

SAFETY CORNER

Hang-up & Drive

The telephone was invented 25 years after the bathtub.
You would have had 25 peaceful years in the tub before the phone would ring.

They say talk is cheap.
That's baloney! I have a wife, two daughters, and a phone bill to prove it.

SMILES

A guy talking on his cell phone while driving was hit by a steamroller.
He is in the hospital in rooms 38, 39, and 40.

These are more dumb jokes.
But there is nothing funny about cell phone use while driving.

In a summary of a report by the National Safety Council (NSC) on cell phone-involved accidents, the major findings were that, in January 2009, using data from the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, the Council estimated that there were 636,000 crashes attributable to cell phone use each year. The NSC's new model estimates that 28% of crashes—or 1.6 million crashes in 2008—were attributable to handheld and hands-free cell phone use. And a minimum of an additional 3% are caused by text messaging.

Brothers & Sisters: Hang-Up and Drive. Have a Safe Summer!

WIN TICKETS OR MERCHANDISE: CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Enter
 The Local 292 Photo Contest for the 2011 IBEW Local 292 Calendar.

Win
 Minnesota Twins tickets or IBEW branded merchandise.

Take new pictures
 Grab your camera and have some fun taking pictures of current projects in Local 292's jurisdiction.

Use old pictures
 Dig out those pictures you already have from "the good old days" that depict our Local's history.

Submit
 Email your pictures to the Local 292 Office by August 15, 2010, to joanh@ibew292.org
 Type "292 Photo Contest" in the email subject line.
 And be sure to identify yourself.

Judging
 A panel of members from the Local 292 Office will judge the photos and make their choices.
 The winners will be announced at the annual members' Family Picnic at Wabun Park on Saturday, August 21, 2010.
 You need not be present to win.

Prizes
1st place: Set of 4 Twins baseball tickets. **2nd place:** Pair of 2 Twins baseball tickets.
3rd place: \$30 worth of IBEW merchandise.

Questions?
 Contact Jeff Heimerl at 612-617-4249.

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

Calendar

August 2010	September 2010
5 St. Cloud Informational meeting. 6 p.m. St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park	2 St. Cloud Informational meeting. 6 p.m. St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park
10 Minnesota Primary Election. Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Stewards meeting. 5 p.m. General Membership meeting. 6 p.m.	6 Labor Day. Office Closed Monday.
17 Limited Energy meeting. 5 p.m.	14 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30 p.m. Stewards meeting. 5 p.m.
21 Family Picnic. Wabun Park. 11:00 a.m.	21 Limited Energy meeting. 5 p.m.
24 Executive Board meeting. 5 p.m.	28 Executive Board meeting. 5 p.m.

For the Record

Deaths	Deaths	Retirements
Active Members	Retired Members	Congratulations
Joseph McCurdy 5-18-2010	Ernest Anderson 4-5-2010	Bradley Bentz 5-2010
Jeffrey Meistad 5-16-2010	Gustav Anderson 3-14-2010	Robert Retterath 3-2010
Michael Stordahl 6-20-2010	Frederick Bipes 6-22-2010	Robert Wenner 2-2010
	Donald Opsahl 5-24-2010	
	Henry Tuzinski 6-2010	
	Guy Welch 4-2010	

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Minnesota Primary Election

Tuesday, August 10, 2010 – Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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 Kretman
Editor/Michael Paul Weber

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

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KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Magaret Anderson Kelliher
 IBEW-Endorsed Candidate
Governor of Minnesota

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

Early Primary next step to labor-friendly government in State

Minnesota votes August 10 for Governor; IBEW-endorsed 'Margaret' on the ballot

Minnesota has moved its Primary Election to August beginning this year, and Local 292 is already gearing-up to see that its endorsed candidate for Governor, **Margaret Anderson Kelliher**, wins this next step towards putting a labor-friendly Governor into office.

"We're ready with a full schedule of political activities," says Dan McConnell, Local 292's Political Director. "In addition to the usual phone-banking, mailings, flyer distribution, and lawn-sign efforts, we have added a formal absentee ballot program this year. We'll cover all the bases."

In some election years, it is the November election that gets the most attention. But this year, the IBEW-endorsed candidate for Governor must succeed in August in order to appear on the November General Election ballot. Only one candidate from each party will make it through the Primary.

"Margaret's 'No Stone Unturned' campaign to get Minnesota back to work is just what we need now," says Dan. "We haven't had this kind of friend in the Governor's Office since 1990."

Members who are not registered to vote, or who have moved and need to change their legal voting address, should do so now. Most state and county licensing offices offer **voter registration** as well as almost all city halls and municipal buildings. And you may fill-out a voter registration card at the Local 292 Office or at any Local 292 meeting.

For members who might be out of town on August 10, **absentee voting** is available all through July and early August, both **in-person** at the member's county auditor's office or local city hall or municipal building and **by mail**. Contact the Local 292 Office to have an absentee ballot application sent to your home.

Your help is needed

Local 292 members are asked to consider volunteering a couple hours of their time during this important campaign season. There is something for everyone to do: calling members to remind them to vote; door-knocking to get-out-the-vote; putting up lawn signs for our endorsed candidates; distributing campaign literature. Call Local 292's Political Director, Dan McConnell, for more information: 612-617-4234.

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Minnesota Primary Election

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

AT THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S DESK

BY TOM OLSON

'It is an honor to serve the membership during this challenging time'

Priorities: Negotiations, 'Unacceptably High' unemployment, Aug. 10 Primary

The winds of change have once again blown through Local 292. As many of you have heard, Tony Maghrak informed the Executive Board on May 25th that he was resigning as Business Manager effective May 31st. Tony has accepted a position with the IBEW International Office and will serve as the Sixth District Representative for the Minnesota area.

The Executive Board has appointed me to serve out the remainder of Tony's term, which ends next summer. I had previously been serving as a Business Representative since early 2009, and I had been acting as the Local's General Counsel during that period. It is an honor to serve the membership during this challenging time and I look forward to working with all of you.

We are currently in negotiations for our **Inside Agreement**, and we will begin negotiations on both the **Limited Energy Agreement** and the **12-County Agreement** very soon. The Negotiating Committee for our Inside Agreement has continued to meet with the negotiating representatives from NECA during the past few weeks. Although no new settlement proposals have been presented, I believe that we are moving closer to resolutions that will lead to an acceptable agreement that keeps our employers competitive and will help put our members back to work.

Addressing the **unacceptably high unemployment** in our industry must remain our top priority. We must continue to take steps to try to turn this trend around. I know that a common refrain these days is that "there just isn't any work in town." While it is true that our local construction market has suffered disproportionately in the recent recession, we must all make efforts to identify any work in our jurisdiction that *is* being performed right now but being performed by non-union contractors.

We continue to control the majority of the work in our jurisdiction, and that fact is a testament to the great strength of this Local for more than 100 years. We must never ignore, however, that there is *always* electrical work being done in Local 292's jurisdiction that we *should* be performing but are not. Even with our strong market share, this "other" electrical work equals millions of dollars worth of work every year. Simply put, this work could help put our members back to work. We all need to do our part in helping to identify these projects, whether large or small, and to think collectively about how we can make certain that these jobs "go union."

Another top priority that we must remain focused on is our effort to elect a Labor-friendly Governor in the State of Minnesota. We have endorsed **Margaret Anderson Kelliher** in the race for Minnesota Governor, and she is a true friend of labor. **Get out and vote in the August 10 primary.** Anyone interested in getting involved in this effort should contact Dan McConnell in the Local 292 business office. I can think of no other single event that could have a more positive impact on this organization than to have a friend in the Governor's office for the next four years.

It is no secret that **our strength today lies in this solidarity**, just as it has every day since our founding in 1902. This fact never changes regardless of who is serving in our union leadership positions. Each one of us leads by our actions on the job and in the community. Continue to respect and uphold the conditions that have been fought for by the members that came before us. Honor our long-standing work hours **and** break periods and, as always, stay safe.

Tom

ERTS NOTICE

The IBEW International Office has requested that all members sign-up on their Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System (ERTS).

This applies to ALL members, not just those who are working in other locals.

Please stop-by the Local 292 Office to complete this necessary registration.

The Local 292 Fringe Benefit Office has relocated.

NEW ADDRESS. NEW PHONE NUMBER. SAME SERVICE.

6900 Wedgewood Road North, Suite 425
Maple Grove MN 55311
763-493-8830 • 1-800-368-9045

MINNESOTA VOTES!

New Primary Date; New Labor Chance

Once again I want to thank all our members who participated in their party's precinct caucuses and conventions. These were important first-steps towards hopefully electing Minnesota's first labor-friendly Governor in 20 years.

You undoubtedly know that we were instrumental in securing the DFL Party's endorsement for our own IBEW-endorsed candidate, **Margaret Anderson Kelliher**, at the convention held in Duluth in April.

But you might not know that the State of Minnesota has changed the date of the statewide Primary Election to early August instead of early September. This was done to conform to changes in federal law regarding timely distribution of absentee ballots for members of the military serving overseas.

This year's Minnesota Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 10. As usual, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

As a result of the date change, our Local will begin its political action program much sooner than usual. Here is what you can expect; an absentee ballot program; membership phone-banking; membership mailings; worksite flyer distribution; Primary and General Election sample ballot distribution.

We have added a formal absentee ballot program this year due to the many requests we have received from members who are working on the road. Members who have not received an application for an absentee ballot and need one are asked to call the Local 292 Office soon. The application with instructions will be mailed to you immediately. Don't wait.

As we do every election year, our membership phone-banking operation will be calling all members to inform them of the date of the election and the importance of voting for our IBEW-endorsed candidates. Members who are willing to help make these calls are asked to call the Local 292 Office to sign-up. And remember: when you receive your call, it will be one of your own brothers or sisters on the other end of the line.

Finally, some of the action takes place "on the street". Members willing to help with door-knocking, lawn sign posting, and distribution of campaign literature and sample ballots are asked to call the Local 292 Office for details.

Every member who volunteers for any of these election year tasks will receive a COPE Volunteer pocket t-shirt and will be entered into our drawing. Your contribution of just a few hours of your time will make a difference.

Below is a partial listing of our IBEW-endorsed candidates whom members are respectfully asked to support.

In Solidarity, Dan McConnell, Political Director, IBEW Local 292

2010 IBEW-Endorsed Candidates

Governor / Lt. Governor

Margaret Anderson Kelliher & John Gunyou

Secretary of State

Mark Ritchie

Attorney General

Lori Swanson

U.S. Congress

Dist. 4, **Betty McCollum** Dist. 5, **Keith Ellison**

Dist. 6, **Tarryl Clark** Dist. 8, **James Oberstar**

Minnesota State Senate

Dist. 7, **Roger Reinert** Dist. 45, **Ann Rest**

Dist. 58, **Linda Higgins**

Minnesota State House

Dist. 58A, **Joe Mullery** Dist. 65A, **Jerimiah Ellis**

Hennepin County Commissioner

Dist. 1, **Mike Opat** Dist. 2, **Mark Stenglein**

Dist. 3, **Gail Dorfman**

Minneapolis School Board

At Large, **Richard Mammen**



Paul Young & Kelsey Larson awarded 292 Alexander-Krech Scholarships

Chem Eng goal for Delano HS Graduate; says Labor should focus on 'independents'

"One of my main interests in high school has been music," says Paul Young, a 2010 graduate of Delano High School and winner of an IBEW Local 292 Guy Alexander & Joseph Krech Scholarship.

Paul decided earlier this year to attend either the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities or Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, with a goal of earning a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering stressing alternative and clean-burning fuels.

Paul's father, Tom Young, an Electrician with Hunt Electric, joined the IBEW following his own education and gives credit to his union job and benefits for helping give his children a "good upbringing."

If Chemistry is Paul's field, then Music is his passion. His musical resume includes playing drum set, snare drums, marimba, and other percussion instruments in high school Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Pep Band.

He has also taken music instruction at Schmitt Music for seven years and the McPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis for the past three years.

In high school, Paul has been a solid honor roll student enrolled in primarily college level classes. His record shows many A's.

"My motivation to work hard, my commitment to education, and my desire to accomplish my goals will help me succeed," says Paul.

Paul is looking forward to participating in the Chemistry Club at college and wants to complete a research project in his chosen Chemical Engineering field.

Paul sees that "economic and market forces, which are beyond union control, are largely responsible for the decline of unions." He lists global competition, deregulation, corporate downsizing, and the outsourcing of jobs to other countries as more specific causes.

"I would encourage unions to become more proactive among the rapidly-growing independent segment of the workforce." Paul says these workers need help to bargain for better benefits such as healthcare. "Unions could increase their membership by reaching out to these workers by creating an organization to address their unique challenges," he says.

While at school, Paul has worked at a gas station convenience store and at a sportsman's club. He says that the IBEW Scholarship "...will allow me to defray a portion of the cost of my education."

"I appreciate the fact that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers offers scholarships to the children of their union workers."



Scholarship Winners Paul Young (left), and Kelsey Larson (right) accepting their Guy Alexander & Joseph Krech IBEW Local 292 Scholarships, accompanied by their fathers.



St. Ben's Sophomore working on Math Ed; wants Unions to 'educate' young children

Entering her Junior year at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota, Kelsey Larson will use her Guy Alexander & Joseph Krech Scholarship award to continue in her Mathematics major and Education minor fields. She wants to teach and has already tutored students while in both high school and college.

Kelsey knows first-hand the value of employment in a union trade. Following an automobile accident, her father, Leon Larson, faced aggressive back surgery and additional treatments.

"Throughout these difficult times," says Kelsey, "the disability and other benefits from the IBEW union have enabled our family to stay afloat."

Kelsey's academic emphasis began early. In middle school she entered the University of Minnesota's Talented Youth math program. In 11th grade she took advanced placement classes in Literature and Human Geography for college credit. In 12th grade she excelled in the Post Secondary Education Option earning high school and college credit.

She says that her "patience and ability to illuminate ideas in different ways" drew some attention. She tutored her sister and several classmates while in high school and has continued to tutor high school students while in college. And she has been a Calculus Teaching Assistant at St. Benedict's.

"My enthusiasm for helping others with mathematics gave me my ambition to become a math educator," says Kelsey. "I would like to teach Algebra I in order to develop a crucial foundation for a student's math education."

Kelsey says music is her "personal creative outlet." She plays in various ensembles on campus including Wind, Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Brass Choir, and Pep Band, and French Horn in the church orchestra at home.

According to Kelsey, "Unions should focus on new membership." She believes this should start early with efforts to educate school children in the history of Labor, focusing both on the negatives and the positives: child labor, low wages, poor working conditions, and injuries – as well as good wages, benefits, safe working conditions, and social justice issues.

"When these children enter the workplace, they will understand the critical importance of joining and supporting unions, and also in voting pro-labor candidates into office."

Work is both necessary and important for Kelsey. "I work a campus job during the school year and several different jobs in the summer," she says, "but this hardly pays more than the interest accumulated on my student loans. Receiving this scholarship...a tremendous blessing."