



## **INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS - MARCH 2013**

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Business Manager &  
Financial Secretary

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**BRADY L. WEISS**

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Robert Lahti, Asst. Bus. Mgr  
Brady Weiss, Asst. Bus. Mgr  
Martin Sandberg, Asst. Bus Mgr  
Connie Bremer, Office Mgr  
Don Grorud, Accountant

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E-mail Staff, see Web Page  
For "Contact Us" link.



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Even though the ground is white outside, I believe we have made it through the worst of the winter season and spring is right around the corner.

This year is election year at Local 953. The Notice of Election is included with this newsletter, along with the notice for Local 953's Annual Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2013.

I am pleased to announce the 2012 Big Buck Winners: The Archery Division Winner is: Corey Eggenberger, scoring 35 1/2 points. The Gun Division Winner is: Glenn Sina, scoring 29 1/2 points. There were a total of 6 entries, 4 for the Archery Division and 2 for the Gun Division. Go to [www.ibew953.org](http://www.ibew953.org) on our home page, click on "see contest entries" to view the pictures of 6 very nice bucks. Thank you for sending in your pictures.

The Local 953's Annual Ice Fishing Derby was a huge success with close to 80 entries in this year's contest. The game fish winners were: 1st Place - Tim Henning - 26" Northern / 2nd Place - Jeff Secraw - 17 1/2" Bass. The Pan Fish Winners were: 1st Place Scott Wild - 10" Perch / 2nd Place 9 1/2 " Sunfish. Go to Local 953's website to view the pictures of the Ice Fishing Contest and the recently held Union Steward's Training.

70 of Local 953's Union Stewards were present on February 21st & 22nd for Union Stewards Training. This training is very important to the Local's Union Stewards, its helps to keep the Stewards informed of new law changes that are taking place and instructs them on ways to deal with those changes. As Union members we should all take the time to thank our Union Stewards for stepping forward and accepting the responsibility that goes along with being appointed as "Union Steward". Without the Union Stewards our contract battles would be that much harder! Thank you!

Enjoy the Spring, mark your calendars for the Local 953 Annual Meeting and remember to vote in this year's Local Union Election!

Work Safe!

Yours in Solidarity,

Dale Blank, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Union Brothers & Sisters:

On February 9th Local 953 held its Annual Ice Fishing Outing. This year's event turned out to be our largest to date and was a great success with the weather cooperating as well. As has been requested in the past, it has become a more family oriented event. There was plenty of food, pop and other spirits, as well as some foot stomping, butt kicking country music provided by Tim "Hard Wire" Hemenway. The following day as I was reflecting on the event, I realized how important such a gathering is with respect to the continued success of this Union. After all, that is what the Brotherhood is all about, supporting each other as well as those around us. And support each other we did, with everyone who managed to stick around into the afterhours taking care to see that not one of their bothers would be in danger of becoming dehydrated. On a serious note, it is always encouraging to see a nice turnout from our membership as well as the continued participation of our retired members.

In keeping with the theme of unity, the close of every year presents us with the opportunity to break bread with members of multiple units that are served by Local 953. A couple of those deserve special mention. The first being the "Old Timers Stew Feed" in La Crosse that came to fruition as an idea of former and now deceased member, Mike Kiesling. From its beginnings as a wild game feed, over time it has evolved into a stew feed for present members, as well as retirees from the La Crosse area to spend some time together reminiscing about the old days. My compliments to those of you who put together one of the best pots (if you can truly call 20 gallons a pot) of stew that is second to none. Chris DeGeorge, Pat Grass, Brian Kiesling, to name a few, do a great job cooking, organizing and making it possible for this event to take place year after year.

Farther up north, the members of the Ashland Region were treated to a truly memorable feed at their annual Christmas Get-together. Arriving with the expectation of slopping down a greasy burger and a few chips, it was a pleasant surprise to find a fantastic meal that consisted of venison tips in gravy, ham, chili, potatoes, rice muffins and other delicious treats. All of it prepared with care by

Minda Gohr, wife of member Brian Gohr. It was also good to see a nice contingent of Bay Front employees take part in the festivities that evening as well.

Speaking of showing up, across the industry, the IBEW is known as the Union of Hearts and Minds, and that couldn't be any truer than right here at 953. There are those of you who unselfishly give back to your communities in many ways. some coach volleyball, some basketball, some wrestling, while others football. There are those who give while seeking monetary support for agencies such as United Cerebral Palsy while others donate time to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Recently, I spoke with a member who indicated that later the same day he would be taking part in an Angel Flight in order to transport a donated organ to a critically ill person. There was another, a recovering alcoholic who expressed his desire to help any member who may be struggling with the same disease. Yet another who recently donated a kidney to his ailing son. The list goes on and on!

My respect and support for all you do!

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Lahti  
Asst. Business Manager



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2013, I would like to thank those that attended the ice fishing contest and once again made this an enjoyable and successful day. I would also like to thank everyone that attended the Stewards Training and hopefully found the training worthwhile.

The Stewards are our first line of communication and defense. A steward's job is important and can often go unnoticed. This list is not all inclusive, but some of the duties performed by stewards include the following:

They monitor the collective bargaining agreement, file grievances, make sure safety comes first, solve daily problems, they try to inspire and unify the members and we rely heavily on them to provide us with the facts. I thank each of you for what you do and would ask the other members to please take the time and tell your stewards that you appreciate what they do and "Thank You!"

Moving forward in 2013, with the challenges that lie ahead of us, whether it be grievances, negotiations, or fighting against the political movement in this country to squelch our voices and our membership, take the time to stand up, unify, and show your solidarity. Showing the unity and determination of the entire work group is the strongest tool we have. One voice may go unheard, but the voice of many is loud and will not go unnoticed.

In Solidarity,

Martin Sandberg



Dear Members:

This Spring the Power Agreement, one of the largest contracts that Local 953 represents, will expire on May 31st. For this reason, Business Manager Dale Blank and myself will be busy preparing and taking part in this process.

Many of you know this agreement is administered jointly with IBEW Local 2150, of Milwaukee. The contract covers the entire state of Wisconsin for unionized electrical line work. This contract is very important because it serves as a bench mark for wages, benefits and working conditions, which in some way affects most people in our Local Union.

Many long hours of preparation will go into this process. I am happy to go to the negotiations table with our Business Manager, Dale Blank and I am confident that we will return with a new contract that is fair and reasonable.

Thank you and Welcome Springtime!

Yours in Solidarity,

Brady Weiss  
Asst. Business Manager



**NOTICE TO ALL  
LOCAL UNION 953 MEMBERS**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013  
9:00 A.M.**

**Eau Claire Labor Temple  
2233 Birch Street  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin**

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**THE MEETING IS FOR ALL MEMBERS  
HAVE A VOICE IN *YOUR* UNION!**

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**The agenda will include the Electrical  
Workers Club & Local Union By-Laws  
Meetings**

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*Coffee, Juice & Rolls furnished prior to the meetings.*