

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2021

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OUR ADDRESS

2206 Highland Avenue

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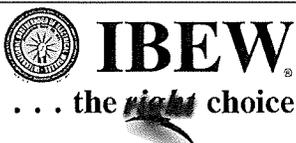
TEL: 715-834-4911

INTERNET WEB PAGE

www.ibew953.org

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was hoping by this time of the year we would have the pandemic behind us, and it would not be one of our major discussions with employers any longer. But it appears we will be having these discussions with employers for the foreseeable future as cases continue to climb across the country. Under the OSHA Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Employers can and do get fined for not following OSHA rules and guidance. We need to do our part in keeping our workplaces healthy and safe. As you are all aware, there are many differences of opinion on COVID-19. Regardless of our opinions, I encourage you to do whatever is necessary to protect yourself, your family, and all those around us that we work with or come in contact with.

Organizing: Nick successfully reached agreement with Kramer Service Group to become signatory to the Power and Teledata Agreements. To this point, 40 new members have signed up due to his efforts. We also had a successful campaign at Dairyland Power Cooperative. Eight Fleet Mechanics unanimously voted to have Local 953 represent them. Those votes were tallied by the NLRB on August 19, 2021. If you run into these individuals, please congratulate them on the joining the brotherhood.

Negotiations: Early this summer the tree trimming members ratified a three-year agreement. Most recently, we completed a 4-year contract at Dunn Electric Cooperative. Also, the first contract for the newly organized members at the Pablo Group has been completed. We have a half of dozen Cooperative contracts, Winona Lighting, and Baldwin Tel-Com contracts up for negotiations this year. In addition, we will be negotiating an agreement for the newly organized Fleet Mechanics, so it will be a very busy fall. Thanks to all the stewards, negotiating committees, and members that assist throughout these negotiations.

Scholarships: At our annual meeting in May, the membership made a motion and approved to continue our five individual \$500 scholarships. The application, rules, and regulations can be found on our website at www.ibew953.org. Essays and applications will be due in by November 1, with the winners being drawn at the November Executive Board meeting. In addition to these 5 scholarships, the members also approved \$500 scholarships at the Technical Colleges as follows: 2 at Chippewa Valley, 1 at Rice Lake, 1 at Wausau, and 1 at Fennimore. Four of these are in the Electrical Power Distribution classes and one is in the Gas Program at CVTC.

In closing, many of you are aware that we had several members depart due to the Genoa 3 coal plant closure on June 1, 2021. In addition, there are several members who will be leaving employment at DPC at the end of September because they selected the early retirement option that was offered due to the closure. It has been a great pleasure to represent these members, along with all of you. My best wishes to all of those who have or are departing as you move on to new jobs, retire, or whatever you may find yourself doing. To all, stay safe and healthy!

In Solidarity,

Martin Sandberg, Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

It has been great to see many of you this summer at meetings and in the field. A special thanks to all members who have been assisting in organizing activities, our hard work has paid off! Since our last newsletter, the Pablo Group Maintenance Technicians and Maintenance Engineers from the Lismore Hotel, downtown Eau Claire successfully negotiated and approved their first contract. This contract made great strides in wages, on-call provisions, safety, and more. Congratulations to these members!

Additionally, last week, the Dairyland Power Fleet Mechanics and Parts Specialists won big in their election to join Local Union 953 with an 8-0 vote in favor of joining the Union. We are looking forward to working with this group to negotiate an excellent deal.

Finally, in the good news category, Local 953 has just organized a new construction contractor adding more than 30 members to our brotherhood. Kramer Service Group is based in Weyerhaeuser, WI and specializes in underground power and telecommunications work. In addition to this work, Kramer Service Group employs 3 well drillers, so if you need a well driller, you now have a Union option!

It has been a busy summer here for organizing here at the hall, again thank you to the many members who have assisted along the way and organizers from around the region who stopped by in July and hit more than 300 doors in one day!

On a final note, the smallmouth bass have been biting on the Chippewa River, all you need is a hook, worm, and 2 sinkers.

In Solidarity,

Nick Webber

Nick Webber, Organizer

LABOR UNIONS:

**THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND.
 CHILO LABOR LAWS, OVERTIME,
 MINIMUM WAGE, INJURY PROTECTION,
 WORKMENS COMPENSATION INSURANCE,
 PENSION SECURITY, RIGHT TO ORGANIZE . ETC.**

Brothers and Sisters,

Hope you and your family have had a safe and healthy summer.

During this pandemic, the mask mandates have been quite an issue. For bargaining employees, unless there was a Federal, State, or Local government mandate, we did not have to wear them. Well, another entity has entered the arena, OSHA.

Several months ago, OSHA mandated that all employers follow CDC guidelines. Long story short, if you were vaccinated, you didn't have to wear a mask. If unvaccinated, you had to wear a mask indoors and/or when social distancing could not be achieved. During this time, Xcel decided to let the employees govern this themselves. If someone wasn't wearing a mask, they would assume they were vaccinated. However, if someone wasn't wearing a mask, and was reported, the Company has the obligation/right to ask if vaccinated and ask for proof. If no proof given, and the employee would not comply, discipline was the next step.

Recently, an incident occurred in Xcel South (New Mexico). OSHA came in and cited Xcel for not following CDC guidelines. The fallout of this citation could be severe. Pending on the timing of this newsletter, that "fallout" could be implemented. Whatever that might be.

Regional and tailgate meetings have been occurring. If you are one of the Xcel groups that have tailgates, and want to have a meeting, please contact me and we will schedule one. Hopefully, in 2022, we can be back to somewhat normal, and I will be sending out scheduled meetings for the entire year.

Please be safe and take care of each other and hopefully we will see you soon!

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

In Solidarity,

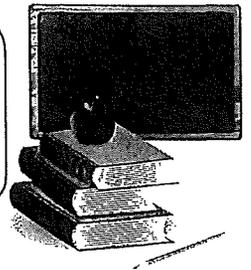
Tim Hemenway

Tim Hemenway
 Assistant Business Manager





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**

IBEW LOCAL 953
2206 Highland Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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IBEW
...the *right* choice



**Integrity
is doing the
right thing, even when
no one is watching.**

C.S. Lewis



Weingarten Rights

I believe this discussion could lead to my being disciplined. I therefore request that my union representative or officer be present to assist me at the meeting. I further request reasonable time to consult with my union representative regarding the subject and purpose of the meeting. Please consider this a continuing request; without representation I shall not participate in the discussion. I shall not consent to any searches or tests affecting my person, property, or effects without first consulting with my union representatives. © 1993

