



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – APRIL 2023

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Financial Secretary

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Michael Mountin, Asst. Bus. Mgr
Bandi Henke, Bus. Representative
Nick Webber, Organizer
Connie Bremer, Office Mgr
Grace Malone, Accountant
Kaitlyn Primeau, Admin.Coordinator

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INTERNET WEB PAGE

www.ibew953.org

E-mail Staff, see Web Page
For "Contact Us" link.

Hello Members,

I hope this Spring finds you well, here at Local 953 it's been a busy one. The staff has been working diligently on settling contracts. Most recently, the Xcel Energy Agreement- which saw the highest percentage wage increase in over 30 years, along with improvements to health insurance funding, sick leave buy-outs, and strengthened contract language. I feel that although we didn't achieve all our goals, this face-to-face bargain seemed more productive than settlement extensions of the past. Around the Local, other negotiations saw similar results in reaching deals.

In other news, after taking direction from the Executive Board last June regarding looking for a new facility for our Union Hall the membership for the Local has taken the next step approving moving forward with this at the Annual Meeting earlier this month. Like all other large expenditures approval will take place at Regional Meetings of the Union.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns regarding this important topic, and please note the attached proposed bylaws changes that will be voted on at the Regional Meetings in May.

As always stay safe!

In Solidarity,

Brady Weiss

Brady Weiss
Business Manager/Financial Secretary



Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for keeping the positive momentum going here at 953! Since our last newsletter, our local has ratified some very good contracts. We have also witnessed excellent attendance at the meetings. Keep it up!

Brady and I are currently working on negotiations for our Multi-State Joint Teledata Agreement and have seen some good progress to this point. We still have some work to do before we bring a proposal out to the members for an official vote. Stay tuned on that as the contract expires at the end of May, 2023. I am confident we will be able to get a solid agreement worked out.

Crew visits are going great and have been well received. I usually have stickers, contracts and can koozies with me at a minimum. We have also been selling a lot of caps, shirts and sweatshirts at all the meetings and tailgates as well. If you would like me to visit your crew please call or text me at (715) 828-3294. I have put in orders for new T-shirts and a few brand new styles of caps and hope to have those to distribute sometime in May.

Instead of a golf outing this year, we are going to host a trap shoot/pheasant shoot instead on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Please see the bright colored flyer inside your newsletter for more information on this. Sign up online early if you plan on shooting-space is limited. Looking forward to seeing a bunch of you there and remember: ***once divided, there is nothing left to subtract!***

Stay Strong!

Bandi Henke

Bandi Henke
Business Rep.

Brothers and Sisters,

On March 15th, the Xcel membership voted to accept the Company's offer. Wage increases of 6.1% year one, 4% year two, and 3% year three. Highest voter turnout in recent history so good job the everyone that took the time to vote. Several issues have arisen since ratification, Hour In Lieu Of and Boot Allowance to name a few, but we have been working through those issues.

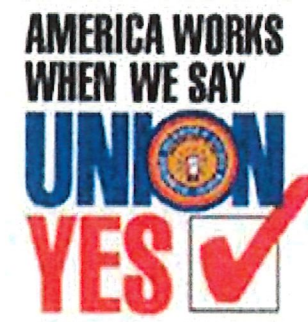
As of the writing of this newsletter, we are in the process of negotiating with City Brewing in La Crosse. Local 953 represents the electricians at the plant. Negotiations are moving slowly, to say the least. Wages being the primary concern currently. The contract expires May 9th, 2023.

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,

Spring is finally here! Bringing a boost of fresh air, warmer weather and a better mood. A new round of Cooperative negotiations is set to begin shortly here in 2023 with the first one up to be Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, then to follow will be St. Croix Electric Cooperative, Price Electric Office Unit, Chippewa Valley Electric, Clark Electric, Barron Energy and last but not least, Dairyland Power Electric Cooperative.

Negotiations for both DPC contracts took place last year, but we were only able to secure a one-year deal with Dairyland Power for the big contract. That contract covers the Coal Fired Power Plant, Transmission Maintenance, Electrical Maintenance, Elk Mound Peaking Plant, and the Hydro at Flambeau. Wages were increased 6% but we were unable to reach a settlement for a longer-term agreement. The DPC Construction settlement was for a two-year deal. 6.25% wage increase in year one and a 4% wage increase for year two.

The latest update for distribution cooperatives was a three-year agreement reached at Riverland Energy with associated wage increases of 6%, 4.25% and 3.75%. We will continue to work towards reaching favorable agreements for all upcoming contracts expiring this year. Your Stewards help in achieving that goal is much appreciated! Rarely do you get everything you want but at the end of the day we will continue to fight hard to better our members' financial position in the workplace. Work safe and enjoy this warmer weather!

In Solidarity

Mike Mountin

Mike Mountin

Assistant Business Manager

Brothers and Sisters,

I could not be more happy to be writing this to you as it is nearing 60 degrees and the sun is shining. I am hoping for a mild spring and summer, we sure earned it. In fact, I believe that there were times this winter where my driveway had thicker ice than Lake Wissota. Regardless, the past few months have been busy, but in the good kind of way. In February, the Instrument Control Specialists for Xcel Energy voted unanimously to join IBEW Local Union 953, we are preparing to begin negotiations within the next month for that group. Local 953 was also awarded at the 6th District Membership Development Conference in Chicago last month for our success in "Construction" and "Professional and Industrial" organizing success over the past year. Additionally, last month Wisconsin IBEW organizers from around the state met in Eau Claire to knock more than 300 doors predominantly in the north Eau Claire /Chippewa Falls area. These activities are vital to organizing our Union as it allows us to introduce and in some cases, re-introduce our Union to future members, and I greatly appreciated their assistance in those efforts. In the next few months, we will be busy filling calls and organizing new members into our Union. I am thankful for all we have accomplished in the past few months as it has put us in a great position for what is to come this summer.

In Solidarity,

Nick Webber

Nick Webber

Local 953 Organizer

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

At Local 953's Annual Meeting held on April 1st, 2023, the Bylaw's Proposals highlighted in yellow below, were brought forward by the membership. The Proposals will be read at two consecutive Regional Meetings. These Bylaw Changes are being read at the April Regional Meetings and again will be read and voted on at the May Regional Meetings on the dates and locations below.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES FOR SPRING 2023

We propose the following language changes in yellow:

Article X, Sec.6. The monthly dues shall be:

Working dues for Outside Construction members shall be 1.5% of Gross wages.

~~*Working dues for Outside Construction members shall be 1.75% of all straight time hours worked, based on 173.33 hours per month.*~~

Working dues for Teledata and Line Clearance/Tree Trimming shall be 1.28% 1.25% of Gross wages. for all hours worked.

Basic dues: There shall be \$1 per member, per month basic dues fee for all "A" and "BA" members encompassing all classifications.

Article X, Section 6 (b)

~~(b) When the balance of the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund falls below \$1,000,000, the working dues shall be 1.35%. At such time as the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund rises above \$1,200,000 the working dues shall be 1.25% of all straight time earnings. Such changes shall be effective at the start of any calendar year following the date on which the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund meets the floor or ceiling herein established.~~

(b) When the balance of the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund falls below \$1,000,000, the working dues shall increase 0.25%. At such time as the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund rises above \$1,200,000 the working dues shall decrease 0.25%.. Such changes shall be effective at the start of any calendar year following the date on which the subtotal of cash investments in the General Fund meets the floor or ceiling herein established.

ARTICLE VII Stipends & Salaries

Sec. 1. (A) Stipends shall be:

Vice President	—5.00 \$50.00 per meeting (Stipend)
Executive Board Secretary	5.00\$50.00 per meeting month—(Stipend)
Executive Board Members (each)	5.00 \$50.00 per meeting (Stipend)

Sec. 1. (B) Salaries shall be:

President	\$55.00 \$75.00	per month
Recording Secretary	45.00 \$50.00	per month
Treasurer	50.00	per month

Article X, Sec. 3. The admission fees shall be:

(a) "A" or "BA" Membership	Journeyman	Apprentice	Other
Telephone Operator	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 5.00
Lineman	75.00 \$100	37.50 \$50.00	--.--
Electrical Mfg.	--.--	--.--	5.00
Teledata	--.--	25.00	\$50.00
All other classifications.	--.--	25.00	\$50.00
All other classifications	35.00	35.00	35.00

Article VII, Section 9 (d)

(d) All full-time Local Union Officers or appointed representatives shall receive Line Construction Benefit Fund (Lineco) or be reimbursed at a maximum the amount equal to the current Lineco premium to be used for medical insurance premiums and 0.5% Gross wages HRA or HSA contribution.

These Bylaw Changes are being read and voted at the May Regional Meetings as listed below:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Northern Regional	May 3, 2023	4:00 p.m.	Chequamegon Hotel, Ashland, WI
Barron Regional	May 4, 2023	4:15 p.m.	Barron VFW, Barron, WI
Central Regional	May 10, 2023	4:00 p.m.	Union Hall, Eau Claire, WI
Southern Regional	May 11, 2023	5:00 p.m.	American Legion, Onalaska, WI
Western Regional	May 17, 2023	4:00 p.m.	Meister's Bar & Grill, Boardman, WI
Lancaster Regional	May 18, 2023	5:30 p.m.	Wolf's Graphics, Lancaster, WI
Alma Regional	May 25, 2023	5:15 p.m.	American Legion, Alma, WI

LOCAL 953 - 1ST ANNUAL PHEASANT/TRAP SHOOT

Saturday, September 9, 2023 @ Whispering Emerald Ridge Game Farm

Address: N3954 640th Street; Menomonie, WI 54751

Check in at 8:40 am sharp at the Clubhouse

Sign up with a credit card at: <http://www.ibew953.org/> and click on "pay dues", follow links to outing. Call Bandi Henke with any questions at: (715) 828-3294

There are 3 options for members and their immediate family members.

Option #1: \$10 (at the door, no pre-registration necessary)

Includes:

- Beer
- Burger Buffet
- chance at raffle

Option #2: \$20 (Please sign up online with a credit card by August 1, 2023)

Includes:

- Beer
- Burger Buffet
- 1 day membership
- chance at raffle
- 1 round of 5 stand clay target shooting (bring your own gun and ammo)

Option #3: \$100 (Please sign up online with a credit card by August 1, 2023)

- Beer
- Burger Buffet
- 1 day membership
- chance at raffle
- 1 round of 5 stand clay target shooting (bring your own gun and ammo)
- Rooster Pheasant/Chukar hunt with guides and dogs

Note: 3 birds will be planted per person, but we cannot guarantee how many you will hit/harvest! Processing of your birds available for an extra cost.

Reminder: Bring your own gun and ammo & feel free to bring your bird dog to help out. We will rent the services of guides and dogs so do not worry if you don't have a bird dog to bring.