



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS - MARCH 2012

LOCAL OFFICERS

DALE J. BLANK

Business Manager &
Financial Secretary

TIMOTHY J. HEMENWAY

President

BRADY L. WEISS

Vice President

JOSEPH S. HALEY

Recording Secretary

FREDERICK A. HINES

Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Steven C. Burmeister

David A. Hogan

Scott A. Magnuson

Scott C. Wild

Mark J. Yohnk

OFFICE STAFF

Robert Lahti, Asst. Bus. Mgr

Brady Weiss, Asst. Bus. Mgr

Martin Sandberg, Asst. Bus Mgr

Connie Bremer, Office Mgr

Don Grorud, Accountant

OUR ADDRESS

2206 Highland Avenue

Post Office Box 3005

Eau Claire, WI 54702

TEL: 715-834-4911

INTERNET WEB PAGE

www.ibew953.org

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.

Hello Brothers and Sisters;

The installation of the Smart Search Computer Program is currently underway. It is estimated that the document preparation and scanning process will take us into the summer months before the project can be completed. Once that is done, Local 953 will finally be caught up to the 21st Century! All of our vital information will be available at the Local's finger tips through our computers, as long as we have internet access. This will help all of us in the Union Office when the need arises to find documents that can be used for grievance, arbitrations, negotiations, Letters of Agreement or whatever the need. The Smart Search Program will expedite this process immensely. When all of us in the Office have been taught how to utilize the new computer system it should allow us to reduce the amount of paper that we need to use, but truthfully only time will give that answer!

CAPX 2020

Currently the siting process is underway in Wisconsin for the new CAPX 2020 Project. It has been previously decided that 345KV Line will cross from Minnesota into Wisconsin just south of Dairyland Power's John P. Madgett Coal Plant in Alma, Wisconsin. The new transmission line will then travel south to the Holmen, Onalaska, La Crosse area by a route that has yet to be determined. The Wisconsin PSC is to make a final decision on this route by June of this year. The CAPX 2020 Transmission Line will bring plenty of work into Local 953's jurisdiction for our outside construction members. It is estimated that this transmission line project will take approximately 2 years to build. The estimated start time to build is in 2013.

ANNUAL MEETING

Just a note to remind everyone that the Annual Meeting is open to all Local 953 Members in good standing, to attend. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 14, 2012, 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be held downstairs at the Labor Temple in Eau Claire. I hope to see you there!

Stay safe and enjoy the Spring!

Yours in Solidarity,

Dale J. Blank

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Despite the chilly weather we had a great turnout for the ice fishing contest. Thanks to everyone who attended and I hope everyone had a good time. It is nice to see the membership get together and partake in the camaraderie outside of work.

I would like to briefly discuss the issue of employers making changes to mandatory subjects of bargaining without notifying the Union. The employer must notify the Union of any changes to wages, hours, benefits, working conditions, and other matters that vitally affect employees before they implement a change. This allows us an opportunity to bargain prior to the implementation. When an employer goes around the Union, the exclusive bargaining agent for the Members, and wants to poll the membership for their approval to implement a change, this would be considered direct dealing and a unilateral change. According to the National Labor Relations Act, this would be illegal activity by the employer. You need to notify the Union Hall as soon as possible in these situations so that we are aware and can properly deal with the issue. Not doing so and allowing these changes, can and probably will, have some sort of a negative impact on the membership, either now or in the future.

Please keep a keen eye out for the above activities and **Thank You** in advance for your assistance in monitoring these situations.

Stay Safe and Hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting.

IN SOLIDARITY,

Martin Sandberg
Asst. Business Manager

WOW!.....can you believe that more than 1 million voters took the time out of their busy lives to sign a petition to recall Governor Scott Walker! That is a staggering number when you consider that it comprises nearly half of the total Wisconsin electoral body. The one million plus signatures that were collected nearly equaled the total number of votes that Walker realized in the 2010 election. That is nothing short of amazing! The number of signatures collected represents the most participated recall effort in American History. Therefore, those of you who took the time to sign a petition whether knowingly or not have become a part of American Political History. In order for the recall to take place around 540,000 signatures were needed. The 1 million signatures that were collected represent 185% of the total signatures required to begin the recall process. Here are some interesting facts that came about as the result of the recall. It is believed that the total weight of all the collected petitions amounted to 3000 lbs in total weight, or in comparison, 2 of the heaviest Holstein Dairy Cows or 158 of the heaviest Badgers in the state or 2 Union Representatives! But in all seriousness, I would like to express my admiration for all of the volunteers who demonstrated the commitment in their effort to take back Wisconsin. If you happen to live in the Eau Claire area, maybe you had the opportunity to see that 70 year old union thug who was parked on Menomonie Street, strong arming people to sign the Recall Petition, (I love that term; "Union Thugs") or possibly you may have witnessed the two women who stood in front of the Eau Claire Labor Temple for more than a month collecting recall signatures in all kinds of weather!

Continued on next page.....

I am quite sure that the only reward that they received for doing this was their own personal satisfaction or the honk of a car horn and a 'thumbs up' from a passing motorist. These are the kind of people that truly provide inspiration to me. They are not the yellers or complainers; they are the do-ers! They are the people that infuse the energy into the fight! I am thankful that we have people in this state, as well as in our membership that care enough about their future and the future of others to get involved and stand up for what they believe in. It is like the old saying goes, "if you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything."

Please Buy American, Buy Union and Stay Safe!

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lahti
Asst. Business Manager

Hello Members –

Participating and being involved in Union events is one of the most important things you can do as a Union Member. I am pleased to say that Local Union 953 will be sending half a dozen members to the International IBEW Safety Caucus in April. This year's Caucus is being held in Madison, Wisconsin.

Safety is just one of the events that take place throughout the year. Construction, Organizing, Utility, Manufacturing and Stewards Training are just some of the important venues that take place.

Local Union 953 sends its members to many different meetings and conferences each year with hopes of building a stronger Union. The process is simpler than you think, just let your Union Representative or the Union Hall know of your interest in attending. These names are then submitted for monthly review to the Executive Board and Business Manager for approval. Lost wages and most expenses are covered after attending.

Be Active! Your rights in the workplace may depend on it!

Fraternally yours,

Brady Weiss
Asst. Business Manager

