



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – DECEMBER 2022

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Bandi Henke, Bus. Representative

Nick Webber, Organizer

Connie Bremer, Office Mgr

Grace Malone, Accountant

OUR ADDRESS

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INTERNET WEB PAGE

www.ibew953.org

E-mail Staff, see Web Page

For "Contact Us" link.



IBEW

... the *right* choice

Happy Holidays,

I wanted to give an update on some technology upgrades that will be taking place at the Hall. We will be implementing an App to assist us with communicating with the membership. This will help with getting important information out quicker and will serve as a resource to have access to your contract and Union documents, like safety bulletins, meeting schedules and the ability to purchase Local Union merchandise.

Our outside construction, and line clearance workers and any others not on dues deduction will now be able to pay their dues online with a credit or debit card, which will be a great improvement and will help our office process tickets quicker especially our travelers that are working in other states and jurisdictions.

On the contract update front, as of the writing of this newsletter, the most recent proposal from Xcel Energy was rejected by the membership on December 8th. The Joint Bargaining Committee representing the 5 Locals of Xcel North, have secured a contract extension until May 31st. The Committee is actively working to establish dates to meet again with the Company. Please stay tuned for future updates and we will continue to share information as things progress.

I also wanted to congratulate all the apprentices that completed their training and have become Journeyman in 2022! Please stay involved in your Union you are the future of our industry.

Stay safe!

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 holiday season.

On October 26th, the Xcel membership voted not to accept the Company's offer. The tentative agreement was voted down by the 5-local membership 2-1. Two very important results happened that day. One, Local 953 had an 83% voter turnout. Highest in recent history. Good job everyone for taking the time to voice your opinion. Second, and just as important, if a Tentative Agreement is to pass or fail, it needs to do so big. And it did!!!

The bargaining committee requested to extend the existing Terms and Conditions to March 1st, retro pay back to January 1st, 2023, if, and when a Tentative Agreement is ratified, and a list of dates to return to the table. As the writing of this newsletter, the Company agreed to extend the existing Terms and Conditions to May 31st, agreed to retro pay, and have provided a list of dates in January and February to meet with the Unions. I will be sending out an update to the Xcel stewards when we have confirmation of said dates and more information.

A list of the upcoming union meetings is included with this newsletter. Please make all efforts to attend these meetings.

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

In Solidarity,

Tim Hemenway

Tim Hemenway
Assistant Business Manager Local 953



MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

IBEW PER CAPITA INCREASE 2023

As per the IBEW Convention held May 9, 2022, the delegates voted to increase the per capita to the General Fund of \$2.00. There will also be an increase of \$2.00 in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF), which applies to "A" members only. The following rates will apply to the international office portion of all monthly dues payments for January 2023, and thereafter:

	<u>"A" Members</u>	<u>"BA" Members</u>
Per Capita	\$22.00	\$22.00
Pension Fund	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>
Total:	\$43.00	\$22.00

Please add the additional increase to your dues payments effective with your January 2023 dues.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From the Officers and Staff of Local 953

*Brady, Tim, Mike, Bandi, Nick
Grace and Connie*



Brothers and Sisters,

First off, I want to thank all of you for being very active union members in 2022. The attendance and participation we have seen at all the meetings has been outstanding and you all turned that momentum into excellent turnouts at all the contract votes we have had this year. That is awesome and let's keep that snowball building into early 2023- we are going to need it.

As most of you know, I started at the Hall as a Business Representative in July and it has been extremely busy ever since. I currently represent all Outside Line Construction, Line Clearance, Jo-Carroll Energy Cooperative, Vernon Electric, and Scenic Rivers Energy and am truly enjoying this new career serving all of you every day. It is a challenge getting to meet with all 800 of you that I directly represent, but I am actively trying! My goal starting here last summer was to represent all of you promptly, fairly and equally and to attempt to "re-brand" Local 953 a bit to reignite the fire of our brotherhood through unity and strength in our local.

With that in mind, Brady gave us the approval to get some new gear (stickers/hats/shirts, etc.) ordered to change it up a little and that has been well received by you the members so that will continue. I also set a lofty goal to meet, in person, with as many of you as possible either in formal meetings or crew visits. To date, I have met with a lot of you but not all and I would like to change that. Please have your stewards let me know a time/place to meet with your crews and I will be there.

I am also checking to see if there is any interest in replacing the golf outing with a Pheasant /Trap/ Sporting clay shoot in August or September 2023. I have been discussing this idea with Whispering Emerald Ridge (South of Menomonie, WI) and I think we could make this happen, but I will need some feedback from you, and it is a bit expensive so we may need to all kick in a little. If interested, please text my cell (715)-828-3294 stating your name and letting me know you would attend and also what day of the week in the Fall would work the best. I will need this information from you by the date of the Ice Fishing contest in February so I can plan/book.

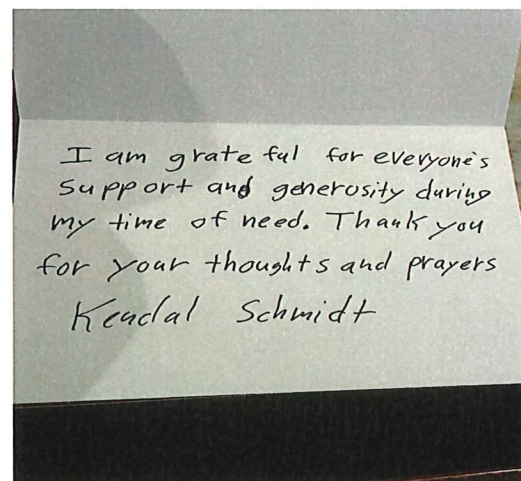
I am looking forward to working with, and for all of you, and remember: *once divided...there is nothing left to subtract!*

Stay Strong!

Bandi Henke

Bandi Henke
Business Rep.

Below is a Thank You we received from 953 Member and Line Instructor, Kendal Schmidt, who was injured in an accident at hunting camp. Students and Members of Local 953 started a Go-Fund-Me and donations to help him while he is laid up. Thank you to all that made this happen.



Hello Fellow Union Members,

After a long and arduous journey, the Dairyland Power Cooperative Fleet Mechanic work group has ratified their first agreement and are now officially members of IBEW Local 953. Thank you to the group for standing strong throughout the Unionization process and a special thank you to the bargaining committee members for the effort put forth to bring all of this together. Throughout numerous meetings over the last year with DPC, we have successfully locked in the benefits/terms and conditions of employment for the Fleet Mechanic work group and secured for them a 16.1% wage increase.

Negotiations with Dairyland Power Cooperative for the Large Agreement began on October 18, 2022 and we have met a number of times since then. Progress is slow, but we will continue to bargain until a favorable agreement can be reached. Once negotiations for the Large Contract are complete, an official letter with all the changes, ballots, and voting instructions will be mailed out to the Dairyland Power Cooperative members. During that process we will begin negotiations with Dairyland Power Cooperative for the Line Construction Bargaining Agreement as well.

Currently negotiations at Riverland Energy Cooperative are also underway. Progress is slow, but history has proven that is to be expected when dealing with Riverland Management. Our end goal is to reach the best agreement we can for our members which I am confident we will do.

Earlier this year, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services employees ratified a Tentative Agreement that was reached with the Cooperative. A 3-year agreement, 6%, 3.75%, 3.25% along with creating a boot allowance and cell phone stipend, additional compensation for working while on rest, a favorable change to the normal work hours and an increase in the living radius.

In closing, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Solidarity

Mike Mountin

Mike Mountin

Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the Holiday season, I want to extend my best wishes from my family to yours during this time. As we are looking forward to the new year, I cannot help but be thankful for much of the past year. From growing our Local Union by 24%, to newly organized units reaching their first agreements, and the countless individuals finding their new path forward through the IBEW- I know that 2022 was one of our best. Looking forward, 2023 will be a year of growth and critical to the future of our Local. As our industry continues to evolve our Union must be ready to answer the call. Needless to say, as Unions are more popular than they have ever been in most of our lifetimes, the time to be aggressively organizing is now. With all of the exciting prospects of the future, I am reminded each day during this Holiday season, how blessed we are to be members of the IBEW and how much this brotherhood means to all of us. During the next couple of weeks, please take time to be present with your friends and family, create memories, and take care of yourself.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year, which I expect will be the best one yet.

In Solidarity,

Nick Webber

Nick Webber

Local 953 Organizer



LOCAL UNION 953 REGIONAL UNION MEETINGS**2023****WESTERN REGIONAL MEETINGS - THIRD WEDNESDAY**

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday	January 18, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	February 15, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	March 15, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	April 19, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	May 17, 2023	All meetings held at: Meister's Bar & Grill 1402 Cty Road A	4:00 PM
Wednesday	June 21, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	July 19, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	August 16, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	September 20, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	October 18, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	November 15, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	December 20, 2023		4:00 PM

FLOATING REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Thursday	January 5, 2023	American Legion, Alma, WI	5:15 PM
Thursday	February 2, 2023	VFW, Barron, WI	4:15 PM
Thursday	March 2, 2023	Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI	5:30 PM
Thursday	April 20, 2023	American Legion, Alma, WI	5:15 PM
Thursday	May 4, 2023	VFW, Barron, WI	4:15 PM
Thursday	June 1, 2023	Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI	5:30 PM
Tuesday	July 6, 2023	American Legion, Alma, WI	5:15 PM
Thursday	August 3, 2023	VFW, Barron, WI	4:15 PM
Thursday	September 7, 2023	Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI	5:30 PM
Thursday	October 5, 2023	American Legion, Alma, WI	5:15 PM
Thursday	November 2, 2023	VFW, Barron, WI	4:15 PM
Thursday	December 7, 2023	Wolf's Grantland Graphics, Lancaster, WI	5:30 PM

NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETINGS - FIRST WEDNESDAY

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday	January 4, 2023	Cancelled by Membership	4:00 PM
Wednesday	February 1, 2023	Xmas Party	4:00 PM
Wednesday	March 1, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	April 5, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	May 3, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	June 7, 2023	All meetings held at: Airport Inn 50964 Hwy 13 Ashland, WI	4:00 PM
Wednesday	July 5, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	August 2, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	September 6, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	October 4, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	November 1, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	December 6, 2023		4:00 PM

CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETINGS - SECOND WEDNESDAY

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday	January 11, 2023	Central Christmas Party Labor Temple	4:00 PM
Wednesday	February 8, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	March 8, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	April 12, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	May 10, 2023	All remaining meetings at:	4:00 PM
Wednesday	June 14, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	July 12, 2023	Union Hall,	4:00 PM
Wednesday	August 9, 2023	2206 Highland Avenue	4:00 PM
Wednesday	September 13, 2023	Eau Claire, WI 54701	4:00 PM
Wednesday	October 11, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	November 8, 2023		4:00 PM
Wednesday	December 13, 2023		4:00 PM

SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETINGS - SECOND THURSDAY

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
Thursday	January 12, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	February 9, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	March 9, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	April 13, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	May 11, 2023	All meetings at:	5:00 PM
Thursday	June 8, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	July 13, 2023	American Legion Post 336	5:00 PM
Thursday	August 10, 2023	731 Sand Lake Road	5:00 PM
Thursday	September 14, 2023	Onalaska, WI	5:00 PM
Thursday	October 12, 2023		5:00 PM
Thursday	November 9, 2023	Stew Feed & Retiree's Night	5:00 PM
Thursday	December 14, 2023		5:00 PM

2023

NOTICE TO ALL
LOCAL UNION 953 MEMBERS

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

9:00 AM

BRICKHOUSE PUB & GRUB

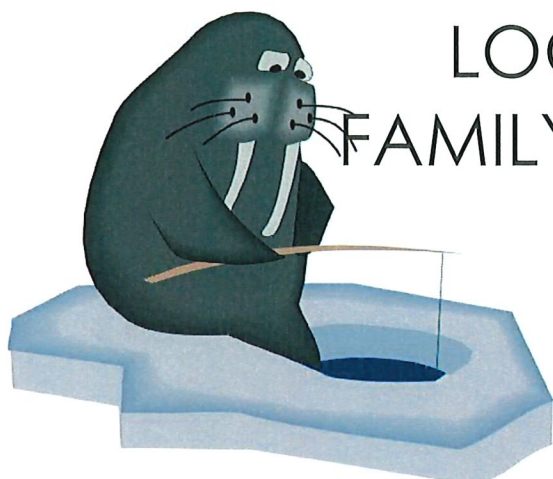
(FORMERLY EAU CLAIRE LABOR TEMPLE)

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!



LOCAL 953 ANNUAL FAMILY ICE FISHING DERBY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023
11 AM to 3 PM – CHETEK, WI

POKEGAMA LAKESIDE CANTINA
(ADDRESS: 840 BANKS LANE, CHETEK)

IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF MEMBERS WELCOME!

ENTRY FEES: \$10 PER PERSON.
BEER, POP and BRATS INCLUDED.

THE
PRIZES

1st PLACE GAME FISH
2nd PLACE GAME FISH
1st PLACE PAN FISH
2nd PLACE PAN FISH

THE FISH ARE JUDGED ON LENGTH ONLY.
ALL ENTRANT'S FISH MUST MEET MINIMUM LENGTH REQUIREMENTS SET FOR THE
LAKE.

PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY INSIDE THE
POKEGAMA LAKESIDE TAVERN & GRILL



GUN RAFFLE
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN



DETACH HERE

2023 ICE FISHING DERBY REGISTRATION FORM

**PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION AND FEE BY JANUARY 20, 2023 TO:
LOCAL UNION 953 IBEW, 2206 Highland Avenue; EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____