



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – OCTOBER 2016**

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For "Contact Us" link.



Brothers and Sisters:

Part of my direction and responsibility as Business Manager of Local 953 is to communicate about politics that are relative to Union issues. A recent poll of IBEW members confirms that they prefer to receive information from their local union over any other entity. Some comparables on where the two Presidential candidates stand on these and other issues are enclosed. I have listened to our membership and I will not tell you who to vote for, but I do ask that you take the time to educate yourself on each candidate and determine how their positions may affect you and your family's lives. Election day is Tuesday, November 8th. Absentee ballot request forms can be requested at www.myvotewi.org and many areas have early voting hours available now through November 4, 2016. **Exercise your right to vote.**

Negotiations: We have reached three year deals at Xcel Energy, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, and Barron Electric Cooperative. We are currently working on Pierce Pepin, Jo-Carroll Wireless, Jump River and will begin negotiations at several other Co-ops over the next couple of months. We reached a tentative agreement on a 2 year extension with DPC on Monday, October 10th. Those details and ballots have been mailed separately and the ballots will be counted on November 4th.

Scholarship Drawings: Enclosed are the rules for the Scholarship drawings and they can also be found on Local 953's website. At the Annual Meeting this past April, it was determined that we would give five \$500 scholarships away and that drawing will take place at the November E-Board meeting. Typically, the applications and essays are due by November 1st, that time line has been extended to November 11th this year.

Retirement Planning: If you are a member who is planning on retiring in the next few years, you should be examining the options with your 401(k) and your pension. For example, consider the following questions.

- ✓ Are you interested in having many of the financial tools the market offers?
- ✓ Do you need help with your investment choices?
- ✓ What if you want to retire before becoming 59 1/2?
- ✓ Do you want income guarantees?
- ✓ Do you want principal guarantees?

A financial representative can help you form a plan to help achieve your retirement goals. A financial representative can help you understand unique rules that may apply to your retirement planning.

As part of our on-going support for you, we have created a relationship with Union Financial Inc., and Jess Humpal. Jess's team of advisors, who are all IBEW members themselves, are up to speed on this issue and can help you determine what may best suit your personal situation. Union Financial has advisors located around Wisconsin.

If you would like to learn more about your 401k and Pension options please contact them @ **608.782.2299** if you would like to set up a one-on-one meeting for your retirement plan. Because of our relationship with Union Financial Inc., all of the meetings are done free of charge.

Solidarity Event: Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 11, 2017** for our Annual Ice Fishing Outing in Chetek, Wisconsin. Sign up forms will be mailed out in a later newsletter.

In Solidarity,

Martin Sandberg

Martin Sandberg, Business Manager

Hello Brothers and Sisters;

Once again the days are getting shorter and the weather is getting cooler, the Winter season is just around the corner.

I would like to thank all of you that came out to enjoy the Annual Golf Outing at the Valley Golf Course just outside of Mondovi. We had a total of 49 registrants this year. Congratulations to the winners!

We have been very busy with organizing here at Local 953. Pro Electric signed a Letter of Assent in early September, we were also able to encourage four out of eleven employees from one of our top targets, Moll's Utility to join the union and go to work for our Union contractors. Please welcome these guys aboard!

We are also continuing our organizing efforts with several other companies in our area. If your company hires NON-UNION contractors please let me know who they are and where they are working. This helps me out a great deal as it can be very difficult to find these contractors!

Local 953 currently has over 1450 members, if all you members keep an eye out for NON-UNION contractors working in the field, you can imagine how this will help our efforts in organizing!

For all of you hunters out there this fall, please be safe and wear your PPE, it's not only necessary at work but also at home and in the field, your family cares and so should you.

In Solidarity,

Stacey Nelson

Stacey Nelson
Organizer

Dear Members,

Moving into the Fall season I have been busy working on new training and advancement opportunities for our members. Early this year Local Union 953 partnered with the Chippewa Valley Technical College for Training and Licensing for our Tree Trimmers as it pertains to herbicide application, which has its own legal status when performing work on utility right of ways. This class was a great success with a very high percentage of attendees passing the class. Prior to this class the fail rating for this test was extremely high, now our members have hands on technical training and professional instructors that present the information and truly teach our workforce. I am in the process of arranging additional classes and more training courses for the early Spring of 2017.

Local 953 also uses our Safety and Training Fund we administer jointly under the Power Agreement with Local 2150. Please take advantage of the access to many of these courses and licensing opportunities, like Crane Certifications, Cable Splicing, First Aid and CPR, and many others. Please contact your Union representative for information. Also don't forget we send members to other seminars and conferences during the year.

Happy Halloween!

In Solidarity,

Brady Weiss

Brady Weiss

Asst. Business Manager

Fall Greetings,

It has been a good year and you should all be proud of the commitment and hard work that you people have once again demonstrated to the customers that you serve. As I have stated in the past, the Sisters and Brothers of I.B.E.W. Local Union 953 are amongst the most committed, safest and hardest working people in the industry and you should all be very proud of your efforts!

On the Xcel Energy front, towards the end of July, the Joint Xcel Energy membership ratified a 3 year Agreement, which resulted in a wage increase of

2.6%, 2.5%, 2.5% over the course of the 3 year term of the new agreement.

There has also been and rightfully so inquiry from the membership regarding what is going on with Xcel WI Mid-Term negotiations. You should know that the Union has recently forwarded a request to the Company asking that those discussions begin. As of this writing, we have yet to receive a response from the Company.

On another note, and with a new guy in charge here at the hall, I was provided the opportunity to assist with Barron Cooperative Negotiations. The support and solidarity demonstrated by the Barron membership only served to increase my respect and appreciation for that group. Support like that not only makes for a more cohesive and stronger membership, but also helps to make the jobs we do here at the Union Hall a bit easier.

Last month I had the privilege along with Tim Hemenway, Marty Sandberg, Dave Hogan, Aaron Boos and Brian Thewis, to act as a delegate and represent the membership of Local 953 at the IBEW International Convention in St. Louis. St. Louis was chosen as the host city, because it was there 125 years ago, that the I.B.E.W. came into existence. All in all it was a very positive experience that I wish all had the opportunity to participate and take part in. I for one, am grateful for having had the opportunity to do so.

Along with the changing seasons comes the anticipation and opportunity to get out and brave the Great White North. Whatever your endeavor, be it hunting, ice fishing, skiing or snowmobiling, just to name a few, please make it your priority to exercise the necessary cautions when doing so.

Lastly, with the next election just around the corner, please vote your conscience and exercise your right to vote on November 8.

Take Care, Stay Safe and May God Bless you all!

In Solidarity I am,

Robert J. Lahti

Robert J Lahti

Comparisons for Clinton vs Trump

Union issues:

Hillary Clinton's positions:

- As senator from New York she voted in support of the labor movement 94 percent of the time.
- She voted for judges, regulators and NLRB Commissioners committed to preserving collective bargaining, workplace health and safety regulations and workers' rights on the job.
- During her campaign she has called for investment in our industrial and energy infrastructure, a move that would result in millions of jobs, including many good construction and energy jobs.
- And on economic policy, **she has specifically called for strengthening unions** and collective bargaining as one way to help grow the middle class.

Donald Trump's positions:

- He is 100% for right to work and would support taking the decision-making away from States.
- He once said that American workers "make too much money."
- His list of potential Supreme Court nominees endorsed by conservative, anti-union groups and he would surely nominate anti-union candidates for NLRB.
- And on economic policy, he would help the middle class by cutting taxes on the richest individuals and corporations with the theory that they would invest their wealth in ways that would help the working class.

Other issues directly affecting Local 953 member's jobs:

Electric Power Generation:

Hilary Clinton:

- Supports existing nuclear power and advanced nuclear technology but voted against Yucca Mountain while in the Senate.
- Advocates for continuing emission reduction including continuing to move away from fossil fuels in favor of renewables.

Donald Trump:

- Supports nuclear power saying "I'm in favor of nuclear energy, very strongly in favor of nuclear energy." I could not find his position on Yucca Mountain.
- Pledged his support for the **coal industry** and said he supports renewable energy "but not to the exclusion of other forms of energy that right now are working much better".

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Other issues not considered Union issues:

Second Amendment/Gun Rights:

Hillary Clinton:

- Supports what she refers to as common sense reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable, while respecting responsible gun owners' rights.
- Supports finding ways to keep communities safe while protecting constitutional rights.
- Believes that cities and states should have the power to craft common sense laws on gun control to keep residents safe.

Donald Trump:

- "Unwavering" support of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms and would empower law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves.

Abortion/Choice:

Hillary Clinton:

- Says that politicians have no business interfering with women's personal health decisions, including abortion.

Donald Trump:

- Is opposed to abortion except for rape, incest and life of the mother.

Immigration:

Hillary Clinton:

- Supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship.

Donald Trump:

- Says we are going to build a wall on the Mexican border and stop illegal immigration.
 - Says we will send 11 million illegal immigrants out, some of the best will come back through a process.
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