



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
**LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – JUNE 2022**

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For "Contact Us" link.

Dear Members,

I hope you are enjoying your Summer. I wanted to give some updated information regarding recent contract settlements that have been reached. The Power Agreement which covers the entire state of Wisconsin for our Union power line contractors, was ratified earlier this month which consisted of a 5 year contract, wage increases of 5% year one and 3% the next 3 years, concluding with 3.5% the last year of the agreement, along with increases to the health insurance and saving plans, pave the way for Local 953 and 2150 to lead the Midwest with a very solid contract.

Madison based IBEW Local 965 also reached a deal with Alliant Energy with general wage increases of between 3 and 4% with increases to their 401K retirement savings plans, vacation increase and other contract improvements on a 4-year deal.

Below is a safety reminder regarding Stop Work Authority, please take the time to review your company's policy and familiarize yourself with these principles.

Regardless of what contractor or company we work for, under no circumstances should we ever place production over safety. Remember, in the safety sensitive jobs that we perform, a key element to a workplace free of accidents, is to have Stop Work Authority (SWA) in place and enforced. Although not required in all cases by O.S.H.A., basic fundamentals of these programs involve:

1. STOP- Employee or Contractor perceives condition(s) or action(s) pose imminent danger to people, equipment, or the environment.
2. NOTIFY- Notify affected personnel and supervision of the hazard and work stop action and secure the area.
3. INVESTIGATE-Affected personnel will discuss the situation that caused the Stop Work Authority (SWA), and all involved must agree with a plan to correct the issue(s) before work continues (document this plan).



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4. CORRECT- Make modifications to the affected area, review the changes, and have them inspected by a qualified person to ensure all safety issues have been properly resolved.

5. RESTART- The affected work will restart, only after personnel with restart authority have concluded it is safe to do so and will then notify all affected personnel of the corrective actions that were implemented.

6. FOLLOW-UP- Management will provide information including a cause analysis of the reason for the work stoppage, including publishing corrective actions taken and lessons learned from the event and share them with all employees.

Ensuring management and workers understand the validity and importance of these programs, and having processes in place to resolve disputes in the event they are enacted without fear of repercussions enhance safety programs.

Tracking the occurrences of Stop Work Authority and training all employees so they clearly understand their role in a safe work environment is a top priority of IBEW Local 953! Let's take safety to the next level!!

In Solidarity,

*Brady Weiss*

Brady Weiss  
Business Manager/Financial  
Secretary



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope as you read this, you and your family are having a safe and healthy summer.

As the writing of this newsletter, we have received and are reviewing the surveys that have been sent to the Xcel membership and are preparing for the upcoming negotiations. 65% of the Local 953 Xcel membership returned their surveys. Although this is an improvement from the typical 50%, it is still unfortunate. On a positive note, of the 65% returned, the membership did a great job taking the time to fill out in detail their concerns. So, kudos to you folks that did that!

June 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting with the other 4 locals and working together with them and the information that they received from their membership and drafting up amendments. We are also drafting up a list of amendments related to Xcel 953 only (Wisconsin Issues). The intent is to bargain (Wisconsin Issues) separately with Xcel. Xcel has reached out to us and asked to meet with them at the end of June. No details as of the writing of this newsletter but will keep you informed.

Some of you are aware of the locating issue that is presently occurring in our jurisdiction. Long story short, a 2–3-year, fiber expansion project from La Crosse to Eau Claire to Hudson, and everywhere in between, has created a significant increase in the demand for Locating. Xcel has hired, or in the process of hiring, 5-10 additional Service Techs in these areas to help with demand. Local 953 has also worked with the Company creating a Locator classification within our current Bench Agreement. This agreement will allow 2 additional, Union, Dues Paying members, not only to help with the added workload but keep all locating Union in our jurisdiction.

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,

I know you have all been busy as we arrive here in the construction season! Things have been busy here at the Union Hall as well and we are making progress on finalizing an initial agreement for the Dairyland Power Cooperative Fleet Utility Technician group that Nick organized last August. Our bargaining committee has been in ongoing negotiations with Dairyland Power since the end of last year and we are down to the most important part. I'm sure you can all read between the lines on that one! We are very close to wrapping up these negotiations, but we want to assure we do the best we can for the Utility Fleet Techs.

Earlier in March of this year we had negotiations with Polk Burnett Electric Cooperative and secured a two-year contract with a wage increase of 4.9% for year one and 4.5% for year two, along with an increase in the weekly standby-pay and the agreement of the employer to pay for the cost of the Fed-Med card examination.

Its clear inflation is still on the rise, but securing a substantial wage increase for our members helps combat these rising costs and is always our top priority, to make sure you are all paid what you're worth.

Shortly we will commence negotiations with Pierce Pepin Electric Cooperative here in July and later this year Riverland Energy contract is set to expire along with both agreements at Dairyland Power Cooperative. Local Union 953 will be working hard to improve the economic position of our members through increases in pay, benefits, and by improving working conditions to the best of our ability. This is what motivates our members and improves morale so that you can continue to deliver for the employer every day just as you have done for many years.

Work safely and enjoy the rest of your summer!

In Solidarity

*Mike Mountin*

Mike Mountin

Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

I will tell you all one thing, after the winter and spring we just had, I will not be complaining one time about the heat this summer! This past spring has been exceptionally busy-but successful on the organizing front, we couldn't be more happy to welcome these new members into our brotherhood.

Additionally, we are currently in negotiations with the Pablo Group, downtown Eau Claire for their successor agreement and Dairyland Power Fleet Technicians first agreement. We are looking forward to setting excellent contracts for these groups.

I am currently working on a few new groups and hope to share good news by the next newsletter. This summer, I am looking forward to pounding the pavement- hitting doors and jobsites. In my travels, I will be making it a point to stop at 953 job sites as well, we are looking to increase our social media presence by showcasing the work you do each day- if you would like me to stop by your job, give me a call.

Until then, work safe.

In Solidarity,

*Nick Webber*

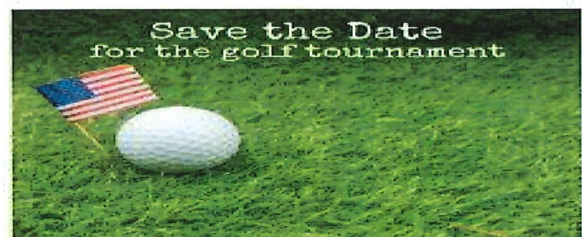
Nick Webber

Local 953 Organizer

## SAVE THE DATE

**LOCAL 953 GOLF OUTING  
SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**\*LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED\***



*Contact the Union Office to Register*

## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 953



### **Bandi Henke Hired as New IBEW Local 953 Business Representative**

Eau Claire, WI- Long-tenured Electrical Power Distribution Program Director for Chippewa Valley Technical College and Missouri Valley Journeyman Lineman, Bandi Henke was selected by the local union's hiring committee last month.

Bandi, a Missouri Valley journeyman lineman since 2001 has spent his professional career active in both the IBEW and WEAC (Wisconsin Education Association Council) serving on multiple bargaining committees and steward for St. Croix Electric Cooperative. Through his role in CVTC's Electrical Power Distribution Program, Bandi has successfully placed hundreds of students on an IBEW career path, expanded continuing education coursework for industry partners, and has established himself as a leading voice for job-site safety in our industry.

As Business Representative, Bandi will work with Outside Construction, Tree Trimming, Cooperatives and Organizing. Bandi plans to expand job-site safety education and awareness in this new role.

Bandi, a native of rural Augusta, currently resides in Eau Claire with his wife, Christina and two kids, Gunnar and Jamison. Bandi, an avid outdoorsman is an active member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and spends much of his free time coaching his two sons in various sports leagues.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 953 is proud to represent more than 1,600 members comprised of Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Fort McCoy, 14 distribution cooperatives, line construction, tree trimming, manufacturing, and maintenance employees in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan.



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### 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. 