

April 2009

Volume 16 Number 2

# KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



## FISH

(Date to be announced)



## GOLF IN JULY



## PICNIC IN AUGUST

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

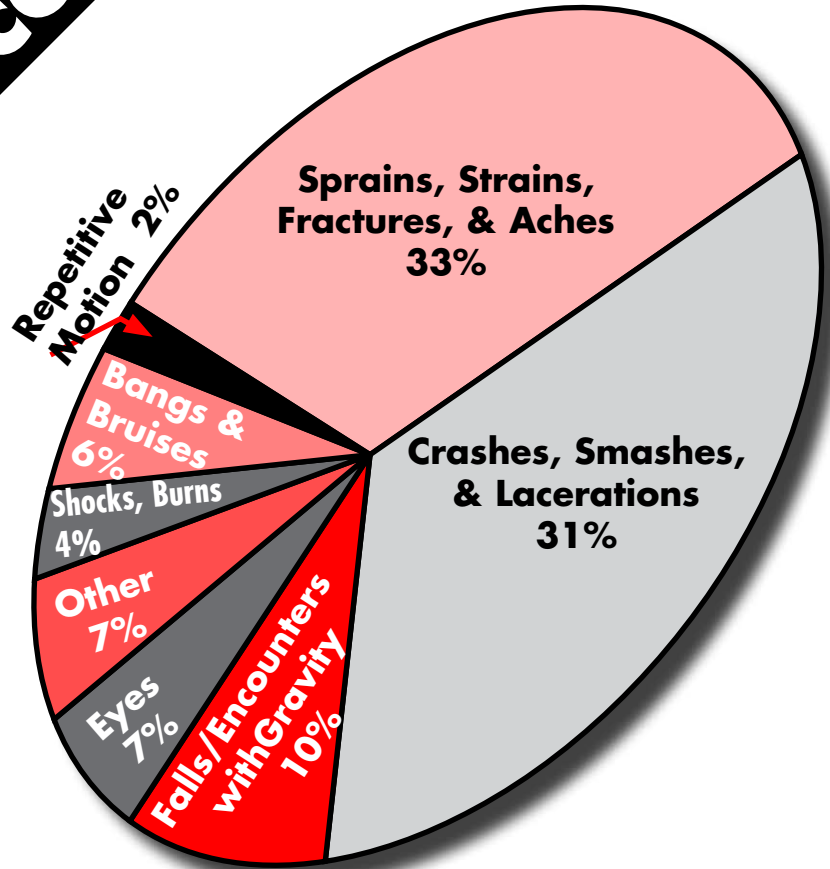
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# SAFETY CORNER

## Injuries in 2008



Last year there were 112 injuries reported to the Joint NECA/Local 292 Safety Committee.

Safety is everyone's business.

## Don't be the next victim.

“The biggest lie out there is that EFCO will take away a worker's right to a secret ballot. In fact, the act would allow workers to choose whether to decide to form a union through “majority sign-up” or a secret ballot election.”

—Tony Maghrak  
(See more on page 2)



## Reviewing the ‘Day on the Hill’

Spring is a time of newness all around us, and it is my hope that work will pick-up. But it will be a while—maybe even into early next year—before we see the full impact of the federal stimulus funds. But we have a few things to reflect on.

First of all, many “thanks” to all who showed-up for our annual Local 292 “Day on the Hill” at the Minnesota State Capitol in February. It was a good time to connect once again with our legislators and to address our concerns. I always enjoy hearing, “Those IBEW members in the red shirts are here again”.

- We reminded them of the importance of enforcing the **Prevailing Wage** statutes currently in effect. Much of the federal stimulus money will go into prevailing wage type projects, and we want it used wisely in support of decent livable wages for all involved. We are asking for stronger enforcement of these statutes as well as for additional training for county and city attorneys in how to handle these cases.
- We spoke to **MNSCU** about not duplicating the training that we are already doing at our JATC, especially in the green or renewable energy areas. We have people trained in solar and are continuing to train even more. We are also getting ready for wind generation projects.
- We spoke out against **Right to Work** legislation, as it weakens unions and undermines the collective bargaining process. Under a so-called right to work law, anyone on a union jobsite enjoys the wages and benefits negotiated by the union even though they don’t have to join the union or pay any dues or fees. Everyone should participate in order to receive the services and benefits.
- We also asked members to thank their legislators for passing an **unemployment compensation extension bill**, allowing unemployed members to access funds provided by Congress. We urged them to continue to improve this system during these challenging economic times.
- There were two sessions related to **Green Jobs** at which we filled the room with our signature red shirts. The legislators took notice. In addition to supporting prevailing wages whenever government money is involved, we asked that solar and renewable energy work be done by licensed and certified electricians.

## Defending the Employee Free Choice Act

On a different level I’m sure you have heard about the **Employee Free Choice Act** (EFCA) and how big businesses and the chambers of commerce are committing as much as \$2 million to delay or defeat passage of this important bill. The biggest lie out there is that EFCA will take away a worker’s right to a secret ballot. In fact, the act would allow workers to choose whether to decide to form a union through “majority sign-up” **or** a secret ballot election. The best part: there would be no more stalling to get a first contract, and there would be a provision for mediation or binding arbitration when it’s needed.

## Next union meeting topics

Remember that at our next union meeting on April 14, 2009, we will be **allocating \$2.20** in the last year of our current contract. There is a lot of talk out there that various crafts are taking cuts and/or a wage freeze. We will not do either, because we need to take care of our health care and pension plans.

At this time we don’t know the exact “additional amounts” for each of these plans, but we will properly fund both to maintain our current benefit levels. One option will cover only these two items and maybe the JATC contribution. Another option will allocate the full amount across the whole wage fringe package. Some are concerned that we can’t afford to take this raise at all, and others think we have over-priced ourselves. I do know that if we take nothing, our non-union counterparts will—as always—undercut our rate, and we will begin a race to the bottom.

Stay safe, and work professionally, as always!

*Tony*

# Date TBA Fish

- » Location TBA
- » Limited to 55 members
- » Register by TBA
- » Contact John Noonan for more info: 612-617-4233



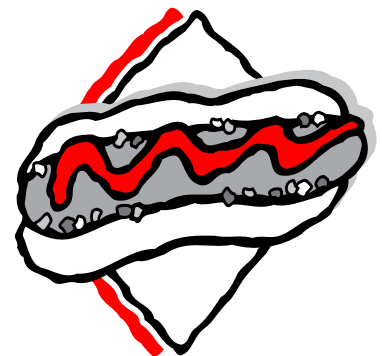
# July 20 Golf

- » Fox Hollow Golf Club  
Rogers MN
- » Limited to 200 members
- » Register by July 13
- » Contact Jeff Heimerl for more info: 612-617-4249



# August 15 Picnic

- » New Location  
Bunker Hills Regional Park  
Coon Rapids
- » Family event
- » No registration required
- » Contact Jeff Heimerl for more info: 612-617-4249



The date and further details for the annual fishing event will be announced later.

### Local 292 Golf Tournament Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

**Must enclose:**  
Your check for  
**\$25**

**Send to:**  
Local 292 Golf Tournament.  
312 Central Ave SE, Room 292  
Minneapolis MN 55414

**Indicate:**  
T-shirt size (circle)  
S M L XL  
2XL 3XL

**Remember:**  
**Register by July 13 for Golfing.**  
Limited to 200 members.  
Lottery if more than 200 sign up.

# Summertime should be Funtime!



# Calendar

## April 2009

- 14 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
- Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.
- General Membership** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 21 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 28 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.

## May 2009

- 7 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park.
- 9 **MN Fishing Season Opens**
- 12 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
- Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.
- General Membership** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 19 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 25 **Memorial Day.** Office closed.
- 26 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.

## June 2009

- 4 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park.
- 9 **Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.
- General Membership** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 16 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 23 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.



# For the Record

## Deaths

### Active Members

- Raymond Bendix 3-16-2009
- Michael Hoeft 1-4-2009

## Deaths

### Retired Members

- Herbert Bacon, Jr. 2-27-2009
- Robert Briese 3-2009
- Raymond Gierke 12-20-2009
- Robert Healy 12-5-2008
- Donald Holmgren 3-10-2009
- Bernard Renk 1-6-2009
- Robert Rittman 1-27-2009
- William Whitney 2-25-2009

## Retirements Congratulations

- Harry Banko 1/2003
- Stephen Anderson 4/2009
- Grant Andreasen 5/2008
- Larry Atkinson 3/2009
- Robert Baas 11/2008
- Daryle Berg 4/2009
- Harlen Beyer 4/2009
- Kenneth Beyer 11/2008
- Scott Bratten 9/2008
- James Braun 11/2008
- James Bruhn 10/2008
- Norman Brown 9/2008
- Rickey Decker 11/2008

- Stephen Dibble 1/2009
- James Forrer 2/2009
- David Franko 9/2008
- Richard Hallman 1/2009
- Tom Hanlon 11/2008
- James Harvey 11/2008
- Glenn Heine 6/2008
- John Hopping 3/2009
- Jack Jensen 8/2008
- Brandt Johnson 4/2009
- Robert Kilian 3/2009
- Scott Knight 7/2008
- Daniel Kremer 3/2008
- Kevin Kuechle 2/2009
- Erwin Kurtz 2/2009
- Michael Lange 3/2009
- Daniel Langva 1/2009
- Etienne Lattrez 11/2008
- Steven Lawrance 4/2009
- Lorne Lindberg 12/2008
- Lloyd Lindquist 7/2008
- James Meyer 2/2009
- Garry Pepin 3/2009
- Thomas Piersak 7/2008
- Robert Reak 3/2009
- Merwyn Rust 5/2008
- Ronald Ruuska 2/2009
- Loren Schmidt 7/2008
- Richard Schopf 12/2008
- Ronald Simons 11/2008
- Boyd Snoddy 11/2008
- Daniel Spernick 1/2009
- Charles Stark 9/2008
- Raymond Suwalski, Jr. 3/2008
- Chester Thomason 12/2008
- Gerald Wegner 10/2008
- Pierre Weinand 11/2008

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.

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