



IBEW LOCAL 159

SEPTEMBER 2021



Greetings 159 Family,

Let's start with some good news: work is booming, and we are currently experiencing a rarely-seen phenomenon -- a real worker's market. Members have choices and options now, not only here in 159, but across every part of this country. Currently in the 6th District, there are 222 open calls for JWs, and over 2000 open calls, nationwide. Many contractors are paying \$150-\$175 daily per diems on jobs, to recruit workers. We currently have about 16 open calls here (no per diems). The worker shortage in the construction industry is expected to continue through 2021 and into 2022. The future of workers in 159 looks bright and promising. We had incredible candidates applying for our apprenticeship programs, and it is unfortunate we could not have selected more.

There is a lot of conversation today about diversity and inclusion in this country. There are benchmarks and Apprenticeship standards we need to adhere to. Let's see how 159 stands in the statistical breakdown on our apprentices: (as of July)

Inside Apprentices	#	%
Male	232	90.27
Female	25	9.73
Minority	15	5.84
Minority Male	14	5.45
Minority Female	1	0.39
Amer Indian/AK Native	1	0.39
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	1.17
Black	9	3.5
Hispanic	3	1.17
White	241	93.77
Total	257	

VDV Apprentices	#	%
Male	12	100
Female	0	0
Minority	1	8.33
Minority Male	1	8.33
Minority Female	0	0
Amer Indian/AK Native	0	0
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	8.33
Black	0	0
Hispanic	0	0
White	11	91.67
Total	12	

By classification

JW's: 724; JW Contractors: 14; Inside Apprentices: 262 (as of August). Residential Wiremen: 10; CW Residential: 2; VDV Techs: 66; VDV Apprentices: 11; Installer Trainees: 26. CW1: 88; CW2: 16; CW3: 12; Total CWs: 116. CE1: 6; CE2: 5; CE3: 17; Total CEs: 28. Stock person/truck driver: 5.

August 14 was IBEW 159 night at the Mallards. The membership approved this event and committed to the 112 ticket minimum, to secure the Duck Blind. Tickets cost \$43 and \$34. **We used only 39 tickets. That means we spent \$2518 for tickets that were not used** (four beer tickets, \$172; 69 soda tickets, \$2346).

For our members who are currently working in the field, whether in the public or private sector, COVID and vaccinations are at the forefront of discussion. I have heard from members with concerns about possible mandatory vaccinations as a condition of employment with a specific contractor, or on a specific jobsite, or with an employer in the public sector (i.e., City of Madison, Dane County, State of Wisconsin or UW System).

Our International Office has mandated all employees working **for** the IO (**at** the International Office itself, or as an International Rep or staff) be vaccinated, or their employment will be terminated. The legal opinion on these mandates is: it is within an employer's right to make this a condition of employment and/or, continued employment. There is not, and cannot be, a mandate **to vaccinate**, but there are, and will continue to be, more areas where there will be consequences when individuals **choose not to** vaccinate. We are seeing news reports where insurance companies can deny co-pays on COVID-related medical care if someone is not vaccinated and incurs medical expenses. Some employers are increasing the cost of health insurance premiums for those who are unvaccinated. I know we have members on both sides of this issue who are very concerned, and I think we can all agree this has become a divisive issue, with strongly differing opinions about the meaning of words like "rights," "choice," and "freedom." Sounds like words we can apply to many topics of discussion these days. When we can't even agree on what the real facts are anymore, how do we work to resolve our differences? I wish I had the answer but unfortunately, I don't see that changing any time soon. It is truly sad that there is so much misinformation and politicizing of such important issues. Are we becoming a country that would rather focus on our differences and become angry and bitter? Or, can we see **we have far more in common than what separates us**, and find real solutions, based on scientific facts?

We see the financial costs COVID-19 has had on individuals and businesses. We see the additional burden "essential workers" have taken on, to keep the infrastructure of this country afloat. What we are also seeing now is the emotional and mental impact COVID-19 has had in the construction industry. Suicides in the industry have increased by a rate that is 4x that of the general public. Please read the US Dept of Labor article, later in this newsletter. Hopefully that will be a wake-up call to start making real changes in the way we **choose** to interact with our co-workers, friends, family and neighbors. We cannot continue on this path. **We cannot continue to show our children and grandchildren the worst of human behavior and interaction.** We cannot teach them to be intolerant, hateful, and divisive. Not if we truly want them to have a better life, full of endless opportunities, where they feel loved, protected and safe. Our children are suffering, and we need to take a hard look at the impact all this is having on their mental and emotional well-being, as well as on our own. We are all suffering because so many have forgotten the Golden Rule, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..."

Let us all take a moment to honor and grieve for our U.S. military members who lost their lives last week, and for all our service men and women who fought and served over these past 20 years in Afghanistan, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Politics should not cloud the tremendous cost of this war on military families, the U.S., and the Afghan people.

Remember to send me your "I Gave Five" volunteer hours (see last month's newsletter).

Wishing all our members and their families a safe, enjoyable Labor Day!

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

Referral Agent Kenneth Jungenberg

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I still have many open calls and expect more to come in soon. In the next few weeks I am expecting some requests from The Blattner Group for the Badger Hollow solar field in Cobb (western Iowa Co.).

Fantasy In Lights is going well. Give me a call if you would like to volunteer. The new trailer is loaded and ready to get wrapped. With a bit of luck, it should be done in a few weeks.

We have gone back to the old referral process where the member must call the employer for acceptance and then they must call the referral office for their referral, if accepted. Please read the following:

If you bid on a call you need to be by your phone between 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to verbally accept or deny the call you bid on. When the Local calls you and there is no answer, they will leave a message. You have 10 minutes to call the Local back before this is considered a turndown and the Local moves on to the next bidder. All respondents will be ranked according to their referral position. The successful applicants will be notified by phone by 10:00 a.m. the next business day following the Employer's

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request for manpower. The local will provide a contact phone number and a contact person of the Employer to whom the respondent has been assigned. It is the responsibility of the respondent to contact the designated Employer representative no later than 10:00 a.m. to receive directions regarding specific job requirements, including where and when to report. Failure to make this contact will result in the respondent being ineligible for the referral and a strike being assigned to the respondent. **The respondent must then call the Local back to let us know you will be coming in to pick up your referral, or you have been denied employment. If the Employer turns down the successful bidder, no strike will be given, and bidder will maintain their spot on the books.**

Stay cool out there.

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

Membership Development/Organizer Report - Casey Healy

Local 159 has a large amount of work at the present time. It doesn't look like it will let up anytime soon either. If you have a family member or a friend that is interested in getting into the electrical trade, have them contact myself or Damon and we will explain the different avenues of getting into the trade. If you have a neighbor or know of anybody that is a non-union Electrical Contractor, call us and share any information that you have.

I encourage all CW's that have not taken a class on **conduit bending to sign up for the February 15 to March 22 class, at the IBEW Local 159 Training Center**, from 4:30 – 7:30 PM. On completion, you will receive 18 Wisconsin continuing education units. To register, call the office at 608-255-2989 and speak with Ammu or Yalanda. This class fills quickly.

If you are on a jobsite that has non-union electrical or low voltage technicians working, give us a call. It is a great opportunity for you and the local to engage in conversation with these workers about the benefits of being an IBEW 159 member. We have brochures that we can place on their carts or hand out to individuals.

Whatever the situation might be, let's rise up 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.

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

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

Organizer/Business Agent Damon Glenn

Brothers & Sisters,

Normally I would say in my introduction " Hope all is well and you're enjoying your summer," but considering the work we have in our jurisdiction and the lack of skilled electricians to fill our job calls, I think it's safe to say a good portion of our brothers and sisters are working long days and hours to keep the jobs on schedule. Which probably means there hasn't been that much time left in the days or weeks to really enjoy the short summers we have. I would like to commend all our brothers and sisters who have been putting in the extra hours on the job to try to make sure it meets deadlines. As I have been saying for the past few months now, please if you know a neighbor or family friend that has experience as an electrician, please send them to either Casey or myself. Future work in our jurisdiction looks very good also, so I expect the demand for skilled electricians to continue into the next year and beyond. We have been starting new entry level electricians and apprentices as the request for workers continue to come in. I know on some jobsites the number of journeywork to subclass (apprentice, CW, CE) workers is out of ratio. If we don't have experienced workers, what are we left to do to fill the calls?! When Book 2 help is pretty much nonexistent and will stay nonexistent according to IBEW International reps, what we have left is to Organize the unrepresented, which Casey and I have been accomplishing, but not all unrepresented electricians just jump on board because we talk with them. In most cases it takes multiple conversations and face to face visits to get an individual to make the jump. One thing I do know is if we don't continue to organize hard in our jurisdiction, the progress that we have made in increasing our market share will drop twice as fast as it was to bring it up a few points.

Brothers and Sisters, we are all organizers!

MRA (Market Recovery Addendum):

Management Rights

Work performed by Construction Wiremen and Construction Electricians will be limited only by what the Employer or the Employer's field representative deem as appropriate and within the individual's qualifications to properly perform safely, in a workmanlike manner and within the specific scope of this Addendum. In this regard, Construction Electricians Level 3 may work alone if deemed qualified by the Employer and are properly licensed as required by the State of Wisconsin. **In no case can a CW/CE supervise Journeymen or Apprentices.**

- Please notify us at the hall if the highlighted section is happening on your jobsite. Please provide contractor, jobsite, lead foreman and name of CW/CE.

The history of America has been largely created by the deeds of its working people and their organizations--there is scarcely an issue that is not influenced by labor's organized efforts or lack of them. — William Cahn, Labor historian

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

Business Agent Lisa Goodman

Most of us have probably been on job sites with --and worked alongside--people of color, non-binary people, women, and LGBTQIA+ workers --whether or not we realize it. As someone with experience WWF (working while female) I can say this: no matter how physical our work gets, no matter how many other people are on the job, at times the hardest part of this work can be the sense of isolation. We all know how it feels to show up on a new job site for the first time. For an underrepresented worker, work can feel like that every day. A person who has never been outnumbered on a job site --or in any situation--may not be aware of this. Even though someone may visibly "stick out" on a job site, they may feel --or be treated as-- invisible. They may not be in on the in jokes, they may be sent to work alone more often than others. They may not be invited out with the gang after work. Or they may be dispatched to the shop to do repetitive tasks for months, before they ever get a chance to work in the field. **Each one of us can make a difference, every day. Try this simple exercise:** if you meet someone new on your job site, **make eye contact with them, say hello, and ask their name.** Remember their name. Say "good morning." Offer to answer their questions, or teach them something new. Try standing in someone else's shoes. The smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference. As the late writer Maya Angelou said, "*People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.*" We are each other's village. Let's be kind.

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

Retirees Update

The August luncheon was held on Monday August 9, at Fitz's on the Lake, in Lodi.

Those present were Jim Virnig, John Zwettler, Ed Kroth, Gerald (Jerry) Miller, Jeff Rowley, Tom Corcoran, Tom Verbsky, Mark Hoffman, Mike Stassi, Lisa Goodman, **Tim May, Rich Gorst, Ken Jungenberg, Dave Ruhnke, Dave Conrad**, totaling (15) electricians in attendance. (Door prize winners are listed in bold type).

Ken Jungenberg and Lisa Goodman from the 159 office, provided information as to the current work outlook, and the need for some interested individuals who might assist apprentices during open lab nights.

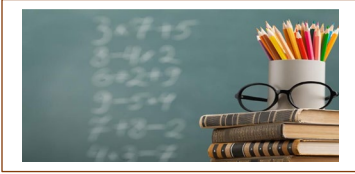
Due to an abundance of caution, and with the Dane County COVID-19 indoor mask mandate in effect, the **monthly retiree luncheons will be canceled until further notice.**

All LU-159 retirees are welcome at these luncheons. Please consider joining us on the second Monday of each month. The annual Fantasy in Lights work is continuing, and Thursday is the weekly day chosen to work, with the usual arrival timing of 7:30 to 8:00AM. If available and interested in helping with the FIL work this year, please contact Ken Jungenberg at the Union Hall 608-255-2989 ext. 114.

Hope to see you there!

In solidarity,

Tim May ~ IBEW Local 159 ~ Retiree



EDUCATION CORNER

Fall classes have started. Day school classes started the week of August 16, and night school classes start after Labor Day. **The class schedule is available at www.ibew159.org**, so please take a look. This schedule will also have a few more classes added targeted specifically for CW members, to help get their 24 CEUs needed each year. Sign up for classes by contacting the 159 office.

On another note, Dane County is still dealing with COVID-19. They recently reinstated mask mandates for indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. This includes the Local 159 training center. We are still planning on holding our classes in-person this year but do plan to follow Dane County guidelines on this situation. This could all change as we progress through the school year depending on what the situation is like in our area.

I would also like to invite anyone who wishes to attend the Education Committee meetings. We are still hosting our meetings using video conferencing, to try and make it more convenient for members to attend. If you would like to attend these meetings, please contact me to get the link for joining the video conference. Our normal meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM.

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,

On Saturday, August 7, members of RENEW 159 volunteered to help pour drinks at the Pursuit of Happiness music festival at McPike Park in Madison. LU 159 is a sponsor of this event. Thank you to Dave Boetcher, Paul Miller, and myself for volunteering.

At the August general meeting, RENEW 159 had a motion approved to send up to 6 members to the RENEW conference in New Orleans from October 20-23. Email renew@ibew159.org to express interest in attending.

On Monday, August 16, members of the committee attended a workshop on Robert's Rules of Order presented by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

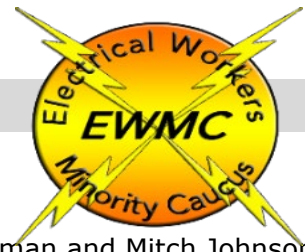
On Sunday, August 29, we had our second Highway Cleanup of the year. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to make our corner of the world a bit nicer.

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,

EWMC 159 has paired members together for our mentoring program. Lisa Goodman and Mitch Johnson have worked hard over a good period to get us to this point. At our July meeting we voted to appoint Damon Glenn as our Vice President until our election in 2022. With that appointment a new position opened on our EWMC 159 Executive Board. Currently EWMC 159 has the position of Treasurer open. The duties of Treasurer will be taken care of by current EWMC 159 Executive Board members until the position is filled. National EWMC has been working on the new redesigned web page ibew-ewmc.com. Once completed, and all chapters have their officers and bios uploaded, everyone will be able to see all chapters across the country and link the faces to names. EWMC 159 continues to grow our membership, currently we have 28 members, some more actively involved than others, very similar to our regular IBEW 159 membership. We embrace and will accept all IBEW 159 members who want to caucus with us based on EWMC objectives and mission statement ibew-ewmc.com, (see "About Us"). Our EWMC 159 meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5:00pm. We will meet both in person and virtually. WE ARE ALL MINORITIES WHEN IT COMES TO ORGANIZED LABOR!

In Solidarity,

Shaun Daniels, EWMC President ~ ewmc@ibew159.org



I'm still requesting feedback on all aspects of what we, as a local, would like our Veterans Committee to look like. Please reach out to me at Raymond_droessler@hotmail.com... In the meantime, we are still scheduled for meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at the Hall!

From Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) website [<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/home.aspx>]:

"Your Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), is whom you can contact to find out if you or your family are qualified for local, state and federal Veterans' benefits. CVSOs work with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and other Veterans Service Organizations to make sure you get all the Veteran benefits you are eligible for."

Below are the links to CVSO websites for the 159 area; from education benefits through hunting licenses, I strongly encourage you to reach out (for yourself, a family member, a friend, etc)!

Columbia	https://www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/veterans/VeteransServiceHome/tabid/618/Default.aspx
Dane	http://www.danevets.com/
Dodge	https://www.co.dodge.wi.gov/departments/departments-p-z/veterans-service
Green Lake	https://www.co.green-lake.wi.us/departments/veteran-services/
Iowa	https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/VeteransServices
Marquette	https://www.co.marquette.wi.us/departments/veteran-services
Sauk	https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/veteransserviceoffice

"Caught a lot of flak"

Meaning: To be criticized, especially harshly

Flak is actually an acronym for German air defense cannons. The Germans called the guns

Fliegerabwehrkanonen. Flieger means flyer, abwehr means defense, and kanonen means cannon. Airmen in World War II would have to fly through dangerous clouds of shrapnel created by flak. The phrase progressed in meaning until it became equated with abusive criticism.

Modern Usage: "Jay **caught a lot of flak** when he drove the lift into the wall. Again."

In Solidarity,

Jay Droessler, raymond_droessler@hotmail.com



Organizer Damon Glenn and Theo Gentle enjoy their day at BIG STEP career fair, sharing information on career options with IBEW Local 159

September Calendar

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Night classes begin September 13. See full schedule at www.ibew159.org

Sept 1 Hall Open Late, 4-7 (first Weds) **We are looking for volunteers to staff this lab night.**

IF YOU WANT HELP at lab, **PLEASE LET US KNOW** by noon the day before, at solidarity@ibew159.org, or

IF YOU CAN HELP at lab, **we would love to hear from you** at above email. Thank you!

Sept 2 1630 (4:30 pm) Veterans Committee, at IBEW 159 (first Thursday)

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

~~Sept 6 **CANCELLED: Labor Fest cancelled.**~~

On NOW Labor Day Collection – Your gift card donations will help MMSD students who are homeless. To donate, contact Ann McNeary, labor@uwdc.org, (608) 246-4355

September 6-10, Suicide Prevention Week Safety Stand-downs

Sept 8 4:30-6:45, Member Orientation, IBEW 159, McFarland. Partners welcome. (608)255-2989

Sept 9 4:30, RENEW meeting at Madison Labor Temple (second Thurs)

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

Invite new union members to get sworn in. Attend together

~~Sept 13 **CANCELLED: Retirees Lunch** (second Mon). See Retirees Report~~

Sept 15 4:00, VDV Apprentice Comm. In person, TBA. (third Weds, odd-numbered months)

Sept 16 3:00, Inside Apprenticeship Committee (third Thurs) open session, at IBEW 159

Sept 22 4:30, IBEW 159 Women's Group (fourth Weds), solidarity@ibew159.org

Sept 23 5:00, Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (fourth Thurs), ewmc@ibew159.org

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

Sept 30 4:30-6:45, Member Orientation, IBEW 159, McFarland. Partners welcome. (608)255-2989

October is National Careers in Construction Month

Oct 1-3 Tradeswomen Build Nations conference, New Orleans <https://nabtu.org/twbn/>

Members voted to send six members in good standing. Interested? email solidarity@ibew159.org

Oct 20-23 RENEW Conference, New Orleans. See RENEW story in this newsletter.

Support the Labor Day Collection, Help Homeless Students

Labor Fest is cancelled this year, but your help is still needed. Affiliates of the South Central Federation of Labor (SCFL) —that’s us!— continue the Labor Day Collection, an annual tradition to help those in need. SCFL’s Community Services Committee collects items for students who are homeless within the Madison school district. This year, gift cards of all types are most appreciated. To help, contact Ann McNeary at labor@uwdc.org, or (608) 246-4355, to deliver or mail cards and other items to United Way of Dane County, 2059 Atwood Ave.

Class Schedule Posted at www.ibew159.org

Everyone with an Electrical Apprentice license, or a Registered Electrician license needs to **renew every year**. (see <https://licensesearch.wi.gov/>) **Registered License holders need 24 CEUs every year, to stay current.** (Apprentices’ school covers their CEU requirement.) You can take continuing ed classes at Local 159, see www.ibew159.org for schedule of Class Offerings 2021-2022.

IBEW 159 Women’s Committee

The August 17 Meet & Greet school-year kickoff event gathered 24 women of IBEW 159 at the Hall for introductions and a clothing and gear swap. On hand were: Karen Ingmundson, who began in 1978, and was the first woman to top out in Local 159; and some pioneering members, now retired: Carol Grundahl, Jane Liess, and Rain Zephyr. So far Local 159 has seen women: retire from the Local, elected to E Board, serve as foremen, stewards, and members of apprenticeship committee, and more. Brenda Egli is now an Estimator at 1901, Inc., Sue Blue was elected Business Manager; and this fall eight women are first-year inside apprentices; two are new VDV installer trainees, and many women have become CWs in recent months.

In July, the Local moved to send six members to the Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference, October 1-3 in New Orleans. At press time, conference

organizers were requiring attendees to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Info at <https://nabtu.org/twbn/>

Want to attend? (This might end up being virtual. Still.) Contact solidarity@ibew159.org, for consideration.

Women’s committee meets on fourth Wednesdays at 4:30. Join us! solidarity@ibew159.org



CWs: Practice questions to help prep for aptitude test, try these:

<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>

US Department of Labor, industry leaders, stakeholders call on employers, workers to combat surge in construction worker suicides

Safety stand-downs planned for Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 6-10

While the hazards most often associated with workplace deaths in the U.S. construction industry – falling, being struck-by or crushed by equipment or other objects, or suffering electrocution are well-known – a recent study finds that another potential killer is taking lives at an alarming rate.

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that **men working in construction have one of the highest suicide rates compared to other industries. Their rate of suicide is about four times higher than the general population.**

While the CDC continues its research to understand the disparity, the U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](https://www.osha-slc.gov/) has formed a task force of industry partners, unions and educators to raise awareness of the types of stress that can push construction workers into depression and toward suicide. In addition to alerting stakeholders, the task force encourages industry employers to share and discuss available resources with their workers. The task force is calling on industry to take part in a weeklong **Suicide Prevention Safety Stand-Down, Sept. 6-10**, to raise awareness about the unique challenges construction

workers face. The stand-down will coincide with [National Suicide Prevention Month](#) in September. "Work-related stress can have severe impacts on mental health and without proper support may lead to substance abuse and even suicide," stated [Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick](#). "Workers in construction face many work-related stressors that may increase their risk factors for suicide, such as the uncertainty of seasonal work, demanding schedules and workplace injuries that are sometimes treated with opioids."

The Suicide Prevention Safety Stand-Down started as a regional initiative in OSHA's Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, offices with these task force members: [Builders Association](#), [Associated General Contractors of Missouri](#), University of Kansas, University of Iowa, Washington University, [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#), local unions and several employers. More than 5,000 people participated in the 2020 Suicide Prevention Safety Stand-Down, and OSHA encourages others to join the effort in 2021.

"Like many workplace fatalities, suicides can be prevented," said OSHA Acting Regional Administrator Billie Kizer in Kansas City, Missouri. "We encourage employers to use all available resources, familiarize themselves with the problem and learn to recognize the warning signs of depression. We also urge workers to seek help if they feel overwhelmed or overcome by a loss of hope."

View a [video on suicide prevention](#) that Acting Assistant Secretary Frederick recently shared with task force members. The [suicide prevention page](#) also includes links to resources and other information for toolbox talks. [Review these OSHA mental health and crisis resources](#).

Additional information on suicide prevention in the construction industry includes:

- [The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's National Construction Center: CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training.](#)
- [A fact sheet for organization and individuals on the issue of suicide and prevention.](#)
- [How to talk about suicide with employees](#) and [how to get help](#).
- [The Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention.](#)

If You Know Someone in Crisis

Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline \(Lifeline\)](#) at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**, or text the [Crisis Text Line \(text HELLO to 741741\)](#). Both services are free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All calls are confidential. Contact social media outlets directly if you are concerned about a friend's social media updates or dial 911 in an emergency.



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.

Welcome! to Our New Members

JUSTIN	BABCOCK	THOMAS	GIMMER	DANIEL	SABIN
JOSEPH	BENTALHA	SEAN	GJERMO	DEREK	SANDINE
BRIAN	BEYER	BEAU	GLOUDEMAM	MATTHEW	SCHMIDT
JAMES	BRAATZ	RYAN	GOTH	JOHN	SCHULZE
JOSEPH	BROM	BRENDAN	HOFFMAN	CONNOR	SIMONSON
CHAD	BURLAGE	HOLLY	HUNT	BRANDEN	SPANGLER
JOVANNI	CAMPOS	TIMOTHY	JACKSON	MATTHEW	STRAKA
ALEJANDRO	CASTRO-VERA	PETER	JENE	SHAWN	SZCZERBA
VINCENT	CIANO	DAEMON	KELLEY	RYAN	THOMPSON
HAROLD	CLEARY	TYLER	KENNEDY	COURTNEY	TILLMAN
CARSTEN	DOWD	RYAN	KLASSY	CONNER	VALE
TYLER	DUBOSE	RYAN	KNUDTSON	DREW	WALKER
JAYDEN	DUNPHY	MAVERICK	KUNDERT	LOGAN	WEBB
EVAN	EHLERS	DALLIS	LIDDELL	JOSHUA	WEDESKY
AUSTIN	ELERT	REMLINGTON	LINDELL	LUCAS	WENDT
MICHAEL	ELLEFSO	CAMERON	LUCEY	GRIFFIN	WICKLUND
PERLA	ESTRADA	PARKER	MASSEY	ALEXANDER	WICKS
KARLI	FAHNEY	BEN	MELVIN	JOHN	WIPPERFURTH
JAMES	FLETCHER	DOMENICO	MOSCATO	TYLER	WRIGHT
ERIC	FRAWLEY	JONAH	O'CONNOR	TYLER	ZASTOUPIL
STANLEY	GARCZYNSKI	DIEGO	ORTEGA	ISAAC	ZIMMERMAN

YOU are Invited – IBEW 159 Member Orientation

If you joined IBEW 159 in the last couple years, or have **never been** to an orientation, we want to formally welcome you to the Local 159 Family, and better acquaint you with your union member benefits. **You and a partner/friend are invited to attend.** There will be food and beverages served, presentations by Local 159 staff, and door prizes. If you attended an orientation for new Apprentices, given by the Apprenticeship office, **this is a different orientation.**

We want you to get the most out of being a union member. The information presented can help you save money, and keep you from missing opportunities, or overlooking important paperwork. **The name of the contractor you work for may change, but your union will always be here for you.** Bring your IBEW Constitution, Local 159 Bylaws, and Collective Bargaining Agreement, if possible.

Want a Mentor? Want to Be a Mentor?

Newer apprentices and CWs; newer members: We hope mentoring will be a valuable tool to help you learn about the union, and help you reach your goals. Interested? Answer a short questionnaire:

Get a Mentor (be a MENTEE)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKJQVL9>



BE a Mentor

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G7QN8Z3>





LUCAS	ALEXANDER	RALPH	GOMEZ	MICHAEL	OTT
AXEL	ANDERSEN	KENNETH	GRAFF	HERBERT	PORTZ
JESSICA	ANDERSON	PETER	GUNDECK	SKYLAR	POTTS
DOUGLAS	AVERY	JARED	HALBACH	AARON	PRATT
JACOB	BENISH	ERIK	HALVERSON	REBECCA	PRIEM
TRAVIS	BENSON	CALEB	HARDY	GERALD	REED
JEFFREY	BESCH	TIM	HASEY	RANDALL	RICHARDS
MARTIN	BLANKENSHIP	CRAIG	HATFIELD	NATHAN	RINDLE
STEVEN	BLUMER	MARK	HEISS	JASON	ROM
KENNETH	BOE	MICHAEL	HELLER	CAMERON	RUEF
DAVID	BOETCHER	MATTHEW	HILLEBRAND	BENJAMIN	RUNAAS
JACOB	BONESS	COLLIN	HOSKING	DENIO	SANCHEZ
BRYCE	BONK	PAUL	HUERTH	TAEMIE	SAUCERMAN
NICHOLAS	BOWAR	KEITH	HUTZLER	EDMUND	SCANLON
BAXTER	BROWN	TIMOTHY	HUTZLER	MATT	SCHLUTER
CALVIN	BURKE	TIMOTHY	JACKSON	STEVEN	SCHMIDT
THOMAS	BURNS	PETER	JENE	LOGAN	SCHMITZ
RAY	BYRNE	BROOKS	JEWELL	RYAN	SCHOENEBERG
TODD	BYRNE	CAPRI	JONES	JONATHAN	SCHUETT
ZACHARY	CARLSON	SCOTT	JURIS	PHILIP	SPRINGMAN
JAMES	CARR	BARRY	KASUBOSKI	LUCILLE	STEPHENS
ALONZO	CARTWRIGHT	JOHN	KAUN	JAMES	STEWART
MILLARD	CHRISTIANSON	KEVIN	KLEPPER	JOHN	STEWART
TROY	CIBULKA	AARON	KOCLANES	MATTHEW	STORKSON
JUSTIN	COLLINS	SCOTT	KRANTZ	DENNIS	STRANDER
ROBERT	COOKSON	BENJAMIN	KUHL	JESS	SUPAN
HOWARD	CZOSCHKE	KEVIN	LEATHERBERRY	WARREN	TAYLOR
CHAD	DEHART	ANTHONY	LIBERT	TRAVIS	THERING
HOWARD	DIEHL	SETH	LUEDTKE	DELMAR	THOMAS
RONALD	DISCH	JOSEPH	MAHLIK	STEVE	TWEED
PAUL	DOWD	JEREMY	MAIER	CONNER	VALE
RYAN	DYKSTRA	TIMMY	MANI	GORDON	VANDER VELDE
LUMAN	EGGLESTON	JUSTIN	MARTIG	WILLIAM	VOGEL
EVAN	EHLERS	ALEXANDER	MARX	ROGER	VONDRASEK
IAN	EIDT	MARIA	MASON	JOSEPH	VOSEN
AUSTIN	ELERT	MARC	MCCARVILLE	RANDY	WAGNER
KYLE	ERICKSON	ROLAND	MCRAE	JOHN	WAGNER
JAMIE	ETHRIDGE	MITCHELL	MILLER	RYAN	WAKEMAN
WILLIAM	FEENEY	JAMES	MOLL	DANIEL	WALKER
CHRISTIAN	FEMRITE	EDWARD	MOLZOF	ERIC	WALSVIK
CASEY	FREEMAN	ANDREW	MONTELONGO	BEN	WANGERIN
HOWARD	FREY	WAYNE	MYLREA	BRANDON	WASS
ANDREW	GANDER	SETH	NELSON	LOGAN	WEBB
JOHN	GEIGER	ROY	NEUMAIER	GARRET	WIERSMA
BRANDON	GERBER	CODY	NEUMANN	ERIC	WOODMAN
LEE	GIBBS	THERON	OELLERICH	ALEX	WOOSTER
MICHELLE	GIESE	BRIAN	OETTINGER	JASON	ZENZ

See the 2021-2022 Class Offerings schedule at www.ibew159.org

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)(Licensing)	(608) 266-2112, dsps.wi.gov
WEEBF, Health Insurance & Benefits	(608) 276-9111, weebf.org
(Wisconsin Electrical Employee Benefit Fund)	or (800) 422-2128

The WEEBF office will be open for phone calls, but not for walk-in visitors, email fundoffice@weebf.org
Apprenticeship office, (608) 221-3321. **Apprenticeship applications are due Dec. 17, 2021.**
To receive an application, email office@ibew159.org, or call between 8 AM – 4 PM.

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