



The Electrical Workers' Brotherhood News

Wisconsin: Brown, Door, Kewaunee,
Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee,
Oconto, & Shawano County.
Michigan: Menominee County
www.ibew158.com



Volume 37, Issue 03

MARCH 2019

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Brothers and Sisters:

Last month I attended our IBEW/NECA Benefits Conference. To me, this is one of the most important conferences I attend. I always receive updates on our International pensions as well as updates on ERTS, Save RX, and other entities we are involved with.

The NEBF fund is the one pension that is always on my radar when I attend this conference. The National Electrical Benefit Fund is the one pension we work our whole career for, waiting to reap its benefits when we retire. As of the end of 2018, there were 581,915 participants in the plan with 147,534 members collecting monthly benefits. This is one of the largest, and most stable defined benefit funds in the United States. This fund is in the green zone with 88.3% of all assets funded. This is always good news.

However, if you took the time to read the Electrical Workers February 2019 Issue, the article written by International Secretary-Treasurer, Kenneth W. Cooper, as well as the full page article on page 4, there are people out there trying to put our healthy pension in jeopardy. The Butch Lewis Act was introduced by Democrats to help these funds that are in trouble get financially fit. The Central States Teamster pension plan is one of the biggest ones in trouble. This plan is in trouble because of deregulation. 2.5 million Teamster members are on pension. As you can deduct, there are not that many putting back into that fund. The Butch Lewis Act tried to have low interest loans to help troubled plans like these. These loans would be paid back and members would receive their pensions. By 2025, if nothing is done, \$300-\$400 million of income would come in, but \$2.5 billion in pay outs would occur. The Republicans did not go along with this bill and came up with one of their own. Under their bill, solvent funds like our NEBF would contribute to troubled funds to bail them out. That would eventually put our fund into the yellow or critical zone. The IBEW was on Capitol Hill making

sure this bill would not be acted on. Safe as of now, but you never know what will be on the horizon.

Please stay updated on these issues, it could cost you if you don't. Visit IBEW.org/Political/HandsOff for information.

Yours in Solidarity,
Don Allen,
Business Manager



In Memoriam
With deepest sympathy to the
family and friends of:

Clarence Neville
06/19/1932 - 02/02/2019



In Memoriam
With deepest sympathy to the
family and friends of:

Merril "Brownie" Little
10/12/1924 - 02/10/2019



100th ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL UNION BANQUET
Saturday, April 27th, 2019
At Lambeau Field Atrium,
1265 Lombardi Avenue
Green Bay, WI

Invitations were mailed out in February.
Please contact the office if you did not receive yours.
Thank you.



UNION HALL OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closing on Good Friday, April 19th at Noon

REFERRAL/PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The book numbers are as follows: Book 1-43, Book 2-9, VDV-1, Apprentices-0.

We had multiple calls for JW's go out in the last month. The contractors hiring in the last month were:

PayneCrest, BHI, Van Den Heuvel, Pieper and B & B. We also had calls for sub-rates go out to the following contractors: Pieper, Paynescrest, and VanDenHeuvel. Dataline Services had a call for a VDV Technician, and they put a laid off VDV apprentice back to work at Lambeau Field.

Bay Shipbuilding has been awarded more work once all the winter work ships had come in to dock. They put some of our members to work in the yard. I have been sending names to them for possible employment the last couple of weeks.

The upcoming work picture looks to be strong, in the talks I have had with the contractors. Lambeau Field is starting some new work. I have not gotten word if they will be hiring for the electrical work, but the VDV will be looking to add 7-10 more people according to DSI.

B & B Electric has secured work at Marinette Marine once again. We have had a call for 20 JW's as of this writing. These calls are at 100% scale. We are excited that this work was recaptured. There are a lot of possibilities for long term employment for B & B and Local 158.

We attended a building trades meeting with Miron on the status of the Green Bay Packaging job. The plan is to bid that project out in 8 phases. They have phase 2 (grounding and bonding) out to bid as of this writing. They will continue to roll out phases of this project as they complete the engineering portion of the project. I know we have multiple contractors bidding and meeting with Miron on these packages. There will be more to come on that front.

I have been working diligently with schools in our area to talk to students about the opportunities in the apprenticeship program. I have made multiple school visits and I have more on the calendar in the upcoming months. We will have Luxemburg-Casco coming to our training center to give them a tour and get a first-hand look into the electrical field. We did this once before with the College of Menominee Nation. It is a great way for the students to come in and see the electrical field and our facility.

We had a Pension meeting in February. Although the stock market was not kind at the end of the year in 2018, our funds held their own with the correction in the market. I know everyone always wants to make as much money as possible, but we all know the market will always correct itself. We need to make sure our funds can handle those corrections and allow us to make money when the rebound occurs.

I attended an International Foundation for Apprenticeship Conference in the last month. The conference was well attended and there were multiple breakout sessions to learn from. There was some great

information I took back to our committee, and I made some new contacts there to help me with our program.

I hope everyone has received their invitation for the 100th Anniversary Banquet. Please turn those responses in as soon as possible to help us get an accurate number. There will be NO WALK INS at the door this year. I will see you there!

As always, please work smart, work hard, work UNION! You are always representing the IBEW.

In Solidarity,

Jesse A. Jacques,

Referral Agent/President



Unemployment in Wisconsin

With the numerous legislative changes made in the lame duck session this past December in Madison, we have been receiving plenty of calls about unemployment. So, I just want to inform everyone what the law actually is. Anyone who has been laid off and on the books, knows that the State of Wisconsin waves the work search for Union members. The short answer is, this hasn't changed. The unemployment insurance work search requirements can be found in Wisconsin State Statute 108.04(2).

The waiver for our Union members, on the out of work list (the book) can be found in 108.04(2)(b)(3). It reads: The claimant has been laid off from work and routinely obtains work through a labor union referral and all of the following apply:

- (a) the union is the primary method used by workers to obtain employment in the claimant's customary occupation;
- (b) the union maintains a record of unemployed members and the referral activities of these members, and the union allows the Department to inspect such records;
- (c) the union provides, upon the request of the Department, any information regarding a claimant's registration with the union or any referrals for employment it has made to the claimant;
- (d) prospective employers of the claimant seldom place orders with the public employment office for jobs requiring occupational skills similar to those of the claimant;
- (e) the claimant is registered for work with a union and satisfies the requirements of the union relating to job referral procedures, and maintains membership in good standing with the union; and
- (f) the union enters into an agreement with the Department regarding the requirements of this subdivision.

As long as you're on the books, a member in good standing, and bidding on jobs, you don't need to do the 4 work searches every week. All members who are laid off should come to the Union hall to get on the books immediately when laid off.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

This past month the state organizers and I assisted Local 14 in canvassing their jurisdiction. We did a combination of licensed individuals and contractors. The contractors we spoke to were mostly small, although they expressed some of the same concerns that are affecting all businesses; the major one being not being able to find much for help even if they wanted to take on larger work.

With the Local having a large jurisdiction and large distances to travel, I don't know how many will continue the conversation about becoming part of the IBEW. Almost all of the people we spoke with were very friendly and provided us with quite a bit of information.

Recently I was able to go see Governor Evers speak at Marinette Marine. While it had been a little while since our members had been working in the yard, Local 158 was there in support of Evers budget. I was able to speak briefly with the Governor and he was thankful for the continued support from the IBEW. The company also spoke telling about the upcoming work, three more LCS ships, four multi mission surface combatant ships, and the possibility of securing a large new contract from the Navy for twenty frigates. The yard said that Governor Evers budget assistance could help the Marinette community into the 2030s. As of this writing there are once again calls for the yard so hopefully Local 158 can once again be a part of building the ships for our servicemen and women.

Remember to stay safe on the roads and to be careful driving around large snow drifts with limited visibility.

In Solidarity,

Jeremy Schauer

Business Development

<https://www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal158>



RENEW CHAIRMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It looks like warmer days could be ahead! Let's all enjoy the winter weather and then get ready for the summer events ahead.

Only a few days left to sign up for the Gamblers game on March 22nd, at 7:05 in the Bud Light pit. Come enjoy a drink and great conversation with our Brothers and Sisters.

We will not be having a March bowling event due to the Gamblers game mentioned above. We will look forward to bowling or horseshoes to start back up in April, as long as we don't get 30 inches of snow!

Have a blessed March,

Nicholas Borkovec,

RENEW Chairman

RENEW Committee Hockey Game



Green Bay Gamblers vs Chicago on Friday, March 22nd, 2019.

Game Time is 7:05 p.m.

Call the Union Hall, (920) 432-0158, to sign up.

\$22.00 per ticket includes beer, soda, & popcorn; must be paid in advance to the hall by Friday, March 8th.

TEXT MESSAGE ALERT

Text @mrrref to 81010 to receive reminders on upcoming classes, meetings, and other messages from the hall. Reply to the confirmation message with your name. You will then get a new response message from the number that will be used for the service as well as instructions on how to opt out of the service.

THANK YOU

FOR BLANKETING BROWN COUNTY

The Greater Green Bay Labor Council Community Services Committee collected blankets throughout Brown County for those in need in January. Local 158 collected 29. Thanks to Lee & Helen Denil, Steve Denil, Jesse & Melissa Jacques, Dean & Lori Knuth, Steve & Lori Schmidt, and Cyndy Williams.



Thanks to the generosity of our community, over 2,450 blankets have been collected this year with more on their way. The blankets have been distributed to 42 different programs again this year.

What a great success! Thank you!

IBEW / LOCAL 158 – BASIC DUES

Mailing your check greatly facilitates our office in less paperwork and cost. We'd appreciate it if you would get into the quarterly habit of paying dues in advance. If you pay at least 6 months in advance, we'll laminate your receipt as a token of our appreciation, plus a free gift for one year in advance. Be sure to check your receipt for accuracy. Pay special attention to the area under the words "OFFICIAL RECEIPT" where it says "N.Bal". This is your **New Balance**. If there is a negative balance there (i.e. -\$5.00), you should **reduce** your next payment by this amount. If there is a positive balance there (i.e. \$2.40); **increase** your next payment.

Online payment of dues is also available through the "Members Only" log in section of the IBEW 158 website. If you haven't signed up for access to the Member Login section, use the "Contact Us" link under the About tab on the website to send Jeremy your email address, username and password you wish to use, and he will get you entered into the website's system. If you have any questions, please call the Union Hall at (920) 432-0158. www.ibew158.com

******New Member Orientation:******

This class is required for current 1st year Apprentices unpaid related instruction.

It is also necessary for beginning Construction Wireman to advance to the next level.

Learn about your benefits and the workings of your Local Union..This class is open to all members and there is no charge, if you have not attended a New Member Orientation class, we would strongly recommend you attend

**To be held Thursday, . March 14th,
4:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

EDUCATION CORNER

Potential Classes: Basic Electrical Safety, Blueprint Reading, Code Calculations, Conduit Bending I, Conduit Bending II, EPRI I (Instrumentation), EPRI II (Instrumentation), Electrical Project Supervision, First Aid/CPR/AED, Grounding vs. Bonding, JIW/Masters Exam Prep, Motors and Transformers, OSHA 10, Photo Voltaic, Rigging, Structured Cabling, Test Instruments, & Voltage Drop.



All classes that have Continuing Education Units (CEUs) may be taken once per calendar year for those credits to apply to your license as per the Department of Safety & Professional Services (DSPS).

Please contact the hall (920) 432-0158, if you have any questions or wish to sign up for any of the classes scheduled or unscheduled. As soon as we have enough people interested, we will get a class on the schedule.

OSHA 30 CLASS

UPDATED DATES from February Issue

Class approved for **30 CEUs** limited to 25 students.

Fee is **\$10.00** payable to GBEW A & T.

Class will be held

Monday evenings as follows:

**April 22nd & 29th,
May 6th, 13th, & 20th,
& June 3rd, 10th, & 17th.
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

NFPA 70E CLASS

UPDATED DATES from February Issue

Approved for **8 CEUs**, limited to 15 students.

Fee is **\$10.00** payable to GBEW A & T.

The NFPA 70E Standard states that to work on energized 50V AC/DC and above, you must be trained in Electrical Safety Related Work Practices and re-trained every 3 years. This training shall be documented by the employer that the employee is current.

**Classes are being held Wednesday, April 24th,
Thursday, April 25th, & Friday, April 26th
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

COMET/CODE OF EXCELLENCE

UPDATED DATE from February Issue

Class will be Thursday, April 4th 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Open to all members No fee. No CEUs

COMET Class is required for all Apprentices and recommended for all CWs and members that have not taken the class. The class content covers: history of the IBEW and the role of Henry Miller as the first worksite organizer, analysis of current, past and trend lines of market share, identification of setbacks to our organization, and discussion about the gap between union and non-union workers. The real purpose of this class is to get everyone to understand that the amount of work, the amount of our wages, the health of our pensions, and the success of this organization are all tied to the percentage of organized electrical workers in our industry. With that, comes a call to action to get every member to think and act the part of a worksite organizer.

Code Of Excellence class is designed to implement professionalism and best practices on each and every IBEW jobsite. It also insures that our jobs meet the highest standards, including the safest possible workplace and work methods, the ultimate quality and quantity of work, and unsurpassed work skills.

These classes are being combined.

Instructors are: Jesse Jacques & Marsha Nebel.

PAC COMMITTEE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Eric Genrich was the top winner in the February 19th Primary Election in Green Bay. Eric received 4,505 votes, or 44%. Patrick Buckley received 1,871 votes, or 18%.

The two Mayoral candidates will be on the April 2nd, Spring Ballot.

There will be two candidates running for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice due to the vacancy left by Shirley Abrahamson, who is not seeking re-election.

Lisa Neubauer is the Democrat backed candidate opposing Brian Hagedorn, who was legal counsel for Scott Walker, backed by Republicans.

You can go to myvote.wi.gov to see what is on your ballot.

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd. Tony Evers says he will include a proposal to raise the minimum wage in Wisconsin to \$15 in his February 28th Budget announcement.

Evers has appointed Peter Barca of Kenosha to head WEDC and Caleb Frostman, former 1st District Senator, has been appointed to be the WEDC Secretary.

Governor Tony Evers is asking that property tax bills reflect what taxpayers have paid for Voucher Schools.

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin has joined other legislators in calling for Trump and future presidents to release their tax returns.

President Trump has declared a State of Emergency to get money to build his wall.

Governor Evers and Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul are “exploring a lawsuit” against Trump’s move, according to the Wisconsin State Journal. Many other lawsuits have already been filed against taking monies previously appropriated for other things to build his wall.

Governor Evers would like to expand Badger Care and Medicaid but is finding opposition with the Republicans.

Martha Lanning has announced that she will not be seeking re-election to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. A new leader will be elected in June.

Wisconsin communities and the legislature will be seeking to close the “Dark Store Loop Hole”. The following cities reporting losses due to the loop hole:

Appleton: Walgreens: \$300,000 in legal fees
\$802,000 in property tax refunds to
Walgreens, CVS, Target and KFC
Oshkosh: Walgreens: \$307,000
Lowe’s: \$100,000

Grand Chute: Sears, Macys and Fleet Farm:
\$678,500 from 2013 to 2017
Pending: Walmart and Sam’s Club

The issue will appear on the Fall Election ballot.

According to NBC, a Federal Banking Agency along with Donald Trump is rolling back regulations on Pay Day lenders.

Obama had put tougher restriction on the high interest loan companies, some charging as much as 500% interest.

One Wisconsin Now reports that 80% of the new tax breaks go to the top 1%. Robin Vos refuses to vote on closing that tax loop hole.

Many people that have already filed their taxes are reporting that they are getting much less back than expected. This is also due to Trump’s new tax law.

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO is reporting that a coalition of unions have joined to challenge the “lame duck” laws passed by Republicans to limit the powers of the new governor, Tony Evers and the new Attorney General, Josh Kaul, as well as restrictions on voting rights.

According to WMTJ, the U.S. Geological Survey tests of the Menominee River Watershed has turned up 2 types of bacteria (in 38% of samples) and 3 viruses (in 43-94% of samples). The cause of the pollution is due to leaky infrastructure and overflows from the sanitary sewers.



The next PAC meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19th at 4:30 at the Hall. If you are an officer of this local, you are a member and expected to attend. RENEW members: This is a good way to become more involved in your union and community!

Yours in Solidarity,
Cyndy Williams
PAC Chairman

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

” HOW LONG YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BE GOOD AT SOMETHING IS HOW MUCH YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND HOW MUCH HARD WORK YOU DO WITH THE TRAINING.”

-JASON STATHAM

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Greater Green Bay Labor Council is sponsoring the 31st Annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, March 16th, from 8:15 to 11:00 a.m. at the Labor Temple, 1570 Elizabeth Street, Green Bay. Cost is \$10.00 (includes breakfast and refreshments). Local 158 will pay for any member and guest to attend. Just sign up at registration indicating you are with IBEW 158 and the Labor Council will bill us. For more information, stop by the union hall or contact us at: (920) 432-0158.



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Of Electrical Workers
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(920) 432-0158**

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Jeremy Schauer, Business Development
Lori Schmidt, Administrative Assistant
Tammi Minor, Secretary

tjm/opeiu #9

Local 158's Golden Years Club

GREEN BAY

The Electricians held a breakfast on February 18th at The Café. Present were: Bob Rukamp, Lee Denil, Ron Hasselman, Dale Ferron, Jeff Hockers, Wayne Svoboda, and myself.

Our next Breakfast will be Monday, March 18th at 9:00 a.m. at The Café, 2725 Manitowoc Road, Green Bay.

Wives welcome too!

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Augustian



STURGEON BAY

Hello From The North,

Members that attended were Marv De Jardin, Pat Corcoran, Ralph Rabach, Jim Milliman, and myself.

Jim decided he was not going to guess the names of the four members that were at the last meeting because he wasn't sure who the X 577 member was, but he did say that they probably were all here.

The next breakfasts are on March 4th and April 1st [April Fools] at The Corner Café on 3rd Avenue at 9:00 am.

I am going on a trip, so if I'm not back, will someone turn in the meeting to the hall please.

Still Retired and Enjoying It,
Al Peterson

WISE ELDERS' LUNCHEON

Wise Elders 2-14-19

Five members were wise enough to bring guests along achieving a two-for by attending the lunch as well as having it count for a Valentines Day meal. That alone is enough wisdom for most people to handle, but not this group as discussions were many.



The true meaning of the Beatles song "Ticket to Ride" was revealed, and it has nothing to do with planes, trains, or automobiles. The members attending the lunch were Bob Augustian, Noel Hansen, Kriss Williquette, Chris Quatsoe, Dick Gilson, and myself.

For all those wishing to find the true meaning of random things, the next two lunches will be at noon at the Ravine, 2633 Manitowoc Road, Green Bay, the 2nd Thursday of each month, March 14th and April 11th.

Until next time,

Scott Nejedlo

Membership Meetings

Tuesday March 12th 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9th 6:00 p.m.

PAID UP DUES RECEIPT REQUIRED TO ATTEND
Light meal and beverages provided after meeting.