



**February 2011**

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park
- 8 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.  
**Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.  
**General Membership** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 15 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 5 p.m.

**March 2011**

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St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park
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**Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.  
**General Membership** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 15 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 16 **IBEW "Day on the Hill."**
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 5 p.m.

**We take Credit!**

The Local 292 Business Office now accepts "charge card" transactions.

You may choose to use your Discover, Master Card, and Visa charge cards for your telephone or over-the-counter transactions. (The same service will be made available on the new web site, soon.)

Discover, Master Card, and Visa are registered names for their respective corporations.



**For the Record**

**Deaths**

**Active Members**

David Dombrowski 12-9-2010

**Retired Members**

Richard Abendroth 11-3-2010  
Paul Johnson, Jr. 10-6-2010  
John Pierson 10-4-2010

John Prieve 10-5-2010  
Kenneth Rindfleisch 11-21-2010

**Retirements  
Congratulations**

Ronald Bomsta 9/2010  
Eldon Holmes 11/2010  
Douglas Humphrey 12/2010

Donald Lommel 11/2010  
James Munn 10/2010  
James Myrin 12/2010  
Thomas Petschl 10/2010  
Dale Phaneuf 7/2010  
Lye Stenberg 9/2010  
Clarence Torkelson 12/2010  
Gary Waldemar 11/2010  
David Weber 9/2010

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**KEEPING CURRENT**  
Local 292  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
United Labor Centre  
312 Central Ave., Suite 292  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
(Union Label)

**KEEPING CURRENT**

Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, publishes KEEPING CURRENT six times a year to open a communications channel between the local's leadership and its members.  
Postmaster: send address corrections to Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave., Suite 292, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

**Business Manager/Tom Olson**  
**President/Rodger Kreiman**  
**Editor/Michael Paul Weber**

January 2011

Volume 18 Number 1

# KEEPING CURRENT

*With Local 292, International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Local 292, International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
United Labor Centre  
312 Central Ave., Suite 292  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Phone: (612) 379-1292  
Fax: (612) 379-9326

AT THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S DESK

By TOM OLSON

## 'Remaining strong in these difficult times'

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Even as we enter the depths of winter, I remain cautiously optimistic as I look for positive signs of an upswing in job opportunities for our members.

Compared to this time last year, the out-of-work book has slightly fewer members on it, and there are a few projects that may offer some relief in the coming months, such as the upcoming outages at the nuclear plant and the light rail projects. Additional projects, such as the plans evolving for the Mall of America expansion, a possible new Vikings Stadium, and proposed casinos, will also be monitored closely as they make their way through the legislature this spring. Trying to identify work opportunities for our out-of-work members, whether this means a new project or recapturing work that is not currently being performed by IBEW members in our jurisdiction, remains our top priority.

I ask that you all try to understand the enormous pressures that our out-of-work members are facing in these difficult times. Do your part to help spread the work around to help ease these pressures. Each of us should work to identify opportunities to put our Brothers and Sisters back to work. While some overtime may be unavoidable, avoid excuses to work overtime simply to make up for lost time when so many members sit at home without a job. Remember also that there are still large numbers of apprentices who are out-of-work. Please work with your employers to help identify opportunities to put these members to work as well.

We are also starting to see more work opportunities available for our members who are willing to travel. The Hiring Hall is always looking for such opportunities, and you can contact them to hear about places that may be referring off of Book 2 in the coming weeks.

Thank you for remaining strong in these difficult times. We all look forward to a better year in 2011. Stay safe and continue to uphold the conditions we have all fought for.

In Solidarity,

*Tom*

**SAFETY  
CORNER**

**Did you hear about the guy that was  
fired from the orange juice factory?  
He couldn't concentrate!**

**Why do they have childproof caps on Aspirin  
bottles, but bullets just come in a box?**

**If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is not for  
you.**

These are corny jokes, but there is nothing funny about real accidents. Read on.

### **“CAN I WATCH OUT FOR YOUR SAFETY?”**

You've just arrived at your new job from the shop; you've had your orientation and filled out your paperwork.

You have new safety glasses and a shiny company hard hat. When you meet your foreman, he tells you, "You won't need that. This isn't a hard hat job."

Some wiremen might say, "Good," and bury the "brain bucket" back in their truck. But the electricians who are serious about safety would ask themselves, "Why isn't this a hard hat job?" You are finishing a new office space; your head is above the sharp grid with hard sprinkler pipes and air ducts all around.

For a safety program to be a success, it needs "Buy in," not "Pushback," from everyone in the field. When you see a Brother or Sister working without their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), ask them a simple question: "Can I watch out for your safety?"

Then hand them their hard hat, glasses, gloves, or whatever they might be missing.

Instead of "Pushback", the simple response "Thanks for watching out for my safety" will go a long way towards creating a culture of safety on the job.

So remember: "Can I watch out for your safety?" and "Thanks for watching out for my safety!"

These are great words to adopt along with our other motto:

**“NOBODY GETS HURT. EVERYBODY GOES HOME.”**

Fraternally,  
Charlie Ryan, Safety Committee

## **IBEW FISHING DERBY**

**Friday & Saturday,  
February 18-19, 2011  
Devils Lake, North Dakota**

### **Friday**

6:00 p.m. Hospitality Room  
Great American Inn & Suites

### **Saturday**

8:00 a.m. Fishing Derby  
Woodland Resort, On the Ice

### **Saturday**

7:00 p.m. Banquet  
Great American Inn & Suites

\$25.00 per member  
Ages 18 and under, free  
For more information, call the  
Local 292 Office: 612-379-1292



## **Going on Active Duty?**

Local 292 members are asked to stop into the Business Office to fill out the Military Card before leaving for active military duty.

We will need to verify with the IBEW International Office that members have been approved for the Military Card before they depart.

Please contact the Local 292 Business Office if you have any questions. And, "Thanks for your service!"

AT THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY DAN MCCONNELL

## YEAR-END BITS & PIECES

*'Thank you' volunteers, COPE drawing winners, 'Day on the Hill'*

Brothers and Sisters:

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all our members who stepped up and volunteered for the Local and their favorite candidates. It seems like everywhere I go, candidates and elected officials are telling me about the great help they have received from a Local 292 member. Below is a list of members who helped out with phonebanking or doorknocking over the past year.

### COPE GIFT CARD DRAWING

Our grand prize winner is our COPE Drawing this year was Gene Osbeck who received a \$500 Gift Certificate to Cub Foods. 2nd Place (\$250 at Cub Foods) went to Elizabeth Wilson and Lonnie Anderson. Congratulations and Thanks! to Gene, Liz, Lonnie, and all our volunteers.

### IBEW 'DAY ON THE HILL' IS MARCH 16

The IBEW Minnesota State Council has set Wednesday, March 16 for the 2011 'Day on the Hill'. Join with Brothers and Sisters from all of the Minnesota locals to make sure our voice is heard. With the new makeup of the State Legislature, your participation will be critically important in making sure our elected officials understand the concerns we have. This is especially true when it comes to issues that impact your ability to earn a decent living, such as Jobs, Prevailing Wages, and Licensing. Please call the union office (612-379-1292) to get signed up to participate in the IBEW Minnesota State Council's 2011 'Day on the Hill'.

Thanks.

Dan McConnell

Political Director, IBEW Local 292

612-617-4234 (d), 612-209-7915 (c), 612-379-9326 (f)

danm@ibew292.org

## 2010 Local 292: COPE Volunteers

Jim Anderson  
Lonnie Anderson  
Stephen Anderson  
Sergey Bak  
Ron Ball  
Chuck Berger  
Mark Blegen  
Dion Block  
Corey Brown  
Kristina Brown  
Jon Burns  
Rick Caron  
Owen Christiansen  
Sam Cross  
David Dombrowski  
Robert Dynkavtich  
Bruce Edlund

Michael Fraser  
Steve Gunhus  
Mike Hartley  
Scott Higgins  
Annette Hurtado  
Wallace Kalscheuer  
Jim Karpowicz  
Jeff Lane  
Scott Lindquist  
Carl Madson  
Miguel Martinez  
Bill McGie  
Mary McShannock  
Delia Moorhead  
Kirk Nelson  
Eugene Osbeck  
Larry Peterson  
Martin Peterson

Mike Ptak  
Richard Ramberg  
Paul Redhead  
Harvey Rolfer  
Charlie Ryan  
Clint Sandlund  
Dirk Schmitz  
Scot Schneider  
Jeff Shannon  
Doug Swanson  
Jim Tauer  
Jim Thomas  
Ken Viken  
Van Welke  
John Williams  
Elizabeth Wilson  
Don Windseth

## Summary Annual Reports for Electrical Workers Local 292 Employee Benefit Plans

### REPORT IDENTIFICATION

The Electrical Workers Local 292 Employee Benefit Plans are required by federal law to provide you with summary annual reports of the Health Care, Vacation and Holiday, Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB), and Defined Contribution and 401(k) Plans. The full annual reports for each benefit plan are filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration under the following employer identification numbers:

Health Care Plan	41-1384754
Vacation & Holiday Plan	41-1701466
Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan	41-1876011
Defined Contribution & 401(k) Plan	41-1760754

Benefits are paid to qualified members and their beneficiaries from the IBEW Trust Funds, which are administered by the Joint Board of Trustees. A summary of the income, expenses, and assets of the Health Care, Supplemental Unemployment Benefit, Defined Contribution and 401(k), and Vacation and Holiday Plans as of April 30, 2010 is listed below:

### Insurance Information

The Health Care Plan has contracts with USABLE Life, Comprehensive Care Services, Medica Health Insurance Company and BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota to pay certain life, stop loss, medical, accidental death and dismemberment, and prescription drug claims incurred under the terms of the Plan. The total premiums paid for the policy year ended December 31, 2009, were \$4,053,709. The total premiums paid for the policy year ended April 30, 2010, were \$127,126.

### SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORTS

Plan	Health Care	SUB	Defined Contribution & 401(k)
<b>PLAN INCOME</b>			
Employer contributions	\$ 34,254,872	\$ 1,015,511	\$ 15,789,127
Participant contributions	5,751,203	-	4,563,057
Other contributions	-	-	176,948
Realized gains/(losses)	51,079	-	5,874,424
Investment earnings	10,084,134	1,123,101	65,470,657
Other income	1,835,087	3,304	57,633
<b>Total plan income</b>	<b>\$51,976,375</b>	<b>\$2,141,916</b>	<b>\$91,931,846</b>
<b>PLAN EXPENSES</b>			
Administrative expenses	\$2,033,591	\$203,388	\$543,618
Benefits paid*	35,119,482	2,601,206	16,272,815
<b>Total plan expenses</b>	<b>\$37,153,073</b>	<b>\$2,804,594</b>	<b>\$16,816,433</b>
<b>PLAN ASSETS (After Subtracting Liabilities)</b>			
Beginning – 5/01/09	\$63,449,418	\$10,782,689	\$316,290,601
Increase (decrease) for the year	14,823,302	(662,678)	75,115,413
<b>Ending – 4/30/10</b>	<b>\$78,272,720</b>	<b>\$10,120,011</b>	<b>\$391,406,014</b>

\* to participants and beneficiaries

## Summary Annual Reports for Electrical Workers Local 292 Employee Benefit Plans

(Continued from previous page)

### EXPLANATION OF PLAN ASSETS INCREASES/DECREASES

The increases (decreases) during the year include unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value of plan assets, that is, the difference between the value of plan assets at the end of the year and the value of plan assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year.

### MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS

At the end of the plan year, a total of 7,994 people were participants in or beneficiaries of the Defined Contribution and 401(k) Plan, although not all of these people had yet earned the right to receive benefits.

### ASSETS, INCOME, AND EXPENSES – Vacation & Holiday Plan

The value of the Plan's assets, after subtracting liabilities, was \$1,071,159 as of April 30, 2010, compared to \$1,247,908 as of May 1, 2009. During the plan year, the Plan experienced a decrease in its net assets of \$176,749.

During the plan year, the Plan had total income of \$13,433,033 consisting entirely of employer contributions. Plan expenses were \$13,609,782 consisting entirely of benefits paid to participants.

### YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of each full annual report or any part thereof upon request. The items listed below are included in the reports of the Plans as noted:

- Insurance information including sales commissions paid by insurance carriers (Health Care Plan)
- Financial information on payments to service providers (All Plans except Vacation and Holiday Plan)
- Information regarding any common collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, masters trust or 103-12 investment entities in which the Plan participates (Defined Contribution and 401(k) Plan)
- Auditor's report (All Plans)
- Assets held for investment (All Plans except Vacation and Holiday Plan)
- Transactions in excess of five percent of plan assets (All Plans except Vacation and Holiday Plan)

To obtain a copy of each of the full annual reports, or any part of a report, write or call the office of the Plan Administrator, Electrical Workers Local 292 Employee Benefit Plans, 6900 Wedgwood Road, Suite 425, Maple Grove, MN 55311, (763) 493-8830.

The charge to cover copying costs will vary according to which report(s) you wish to receive. The full annual report of the Health Care Plan is \$31.50; Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan is \$4.00; the Defined Contribution and 401(k) Plan is \$63.00; and the Vacation and Holiday Plan is \$.75. Individual pages are \$.25 each. You also have the right to receive from the Plan Administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of each plan and accompanying notes or a statement of income and expenses of each plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the Plan Administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for copying of these portions of the report. These portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine each annual report at the main office of the Plans, 6900 Wedgwood Road, Suite 425, Maple Grove MN 55311 and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department of Labor should be addressed to Public Disclosure Room, N1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

### OTHER INFORMATION

Administrative expenses include investment expenses of \$87,059 for the Health Care Plan and \$5,620 for the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan.

**Local 292 Phone Directory****Local Offices****Minneapolis**

612-379-1292 or 1-800-337-8310

**Hiring Hall / Jobline**

612-378-2860

**St. Cloud**

320-253-1292

**Local 292 JATC**

763-497-0072 or 1-888-244-3146

**Statewide LEA JATC**

763-571-5922

**Benefit Office**

763-493-8830 or 1-800-368-9045

**T.E.A.M.**

651-642-0182 or 1-800-634-7710

**Minnesota Building Trades****Credit Union**

763-315-3888

**Electrus Federal Credit Union**

763-569-4000 or 1-800-252-4239

**Direct Dial & Voice Mail**

612-617-4 \_ \_ \_

**Business Manager**

Tom Olson 231

**Metro Business Reps/Organizers**

Jim Felicetta 225

Dan Ferguson 239

Devin Hall 235

Jeff Heimerl 249

Pete Lindahl 233

Dan McConnell 234

Brian Peterson 229

**St. Cloud Business Reps/Organizers**

Dennis Kalthoff 243

Randy Pullis 257

**Office Staff**

Noreen (Office Admin.) 227

Barb (Business Office) 232

Joan (Business Office) 221

Lyla (Business Office) 224

Lisa (Accounting) 236

Pat (Accounting) 223

Anita (Hiring Hall) 222

**Voice Mail Only**

612-617-4 \_ \_ \_

**President**

Rodger Kretman 237

**Financial Secretary**

Keith Anderson 242

**Executive Board**

Jim Gessner xxx

John Hall xxx

John Kripotos xxx

Jeff Lange xxx

Rick Ramberg xxx

Steve Shannon xxx

Van Welke xxx

**Brotherhood**

Committee 247

**WATT'S  
UP**AT THE FRINGE  
BENEFIT OFFICE**BY JODY ROE-HARDIE**

PHONE: 952-591-7733

# Yearly important health-related reminders

At this time every year, members are reminded about two important health-related issues: the guidelines for childbirth hospital stays and an explanation of coverage for mastectomies. Please read carefully and call the Benefit Office if you have any concerns or questions.

## Childbirth

Under federal law, group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage generally **may not restrict** benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother of the newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section delivery. However, the plan or issuer may pay for a shorter stay if the attending provider (eg, physician, nurse midwife, or physician assistant), after consultation with the mother, discharges the mother and newborn earlier.

Also, under federal law, plans and issuers **may not set** the level of benefits or out-of-pocket costs so that any later portion of the 48-hour (or 96-hour) stay is treated in a manner less favorable to the mother of newborn than any earlier portion of the stay.

In addition, a plan or issuer **may not**, under federal law, **require** that a physician or other health care provider obtain authorization for prescribing a length of stay of up to 48-hours (or 96-hours). However, to use certain providers or facilities, or to reduce your out-of-pocket costs, you may be required to obtain pre-certification. For information on pre-certification, contact the plan administrator.

## Mastectomies

Several years ago, Congress adopted a new Section 713 to ERISA which requires group health care plans that provide medical and surgical benefits with respect to mastectomies to include, in the case of a participant or beneficiary who is receiving benefits in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction surgery, coverage for (1) **reconstruction** of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed; (2) **surgery and reconstruction** of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and (3) **prostheses and physical complications** for all stages of the mastectomy procedure, including lymphedemas. This coverage may be subject to any annual deductibles and co-insurance provisions which may be deemed appropriate and are consistent with those established for other benefits under the Plan.

This new section provides that a group health care plan **may not** (1) **deny** to a patient eligibility, or continued eligibility, to enroll in or to renew coverage under the terms of the Plan, solely for the purpose of avoiding requirements of this section; and **may not** (2) **penalize** or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of an attending provider, or provide any incentives (monetary or otherwise) to an attending provider to induce such provider to provide care to an individual participant or beneficiary, in a manner inconsistent with this new coverage requirement.

*Jody*

