

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

## **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – September 2023**

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Financial Secretary

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### **OUR ADDRESS**

4205 Southtowne Dr.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
TEL: 715-834-4911

### **INTERNET WEB PAGE**

[www.ibew953.org](http://www.ibew953.org)  
E-mail Staff, see Web Page  
For "Contact Us" link.



Hello Members,

I hope the last of Summer is going well. Here at Local 953, things have been busy. As you are aware, we have taken the next step in finding a new building to serve as our Union Hall. This facility is located at 4205 Southtowne Dr. in Eau Claire. It will bring much needed and overdue upgrades to our day-to-day operations conducting business. The new building's larger size will be a better working environment for the staff. Our staff will soon be working on one level with their own individual offices. Furthermore, the upgraded office building will have improved conference rooms for meetings and training. After we settle into the new facility, we plan to do a small internal renovation. We will be removing an inside wall to create a general assembly area. This will allow people to enter and exit without affecting office operations. I want to thank the membership, Executive Board, and staff for all their efforts and support on this project.

On other fronts, we have been in negotiations attempting to reach a Storm Agreement with Xcel Energy. The Union's focus is to protect our operating areas within the company. The Union is holding that the Wisconsin Xcel workforce be used and paid a storm premium rate and act as the first resource as it pertains to outage response and storm preparation. Our position is this needs to happen prior to the use of a contract workforce or other outside company resources. As it stands right now, the parties are still far from reaching a resolution to this matter. Our goal is to have it completed by the year's end. At Winona Lighting, the discontinuation of the custom fabrication product line has resulted in a severance agreement affecting approximately 20 workers. Ongoing efforts to administer seniority bumping rights will go on into the early Fall of this year. At our Electric Co-op's, we are in negotiations at half-dozen locations this Fall. Inflationary pressures being the driving factor in reaching agreeable settlements. The team here has been hard at work at the bargaining table.

As a general reminder, the by-laws changes from earlier this year that were voted on have been approved by our International Office. Those new conditions related to Union working dues assessments will take effect on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024. Please contact the Union Hall if you have any questions on this matter.

Best Regards,

*Brady Weiss*

Brady Weiss  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for being good, active members and excellent workers across our jurisdiction. I have heard your frustrations with the current work outlook for the contractors this summer and trust me, I am frustrated as well. I take it personally when I cannot get a member out to work in a timely manner and the out of work list is growing as we speak. Just remember contract work is, and always has been, cyclical in nature. This will turn around and hopefully we can get everyone back to work soon. We are all so used to running wide open and working constant OT that it is hard for us to relax and just take a little bit of time off, but that might be exactly what some of our members need and this would be a good time to do it!

Brady and I recently wrapped up negotiations for our Multi-State Joint Teledata Agreement and feel we made some excellent progress with wages and HRA contribution increases. We locked up a 3-year deal that was ratified by the members in May 2023 and the members are giving good feedback on the agreement. Vernon Electric's contract expires at the end of this year so Brady and I will be working on that this fall.

Thank you to all that attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pheasant and Trap Shoot. Your presence at the event was invaluable. Thank you for being there and making it a memorable experience for all of us.

And remember: *once divided, there is nothing left to subtract!*

Stay Strong!

*Bandi Henke*

Bandi Henke  
Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

Hope everyone has been enjoying the nice summer weather. Time seems to be going by faster and faster and it is important to enjoy the time we have with family and friends.

Several issues continue to surface regarding the Hour-In-Lieu-Of and Boot Allowance at Xcel Energy. Interpretation of said language is the key issue. I have instructed the stewards to file procedural upon any denials. At some point, we will be sitting down with the company to work through these issues.

One of the main priorities we have with Xcel is negotiating a Wisconsin Storm Agreement. We have met several times with management and the Union Advisory committee. Storm Premium Pay and the utilization of Contractors are some of the key sticking points. We are getting closer to an agreement and hope to have something in place soon. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have requested more dates to meet with the company.

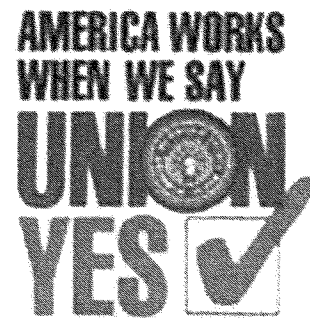
The Electricians that we represent at City Brewing in La Crosse have voted to ratify an agreement with management. Three-year deal, 8% market adjustment immediately, 4.05% after 6 months, 2% year two and year three, and increases to the second and third shift premiums. The hope is that these increases will make them competitive with other markets and draw in badly needed support. I would like to thank the members of the bargaining committee for their efforts and input during the negotiation process.

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,

Hope this letter finds you all well. With the construction season in full swing many of you are working extended hours to construct, repair and maintain the various generation, distribution and transmission projects and facilities we all rely on so much to keep the lights on for everyone. Productivity in America would surely grind to a halt if everyone had to work out in the weather day and night like most of you do on a daily basis!

Here at Local 953, it's been busy with the day-to-day activities we perform to support our membership. Monitoring and compliance with the numerous contracts we have while negotiating new agreements is a continuous process. That process has been pretty favorable as of late with equitable wage increases for the membership coming in the last few years. It appears now that the wind of inflation is starting to blow the other way. That change is definitely a welcome one for all of us. Regardless, we will continue working diligently to negotiate favorable agreements now and in the future.

Looking into the remainder of 2023, we have negotiations at Eau Claire Energy set to kick off in a couple days with many more to follow, including at Barron Electric, Chippewa Valley Electric, Clark Electric, Dairyland Power, Price Electric Office and St Croix Electric. Until next time, work safe and enjoy the rest of your Summer.

In Solidarity

*Mike Mountin*

Mike Mountin

Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all are having a great summer and plan to enjoy what is left of it. Over the past few months, Local 953 has been an exciting place to be! Here are a few of the highlights. Our relationships with contractors and customers over the past few years on the teledata/communications

side of the house are proving to be time well spent as Union contractors are aggressively bidding and being awarded large and small-scale projects in the area. It is great to see that the IBEW has a stronger presence than ever in this industry. Coupled with that, the news of Wisconsin primed to receive 1 billion dollars in broadband grants from the federal government with strong labor provisions attached, I believe that the best has yet to come. Whether you are a veteran of the industry, or beginning your career, being a part of one of the largest infrastructure projects in history connecting homes and businesses to vital resources is certainly something to be proud of.

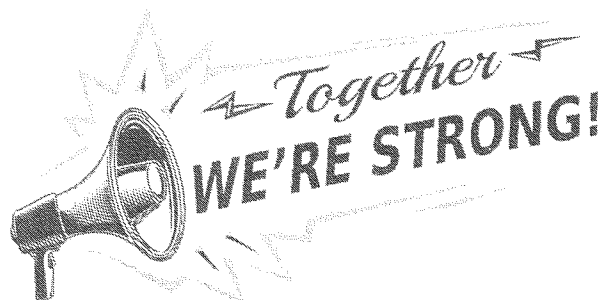
On the other hand, we are currently in negotiations with Pablo Management and the Lismore Hotel downtown Eau Claire for the maintenance technicians employed at those properties. Though it has been a bit of a slow burn so far, I am confident that we will be able to reach a fair deal and get things wrapped up shortly. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at regional meetings as we move into the Fall. Until next time, take care and work safe.

In Solidarity,

*Nick Webber*

Nick Webber

Local 953 Organizer





## **PLEASE NOTE!**

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

# **YOUR STUDENT COULD WIN A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP!!**

## **FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED!!**

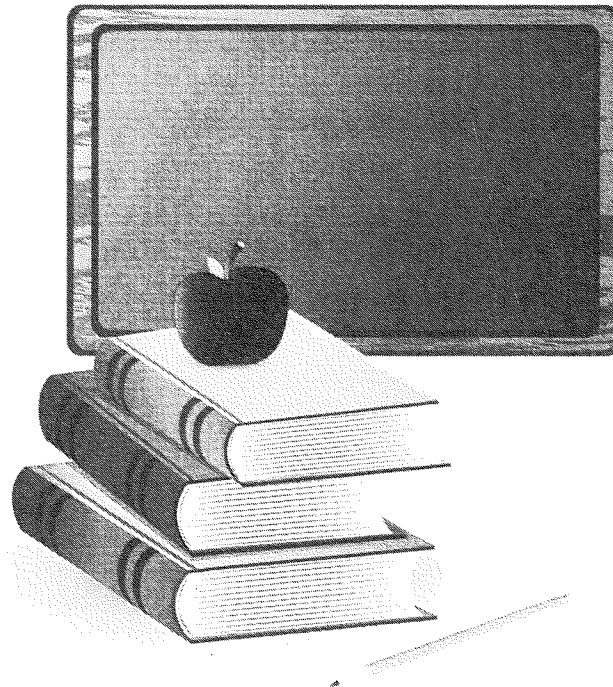
Applications for Scholarships are being taken now. Check out our website for the Application, rules and procedures at [www.ibew953.org](http://www.ibew953.org).

Application and Essay must be submitted to the Local Union office by November 1. (4205 Southtowne Drive; Eau Claire, WI 54701)

Essay requirement is a 500-word essay on the following subject:

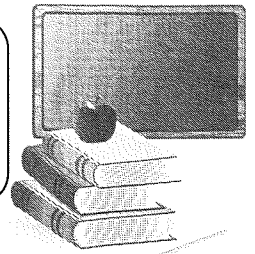
**“WHY SHOULD I BUY UNION-MADE, AMERICAN PRODUCTS?”**

Our Fall Newsletter will also contain the Scholarship rules, procedures, and the application.





# 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](http://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  
4205 SOUTHTOWNE DRIVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701**

IBEW Local 953  
4205 Southtowne Dr.  
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 representative.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953

(715) 834-4911

