



Calendar

November 2009

- 3 **Municipal Election Day.**
Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 5 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park.
- 10 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 5 p.m.
General Membership meeting. 6 p.m.
- 11 **Veterans Day.**
- 17 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 24 **Executive Board** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 26-27 **Thanksgiving Holiday.**
Office closed. (Thursday & Friday)

December 2009

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park.
- 5 **Children's Christmas Party.** 8 a.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center.
- 8 **Stewards** meeting. 5 p.m.
General Membership meeting. 6 p.m.
- 9 **Retirees' Christmas Party.** 11 a.m.
Zuhrah Shrine Center.
- 11 **Members' Christmas Party.** 7 p.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center.
- 15 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 24-25 **Christmas Holiday.**
Office closed. (Thursday & Friday)

January 2010

- 31-1 **New Year's Holiday.**
Office closed. (Thursday & Friday)
- 7 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall, 103 Doctors Park.
- 12 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 5 p.m.
General Membership meeting. 6 p.m.
- 18 **Martin Luther King Day.**
- 19 **Limited Energy** meeting. 5 p.m.
- 26 **Executive Board** meeting. 5 p.m.

Pancake & French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, October 18 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 7045 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield
TICKETS: Adults \$5, Kids \$2 (10 & under). Tickets available at the door.

Proceeds benefit the construction of the Honoring All Veterans Memorial in Richfield

Business Manager/Tony Maghrak
President/Rodger Kreiman
Editor/Michael Paul Weber

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.



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

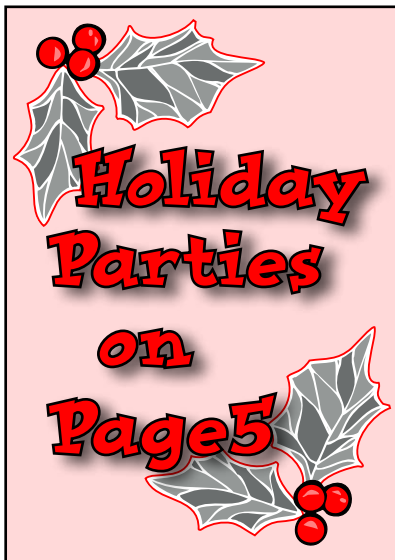
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KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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

**SAFETY
CORNER**

H1N1 FLU

**Let's do our part
to stay healthy this Winter.**

Patient: "What's wrong, Doctor? You looked puzzled."

Doctor: "I can't figure out exactly what's wrong with you. I think it's the result of heavy drinking."

Patient: "Well then, I'll just come back when you're sober."

Doctor: "Nurse, how is that little girl doing who swallowed ten quarters last night?"

Nurse: "No change yet!"

Sometimes we use corny jokes like these to help us cope with medical uncertainties. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and with input from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, have issued some solid guidelines to combat the 2009 H1N1 Flu. Here are a few of them. For more information go online to: www.Flu.gov

- » Stay at home. Sick employees at work should be advised to go home and stay home at least 24 hours after they are free of a fever (100 degrees F / 37.8 degrees C, or greater).
- » Cover coughs and sneezes. Influenza viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes.
- » Improve hand hygiene. Wash with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- » Clean surfaces and items that have frequent human contact.
- » Get vaccinated. Vaccinations are available for seasonal influenza. For more information go online to: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm/

Higher risk people include: pregnant women, children under 5 years old, adults and children who have chronic lung disease (such as asthma), heart disease, diabetes, and diseases that suppress the immune system.

WAT T 'S
UP

AT THE
BUSINESS
MANAGER'S
DESK



By TONY MAGHRAK

LOCAL 292 SKILLS & MARKET FOCUS

Continuing Education Classes Filling; 'Difficult' Contract Choices Approaching

Summer has ended, the **State Fair** has come and gone, and the school year has started back up for students—and continues for our members. I want to thank all the members who stopped at the AFL-CIO “green building” and at the Apprenticeship booth at the Education Building at the fair. We are trying to educate the public about who we are, what we do, and how well trained we are in our electrical industry. The solar display attracts a wide variety of people and interests and connects us to the whole green economy.

Registration for our own **Continuing Education** classes has begun, and classes are filling up quickly. The JATC can't seem to offer enough Solar classes, and our first-time offering of Instrumentation classes are booked-up as well. The Center has also added a second High Voltage Cable Splicing class that is filling quickly, too. Now is a great time to add to or improve our skills to help make ourselves better and our contractors even more competitive.

As we head into our next contract **negotiations** we need to evaluate where we stand in our construction industry and to then position ourselves to gain market share. I have received input from both members and contractors suggesting that we have priced ourselves high, sometimes out of the market. Some believe that freezing our wages and benefits would help. Although we can freeze our wages, we cannot stop increases in the costs of maintaining our current benefits.

Without additional monies in the total wage and benefits package, it will be necessary to move money from one or more benefits to cover a shortfall in one or more other benefits. It might even become necessary to reduce the level of benefits in order to ensure that there is no increased cost to our contractors for the total package. And it could require us to ask for a reasonable amount of money to allow us to maintain our local pension, health, and welfare benefits with no actual money being added to “the check”.

These are hard and complex choices to make, so we need to start preparing now as we move through these difficult times. If you have suggestions or ideas, please be sure to forward them directly to me at the office. If you have any specific language changes to the collective bargaining agreement, please reference them to the current sections in the agreement.

Everyone is trying to determine if we are at the bottom of this **economic slide**. Depending on whose crystal ball you look at, it appears that we are settling at the bottom and at some point the economy will start to improve. Remember as a kid when you went down the slide, and when you got to the bottom you had to get out of the way right away? You didn't want to get knocked over by the next kid coming down. Recently too many workers have been economically unable to get out of the way and have been trampled by the circumstances. But I also remember that, as kids, we would run to climb up the ladder again to be in control for the next ride. The economy and our industry will turn around, and we need to be prepared for it.

The September municipal primary elections are over. I want to thank all of you who help us in all our political activities. We need to establish ourselves again in the political arena, and it does make a difference when you show up at a caucus meeting, or a school board meeting, or a town hall meeting; or when you phone-bank or door-knock or literature-drop. We will be looking for help as the **November elections** approach. Please get involved in whatever way you can. Don't forget to let people know that you are a proud IBEW Union Member living and helping out in our communities.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that we need to continue to be **productive and professional**, working “eight for eight” to keep our contractors competitive. We need to take our morning and afternoon breaks as directed and limit our lunch time to half an hour. We need to stay on the job until the end of the day, making sure to pick up all of our tools and the contractor's tools, being ready to leave at quitting time. As always, show up to work safely, work throughout the day safely, and return home safely.

In solidarity,

Tony

2009 IBEW Local 292 Service Pin Awards

65-YEAR MEMBERS

Raymond Johnson
Albert Loehlein
Donald Wilson

60-YEAR MEMBERS

William Blanchard
Ivert Green
Arthur Hogan
Theodore Horsch
Richard Miles
Alvin Rausch
Raymond Schaefer
George Therres

55-YEAR MEMBERS

Roy Benson
Paul Connell
Jake Eekhoff
James McGowan
Lloyd Peterson
John Quinn
Lewis Rausch
Sylvester Rudolph
Malvin Weisenburger

50-YEAR MEMBERS

Ernest Anderson
Dallas Barnes
Donald Briesemeister
Leonard Carlson
John Cookos
Gerald Dehne
Clifford Ebert
Gary Flam
Richard Hagen
Geoffrey Hanson
Gary Harten
Jack Hendrickson
John Kvalsten
Donald Meinhardt
James Moore
Joseph Piersak
Earl Sorensen
James Stiles
Mark Wenberg
Maril Williams

40-YEAR MEMBERS

Gustav Anderson
Orville Bachmann
Steven Baumann
Donald Boeshans
Lyle Boyer
Richard Broome
Francis Buckmiller
Jimmie Burvee
Norman Busta

Duane Buttler
Richard Carpenter
Harvey Cederholm
Raymond Chapman
Lynn Christianson
Ronald Christle
Larry Clark
LeRoy Clem
David Cross
Duane Davidson
Ernest Desmarais
Robert Dillon
Earl Domke
Donald Dupay
Robert Dynkavitch
Walter Eisenbeis
James Emanuelson
Edwin Enebo
John Evans
Raymond Faas
Morris Fimrite
Raymond French
Bruce Frilstad
James Fulkerson
Duane Gaulke
Howard Gease
Earl Gengler
Raymond Gossen
David Grote
Stanley Haapala
Robert Hayes
Mikal Helland
Stanley Helland
Marlin Hennen
Donald Herman
Eugene Herschberger
Patrick Hilton
Ronald Hovet
Larry Ikola
Milton Johnson
Robert Johnson
Terry Johnson
Robert Jones
Jacob Kilian
Roger Knutson
Donald Kolb
Kostas Kosmides
Raymond Kramer
Joe Krautbauer
Robert Landrus
Duane Lane
Daniel Langva
James Latterner
Victor Lien
Gerald Lindquist
Jay Livingston
Donald Lyons
Mark A. McGraw

Ronald Miller
Robert Murphy
Marvin Nastansky
John H. Nelson
John I. Nelson
Cecil Olson
Harold M. Olson
Harold R. Olson
Lloyd Perreault
Robert Perreault
Vern Perreault
Brian Peterson
Theodore Platz
John Powers
Ronald Price
George Reasoner
Vern Redenbaugh
Theodore Reem
Leo Rieger
Gary Sakry
Marvin Schaeffer
George Schauff
Thomas Scholer
William Schwartz
Erwin Seefeldt
LeRoy Sharp
Henry Stahlmann
Clement Stine
David A. Swanson
Russell Swearingen
Gary Theisen
Kenneth Thompson
Kenneth Tilbury
Allen Tollakson
William Toninato
Clarence Torkelson
Kenneth Viken
Larry Wenaas
Robert Wenisch
Ralph Wermerskirchen
Paul Wermerskirchen
Loren Wical
Warren Windt
James Wing
Lyle Wirz
Dale Witzke
Alvin Zachman
Adolf Zistl
John Zobava

25-YEAR MEMBERS

Robert Beldo
Daniel Bennett
Timothy Berglund
Paul Burggraff
Richard Carlson
Michael Chaney
Jeffrey Clouse

Brian Dols
Donald Edison
Stephen Edling
Jeffrey Friend
William Gallatin
Tim Goodhart
John Gorg
Bradly Guck
Michael Hamari
Mark Harten
Robert Helms
John Herkenhoff
Chris Herman
Brian Hilk
Mark Houser
Kevin Kloiber
Joe Koppi
Rick Labandz
Joseph Lakanen
Ladd Larson
Ted Lien
Terry Lomas
David Martin
Robert Marty
Gregory Meyer
Jeff Meyer
Peter Moran
John Noonan
Curtis Olsen
Douglas Palmer
Jeffrey Parker
Steven Pivec
Steven Pullar
Timothy Ravn
Bill Ronne
Daniel Schepers
Thomas Schneider
Patrick Shepherd
Scott Smith
Timothy Trounce
Anthony Udovich
Scott Voelker
John Wall
John Walter
Rick Waxberg
Gerald Weaver
David Weeks
Dean Weikle
Rodney Wermager
Michael Wermerskirchen
William Williams
Paul Wills
David Zeman
Brian Zilka
Allen Zimmer
Joel Zylman

Labor Endorsed Candidates

MINNEAPOLIS

Mayor

R.T. Rybak

City Council

- 1 Kevin Reich
- 2 Cam Gordon
- 3 Diane Hofstede
- 4 Barb Johnson
- 5 Don Samuels
- 6 Robert Lilligren
- 7 Lisa Goodman
- 8 Elizabeth Glidden
- 9 Gary Schiff
- 10 Meg Tuthill
- 11 John Quincy
- 12 Sandy Colvin Roy
- 13 Betsy Hodges

Park Board

- AL Annie Young
AL John Erwin
AL Tom Nordyke
- 1 Liz Wielinski
 - 2 Jon Olson
 - 3 Scott Vreeland
 - 4 Anita Tabb
 - 5 Jason Stone
 - 6 Brad Bourn

Board of Estimate & Taxation

- AL Carol Becker

ST. PAUL

Mayor

Chris Coleman

School Board

- AL John Brodrick
AL Elona Street Stewart
AL Tom Goldstein
AL Vallay Varro

MAHTOMEDI

City Council

Ken Lohr
Lael Ramaley

LOCAL 292 POLITICAL AGENDA

City Hall, Governor's Office, Jobs Taskforce

As winter approaches and our Local faces unprecedented challenges, our work on the "political front" is the one place where there are no shortages.

Minneapolis City Elections

Our first task is to rebuild our relationships in Minneapolis City Hall. It is no secret that we have suffered setbacks at City Hall in recent years because our clout there has lessened. This is in large part because many of our members have moved out of the city, and the Mayor and Council Members know this.

With Minneapolis city elections coming on November 3, we have an opportunity to strengthen our ties by getting out and supporting our endorsed candidates. Just a couple hours of your time door-knocking or phone-banking will go a long way towards allowing us to make sure that the city council takes our concerns seriously. If you can help, please contact me personally, either by telephone or email: 612-617-4234 or danm@ibew292.org

Minnesota Governor's Race

The next task on our list is the 2010 Elections. The campaign and election season begins with Minnesota's Precinct Caucuses which will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd. Local 292 is determined to do everything it can to elect a labor-friendly Governor in 2010. We cannot afford four more years of a Governor, who—in the words of IBEW member and Minnesota State Senator Steve Murphy—has

"... failed to make any progress to grow Minnesota's economy. Instead, his actions have inhibited progress and prosperity. He's repeatedly vetoed job-creation bills, caused the cost of a higher education to skyrocket, and blocked efforts for cost savings in health care reform. These steps backward will negatively impact our ability to maintain Minnesota's ability to compete for new jobs and private investment opportunities."

Currently there are 23 known candidates for Governor, and we need to make sure that the one who gets elected will make job creation a priority so that all of our members can get back to work. Please make sure that 2010 Precinct Caucus day—Tuesday, February 2—is on your calendar. Look for more information from your Local about how you can help.

Jobs Taskforce

Last, but certainly most important, is Job Creation. As was mentioned in the last issue, Local 292 worked very hard to get a Vertical Construction Stimulus Bill passed last year by the state legislature. But our efforts were blocked in the House of Representatives. House Speaker Margaret Anderson-Kelliher has appointed a taskforce charged with crafting legislation for next year's legislative session that will get the construction industry working again. While the legislature, itself, won't convene until the first week in February, the first meeting of the Jobs Taskforce was held on September 25, 2009.

Your help is needed. Please take just a minute to call your legislators—state senator and state representative—to let them know that creating construction jobs should be their number-one priority. Call: 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

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



For the Record

Deaths

Active Members

Robert Bellesen	7-3-2009
Thomas Fahey	6-1-2009
Robert Forrer	8-23-2009
Jon Nichols	8-28-2009

Deaths

Retired Members

William Arbuckle	7-1-2009
Thomas Conniff	8-16-2009
Arnold Shannon	6-22-2009
Marvin Tatley	7-20-2009
Edward Truchinski	8-1-2009

**Retirements
Congratulations**

Werner Deutsch, Jr.	8/2009
Dean Eggert	2/2009
Richrd Elliott	10/2008
Michael Fischer	8/2008
Donald Hime, Jr.	7/2009
Wallace Johnson	5/2009
David Krumm	7/2009
Richard Lobeck	8/2009
Michael McGee	4/2009
Pat Mitchell	2/2009
Richard Moen	8/2009
Ronald Petrik	10/2009
Edward Pollock	9/2009
Harry Ressler	6/2009
Stephen Sather	7/2009

**CHILDREN
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5**

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS
CONVENTION CENTER**

Doors Open at 8 a.m.

The Teddy Bear Band Plays at 9:30 a.m.

Candy, Toys, Songs, Dance,
Face Painting, Magician

Have your picture taken with Santa Claus!

For answers to your questions:
call Dan Ferguson at 612-617-4239

A MONETARY DONATION TO THE FOOD SHELF IS ENCOURAGED.



RETIRES—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

ZUHRAH SHRINE CENTER

2540 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

Reservations required.

You are cordially invited to
celebrate with your friends
at this annual Holiday event.

For further details and reservations:

call Chuck Berger at 763-420-4721
or Herman Kahl at 763-535-3587

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR RETIREES CLUB MEETING THIS MONTH.



FREE PARKING

Taking care of business at the
Minneapolis Union office?

You may park at the St. Anthony
Falls Parking Ramp and bring in
your parking stub. We'll validate
it for you!



MEMBERS—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

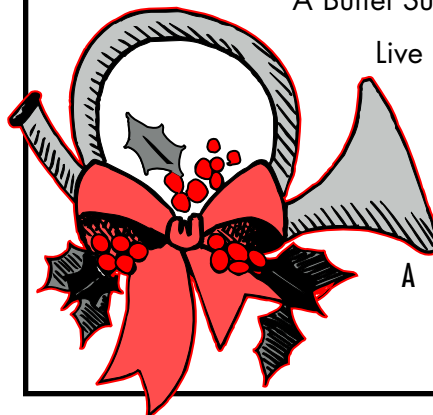
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

A Buffet Supper will be served at 7:00 p.m..

Live music performed by The Resistors.
Spouses and significant others
encouraged to come!

For more information:
call Dan Ferguson at 612-617-4239

**A MONETARY DONATION TO THE FOOD SHELF IS
ENCOURAGED.**



LOCAL 292 DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2010

Time to consider scholarships

March 1, 2010, is the application deadline for the Local 292 Alexander & Krech Scholarship. And although the exact details about some of the other union-sponsored scholarships are not yet available, now is not too early to begin thinking about also applying for one or more of these awards.

The Local 292 scholarship provides \$1,500 towards further education in 2010 at a college or trade school and is open to both members and their dependents.

Traditionally the IBEW International, Union Plus, and the Minnesota AFL-CIO offer their own scholarships, with application deadlines from January 31 to May 1. Several are open to members, spouses, and dependents, while others are offered only to members. Information about these opportunities should be available at the individual sponsors' websites in the coming months.

Some scholarship applications are quite lengthy and involved, requiring significant research, thought, and writing. But it is well worth the effort, considering the rewards. One-time financial awards range from \$500 to \$4,000, and at least one offers several hundred dollars per semester credit hour.

Members and dependents who will be continuing their education anytime in the next few years might want to review the various available scholarships, requirements, and forms this year, even if not actually applying until a later year.

"Education can be expensive, but well worth the investment," says Tony Maghrak, Local 292 Business Manager. "I hope that all prospective higher and continuing education students apply for as many scholarship aid awards as possible. I wish you the best as you keep learning."

Health Care Reform

The IBEW supports the fight for REAL health care reform.

Why Do We Need Health Care Reform?

- Health care premiums are increasing three times faster than wages or inflation
- Health insurance company profits have increased more than 1,000 percent during the past five years
- Workers who have health insurance now pay 68 percent more than they did in 2000
- Every thirty seconds, someone files for medical bankruptcy in the United States



The status quo is unsustainable, and without action health care costs will crush families and businesses.

Five Points the IBEW Considers Essential for REAL Health Care Reform to Benefit Working Families

1. **A public health insurance option should be included.** This will provide competition for insurance companies, drive out waste, bring down costs, and guarantee affordable health care for all.
2. **Health benefits should not be taxed.** Taxing benefits will raise the costs for workers at a time when they need relief.
3. **Employers should be required to pay their fair share (Play-or-Pay).** This will keep companies that do not provide health care from shifting the costs to all of us.
4. **Small businesses should not be exempt.** Small IBEW employers provide health insurance for their workers, and exemptions put them at a competitive disadvantage for doing the right thing.
5. **Affordable coverage for pre-Medicare retirees should be offered.** Currently, workers who retire before age 65 have no affordable options for finding coverage on their own.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers • www.ibew.org

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

IBEW Local 292 Alexander & Krech

Award: \$1,500 one time
 Eligible: members and dependents
 Attending: college or trade school
 Application Form: inside this issue
 Application Deadline: March 1, 2010
 Website: www.ibew292.org/

For further information about this scholarship, contact the Local 292 Office. You may photocopy the application form printed in this issue or download it from the Local 292 website.

IBEW International IBEW Founders'

Website: www.ibew.org/

Union Plus ® Union Plus

Website: unionplus.org/

Minnesota AFL-CIO (Several offerings)

Website: www.mnafcio.org/

For specific information about these scholarships, their availability for 2010, and their deadlines, check their individual websites.

APPLICATION
for
GUY ALEXANDER & JOSEPH KRECH
 (College or Trade School)
IBEW LOCAL 292 SCHOLARSHIP

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS PLANNING TO BE ENROLLED AS
 FULL TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS THIS COMING ACADEMIC YEAR.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
 IBEW LU 292 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
 312 CENTRAL AVENUE SE – ROOM 292
 MINNEAPOLIS MN 55414

Entry Deadline: March 1, 2010

DATE _____

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ SOCIAL SECURITY _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND/OR STUDENT STATUS _____

NAME OF PARENT _____

HOME ADDRESS OF PARENT _____

PARENT'S EMPLOYER _____

PARENT'S TYPE OF WORK OR TITLE _____

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME OF BOTH PARENTS _____

STUDENT'S TYPE OF WORK OR TITLE _____

STUDENT'S AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

FOR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS:

Send college and high school transcripts with your application.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

Present this application to your high school counselor, requesting a transcript that shows grades, high school rank, and aptitude scores. Send these items with your application.

NAME OF SCHOOL YOU EXPECT TO ENROLL IN _____

WHAT WILL BE YOUR MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY IN THE SCHOOL INDICATED _____

- On a separate sheet, please **WRITE** and attach a **personal letter**, addressed to the Scholarship Committee, telling about yourself:

How well you have done in school

Your school extracurricular activities

Your outside-school involvements

What you want from higher education

Why you need or deserve this scholarship

(Include any additional information that you want the Scholarship Committee to consider in evaluating your personal qualifications.)

- On a separate sheet, please **WRITE** and attach an **essay** of at least one hundred words, reflecting your perception of labor unions, including specific changes (if any) that you feel would strengthen organized labor.

Please be specific about what unions have done for you, personally.

(You are encouraged to speak with your parents and/or school teachers about this.)

Please refer any questions about this scholarship or the application form to the IBEW Local 292 Office, 612-379-1292.