



IBEW LOCAL 159 DECEMBER 2021



Greetings 159 Family,

I want to thank all our members who attended the November 11 membership meeting. It was a great opportunity to celebrate Veterans Day and share a Thanksgiving meal, with plenty of leftovers for members to take home. Remember, **December 9, at 5:30 is our next union meeting, and last union meeting at the Labor Temple.** It will be our pin ceremony and holiday party with lots of extra raffle prizes and some great food for all to enjoy. Then after the meeting, drive through Fantasy In Lights at Olin Park. **Starting in January, our union meetings will be at IBEW 159: 4903 Commerce Court, McFarland.** Also starting in January we will have boxes in the vestibule for non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, new or gently used winterwear (adults and kids, mittens, gloves, scarfs, jackets, coats, boots, sweaters) to be donated.

In the future, I would like to have a community area at our current (and future) building that would provide our members with some resources for food, personal hygiene items, tools, work clothes and boots etc. that our members --especially new CWs and apprentices-- could use to help offset their living expenses as they begin their careers in Local 159.

To celebrate our apprentices and National Apprenticeship Week, Local 159 had an open house on November 16. The event was well attended and all our apprentices left with a raffle prize, thanks predominantly to Sister Cassie Schuler who worked hard soliciting prizes for the event. Thanks also go out to Sisters, Rebecca Schave and Leah Dye who helped with set up and clean up and everything in between. Thanks to Milwaukee Tool (Ian Blankenmeyer) for the demonstration table and donation. It was a great opportunity for our members and the public to tour our classrooms and training center, and for us to see the reality of needing to provide our members with a space to grow our training, and give our members the tools to keep advancing their skills.

Thank you to our members who have stepped up to be new (or returning) instructors. We are always looking for individuals interested in teaching or assisting, as well as people to be trained as test administrators. If you are considering this, please contact me and I will send you a form to complete with your area of interest to teach or assist.

The week of November 8, I attended the quarterly IBEW/NECA State Apprenticeship Trust meeting and the IBEW Pension Trust meeting. At this time there are no major changes being considered in either trust. There are currently 880 apprentices in all IBEW Inside Locals, exempting Local 494 that does not participate in the statewide trust. Local 159 currently has 13 VDV apprentices: 11 white males, 1 female and 1 Asian or Pacific Islander male; 247 Inside apprentices: 223 white males, 24 females 16 minorities consisting of: 1 American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3 Asian or Pacific Islander; 9 Black; 3 Hispanic.

Currently the breakdown of membership for 159 is as follows: Retirees 260 (number is based on members drawing IBEW pension); JIWs 715, Inside Apprentices 247, Residential workers 9, VDV Technicians 65, VDV Apprentices 16, Installer Trainees 17, CEs 32, and CWs 112.

I want to thank all the members who came to the Apprenticeship meetings to voice their opinions and explain to the committee the value you saw with rotation and some of the very negative effects they are seeing for our apprentices. This matter is currently with the

Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards for review, because of the deadlock between labor and management. I will keep you informed.

The Pension Trust is considering some modifications on how disbursements can be taken, which could offer more choices for our members in the future. The new Summary Plan Descriptions will be printed next year after any possible changes/modifications are finalized. There are currently 1,462 total participants in the plan. The average participant balance is \$238,577. Total balance of all participants is over \$369 million. Our funds are doing well and continue to see growth. In early 2022, we will start holding both in-person and virtual seminars for retirement and Health and Welfare for our members to attend. Prudential does offer many online seminars our members can watch when they login. They are available anytime. Members also need to know: when you retire you can leave your money in your Prudential account. Fees are lower, and you have all the options for investing. Some members think they HAVE to move it out, but that is not accurate.

Congratulations to our State workers who successfully voted to recertify their election for union representation! We are continuing efforts to organize some media coverage, informing the general public that even though wage increases have been "negotiated" for our state workers, they continue to face delays in receiving those increases

I continue to receive calls from members regarding positive COVID-19 cases on jobsites. Many times members are not finding that out from their employer, and now that there is no compensation for workers who are off due to COVID-19, some members choose to go to work sick and are infecting co-workers. We all know the varying opinions and points of view regarding COVID-19, vaccinations, masks and social distancing. We are still a very long way from "normal" and there will continue to be division on this issue. I want our members and their families to be safe at work, school and beyond, to be able to enjoy the holidays and be respectful towards one another. No one can force their opinions on anyone and expect to change their mind or behavior. So, as we look forward to the upcoming holidays and a New Year, maybe a little soul-searching and personal reflection will help us all find a better way. Hate and division cannot replace tolerance and respectful dialogue. We can all do so much better, and we need to for the sake of our own mental health, our families and our Country. Wishing you and your families peace and happiness. Take care

Susan Blue, (608) 255-2989 ~Ext 115; Cell: (608) 772-0435 ~ blue@ibew159.org

Referral Agent Kenneth Jungenberg

Hello brothers and sisters, contractor requests have slowed down and all but one night shift call for Epic has been filled. I expect we will be extremely busy in the spring. I am trying to get all our apprentices to work as soon as possible. Badger Hollow may be putting a cable pulling crew together yet this year before the weather inhibits the work. Keeping my fingers crossed for the apprentices. The Fridays before Christmas and New Years (December 24, and 31) are observed holidays and will be paid double your regular rate, if worked. Holiday Fantasy In Lights is open and running well thanks to Rich Nelson, Tom Lemens, the retirees, apprentices, and Kelly Slack. Great job! Take down will begin Tuesday January 4. If anyone would like to help, call me for more information.

BOOK #'s:

INSIDE

Book I - 45
Book II - 19
Apprentice - 4

VDV

Book I - 6

Happy holidays to all!

Ken Jungenberg: (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 114; Job Line: (608) 255-0169 ~ referral@ibew159.org



Membership Development/Organizer Report - Casey Healy

SEASON'S GREETINGS! It's the holiday season, everyone is busy. I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We want you to know that here at IBEW Local 159, we value and appreciate each one of our members. I hope you have a great holiday season and enter the New Year refreshed and reinvigorated. This is the season to recharge and make plans for the best-possible 2022 for all organized labor. Working together, we can make that happen!
Whatever the situation might be, let's rise and show each other what Brotherhood and Sisterhood is all about. Let's treat everyone with respect, kindness and compassion. Let's find the good in each other, not the negative. With all that has changed in Wisconsin and its laws, now is the time we need to unite and organize from within and move forward together.

We must look out for and help our brothers and sisters on and off the jobsite. Maybe it's a question about,

- Certain skill or a task on the job.
- Issue with a fellow worker
- Insurance and benefits
- Education, training, CEU's
- Personnel issues

If you have a friend or relative that is an owner of a non-union electrical shop or they work in the field as a Journeyman, CE, VDV Tech or an Apprentice, talk with them and let them know why you are a UNION ELECTRICAL WORKER. Local 159 would also appreciate if you would encourage them to contact Casey at chealy@ibew159.org or Damon at dglenn@ibew159.org. This would help open the door for discussion about how one becomes a union contractor or member of the IBEW Local 159.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present"

United we stand, divided we fall.

Casey Healy, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 111; Cell: (608) 515-3552 ~ chealy@ibew159.org

Organizer/Business Agent Damon Glenn

Happy Holidays IBEW 159 Brothers and Sisters. Please find time to appreciate and thank the higher powers for us to be able to spend another Holiday Season with our families and loved ones. IBEW 494 (Milwaukee) will be offering a Business Contracting Class (Pro Union Consulting) December 13-15, 2021. If you are interested, please contact us here at IBEW 159 for more information and financial sponsorship. In addition, Matt Kolbinsky (Pro Union Consulting) and IBEW 494 will be offering a class December 16 - 17, 2021 titled "Growth Markets-Making \$\$\$ in Green Energy." This two-day course is open to all IBEW members free of charge. Both classes are in Milwaukee. Please contact IBEW 159 for more information if interested.

Internal Organizing and members being on the same page within our Local has been lacking for some time now. One of my job duties is **Internal organizing**, I will say it is an up-hill challenge to get most of our membership on the same page. As it would be for any organization trying to get over 1,300 people on the same accord. I will say the seed has been planted and there are more members asking how they can get involved. The most important method to Internal Organize our members is to discuss our **IBEW Constitution, Bylaws and CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement or "Contract")**. We can't begin to start the conversation on Internal Organizing if we are not following those three documents. READ THEM! I will also be reaching out to different members to determine their interest in forming **Membership Development Volunteer Committee**. If you are interested in being more active and involved with IBEW 159. Please reach out to Damon Glenn-Organizer/Membership Development and we will discuss our plan to Internal Organizing.

[A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess.](#)

-- [A. Philip Randolph](#)

IBEW Constitution as Amended at 39th Convention, Article XX (20)

Sec 1. No L.U. can admit an applicant for membership who does not reside in, or who is not employed at the trade, in the jurisdiction of the L.U., unless the LU is directed to admit him by the I.P.

Damon Glenn, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 112; Cell: (608) 338-9075 ~ dglenn@ibew159.org

Business Agent Lisa Goodman

During this season, many take stock and give thanks. What this union can accomplish is **possible because individuals step up** and contribute, in so many ways. Whether working together to make Fantasy in Lights possible, apprentices helping at career fairs, individuals coming together as a team to put on and support events. **It all starts with you.** Thanks to **you**, our impact is magnified. What you do **does** make a difference. A friendly smile or greeting **can** make someone's day. We are each other's village. When we support and elevate one another, we all win. **The Local needs instructors, assistants and test administrators. Please contact Sue.**

National Apprenticeship Week spotlighted some of the many talented apprentices working hard every day. Apprentices are our Local's future. They need our support. If you know someone who would be a good fit for apprenticeship —whether younger or older, male, female, nonbinary—help them connect with the trade. The National Center for Women's Equity in Apprenticeship and Employment at Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) is a great resource for newcomers and for those who support recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce in the trades. There's a wealth of resources at <https://womensequitycenter.org/> including: Here to Stay: Black, Latina and Afro-Latina Women in Construction; Being a Male Ally: Recommendations for Supporting Women's Success in the Building Trades; Growing the Numbers of Women in the Trades: Building Equity and Inclusion Through Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

A report just came out about the 2,635 tradeswomen and non-binary tradespeople who answered the 2021 IWPR Tradeswomen's Retention and Advancement Survey. It covers what factors help and hinder tradeswomen's advancement in the trades, describes what it is like to be a parent in the trades, and shares the perspectives of women apprentices. It highlights the changes needed to ensure that a diverse and growing cohort of women in the trades is supported and retained, <https://iwpr.org/iwpr-publications/a-future-worth-building-report>

Stay safe.

Lisa Goodman, (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 122; Cell: (608) 622-2160 ~ solidarity@ibew59.org

Retirees Update

The monthly retiree luncheons will resume in December, with a Holiday Luncheon at the 159 Union Hall, please review details below.

The annual Fantasy in Lights has been setup in Olin Park and was set into operation Saturday 11.13.21. Please take an opportunity to drive through this year's holiday lighting presentation, as a group of dedicated Retirees worked since mid-June once a week to make ready this lighting event.

A December holiday luncheon will be held on Monday December 13, at the Union Hall, 4903 Commerce Court, McFarland, WI 53558. **As this luncheon can include spouses/quests, please call the Union Hall by Dec 9, to make your reservations, 608-255-2989, as Sue is planning on having lunch catered.** Lunch will be served at noon.

Hope to see you there

Tim May ~ IBEW Local 159 ~ Retiree



**As long as there is discrimination against ANYONE, unions are needed.
Regina V. Polk, Labor Leader, 1981**

Education Corner

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. Most of our night school classes have finished up or only have a couple weeks left for the term. Classes will then resume in the new year with the next semester. That being said I would encourage apprentices to check for the classes they have next semester so a night is not missed.

One of our newer classes that just finished up is the Electric Vehicle course. This would be a very good course for any Journey worker to take. Not only would they receive EVCS (Electric Vehicle Charging Systems) certification but the course is also approved for 24 hours of continuing education credit. This is a market that is showing rapid growth with many of our contractors trying to get into this sector. We have only had a few JW's take the course and the apprentices will not receive they're certification until after they complete their apprenticeship, so let's help our contractors out and get some more people certified soon. The next class starts in January and you can sign up at the 159 office or call 608-255-2989.

I would also like to invite anyone who wishes to attend the education committee meetings. We are still hosting our meetings using video conferencing methods, to try and make it more convenient for members to attend. If you would like to attend these meetings, please get a hold of me in order to get the link to you for joining the video conference. Our normal meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM. Also if you are at all interested in becoming an instructor for IBEW 159 please fill out an instructor application at the union hall.

Sincerely,

Sam Everly, Part-Time Education Coordinator ~ sam.everly87@gmail.com



"The mission of the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers (RENEW) initiative is to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active in their local union. All are welcome at our monthly meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM

Members in good standing,

Great news! The Polar Plunge is back. Next February join us at Olin Park where we will be jumping in the frigid waters of Lake Monona to raise money for Special Olympics Wisconsin. More info to come.

On Saturday, November 13, we held our recurring event, Labor History Night where we screened the film Matewan. Thank you to everyone who attended.

We are progressing in the process of acquiring RENEW T shirts and a banner. More info to come.

RENEW 159 now has promotional items! We have hardhat stickers, koozies, and coloring books. We plan to pass them out at meetings and events. If you would like some for you and/or your jobsite in between meetings email renew@ibew159.org and I can meet you in downtown Madison and give you some.

If you do the Facebook thing, search "Renew 159" then give our page a like to stay in the swing of things happening with your young workers committee in between "RENEWsletters."

In solidarity,

Pablo Baxter, Chairman, RENEW ~ renew@ibew159.org



Brothers & Sisters,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. EWMC 159 helped celebrate National Apprenticeship Week, Nov 15 - 21. Several EWMC 159 members took part in events during the week. Mike Mell was on deck helping by putting on a pipe bending demonstration during our Open House, on Tuesday November 16. His conduit bending demonstration really caught the attention of Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, who stopped by. Also EWMC

159 members apprentices Youssef Amraoui and Tim Hawkins staffed the IBEW 159 table at the career fair put together by WRTP | Big Step on November 16.

November 20 was our third annual EWMC 159 Day of Service. We decided FANTASY IN LIGHTS was a perfect opportunity to give back. Changing lights and moving displays is such a small thing to do, but when you see the kids' smiles it becomes so worth it. EWMC 159 will also be working the booths Dec 27 thru Jan 3. Feel free to stop by and say hello. EWMC 159 will be attending the 32nd annual EWMC National Conference, January 13 - 15. It will be a virtual conference again due to COVID 19. Sign up will be in December at local 159 office.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

In Solidarity,
Shaun Daniels, EWMC President ~ ewmc@ibew159.org

Women's Committee

We are busy, trying to keep the momentum building from our great get together in August. We tried something new and put on our first (hopefully annual) Trunk or Treat at McDaniel Park in McFarland. Despite the weather, and the Packer game, we had a great turnout. It was so much fun. We had some really great volunteers with donating the candy and filling the candy bags to handing out candy at the event

We had some really great volunteers donate candy, make signs for the event, fill the candy bags and hand them out at the event. Thanks to everyone who helped: Rebecca Schave, Paul Miller, Eva Maxwell, Jackie Maier, Ammu Kuricheti, Lisa Goodman, Karli Fahney, Nick Dicristina, Sue Blue.

We also donated some of the leftover Halloween treat bags to DAIS, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services for their Halloween party, and we are planning to collaborate with them in the future to collect items that they are in need of.

More recently, we helped put on an apprentice appreciation open house for our apprentices. We had some great vendors and contractors step up and donate raffle prizes, as well as a demonstration from a Milwaukee Tool representative, and a visit from Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. We had a great turn out and every apprentice walked out with a raffle prize.

Contact Cassie Schuler, cbspindler@yahoo.com



Office Manager --

Hello Local 159 Members!

our Annual External Audit is complete. Our Consolidated Financial Statements are available to review in the office.

our Form LM-2 was reviewed by our Treasurer and our President and has been submitted before the September deadline. This Form is a public disclosure and can be reviewed online or in the office.

The last filing deadline we face is our annual Tax Return Form 990, has been filed by Wegner CPA's. This form is also available as a public disclosure and can be reviewed in the office.

Now the fun part: comparing the numbers from June 2020 thru July 2021. On June 30, 2020 the total assets were \$5,431,812.00. One year later, July 31, 2021 total assets were \$5,943,764.58; an increase of 9.4%.

At the beginning of January, anyone who received a paycheck from Local 159, will be sent a W-2 form. All W-2's must arrive to the employees by January 31.

You can always call the office to verify if you are current on death benefits. One way to stay current with your Death Benefits is to add an extra dollar to your monthly union dues payment.

Always contact the office if you have any changes in your contact information – mailing address, phone number and email. Please make sure we have the most updated information on your beneficiary form on file for you.

There are a couple of things I want to mention:

- All first year and second-year apprentices get reimbursed for their Electrical Apprentice license fee.
- SNAPZ -- Are you looking for help to pass the JW or master's test? Would you like to learn more about reading and understanding the NEC? Contact the hall for information on accessing our free SNAPZ online practice tests.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the financials of the Local, please contact us at the office so we may address them directly.

Ammu Kuricheti , (608) 255-2989 ~ Ext 113; ~ akuricheti@ibew159.org



2021 SERVICE PINS

5 Year Service Pin: Patrick Allen, Jessica Anderson, Justin Anthes, Kyle Bell, Fredrick Blaser, Nicholas Bowar, Jason Brietzman, Reid Britton, Cody Carnitz, Alonzo Cartwright, Jeremiah Casey, Taylor Caygill, Ryan Clerkin, Jerrod Copus, Christopher Cotton, Brandon Cummings, Trevor Eilenfeldt, Lucas Farrell, Alex Feldmann, Christian Femrite, Derek Firary, Joseph Frey, Tyler Frey, Tyler Frisby, Andrew Gander, Kirk Gjeremo, Aaron Jordan, Thomas Kallio, Noah Kearns, Rick Kislia, Adam Klapoetke, Michael Krone, Rachia Krueger, Bryor Larson, Justin Larson, Andrea Lutz, Jacqueline Maier, Mitchell Martingilio, Levi McKenzie, Cody Meckley, Neil Morton, Dondi Nelson, Daniel Pierce, Kale Prothero, Ryan Reisem, Scott Replogle, Christopher Reynolds, Tony Roessler, Eric Rom, Andrew Royer, Jacob Runaas, Steve Schmidt, Matthew Schuette, Riley Schuetz, Cassie Schuler, Colton Schultz, Dylan Smith, Scott Smith, Jon Swenson, Michael Viola, Joshua Wanta, Kathy Whittaker, Steven Wickersham, Derrick Wills, Jason White, Cole Yates, Jimmy Yost

10 Year Service Pin: Randall Debruyne, Lucas DeWitt, Zachary DeWitt, Ian Eidt, Daniel Euhardy, Fernando Farres, Lee Gjeremo, Damon Glenn, Mitchell Katze, Cameron Knuteson, Michael Long, DeAndre Newson, Judson Quinn, Logan Schoeneberger, Scott Shiveler

15 Year Service Pin: David Ainslie, Albert Baker, Bret Beine, Josh Butcher, Adam Crocker, Jeremy DeBoer, Marc Dinger, Leah Dye, Ryan Dziubla, Victor Edwards, Scott Gerry, Lisa Goodman, Michael Grassy, Ryan Herritz, Del Jasper, Matthew Killerlain, Yuri Kochan, Chad Noel, Gerald Noel, Kyle Olson, Eric Peterson, Kevin Rockwood, Ryan Schmelzer, Jedrek Smith, Kyle Stier, Andrew Strasburg, Sai Thor, Catlin Waddell, Michael Wetak, Kevin Wirth, Joshua Wirth, Joshua Yanke



20 Year Service Pin: Steven Collyard, Jerome Davis, Jerrett Derosier, Cory Dregne, Jed Dufek, Ryan Dykstra, Jamey Gehin, Jason Greener, Casey Healy, Jon Kowald, Jeremy Mangano, Chad Mumm, Roy Neumaier, Jesse Newton, Justin Olson, Alan Riddle, Scot Sannes, David Stack, Nathan Sturmer, Colin Wayne

25 Year Service Pin: Randy Byrne, Christopher Crossen, Gene Fleming, Eric Haugen, Tracy Hustad, James Hynes, Scott Jaeger, Gerald Jenkins, Douglas Kutz, Chad Lewis, Anthony Mueller, Erik Peterson, Gary Poeppel, Michael Raisbeck, Joseph Rott, Vincent Schaaf, Mark Schreier, Louis Smith, Joseph Spataro, Eileen Stuntebeck, Jerry Swaagman, Blaine Waddell, John Wagner, Troy Weidemann,

30 Year Service Pin: Pat Anderson, Timothy Baker, Peter Baltes, Andrew Bangert, Mark Culver, Mark Johnson, Scott Juris, David Mathison, Rene Oetzman, David Palmer, Jeffery Palmer, Terry Putman, Taemie Saucerman, David Statz, Mark Sveum, Clay Tschillard, Daniel Walker, Gary Wardensky, Nick Yaun,

35 Year Service Pin: Edward Alexander, Michael Dauck, Robert Gockenbach, Tim Hasey, Thomas Lemens, Paul Maier, Marc McCarville, Daniel McGrath, Eugene Melo, Steven Porter, David Reible, Patrick Ryan, Mark Schmidt, Allan Soelle, Gary Vannatta, John Whitesel,

40 Year Service Pin: Clifford Emerson, Arthur Gray, Mark Hoffmann, Timothy Johnson, Douglas Kirkeeng, Jane Liess, Lonnie Meyers, Michael Pohlman, Jonathan Schmidt, Jeffrey Schoenmann, Timothy Thronson, Edward Walsh

45 Year Service Pin: Patrick Chandler, James Hill

50 Year Service Pin: Thomas Alberti, Robert Anderson, Steven Dulin, John Grafton, Craig Harbort, Ronald Jahnke, Ronald Jungenberg, Gerald Kalscheur, Gerard Liegel, Wilbert Liegel, Charles Little, Kevin Olson, Robert Quackenboss, David Rahn, Terrence Rieck, Mark Schoenemann, Michael Stassi, Warren Taylor

55 Year Service Pin: Gerald Bartelt, Lavern Connor, David Flom, Kenneth Hillebrand, Marvin Milleville, Terrance Stamm, Joseph Strenger,

60 Year Service Pin: Gerald Miller

65 Year Service PIN: Kenneth Frederick, Allen Mulderink

~ Pins are presented at December Union Meeting ~

December Calendar

Continuing Education class schedule is posted at www.ibew159.org

Dec 2 1630 (4:30 pm) Veterans will meet at Green Lantern raymond_droessler@hotmail.com

Dec 2 4:30, Education Committee (first Thurs) virtual, sam.everly87@gmail.com

Dec 9 5:30, Union meeting at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs)

Pin Ceremony and Holiday meal. Hope to see you there!

Invite new union members to get sworn in. Attend together

Dec 9 4:30, RENEW meeting, at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs) renew@ibew159.org

Dec 13 **Retirees Lunch** at IBEW 159. **Serving at noon. RSVP by Thursday, Dec 9**, 608.255.2989

Dec 16 3:00, Inside Apprenticeship Committee (third Thurs) open session 3:00-4:00

Dec 20 5:00, EWMC monthly meeting, virtual, ewmc@ibew159.org

Dec 24 Observed HOLIDAY. Any work done earns double time. Local 159 office closed.

TBA Women's Group (usually fourth Weds), cbspindler@yahoo.com

Dec 28 4:30, Executive Board (fourth Tues.) IBEW 159, McFarland

Dec 31 Observed HOLIDAY. Any work done earns double time. Local 159 office closed.

Happy New Year! Be well and stay safe in 2022

January 13 -- 5:30, Union Meeting (second Thursday) at IBEW 159 in McFarland

At the November Union Meeting it was decided to move IBEW 159 Union Meetings to the IBEW 159 Hall in McFarland, starting in January 2022.

Meet a Member of Local 159 -Jim Virnig

Jim Virnig grew up in Madison, in the Bay Creek Neighborhood near Lakeside St. He graduated from Central High School in the class of 1963. He was initiated into IBEW 159 in 1964.

"I was going to go into auto body work, until my dad's boss, Hugo Kaeler, talked me into electrical work." Jim's first job was with Kaeler Electric, on Lakeside St. One of Jim's mentors early on was Ken Geishirt.

A memorable work experience: Working at Falk School on the west side, I was blowing water out of pipe with a compressor. The water blew out on the other end through the boxes. There in the entranceway, was a meeting of the architect and other big wigs. They got a little wet... I went and hid for a while, till things settled down.

Another time, I was threading big pipe with a pony threader and the vise flipped, and started jumping around, till I was able to stop the pony.

Shops where Jim worked: Kaeler Electric, Capital Electric, Academy Electric, Westphal, H & H, and also worked for the State, downtown covering the GEF and administration buildings. Also worked on the road at Byron, IL.

While working for the state during the Governor Lucey era, I put security in the Governor's Mansion to guard the wine cellar. With Capital Electric they did a lot of houses for Midland homes. I worked with Bob Call. He was a good guy to work with. Then went to Academy. Worked on Monona Shores.

People would never guess: I used to teach horseback riding, during high school. Before the Alliant Energy Center was built, there was a horse stable there. Later on, I started working at Alliant Energy Center, and wired the exhibition hall. And I began working there at events. I retired a decade ago, and I was still working at the Alliant Center until COVID, when I was furloughed.

In addition to helping with Fantasy in Lights, Jim has done a lot of volunteer work over the years, including wiring houses for Habitat for Humanity, and tutoring local school kids with reading. He still volunteers at Habitat ReStore on Odana Rd. He volunteers annually at the Building Trades Council's Take Kids Fishing event. And of course, for many years Jim organized the IBEW 159 Retirees group. He says, "Today, I can't do as much as I used to. Thank you to Tim May for taking over the Retirees and organizing Fantasy in Lights."

Thank you, Jim, for all you have done and continue to do for Local 159!



COVID Info

The Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) Face Cover Emergency Order #5 is in place until January 3. More info at www.publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus.

In the October Electrical Worker newsletter, IBEW and NECA leadership are on the record in favor of vaccination, "With the FDA approving the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine, we implore each and every person in the electrical construction industry to become vaccinated against COVID-19." We hear them. We also hear your questions.

Questions from Local 159 members

If an employer requires vaccination for employment, is that legal, and must I comply?

Yes, employers can do that. Whether you comply is up to you. It may decrease your employment options.

I got vaccinated to meet employer requirement, but there is a worker on my jobsite who is not. Whose responsibility is that?

If employers require vaccination, it is their responsibility to ensure workers are vaccinated. If you have a concern, contact the Local 159 office for confidential assistance.

If I am quarantining due to possible exposure, is there coverage?

At this time, quarantine takes place on your own time. It is still worth applying for Unemployment but be aware you may not receive it.

How long is the quarantine period, if I am exposed to COVID?

Public Health Madison & Dane County guidelines for quarantine www.publichealthmdc.com/search/Quarantine
Find more quarantine info at Wisconsin DHS, www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/close-contacts.htm

I tested positive for COVID, and will be off work for a while. What can I do?

You can apply for short term disability (26 weeks per instance). First week is not paid. Contact WEEBF. It is also possible to take an early distribution from your retirement, if it has been at least six months without making a contribution. There are provisions to meet. See "Retirement" at weebf.org, and/or contact WEEBF.

Vaccinate.wi.gov to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment

for vaccinations, boosters, or vaccines for children ages 5-11. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) supports the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccination as the best way to protect yourself and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. For help with registering for an appointment or other vaccine registry assistance, call 844-684-1064 (toll-free).

Flex Fund Reminders

- In December, you may make one Flex Fund Reimbursement request for an amount less than \$100
- Flex Fund Reimbursement requests can now be made **online**
- More info at WEEBF.org under: Health & Welfare Plan, Forms & Links

Employee Assistance Program

Local 159 members have access to this resource as part of our Health & Welfare benefits. Includes addiction, mental health, nutrition, legal and financial advice, and more. Assistance is available by chat; by text: MSEAP to 53342; or phone (888) 893-6585. More at www.Workhealthlife.com/NM3.

Apprenticeship Application deadline is December 17

Aptitude exam practice questions are available

<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/accuplacer/accuplacer-sample-questions-for-students.pdf>
https://www.statewidelea.org/forms/Application_and_Aptitude_Test.pdf
<https://electricaltrainingalliance.org/SamplePage>
<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students>
<https://madisoncollege.edu/apprenticeship-testing#fndtn-panel1>
Reading comprehension, <https://englishforeveryone.org/>

Can You Help?

Looking for a diverse group of 159 members to talk individually (on video) about their electrical career – what you do, how you got started, what you like about it, etc. Thanks! Lisa, 608.622.2160; solidarity@ibew159.org

Happy Birthday

KEVIN	ANDERSON	ROGER	HANDLER	STEVEN	PORTER
DAVID	ANTOINE	AGNAN	HASHANI	CARL	POTTER
CHRISTOPHER	ARMSTRONG	MATTHEW	HUGGETT	KALE	PROTHERO
BAILEY	ASTLE	HOLLY	HUNT	KIM	RAMMINGER
BRANDON	AUSTIN	DONALD	JACOBSON	LUCAS	REDDELL
CHARLES	BADER	LAWRENCE	JENSEN	RONALD	RICH
ERIK	BAKKEN	MARK	JOHNSON	TRAVIS	RIPP
DAVID	BALTES	THOMAS	JUNCK	ERIC	ROM
WILLIAM	BATES	AJA	KANESHIRO	JOSEPH	ROTT
AMANDA	BECKER	JESSICA	KEASTER	ROBERT	SALZMAN
JARED	BLASCHKA	JAMIE	KEDLEY	MATTHEW	SAUNDERS
TAYLOR	BOCKENSTEDT	MICHAEL	KILLIAN	DUSTIN	SCHNELL
SETH	BORGRUD	REGINA	KILLIAN	MARK	SCHOENEMANN
MARK	BREITNAUER	ADAM	KLAPOETKE	DANIEL	SCHULTZ
ROBERT	BROOKENS	YURI	KOCHAN	GERALD	SCHULTZ
LAMAR	BROOKS	JOHN	KOPISH	SCOTT	SHIVELER
KEVIN	BUNTROCK	EUGENE	KRINKEY	JOSEPH	SHROPSHIRE
ROBERT	BURMEISTER	JARRETT	KUHL	CONNOR	SIMONSON
THEODORE	BUTOR	DOUGLAS	KUTZ	DEWEY	SKILBRED
ROBERT	CANTER	KYLE	LABARGE	NICHOLAS	SLUSHER
ALEJANDRO	CASTRO-VERA	JUSTIN	LARSON	JEDREK	SMITH
TIMOTHY	COGER	GREGORY	LEE	PAUL	SPATARO
KYLE	COMBS	JOHN	LENGYEL	BRANDT	SPILDE
DAVID	CONRAD	CALEB	LEWIS	NOLAN	STAPELFELDT
THOMAS	CORCORAN	CHARLES	LITTLE	STEVE	STAPLES
JAMIR	CROWLEY	DONALD	MAAHS	JOSEPH	STRENGER
JOHN	DAHL	PAUL	MAIER	BROCK	SUCHOMEL
BRIAN	DEARTH	MICHAEL	MARTI	COLTON	SULLIVAN
TRAVIS	DELEHANTY	COLE	MAXWELL	LUKE	TANNER
JAYDEN	DUNPHY	JOHN	MEINHOLZ	TANNER	TERRILL
THOMAS	DUREN	ALLEXYS	MEYERS	TIMOTHY	THRONSON
GERHARD	ELLERKAMP	PAUL	MILLER	MICHAEL	UGALDE
FERNANDO	FARRES	JUSTIN	MINICK	ISAAC	VAREBROOK
HEATH	FEINER	VERNON	MOE	MARY	VOLKMAN
BRADEN	FERRY	NEIL	MORTON	STEPHEN	VYSE
BERNARD	FORTMAN	PAUL	MOSER	DANIEL	WASIELESKI
CRYSTAL	FROGG	JASON	NELSON	KEITH	WATTS
NIKLAUS	GEISSBUHLER	JUSTIN	OLSON	ROBERT	WEISSMANN
SKYLER	GILBERTSON	KYLE	OLSON	JACKSON	WILDES
DAVID	GRAFF	PATRICK	O'NEIL	BRIAN	WINEKE
THOMAS	HAMIELEC	JEFFREY	PALMER	NICK	YAUN
WILL YOUNG					

Apprenticeship Applications due December 17

email office@ibew159.org, or call between 8 am – 4 pm

December 24 & 31 are holidays ~ Any work is paid double time ~ Office closed

Starting in January: Union Meetings will be at IBEW 159 in McFarland

Contacts

Local 159 Office

(608) 255-2989, office@ibew159.org

Local 159 Job line

(608) 255-0169, 5:00pm -7:00am

Apprenticeship Office

(608) 221-3321, wijatc.org

Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS)

(608) 266-2112, dsps.wi.gov

Check status of electrical license, CEUs needed, etc.

licensesearch.wi.gov

WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits

(608) 276-9111, weebf.org

(Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund)

or (800) 422-2128

email

fundoffice@weebf.org

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