1936 and was quickly promoted to office manager of our local. Even though she was not an elected officer of our union, Amy served as a cornerstone making sure that the business of our local was conducted properly regardless of the experience of the Union's elected staff and officers.



As explained in a letter from International Vice President James Conway in 1986, "Over these past many years I have seen you train so many business managers that I wish we could have put your knowledge in a training booklet and used it district wide. I say that only because I mean it, and because I think you have been fantastic; not just for Local Union 160 but for all of the Northern States Power Locals.

Amy, I can't say enough about your obvious secretarial skills, your knowledge of our organization, your dedication to Local Union 160..."

She would serve as office manager of Local 160 from 1936 to 1998.

The Dave C Ring Scholarship was established in 2007 in memorial to our local's longest serving Business Manager. Dave's history with our local was a long one; first becoming a member working in NSP's Minneapolis Underground Department in 1954, he served on the Executive Board from 1964-69, Vice President 1969-72, a Business Representative 1979-83 and Business Manager 1983-2004. Dave's compassion and intelligence left an undeniable impact on local 160 and Minnesota's IBEW Locals.



When Brother Dave C Ring passed away on June 17, 2007, the executive board thought it only right to honor a man who had made such an impact with the ability to further benefit generations to come. What was then, "The Local 160 Scholarship", was renamed, "The David C. Ring IBEW Local 160 Scholarship" in his honor.

The Nathan Blomquist Memorial Scholarship was founded on October 2011 in honor of our fallen brother. Brother Nathan was a 4th step apprentice in Missouri Valley. Though he hadn't been in the trade for long, he was known for his positive attitude and work ethic. He was shaping up to be the epitome of the saying, "Find a job you enjoy doing and you'll never work a day in your life." Tragically, on April 12, 2010 Brother Nathan was involved in a car accident on his way to work. His family decided that his legacy would be to help others find their way into the trade which Nathan had only just started in.

2020 Scholarship Winners

David C. Ring Scholarship

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: \$1,000

Ethan Bernstein
Jules Horsfall
Payton Kube

VOCATIONAL, TECH, TRADE SCHOOL: \$1,000

Kyle Fischer

Alternatives:

Elise Larson

Amy O'Sullivan On-Going Education

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/VOCATIONAL/TECH/TRADE SCHOOL:

\$500

Tobias Ellis
Noah Jenkins
Marshall Schoephoerster
Jared Hauswedell

Alternates:

Molly Schoephoerster
Jamee Schoephoerster

Nathan Blomquist Memorial Scholarship

VOCATIONAL/TECH/TRADE SCHOOL: \$500

Kyle Fischer

2021 Scholarships

Updated scholarships are available at the www.ibew160.org/scholarships

Scholarship packets will also be available at union meetings and by mail if requested.

Applications must be received by April 24th

Local 160 Scholarships

David C. Ring– For graduating seniors entering College, Vocational, Technical or Trade School.

Amy O' Sullivan– For students already in College, Vocational, Technical or Trade School.

Nathan Blomquist– For graduating seniors entering Vocational, Technical or Trade School.

MN AFL-CIO Scholarships

David K. Roe– Member or dependent applying for College

Hubert H Humphrey– Member or dependent applying for College

Donald Pilla– Member or dependent applying for Vocational/Technical School

Martin Duffy Adult Learner Scholarship– Any union member in good standing.

MN IBEW Charles R Brett Scholarship– Any child of an IBEW member attending college or Vocational School.

IBEW Founders Scholarship– For members seeking a degree to “further the electrical industry”

MN AFL-CIO Labor Leadership Grants– For union members seeking to develop their abilities and skills as union leaders.



A Shift in Government Could Mean Big News for ESG Investors

On Jan. 27, 2021, Biden began taking executive action to address climate change. According to a White House press release, these executive actions are intended to put climate crisis at the center of U.S. foreign policy, create an Office of Domestic Climate Policy in the White House, stimulate clean energy industries, and promote conservation and reforestation.

With an administration focused on combatting climate change and a Democratic supermajority in Congress, should investors be more focused on ESG investing?

What Changes Could Be Coming?

While on the campaign trail, Biden outlined his plan for a Clean Energy Revolution as well as other climate and environmental justice proposals.

According to his former campaign website, Biden has plans to make a federal investment of \$1.7 trillion over the next decade to boost climate change and fund environmental justice initiatives. In addition to federal investment in clean energy, Biden has also proposed more transparency between public companies and their investors regarding climate change risk factors, emissions data, etc. This would provide investors with a clearer picture of a company's focus (or lack of focus) on climate change, allowing them to make informed decisions regarding their investments.

With federal backing and support, it's very possible that sustainably-focused companies – such as those harnessing and distributing alternative energy – could benefit from these changes in coming years.

As an investor, this is a shift worth thinking about. Where do you feel this is headed and is your portfolio aligned with that belief?

This piece does not represent our firm taking a position. We are simply here to provide you the information you need to make decisions.

Be sure to visit us online at www.greyfoxfinancial.com to learn more about our team and some of our strategic partners.



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is now



But still YOUR same Retirement Team.

Jeff Kolodjski, AIF®

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Website: northpointadvisorgroup.com



Proudly working with IBEW Members for over 10 years.

**The August 2020 GATT Rate will be used for
2021 retirees.**

Start your planning NOW!

As of 2014, the GATT rate calculations changed from November rates to August rates. This may bring up the following questions to address regarding pension and retirement planning:

- **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.

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, North Point Advisor Group and LPL Financial are separate entities.

LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Behl | Monte Bofenkamp |
| Joel Borders | Jason Bratton |
| Aaron Bromeland | Daniel Cain |
| Christopher Campbell | Andrew Coyne |
| Jon Davis | Jesse Dennis |
| Wesley Elliott | Trevor Filzen |
| Zach Fuecker | Michael Gavanda |
| Jacob Gravdahl | Daniel Grebinoski |
| Colin Hans | Joshua Harper |
| Jacob Hensel | Warren Japke |
| Abraham Kim | Mitchell Koosman |
| Alexander Korver | David Kramer |
| Austin Krueger | Derek Lambert |
| Paul Marino | Greg Miller |
| Loren Morain | Courtney Ott |
| Johnathon Protivinsky | Adam Reichow |
| Benjamin Rodgers | Colin Stanton |
| Mason Starling | Michael Staver |
| Ethan Teveldal | Joel Thomas |
| John Thomas | Andrew Turner |

Membership Count = 3171

A Minute with Marty

- ♦ Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers? They said he made a mint.
- ♦ Do you know the last thing my Grandfather said to me before he kicked the bucket? "Watch how far I can kick this bucket "
- ♦ If two Vegans get in a fight, is it still considered a beef?
- ♦ A Vicks VapoRub truck overturned on the Freeway this morning. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours!

Respectfully Submitted,
Marty Carey

If you have anything that you'd like to submit to the newsletter feel free to email me at adk@ibew160.org.

We're always looking for suggestions and/or work photos old and new.

Andy

GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS



Mark Homola - Mo Valley
John Naig - Agralite Co-Op
Mark Potter - Mo Valley

IN MEMORIAN

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

Larry E. Davis - Retired NSP - Died 1/6/21
Elmer Evgen- Retired Mo Valley - Died 3/2/21
Herbert Kask - Retired NSP - Died 12/29/20
Louis Merkling - Retired NSP - Died 1/14/21
Joseph Murphy - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 2/17/21
Robert Norton - Retired NSP - Died 1/2/21
Dan Pobuda - Retired NSP - Died 2/1/21
Adrian (Pete) Sandberg - Retired Xcel - Died 1/24/21
Jeff Sawdy - Retired Veolia - Died 12/22/20
John Smaciarz Jr. - Active Xcel Energy- Died 2/25/21

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT.

James Dooley - Xcel Energy
Frank Ganley - Xcel Energy
David Jacobs - Xcel Energy
Michael Laffey - Wright Tree
Matthew McGraw- Xcel Energy
Russell Mickelsen - Xcel Energy
Leon Payne - East Central Energy
Michael Petroska - Xcel Energy
Paul Reiman - Agralite Coop
Michael Rose - Xcel Energy
James Sandell - Mo Valley
Glen Shriver - Mo Valley
Gary Strom - Xcel Energy
Timothy Vadnais - Xcel Energy
Kevin Wick - City of North St. Paul

