



## **INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS - MARCH 2017**

### **LOCAL OFFICERS**

#### **MARTIN D. SANDBERG**

Business Manager &  
Financial Secretary

#### **TIMOTHY J. HEMENWAY**

President

#### **BRADY L. WEISS**

Vice President

#### **BRUCE L. VAN BERKUM**

Recording Secretary

#### **FREDERICK A. HINES**

Treasurer

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Aaron J. Boos

Peter J. Boos

Joseph S. Haley

David A. Hogan

Michael D. Mitchell

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Robert Lahti, Asst. Bus. Mgr

Brady Weiss, Asst. Bus. Mgr

Stacey Nelson, Organizer

Connie Bremer, Office Mgr

Grace Malone, Accountant

### **OUR ADDRESS**

2206 Highland Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54701

TEL: 715-834-4911

### **INTERNET WEB PAGE**

[www.ibew953.org](http://www.ibew953.org)

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations! Another record attendance for our Ice Fishing Solidarity Event which was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> on the Chetek Chain of Lakes. Our previous record was 92 registrants and this year we had 117 members and family members registered. The weather was awesome and as in the past, we set up the food and beverages near the boat landing by Pokegama Inn. After the last fish measurements were taken, we went inside the Pokegama Inn for the drawings. Between the door prizes, gun drawings (3 - \$650 gift cards), and cash drawings given back, we exceeded over \$6000 dollars in total prizes. If you happen to stop at the Pokegama Inn, please tell them thanks for allowing us the use of their facility. Thanks also goes out to Paul Newman for reserving the room, Jess Humpal (Union Financial) for the 125 donated brats, to all that worked or helped with the event, and to all those that showed up to share in the camaraderie. It was an awesome showing of Solidarity.

Congratulations to the Outside Unit at Jump River for achieving their first contract (effective 1-1-2017) and to those who became Members of Local Union 953. We are continuing negotiations on the first contract for the Inside Unit and look forward to them also becoming Local 953 members.

The Annual Meeting this year is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Labor Temple in Eau Claire. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. sharp and usually lasts a couple of hours. Take part in YOUR Union, have a voice, and hope to see you there.

In Solidarity,

*Martin Sandberg*

Martin Sandberg, Business Manager



Hello Brothers and Sisters

I am sure that you all have been enjoying the recent warm weather that we have had here in the last couple of weeks, but remember we live in the upper Midwest and mother nature is just teasing us a little, but let's enjoy it while we can, right.

I am very excited to share with you the recent filing for an NLRB mail ballot election with a group of 26 Xcel Energy Designers. This is a big step regarding internal organizing from within companies that we currently represent workers. I would encourage those of you that work with these Designers to congratulate them on their efforts for a voice in the work place, also please remind them of the importance of being able to have a collective bargaining agreement and encourage them to VOTE UNION YES!!

Last month Local 953 was the host of the monthly organizing meeting and with the help of several other IBEW Organizers that work throughout the state of Wisconsin. We were able to reach out to over 275 USIC locators in a four hour period. I am currently evaluating the interest of organizing with this group and will hopefully be setting up meetings in the very near future.

I would like to take time to thank those of you that have called me regarding non-union workers working in your area, these things are very essential for successful organizing within the local. THANK YOU!!



If you currently have non-union workers working in your area or are unsure if they are organized, please feel free to call me at any time. My cell phone number is 715-577-0717

**ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE! ORGANIZE!**

In Solidarity,

*Stacey Nelson*

Stacey Nelson  
Organizer/Local 953



**IBEW**

...the *Right* choice

Hello Members,

Over the past month I have been involved with two different training opportunities that will take place at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire. The classes and certifications are specific for Tree Trimmers and Line Clearance Workers, Zielie's Tree Service workers will take part in an Arborist Electrical Hazard Training classes being held the weeks of March 27th-31st and April 3rd-7th. In addition, a Commercial Application Certification class open to everyone that performs pesticide spraying in right-of-way and natural areas will take place on Friday, March 31st. Please contact the Local Union for more information.

I would also like to give an update on the Badger Coulee transmission power line project, this 345 KV line from La Crosse to Madison has encountered some delays because of



permitting issues with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The American Transmission Company (ATC) along with other interested parties are working through this process to make sure all the right-of-way and environmental concerns are addressed. ATC is hopeful the remaining segments of this project will be permitted late this Spring.

Moving on with contract settlements at our Rural Electric Cooperative units, most contracts that settled at the end of 2016 saw general wage increases of 2-3% with contract lengths of 2-5 years. Local 953 is going forward with an arbitration case at Pierce-Pepin Co-op, involving payroll Union dues deduction, this case is set for a hearing this month. I will update the outcome of the this case, when a ruling is reached.

On our manufacturing front at Winona Lighting, the Company and Union have met over concerns on vacation usage, sick and attendance issues. The Union is putting together a committee to address these concerns in hopes to resolve them. If you have information that would be helpful please contact me or attend an upcoming Union Meeting.

Best Regards,

*Brady Weiss*

Brady Weiss  
Asst. Business Manager

---

I'd like to start by offering my thanks to those of you who participated in this year's Ice Fishing Outing making it our largest and most successful to date. It is my understanding that we had close to 120 participants who enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather, bratwursts donated by Jess Humpal of Union Financial, and more than \$5000.00 worth of door prizes and other assorted giveaways. Hopefully we will see you next year.

Recently I was approached by one of our Stewards and asked the question of just what and when he could say certain things to management. To answer that, as a Steward you need to be aware of something known as the Equality Rule. Under the National Labor Relations Board, Stewards and Union Officers have a protected legal status. You enjoy that status and are protected as long as you are engaged in union representational activities with management. Some representational activities might be investigating a grievance, taking part in a grievance meeting or representing your co-workers with respect to the Labor Agreement. Just so you are aware, being a Steward does not provide you with the right to unload on your Manager at any place or any time. When acting as a steward it is important that you understand that what and how you say it may be considered as indefensible. Therefore, with that said it is highly recommended that rather than employing the use of vigorous advocacy in other words, but not limited to profanity, it might be wiser to make an attempt at employing the use of some quiet diplomacy. It is true that cooler heads do prevail. It might also be wise to have a witness present on your behalf just to make sure that what is said is not mistakenly misconstrued.

It is my understanding that the Company in the near future intends to provide "Bird Dog Training" in order that some of our classifications might take part in future storm restoration efforts. As some of you might recall the Union approached the Company on this matter and requested that our members be offered the opportunity to take part in the same after learning that Bird Dogs had been sent over from Minnesota. Hopefully, that takes place in the near future and those of you who have the wanted to take part are provided the opportunity.



A few things to be aware of, as of late the use of seatbelts has once again been brought to the forefront by the Company, it is not my point to question whether or not people are in compliance with this expectation, but more so I would like to remind you, that you all make a conscious effort to employ the use of a seatbelt any time that you are operating a vehicle whether it be your own or the Company's. If you believe that your vehicle may not be properly recording the use of a seatbelt or if you have reason to believe that it could be malfunctioning I encourage you to report it to your manager as soon as possible.

On April 1 of this year we will holding our Annual Meeting that will be taking place at the Labor Temple Lounge in Eau Claire. I encourage all of you to attend and take an active part in your union.

With that stated, please have a safe Spring!

In Solidarity I Am,

*Robert J. Lahti*

Robert J. Lahti,  
Asst. Business Manager

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO 2 LUCKY LOCAL 953 WINNERS OF THE REMINGTON 870 GIVE-A-WAYS!**

**MATT CLEMENTS AND MICHAEL BEGLEY**



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS WINNERS:**

#### **PAN CATEGORY 1ST PLACE**

**BRYAN SZYMONIAK - 11 1/2" CRAPPIE**

#### **PAN CATEGORY 2ND PLACE**

**ARLEN BRANDT - 11" PERCH**



#### **GAME CATEGORY 1ST PLACE**

**JACE SANDO - 28 1/4" NORTHERN**

#### **GAME CATEGORY 2ND PLACE**

**DAYNE BEAUDETTE - 27 1/4" NORTHERN**



***NOTICE TO ALL  
LOCAL UNION 953 MEMBERS***

---

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017**

---

**9:00 AM**

**EAU CLAIRE LABOR TEMPLE  
2233 BIRCH STREET  
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN**

---

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

---

**THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE  
THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS CLUB &  
LOCAL UNION BY-LAWS MEETINGS**

---

***COFFEE, JUICE & ROLLS FURNISHED PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS!***