



## **INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – JULY 2010**

### **LOCAL OFFICERS**

**DALE J. BLANK**  
Business Manager &  
Financial Secretary

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**BRADY L. WEISS**  
Vice President

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Recording Secretary

**FREDERICK A. HINES**  
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Scott A. Magnuson  
Scott C. Wild  
Mark J. Yohnk

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Robert Lahti, Asst. Bus. Mgr  
Brady Weiss, Asst. Bus. Mgr  
Martin Sandberg, Asst. Bus Mgr  
Connie Paulsrud, Office Mgr  
Don Grorud, Accountant

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



**Brothers and Sisters of Local 953**, as your newly elected Business Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to all of you that showed me your support during the recently concluded election. You can be assured that I will work very hard to show you that you made the right choice!

I would also like to say congratulations to everyone else who was successful in their campaign for a Local Union Office and to the members who were elected as delegates to next year's International Convention. I personally look forward to working with all of you.

Speaking of work, there is definitely no shortage of that at Local 953. We have 17 contracts to re-negotiate during the year of 2010. They include Xcel Energy, (our investor owned Utility), several membership owned Cooperatives; Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, Jo-Carroll Clerical, Pierce-Pepin, Price, Riverland (Clerical and Outside), and Vernon, along with the Municipals of Bloomer and Spooner, we also have a manufacturing contract at Winona Lighting. Eau Claire Energy Connections (Propane Contract) and our Tree Trimming/Line Clearance Contract have been successfully re-negotiated.

There will be some changes taking place in the representation area and I ask for your patience during this transition. Assistant Business Manager, Robert Lahti will continue to represent Xcel – no changes there! I will continue to represent Dairyland Power, Riverland Energy, and Dunn Energy along with Xcel Energy.

Assistant Business Manager Brady Weiss will continue to represent Outside Line Construction and Tree Trimming/Line Clearance. Assistant Business Manager, Brady Weiss and Assistant Business Manager, Martin Sandberg will represent the remaining Cooperatives, Municipals, Manufacturing, Teledata and Propane contracts – some changes here.

I look forward to working with all of you! Enjoy the remainder of summer and most of all – work safe, think safe, and be safe!

In Solidarity,  
Dale Blank, Business Manager/Financial Sec.

Dale J. Blank  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Hello Sisters and Brothers:

My name is Marty Sandberg. I reside in Rice Lake, WI with my wife, Terri, and my son Martin (14). We also have a daughter, Chelsie (20), who lives and works in the Whitehall area. I am originally from Eleva, Wisconsin.

My career at NSP/Xcel Energy began part-time in the mailroom in Eau Claire in December of 1985. In November of 1986, I became a Janitor at NSP in Eau Claire, at which time I also started my journey in the Brotherhood. In March of 1988, I moved to Rice Lake where I worked as a Meterman Helper. From June of 1992 until recently, I worked as a Utility Technician in Rice Lake.

In August of 2005, I was appointed Union Steward. I believe very strongly in the Union and what it stands for and I appreciate the past battles that have been won to get the Union where we are today.

Our new Business Manager, Dale Blank, has put his trust and confidence in me and has asked me to join the Team in the Hall. I will put everything I have into learning, so I can serve the Membership to the best of my abilities. I will utilize the experience that is already in the Hall, but most of all, I will depend on the knowledge of our Great Members of Local 953.

One person cannot fight the fight alone but **TOGETHER** and through **SOLIDARITY**, we will continue to achieve success in our battles. In the very near future, negotiations will be taking place for several of our Units. We need all of Local 953's Members to be **UNITED AND SHOW OUR SOLIDARITY.**

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to serve YOU, the Members of Local 953. I will be honest, ethical, and work as hard as I can. Communication lines and my door will always

be open. I look forward to meeting and hearing from each and every one of you.

In Solidarity,

Martin D. Sandberg  
Asst. Business Manager  
Office (715) 834-4911, ext #116  
e-mail: [martins@ibew953.org](mailto:martins@ibew953.org)

Greetings Fellow Union Members,

As we roll into the second half of 2010, Local 953 does so under the direction of new leadership. As the membership is aware, Dale Blank was sworn in as our new Business Manager on July 8, 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Blank, as well as express my appreciation and respect to all who accepted nominations to become candidates for Local Union 953 Offices.

On another matter, we are slated to begin negotiations with Xcel Energy on August 4. I respectfully request your cooperation and support in the upcoming months. Over the course of these negotiations it may be necessary to cancel some of the regularly scheduled Regional and Tailgate meetings. I will, however, attempt to hold these meetings whenever possible.

In closing, if you're involved with the Union, please stay involved. If you're not involved, please get involved! Become an active part of your future. It is your Union!

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Lahti  
Asst. Business Manager

## **LOCAL UNION 953 NEWS – JULY 2010**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Hope all is good and everyone is having a good summer.

For a good number of our members, it is once again contraction negotiation time. We have several contracts that are due to expire within the next year. The one message that I want to communicate with you is solidarity. We as members of this Union need to stick together. During the next few months, as in all contract negotiation years, the "rumor mill" will start moving. We need to keep this to a minimum. One way to do this is to make a special effort to attend the regional/tailgate meetings in your area. Acquire the information first hand from your business reps. This may not seem like a lot, but it will make a big difference when we as members talk to one another about what is going on.

Also, if you have a personal e-mail account, give that e-mail address to your business rep. This is a fantastic way for the hall to communicate with its members.

Well, I hope everyone is able to enjoy the rest of the summer, made sure you attend your regional/Tailgate meetings, and remember solidarity.

Take care, and talk to you soon,

Tim Hemenway  
President/Local 953

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Hello,

I hope everyone is enjoying your summer. I wanted to let you know that some of the units that I have had the opportunity to represent will be turned over to Martin Sandberg, "Marty" this change will be done during a transition period this year. Marty and I will be working together to make this as seamless as possible.

Also, as a reminder, the Local Union Golf Outing will be held Saturday, September 11, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Valley Golf Course in Mondovi, Wisconsin. Please take the time to register early, this makes planning the event much simpler.

Take care and be safe on and off the job.

Brady Weiss  
Vice President/Asst. Business Mgr

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