



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2020**

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OUR ADDRESS

2206 Highland Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54701

TEL: 715-834-4911

INTERNET WEB PAGE

www.ibew953.org

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The subject of politics is hotter this year than I ever recall. You cannot turn the television or radio on without some type of political message. It has become increasingly difficult to separate from it. Your representatives in the Local Union Hall have been fielding calls on a daily basis from concerned members over the International Office endorsing Joe Biden. I want to address this with all of you. The IBEW International Office only endorses candidates for the Presidential elections. All other political endorsements are left up to the State Conferences or Local Unions. In the past, Local Union 953 has sent mailings out to help educate or make you aware of where each party stands on issues and in particular on labor issues.

In every aspect of our lives, the businesses and groups we affiliate or do business with make endorsements that they feel is in the best interest of their business or members. That is exactly what the International does when they endorse for the Presidential race. They look at the candidates' positions on issues important to their members and they make their endorsement on who they feel aligns with the best interest of their nearly 1 million members, which includes retirees. Some of the particular issues they looked at are as follows: health care, pensions, jobs, apprenticeships, energy, NLRB appointments, judge and Supreme Court appointments, Federal workers rights, public sector union rights, private sector union rights, and the overall position on workers rights.

Local 953 does not tell you how to vote. We do believe that it is important for us all to educate ourselves on the issues. Personally, when I was working in the field, I did not pay much attention to politicians' positions on issues that should have been important to me and my family's way of life. I took for granted the wages and benefits that we receive. A very large portion of our Country does not receive what we do. I know this much, without the survival of the IBEW and union rights, our way of life would not be close to what it is today. It is the worker and union rights that allows us to form unions and to bargain our labor agreements like we have for decades. In my time working in the Union Hall, I have seen first-hand the large role politics play from safety in the field to the bargaining table.

I highly encourage you to investigate and educate yourself on the above issues when you are making your decision who to vote for. We are all a part of the greatest Union, the IBEW, and the greatest Country in the world. You have a voice in both, educate yourself on the issues important to you and your family, and then exercise your right to VOTE!

In Solidarity,

Martin D. Sandberg

Martin Sandberg
Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

Hope all is well with you and your family. 2020 continues to be a challenge to say the least.

The relationship between Xcel Energy and the Local Unions is a daily battle. We still have about a dozen grievances pending just here at Local 953 alone! One of several priorities we are trying to take care of is the Pager issue. Those of you that fall under the Supplemental Agreement for After Hour Call Outs, as of the writing of this letter, Management has made a commitment to get these resolved. Local 953 will believe it when we see it. We receive calls daily from our membership with concerns and issues, all of which need attention, and weeks go by and nothing. We keep explaining to our members that we have forwarded these concerns on to management, but no results. It almost takes an act of God to get anything done!! I know that most of you are tired of hearing that, but that is the reality. Trust me; we are just as frustrated with this as you all are.

We have started our Regional meetings again and for the most part, we have had good attendance. As far as Tailgate meetings, we have done a few, but it is hard to schedule because most of them occurred at the service centers. Some of these meetings we have had outside in a park. Eventually, weather will determine how long we can do that. At that point, we will have to look at other options.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Take care and be safe,

In Solidarity,

Tim Hemenway

Tim Hemenway
Assistant Business Manager

Hello Fellow Union Members,

Another Labor Day has come and gone! Summer is passing us by, and the cooler weather is upon us. I want to take a moment to thank all our Utility Members for the hard work they do every day to keep the lights on. Regardless of the job you do, the end goal is to provide reliable electricity for the customers you serve and none of that would be possible without all your hard work and dedication on an around the clock basis. Thank You!

We completed negotiations at Polk Burnett Electric Cooperative last month and have negotiations set to take place at Clark and St. Croix Electric as well as Riverland Energy before years end. At the table during our negotiations with Polk Burnett was the R&S Pension. The Co-op proposed making changes to shift the liability from the employer onto the employee's shoulders. We fought back against those efforts and after several negotiating sessions were successful at ensuring no changes were made. During this pandemic it has been proven that you are essential workers. Having a Secure Retirement in return is no doubt just as essential to you as you are to the Cooperative. Providing income during retirement and maintaining a decent standard of living is something Local 953 will continue to fight for now and into the future.

Until next time, work safe and enjoy the nice fall weather!

In Solidarity,

Mike Mountin

Mike Mountin
Assistant Business Manager

Hello Members,

DON'T DEFUND YOUR UNION!

Once again, it is Presidential Election Season and with the keys to the White House on the line high voter turnout is likely. Nowadays we don't have political parties but rather we have political teams. We focus more on winning and losing and less on the issues and laws that govern us. We see turmoil in the streets, a health pandemic out of balance, and the economy trying to cope with both. This election will indeed be a roller-coaster ride to the end. When I try to watch the news, I become more confused. Today, most media outlets I would consider more controversial entertainment rather than news, if you don't like the information you're getting, just turn the channel until you do. It seems as though both candidates are working overtime to win over middle-class working families, including Union members, many of which feel the Democratic Party has left them behind, and subsequently lost their vote! Former Vice President Biden appears to be trying to recapture those voters, where President Trump has gained strong popularity among rank and file workers.

Historically, Unions have backed Democrats primarily because they have been more favorable and supportive of laws and new legislation pertaining to how Labor Unions operate, this goes back in history to the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) which sets the rules and guidelines for how employers and workers deal with each other and establish collective bargaining agreements. We as voters also consider many other factors including fiscal conservatism, social justice, religious freedoms, abortion rights, gun rights and taxes.... the list goes on. This year with some high-profile Republicans in key battle ground areas of the country including former Ohio Governor John Kasich and former U.S. Arizona Senator Jeff Flake are endorsing Biden its setting the stage for an epic finish. Regionally in the Midwest most Politicians have stayed loyal to their respective parties, and it seems both candidates are focusing on not overlooking this part of the country. President

Trump seems to be holding up well in rural areas of the Midwest where 2nd Amendment rights and taxes play a big role in the minds of many voters. Regardless of who ends up in the White House they have their work cut out for them with a looming 26 Trillion-dollar deficit!

What I find most troubling is when the Presidential election cycle comes around, I hear of people wanting to opt out of this Local Union because of endorsements or decisions made out in Washington D.C. Hell, I don't agree many times with those positions, but here at Local 953 the leadership team has endorsed neither candidate and only expressed to our members to get out and VOTE! So to anyone that chooses to take the cowardly approach to not maintain their membership with this Union which fights endlessly to negotiate great contracts with high wages and benefits for our members, while keeping Union dues and assessments low, does it only out of a selfish perspective of being a free-loader and hiding behind a political reason to try and justify their actions. Union dues are a small price to pay for having a voice in the workplace. These people should be called out for what they are, and should be ashamed of the fact they are working alongside people that are paying their dues, being an active member and participating, meanwhile these people sit back and collect the rewards like a welfare check.

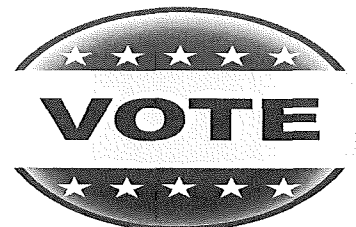
Vote! Vote! VOTE!!

In Solidarity,

Brady Weiss

Brady Weiss

Asst. Business Manager



Brothers and Sisters,

I am hoping this letter finds you and your family well. I am happy to share that in July Local 953 organized and negotiated a fair first contract with Eau Claire's newest Union shop, Signarama. Signarama has a diverse spectrum of services they provide from sign services, marketing materials and design/printing. We are happy to welcome and support this company that supports their workers with a collective bargaining agreement into the Local 953 family.

Along with this organizing win, I am excited to share that we have made significant progress recently in increasing our market share in the telecommunication construction side of the house. As demand increases for broadband access in rural areas, Local 953 contractors are bidding work, winning projects and 953 members are getting the work done right, safely and on time.

Finally, I want to share some perspective on the upcoming election. I trust that each of you are informed voters and balance a wide variety of issues. The status of the National Labor Relations Board should always be a high priority for us when we go to the polls. When it comes to government, personnel equals policy. The current Administration has consistently chosen anti-union personnel that create anti-union policy. Here is a quick look at the players involved.

Current members of the National Labor Relations Board:

John Ring- Chairman, nominated by President Trump. Term ends in December 2022. **Former management-side attorney.**

William Emanuel- Nominated by President Trump. Term ends in August 2021. **Former management-side attorney with Littler Mendelson.**

Marvin Kaplan- Nominated by President Trump. Term ends in August 2025. Former Capitol Hill and OSHA staffer.

General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board:

Peter Robb- Nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate. Term ends in November 2021. **Former management-side attorney.**

During their time, here are some of the decisions they have made.

On August 29, 2019 the National Labor Relations Board held that employers do not violate the National Labor Relations Act by misclassifying employees as independent contractors. (*Velox Express, Inc.*, 15-CA-184006, 368 NLRB No. 61)

On June 14, 2019 the NLRB held that employers have the right to exclude union organizers from privately owned public spaces. (*UPMC*, 368 NLRB No. 2)

On August 2, 2019 the NLRB found that the employer lawfully terminated known union supporter despite finding that the justification for doing so was pretextual. (*Electrolux Home Products, Inc.*, 368 NLRB No. 34)

Regardless of who is in the White House next year, we as working families need to hold them accountable. We have come too far as a labor movement to allow East Coast lawyers who have never worked a day in their lives to take away what we as Union members have earned for over a century.

Fraternally,

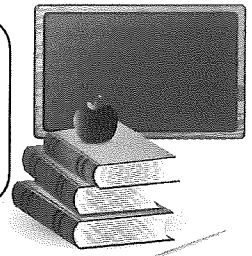
Nick Webber

Nick Webber, Organizer





THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION 953 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



STUDENT
NAME _____

STUDENT ID# _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ AGE _____

CITY STATE ZIPCODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

IBEW MEMBER'S NAME _____ IBEW CARD # _____

*MEMBER MUST HAVE ATTENDED AT LEAST ONE LOCAL UNION MEETING OR EVENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

MEMBER'S RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT (Son/Daughter or Step) _____

LOCAL 953 MEMBER'S EMPLOYER _____

WHAT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ARE YOU NOW ATTENDING?

COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY _____

FINANCIAL AID ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIPCODE _____

YOUR COLLEGE MAJOR _____

WRITE A 500 WORD TYPEWRITTEN ESSAY ON:

"WHY SHOULD I BUY UNION-MADE. AMERICAN PRODUCTS?"

Please read the Rules and Procedures for determining the Scholarship Awards at www.ibew953.org. This Application and Essay must be completed and returned to the Local Union Office no later than **NOVEMBER 1**.

OFFICE USE ONLY

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

I ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION AND THAT I AM CURRENTLY IN COLLEGE.

X _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

X _____

LOCAL 953 MEMBER SIGNATURE

MAIL THIS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TO:
IBEW 953 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
2206 HIGHLAND AVENUE
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953, IBEW

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REGULATIONS

At the September 28, 1990, Local Union 953 Bylaws meeting, a proposal was made and the Unit Chairmen recommended a scholarship fund be established for **children** of all members of Local 953. The language was drafted and presented to all units for vote in accordance with the provisions of the Local Union Bylaws. The Scholarship Fund then became a part of the Local Union Bylaws. The following are the rules and procedures for those interested in the Scholarship awards:

1. To be eligible for the Scholarship drawing, the member must have signed in and attended at least one Local 953 event in the last 12 months. (i.e. any monthly Union meeting, Annual Meeting, Golf Outing, Fishing Derby, etc.) An exception will be made for those that are working in another IBEW Local's jurisdiction.
2. To be eligible all scholarship applicants shall submit, along with their Scholarship Application Form, a 500-word essay on the following subject:

"WHY SHOULD I BUY UNION-MADE, AMERICAN PRODUCTS?"

The five (5) scholarships awarded will be randomly drawn by the Executive Board and the essay is the only obligation to apply for the scholarship. Throughout the year the essays will be published in the Local Union Newsletter.

3. In January of each year, the Local Union shall transfer from the Local Union General Fund of the Local Union into an account established as Local 953, IBEW Scholarship Fund, in the amount sufficient to cover scholarships awarded.
4. (a) At the Annual Meeting each year, the members present decide the number of scholarships and the amount of each scholarship to be awarded.

(b) The membership shall be advised by mail or newsletter each year as to the number and dollar amount of scholarships to be awarded and the rules governing application for a scholarship.
5. All scholarship awards shall be determined by a drawing at the Executive Board Meeting, in November following the Annual Meeting. The Local Union Executive Board shall decide any disputes.
6. Each eligible applicant requesting a scholarship shall complete an official Local 953 Scholarship form, which must be returned by US mail to the Local Union office (**2206 Highland Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701**) no later than **NOVEMBER 1**. Applicants **must** list the name and address of the accredited college or university that they are **currently** enrolled at. Applicant **cannot** be in high school.
7. Scholarship winners will be announced at the time of the drawing. Winners' name and amount of scholarship will be published in an area newspaper or newspapers as determined by the Local Union Executive Board. Winners will be notified by the Local Union, prior to the newspaper publication. The checks of the Scholarship Awards will be made out to the accredited school or university only.

In accordance with Section 4 above, the members present at the Annual Meeting decided there would be five (5), five hundred dollar (\$500.00) scholarships awarded. Children of members interested in the scholarship must complete an official form obtained either from the union office or its web site at: www.ibew953.org. Procedures and requirements will be listed on the form.