



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

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For "Contact Us" link.



Brothers and Sisters:

The Recall Elections are over and even though the results did not turn out the way some of us would have liked it to.....Life goes on, as they say, and Local 953 will be prepared for whatever comes over the horizon next. Enjoy the brief break in the political commercials, I'm sure it won't last long. Take some time to study the candidates this summer so you are prepared to vote for the "worker friendly" candidates this fall.

On the construction side of Local 953, the Wisconsin PSC has given approval to the CAPX 2020 Line running from Alma to Holmen, Wisconsin. The anticipated start of construction for this project is in the fall of 2013. It appears that this project, along with several other scheduled projects in 2013 will bring a large amount of construction work into Local 953's jurisdiction for the next couple of years.

You will note that included in this newsletter is a sign-up for the Golf Outing. The sign up rules have been changed, due to last year's cancellation of the golf outing. In order for us to reserve a golf course and maintain reasonable rates for golfing and some beverages and a meal, we need to have a firm commitment as to the number of teams that are going to golf, in advance. It has been determined that a minimum of 12 teams must be signed up and paid for by Friday, August 17, 2012, or the golf outing will have to be cancelled.

Get your team together, get signed up and lets have some fun golfing on September 8th, 2012, in Mondovi.

Enjoy your summer, stay safe!

Yours in Solidarity,
Dale Blank,
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the whole state, the entire country, and the world watching the recalls in Wisconsin, we did not achieve what we attempted. The recalls were about jobs, guns, equal pay for women, collective bargaining rights, lies, money from outside the state, the disparity in the dollars between the parties, and if "recalls" should even be allowed.

On recalls, if you do not have the ability to recall a politician, how do you hold them accountable for their actions, not just illegal actions, but their moral actions, ethical actions, and their integrity?

What started this whole uproar? I believe it was the stripping of the collective bargaining rights for the public sector. What amazes me is that collective bargaining rights and equal pay for women were not a major part of the debate and they should have been the most important part of it. We missed our opportunity to educate the people on what Unions really stand for.

What are Unions? Unions are the employees joined together to have a collective voice at the table to make our concerns known.

What do we stand for? We collectively stand for better wages, better benefits, safer and better working conditions, and we represent members in disputes with management over violations to the collective bargaining agreement.

Are we special interest groups? You bet! We take the special interests of you, the individual worker, and as a collective group we present our issues in hope of improving the way of life for Union members and for all working families.

Do we protect the troubled workers? We make sure that all members get a fair chance, a due process, and are only disciplined or terminated

for "just cause". We want to see fairness and equality in our workplaces.

Are we thugs? If what we stand for makes us thugs, then yes, I am a THUG and damn proud of it.

I believe in fighting for all working families, no matter what social class they are from. We should all strive to improve, climb the ladder to prosperity, and reach for the American Dream. There is nothing wrong with trying to reach the top, but for heaven's sake don't lose your honesty, integrity and morals trying to get there. We should not be okay with a race to the bottom, and that is where we will all be headed if we lose our collective ability to bargain. I will leave you with two questions. Is there still an American Dream and if so, is it attainable if Unions are gone?

In Brotherhood,
Martin Sandberg, A THUG

Recently I spent some time in the Chicago O'Hare Airport waiting for a flight. That time provided me with the opportunity to observe the multitude of people coming and going. There was one traveler in particular who really caught my attention. He was a United States Marine dressed in his desert fatigues on the way to somewhere. I knew that in a short time I would be traveling home and I began to wonder where the young Marine was headed. Was he too on his way home or was he headed to a destination filled with uncertainties? As I watched him walk away, my mind began to wander and was filled with thoughts of all those who have sacrificed in order that I could enjoy the freedom and liberty that I have. I felt a sense of pride in being an American and felt thankful for everything that their sacrifices have allowed me. So as we approach the celebration of our nations independence, please take the time to reflect on the freedom and benefits that you enjoy today. Try to appreciate the simple pleasures in life along with your families and friends and be safe in all you do so that you may enjoy many years of what this great country has to offer!

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Lahti
Asst. Business Manager

Dear Members:

With summer in full swing and storm season active, let's remember the basics:

- ◇ Follow **all** safety rules.
- ◇ Focus on communication with your co-workers.
- ◇ Trust your "gut instinct" if you feel something's maybe not right, take the

time to double or triple check before moving forward!

- ◇ A little respect goes a long ways!
- ◇ Make sure you have at least two lines of protection between you and potential hazards.
- ◇ Teach yourself and new co-workers (apprentices) to become forward thinkers. Identify problems and ask yourself what could go wrong?
- ◇ Find ways to manage stress.
- ◇ Know where you are in case of an emergency.
- ◇ **NEVER TAKE SHORT CUTS!**
- ◇ Develop a good safety attitude "Attitude is Everything!" Truer words have never been spoken.
- ◇ Ask questions! Even if "you" know the answer, this will stimulate discussion with the crew.
- ◇ Use the right tools for the right job!
- ◇ Remember Safety = Awareness.

We don't have dangerous jobs, we have hazardous jobs. By following these guidelines, we as a Union, can achieve our ultimate goal...returning safely from work every day to our family.

By the way, to all of my "inside" workers, thank you as well, for all that you do. Dealing with the customers, deadlines and pressures, the number one concern is coping with the high volume of stress. Too many times I feel your efforts are overlooked. Because of that, I feel it is important to say "thank you" for being the oil in the engine that makes the IBEW run like no other.

Please have a safe and fun summer on and off the job!

Fraternally yours,

Brady Weiss
Asst. Business Manager



LOCAL UNION 953 GOLF OUTING
18 HOLE - 4 PERSON TEAMS
SCRAMBLE SHOTGUN START

WHEN - 9:00AM - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

☐ Be at the course at 8:30 for Hole Assignments and Pictures.

WHERE - MONDOVI GOLF COURSE, MONDOVI, WI

Directions: On State Highway "37" just north of Mondovi.

COST - \$45.00 PER PERSON, WHICH INCLUDES: 18 HOLES OF GOLF, CART (Mandatory), FOOD, BEVERAGE AND PRIZES.

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 TEAMS
MINIMUM REGISTERED BY AUGUST 17

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS REGISTRATION CARD AND RETURN IT TO THE UNION OFFICE BY AUGUST 17, ALONG WITH YOUR ENTRY FEE.
CARTS WILL BE RESERVED FOR EACH TEAM.

LOCAL 953 GOLF OUTING - SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

NAME: _____, CAPTAIN

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

RETURN WITH ENTRY FEE FOR EACH PERSON TO:
LOCAL UNION 953 - P.O. BOX 3005; EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702

(MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LOCAL UNION 953)