



## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS - JUNE 2015**

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For "Contact Us" link.



Hello Brothers and Sisters:

Some of you may or may not know that there has been a change in the top position of the I.B.E.W. President Hill retired on June 1st of this year. The I.E.C. (International Executive Council) has appointed our 6th District Vice President, Lonnie Stephenson to fulfill the remainder of former President Hill's term, effective June 1, 2015. Then in turn 6th District Rep. Dave Rumkorf was appointed to fulfill the remainder of the 6th District Vice President's term effective June 1st. With this change comes a renewed push for organizing in an effort to stop the steady decline of our membership totals in the I.B.E.W. The year of 2016 will mark the 125th Anniversary of the I.B.E.W. (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and the 97th year of Local 953. The continued existence of our Local and of the I.B.E.W. is due to all of the organizing that has been successfully done over the last century (+ or -).

With that being said, the proposed Bylaws changes that add the classification of Organizer and the wage and benefit package to the Local 953 Bylaws was presented and voted in favor of at the Regional Meetings held throughout Local 953's jurisdiction in the months of May and June. If you are anyone that you know is interested in becoming an Organizer for Local 953 you may contact me by phone, e-mail, or in person with your resume` and/or questions that would apply to this position.

Also included in this Newsletter is the sign-up sheet for the Local Union Golf Outing, which will be held August 29, 2015, in Mondovi, WI. Make every effort to get your teams signed up and registrations turned in before the August 14th deadline.

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful summer months!

**WORK SAFE! DRIVE SAFE! BE SAFE!**

Yours in Solidarity,

*Dale Blank*

Dale J. Blank,  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

April 28<sup>th</sup> each year is Workers' Memorial Day. Although the day has passed, I wanted to comment briefly on it. This year's theme was "Speak Out for Safe Jobs. Protect Workers Now!" It is a day we remember our brothers and sisters who have been injured or lost their lives in workplace accidents. It is also a day we join in International Solidarity to speak out for safer workplaces.

This year marks the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Employers and governments did not just enact these laws to provide workplace safety. Almost every safety and health protection today is the result of working men and women forming Unions and together demanding action from employers and their governments, not only for Unionized workers but for all workers safety. Recent examples of improvements to safety would be the continued involvement of working people, through their Unions, working along with OSHA to mandate that FR clothing is now PPE and the improved rules for fall restraint and personal fall arrest systems.

In addition to Workers' Memorial Day, be assured that every day your Union is working for you, not only on the safety side, but on grievances, negotiations, and in any manner we can improve the members working conditions.

STAY SAFE and hope to see you on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the golf outing.

In Solidarity,  
*Marty Sandberg*  
 Martin Sandberg  
 Asst. Business Manager

*"Each year one vicious habit discarded, in time might make the worst of us good."  
 Benjamin Franklin*

Hello Members:

I recently participated in an event in my community that reminded me of the importance of volunteering and how that relates to having a good job. One of the key factors in volunteering is having time to do so, many folks don't realize the role their Union plays in having a job that allows us, the workers, the freedom to negotiate and control our time. When workers have things like set hours of employment, paid overtime, Holidays and Vacation, we become more active in our committees as firefighters, EMTs, coaches, elected officials, church leaders, conservationists, volunteers and not to mention better parents and spouses. Many adults are working 2 and 3 jobs to make ends meet, so when the next time you help your town out, remember and be proud you have a job that lets you, and remember the role Collective Bargaining plays in those freedoms that we so many times take for granted.

Let's all be proud Union Members in our Communities!

Have a great Summer!

*Brady Weiss*

Brady Weiss, Asst. Business Manager

**DON'T JUST STAND BY  
 AND WATCH, GET  
 INVOLVED!!**



**IBEW Political Action Committee/COPE**

I had a recent conversation with a member who expressed some concern about monies that Local 953 has contributed to various political candidates over the years. During the course of our spirited conversation, it became apparent that some misunderstanding exists regarding exactly what money can be considered for political contributions. Hopefully what follows will help clarify some of those misconceptions.

For starters, what is a PAC? Political Action Committees are formed for the purpose of raising money to elect political candidates. More often than not, those candidates are going to be sympathetic to the supporter's needs. A PAC's can take on many different forms and represent labor, business or other interests.

How is money in the fund drawn out to support a candidate for office? In order to request money, a Political Contribution Request must be completed by the requisitioner. Once approved, the money would be forwarded directly to the candidate's campaign. Candidates considered may be on the national, state or local level of government.

Where does the money come from that is contributed? In 953's case, the money in our fund is money that has been voluntarily donated by our membership. It is important to note that none of the money in our general fund may be used for this purpose.

If you would like to become a donator to the IBEW PAC, this can be accomplished in different ways, the first and best option, if available to you at your place of work is to have your donation deducted from your payroll check. To begin this process, you would need to fill out an IBEW Political Action Committee (PAC) Check-Off Authorization form that would


be forwarded to your employer. If that option is not available, you can always donate at the Regional or Tailgate meetings in your area or at the Annual Golf or Ice Fishing Outings. You could also stop in at the Union Hall on any business day and make a donation. Every donation no matter how small or large, adds up. So if you are an existing contributor please consider increasing your monthly donation. If you are not a current contributor, please consider starting.

In closing, I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and please remember to keep those who have fought for this country and those that continue to do so today in your thoughts and prayers.

**"THE ONLY EFFECTIVE ANSWER TO ORGANIZED GREED IS ORGANIZED LABOR"**

-Thomas Donahue-

In Solidarity,  
*Bob Lahti*  
 Robert Lahti  
 Asst. Business Manager



**IBEW  
 LOCAL  
 953**

*...the right choice*