



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – MARCH 2022

LOCAL OFFICERS

BRADY L. WEISS

Business Manager &
Financial Secretary

MICHAEL D. MITCHELL

President

(presently vacant)

Vice President

MITCHELL W. BARKA

Recording Secretary

FREDERICK A. HINES

Treasurer

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Aaron J. Boos

Peter J. Boos

Joseph S. Haley

Brad W. Honish

Cory J. Tomac

OFFICE STAFF

Timothy Hemenway, Asst. Bus Mgr

Michael Mountin, Asst. Bus. Mgr.

Nick Webber, 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

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.

Dear Members,

With Spring in the air, it has been great to get out and see so many of you over the past few months. After taking over as Business Manager in December, I have made it a priority to attend as many meetings as possible throughout our jurisdiction. That being said, I still have a few places yet to visit. My plan is to visit to every 953 worksites by early Summer. Additionally, I have been working with the staff here at Local 953 on an extensive Union Stewards and Leadership Conference taking place on March 9th -11th in Eau Claire. This important meeting will prepare our Union for the daily challenges we face in our shops. Educators from the University of Wisconsin, Attorneys, Federal Mediators, Apprenticeship Directors, Safety Trainers, OSHA representatives, and the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board will all have a part in helping give our Local Union's Stewards the skills they need to support the contracts we represent, making our Union stronger than ever before.

On the contract negotiations front, the statewide Power Agreement with Local 953, Local 2150 and the Missouri Valley Contractors Association is set to expire at the end of May. The Unions have submitted formal written notice to reopen the contract and preliminary discussions regarding this agreement are underway. Given the recent economic inflationary pressures, it is necessary to address these concerns head on. Any contract extension or bargain must address this as a part of the settlement. Please stay tuned for more information over the next few weeks. If you wish to serve on the bargaining committee for the statewide Power Agreement, please contact the hall as soon as possible.

In preparation for upcoming contract negotiations at Xcel Energy, the five local unions representing Xcel North will be working throughout the Summer analyzing data and reviewing comparable national and area wage and benefit information to best position ourselves as we move closer to this Fall when formal contract negotiations take place per timelines designated in the existing labor agreements. Please take the time to complete any survey information you may receive via mail, as it is used to better understand and prioritize items in order to reach the best possible settlement.

Best Regards,

Brady Weiss

Brady Weiss

Business Manager/Financial Secretary



IBEW

... the *right* choice

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope as you read this, you and your family are having a safe and healthy winter season. Spring is right around the corner!

As most of you are aware, this year is the last year of our contract at Xcel. Negotiations will take place later this summer/early fall. We plan on meeting with the other 4 locals in the next few months to prepare. In doing so, we will be sending out documents for feedback from the membership. In the past, we have sent out cards asking for your input on what is important to you. These cards were somewhat limited. This time, we will be doing it a little different. We plan on sending a larger "sheet" that will give you more room to write in what you would like us to bring to the table. In the past, it was limited to just the Terms and Conditions and the topics that were labeled "Wisconsin Issues" were not included. We want everything. If it's something that is Wisconsin specific, we want to hear it. I will be notifying all Stewards when these are mailed so they can notify the membership to look for these in the mail. After the last contract extension, we were able to address some of the Wisconsin issues. Example: Per Diem, Gas North Storm Agreement, Gas Clothing, to name a few. We are optimistic that we will be able to do the same again.

Also, the 5 Unions that represent Xcel North will have a different look. Since 2019, 4 of the 5 Unions have new Business Managers. Basically, 6 of the 10 representing the bargaining units will be new at the table. New people with new ideas!

Regional and tailgate meetings have begun, and it is good to be back out visiting with the membership and I am proud to see the response. So far this year, membership turnout is at an all-time high. Remember, a strong membership involvement means a stronger Union. Keep up the good work hope to see you soon!

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

In Solidarity,

Tim Hemenway

Tim Hemenway,
Assistant Business Manager

Hello Fellow Union Members,

The sun is shining bright, and the temperature will be close to 40 degrees today! I know that puts a smile on my face as we attempt to break out of winters long grip. Although it was a bit windy and cold, we had a great ice fishing tournament with good food, drink, and lots of great prizes. Glad you could all partake in the fun and look forward to seeing you all there again next year.

Things are busier than ever here at the Union Hall with being down a body. Negotiations are ongoing with Dairyland Power Cooperative for the newly organized Fleet Mechanic group. So far, we have met with the Cooperative twice and are scheduled to meet again in mid-March. Things are moving along as we attempt to solidify more power for them in the workplace through the process of collective bargaining.

Closing out the year in 2021 we had negotiations that finished up at several Cooperatives. The outcome of those settlements went well with wage increases ranging from 3.25 to 5% per year along with various other fringe benefits attained. This year we have negotiations upcoming at Polk Burnett Electric, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services and both Dairyland Power Cooperative contracts are set to expire on January 31, 2023. Collective bargaining is the heart and soul of any Union, and our goal is to put that power to work for us during these upcoming negotiations now and into the future to work towards continually improving wages, benefits and working conditions for our members.

Just a few odds and ends to discuss. We have multiple grievances ongoing at DPC and a few at Pierce Pepin as well. I want to thank those Stewards at both places for standing up for their co-worker's rights as well as all the Stewards out there who continually do so. I know we joke about how good the pay is and the enjoyment you all get out of it, but we need people in that role. Thank you!

Work safe and look forward to seeing all of you at some Union meetings/Union functions in the near future.

In Solidarity

Mike Mountin

Mike Mountin
Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters-

It was great to see many of you over the past few months on the job, at the ice fishing contest, or at a meeting. IBEW Local Union 953 is off to a HOT start organizing for 2022. I am thrilled to share with you all that A-1 Power, LLC out of Bloomer, Wisconsin has recently signed a Letter of Assent with Local Union 953, making them an official Union contractor. This group will add 50 members to our brotherhood and expands Union work in western Wisconsin. As we transition the new members into our organization, please take a moment to introduce yourself and personally welcome them. As you know, a handshake goes a long way.

Additionally, this time of year a primary focus is working with our technical school partners to line recently graduated students with their first jobs in the industry. Over the past few years, we have been able to place the overwhelming majority of Electrical Power Distribution students at Chippewa Valley Technical College, Southwestern Wisconsin Technical College, and Northwood Technical College at Union jobs right out of the gate. I want to thank everyone in the field who have helped promote this and welcome them into the industry. I have good reason to believe we will be successful again this year.

As some of you may have noticed, our Facebook page "IBEW Local Union 953" has been inactive. Long story short, we had to get a new one. **When you get the chance, please "Like" our new page IBEW Local 953.**

Finally, I am humbled to have been elected by my friends and mentors in the western Wisconsin labor community to have been elected President of the Greater West Central Wisconsin Area Labor Council. Along with all the officers elected to their positions, I am excited to reinvigorate and promote local unions in western Wisconsin and highlight the hard-working Union members in our community.

Things I learned this winter: I miss duck hunting, I am no good at crow hunting, and I am ready for walleye fishing.

In Solidarity,

Nick Webber

Nick Webber
Local 953 Organizer

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S FISHING DERBY WINNERS:

Pan Category 1st & 2nd Place

1st- Jon Thorson - 9-1/2" Crappie

2nd- Travis Martin - 9" Bluegill

Game Category 1st & 2nd Place

1st- Brett Ming - 28" Northern

2nd- Chase Secraw - 17-1/2" Large Mouth Bass

CONGRATULATIONS TO GUN DRAWING WINNERS:

Shawn Walker - AR

Rick Gonske - Savage

Mike Janota - Moss

Alex Kruschka - Ruger



NOTICE TO ALL
LOCAL UNION 953 MEMBERS

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

9:00 AM

BRICK HOUSE PUB & GRUB

(FORMERLY 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!

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION 953

2206 Highland Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Telephone: 715-834-4911

Facsimile: 715-834-0154



NOTICE TO ALL LOCAL 953, I.B.E.W. MEMBERS

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF LOCAL UNION OFFICERS

In compliance with the Bylaws of Local Union 953, I.B.E.W., this is to inform you of the nomination and election of Local Union Officers.

The list of offices to be filled are as follows:

President

Vice President

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Five Executive Board Members (two from group 1, one from each group 2, 3, & 4)

1. Xcel Energy Utility Units
2. Electric Distribution Cooperative Units
3. Dairyland Power Cooperative Units
4. At Large (all other electrical workers not aforementioned)

THE PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF LOCAL UNION OFFICERS, AS OUTLINED IN ARTICLE III OF THE BYLAWS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

Nominations for Local Union Officers shall be held at the regular meeting of each Unit in **APRIL 2022**, and elections shall be held in **JUNE 2022**. Notice shall be mailed to all members at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting for nominations in election year with all information regarding nominations, list of offices to be filled, date, time, and place of election, and the date, time, and place of run-off election, if required.

Every candidate shall have the right, once, within 30 days prior to the election to inspect a list containing the names and last known addresses of all members of the Local Union. Such list of members shall be maintained and kept by the Local Union. The membership list shall not be copied for the use of any candidate.

No member shall be eligible for office unless he/she has been a member of Local Union 953 in continuous good standing for at least 2 years immediately prior to nominations.

Members of one Unit may nominate members of another Unit for Local Union Office. It is not necessary that such nominees be confined to a particular Unit. A member placing the name of another member in nomination for office when the nominated member is not present, shall at the time the nomination is made, give to the Unit Recorder evidence in writing signed by the nominee, that the nominee agrees to be a candidate for a specific Local Union Office. However, any member being nominated in this manner cannot signify his/her intentions to be a candidate for more than one (1) specific Local Union Office.

Immediately after nominations the Unit Recorder shall forward a list of the names of the candidates, signed by the Unit Recorder and the Unit Chairman, to the Recording Secretary of the Local Union.

At the meeting of the Local Union, in the month preceding the month in which nominations are made, the President shall appoint an Election Judge and as many Tellers, as are required, who shall serve as an Election Board to conduct the election. No candidate for office shall be eligible to serve on the board.

After nominations have been made and those nominated are found to be qualified, the Election Board shall have ballots prepared, listing in alphabetical order, the names of all candidates for each respective office, beginning with President and continuing in the order named in the IBEW Constitution. Such ballots shall not contain any identifying numbers or marks.

ALL VOTING SHALL BE BY MAIL BALLOT.

The Financial Secretary shall furnish to the Election Judge not less than twenty-one (21) days before the election, an alphabetical list of all members eligible to vote. All members in good standing and qualified shall be entitled to vote.

The Executive Board shall decide the last day on which ballots shall be received, and the date, time, and place when the ballots will be counted. This date shall be in the month of June and this information shall be enclosed with the ballot sent to each member eligible to vote. If a member has not received a ballot or misplaced their ballot, please contact the Local Union Office to obtain another ballot.

The Election Judge shall mail or cause to be mailed to all eligible voters, an official ballot and two (2) envelopes. One envelope shall be smaller than the other and shall have the words **"OFFICIAL BALLOT"** stamped or printed on it. The larger envelope shall be pre-addressed to the Election Board and shall contain a space in the upper left hand corner where the member shall place his/her name and address.

Upon receiving his/her ballot, the member shall mark same and enclose it in the smaller envelope marked **"OFFICIAL BALLOT"**. This envelope shall be placed in the larger pre-addressed envelope and mailed to the Election Board.

The Election Board shall select a depository to which the envelopes containing the ballot shall be mailed. This shall not be the Local Union Post Office Box or the Local Union Headquarters. (Cost of such depository shall be paid by the Local Union.) This Board shall advise the Local Union of such depository in sufficient time to prepare the pre-addressed envelopes.

The Election Board shall open the envelopes, remove the smaller envelope marked **"OFFICIAL BALLOT"**, and deposit same in the ballot box with the other ballots. No envelope received later than the time and date as determined and announced by the Executive Board shall be opened by the Election Board.

The Election Board shall count the ballots and certify the results in writing to the Executive Board immediately after the ballots have been counted.

All election records including ballots shall be preserved for one (1) year from the date of election, after which same shall be destroyed unless a question has arisen in connection therewith.

Any candidate for office may be present or have an IBEW member as an observer present at the counting of the ballots.

Write-in votes shall not be permitted.

The election shall be decided for the candidate receiving the most votes for a specific office.

ALL NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LOCAL UNION IN APRIL 2022.

VOTING WILL BE IN JUNE AND WILL BE BY MAIL BALLOT. INFORMATION AS TO THE LAST DAY BALLOTS WILL BE RECEIVED, THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE THE BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED WILL BE ENCLOSED WITH THE BALLOT SENT TO EACH MEMBER ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

THIS LETTER IS IMPORTANT, SO PLEASE KEEP IT FOR REFERENCE DURING NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF LOCAL UNION OFFICERS.

NOMINATION MEETING SCHEDULE
APRIL, 2022

<u>Regional Unit</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Northern Region	Wednesday, April 6, 2022	Airport Inn, Ashland	4:00 p.m.
Central Region	Wednesday, April 13, 2022	Union Hall, Eau Claire	4:00 p.m.
Southern Region	Thursday, April 14, 2022	American Legion, Onalaska	5:00 p.m.
Western Region	Wednesday, April 20, 2022	Meister's, Boardman	4:00 p.m.

<u>Floating Regionals</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Barron Region	Tuesday, April 5, 2022	Barron VFW, Barron, WI	5:00 p.m.
Alma Region	Thursday, April 7, 2022	American Legion, Alma	5:15 p.m.
Lancaster Region	Tuesday, April 12, 2022	Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI	5:15 p.m.

IBEW LOCAL 953
2206 Highland Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EAU CLAIRE, WI
PERMIT NO. 1557



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. 