

November 2011

Volume 18 Number 4

KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



IBEW
HOLIDAY LIGHTS In The Park
In Partnership with KIM, Oil & Gas Workers

Volunteer
on Nov. 17-19.

Enjoy
from Nov. 22 thru Jan. 1.

See page 2.

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

CRAIG CARLSON & RONALD RAJKOWSKI

Two Local 292 members killed on I-35W Job Site in Burnsville

IBEW Local 292 members Craig D. Carlson and Ronald J. Rajkowski were killed on October 13, 2011, while working on an Interstate 35W construction project in Burnsville.

An out-of-control automobile swerved into the ditch where the two men were doing electrical work on a MnPASS toll lane system. Carlson, 47, died immediately on the site, and Rajkowski, 44, died shortly after being taken to Hennepin County Medical Center.

"This is a tragic reminder that construction work is inherently dangerous," said Rodger Kretman, IBEW Local 292 Business Manager. "We constantly preach and teach safety, but we need the public to help us out, too. Our thoughts and prayers will be with the families and friends of both Craig and Ronald."

Craig Carlson was a 26-year member of IBEW. He lived in St. Joseph MN and is survived by his wife, Debbie, and two children, Tiana and Tristan. Rajkowski was a 15-year member of Local 292. He lived in Ramsey MN and is survived by his wife, Jodi, and two sons, Blake and Chase. Both men worked for Egan Companies, based in Brooklyn Park MN.

Craig Carlson is described as "a caring man" who tried to live a full life. He was a fisherman and snowmobiler, and spent as much time as he could at his family's cabin near Grand Rapids



MN. "He was a very patient man," said Pete Lindahl, Local 292 organizer and business representative, who worked with Carlson in the early 1990s. "Even at a young age, Craig was always willing to take time to show me how to do something. His loss is so tragic."

Ronald Rajkowski will be remembered by



many as "an amazing husband and a great father," ready to help anyone. "Ron loved a great game of cards and was excited every year

for the Vikings to start their season," said the St. Cloud Times. "I knew both Ron and his wife," said Dennis Kalthoff, Local 292 organizer and business representative. "He really loved his children, and he was just a great guy. I wish all the best for his family in this sad time."

According to the Local 292 website, contributions are being raised for the Carlson and Rajkowski families. Donations can be sent to the "IBEW Benefit Fund for Craig Carlson" or the "IBEW Benefit Fund for Ronald Rajkowski" at the Union Bank & Trust, 312 Central Ave SE, Minneapolis MN 55414. Or the Paypal buttons on the IBEW Local 292 homepage may be used.

MEDLINE RALLY IN ROGERS MN

Our members protest non-union California contractor

See page 4.

AT THE
BUSINESS
MANAGER'S
DESK

BY RODGER
KRETMAN



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CHECKLIST

Contract, Jobs Act, Parties, Lights, Elections, Remodel, Sadness

NECA-proposed contract. On September 28, over 800 members voted on a NECA-proposed contract, which covers the current year through April 2012. The contract passed with sixty-four-percent of the vote and will need to be approved by the International Office before it is printed. The apprenticeship committee approved yearly transfers of apprentices; the first transfers begin once the policy is approved at the November JATC meeting.

American Jobs Act. Also in September, United States Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis visited Minneapolis to discuss the American Jobs Act's potential to put 7,500 Minnesotans back to work. Secretary Solis called on all Union members to support the President's initiative to revitalize the crumbling infrastructure and put our members back to work. Parts of this Jobs Act are still on the table, so contact your Representatives in Washington and urge them to support working families by fighting for the American Jobs Act.

Christmas Parties. Our **Children's Christmas Party** is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, at the Minneapolis Convention Center from 8am-1pm. The **Members & Guests Christmas Party** is scheduled for 6pm Friday, December 16 at the UFCW Local 653 Hall. And the Local 292 **Retirees' Christmas Party** will be held on Wednesday, December 14, also at the UFCW Local 653 Hall. Mark your calendars. I look forward to these times when our Brothers and Sisters get together for food, fun, and fellowship.

IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park. This is the fourth holiday season that Local 292 and Local 110 (St Paul MN) have supported the IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park. On November 17, 18, and 19, from 8am until dusk, IBEW Locals 110 and 292 will be asking for volunteers to help set up over fifty larger-than-life holiday animated light sculptures in St Paul's beautiful Phalen Park. The display is over a half mile long, bordered by Lake Phalen and the Phalen Golf Course. The event raises money for local charities and runs from November 22 through January 1. Call IBEW Local 292 at 612-379-1292, or send an email to office@ibew292.org if you want to volunteer. For more information visit www.lightsinthepark.org

Recent and coming elections. We had successes in two special elections for open State Senate seats. In District 46, Democrat **Chris Eaton** won the race to represent portions of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, filling the seat left vacant by the death of Sen. Linda Scheid. In District 61, Democrat **Jeff Hayden** won the contest to represent several South Minneapolis neighborhoods, filling the seat left vacant by the resignation of Sen. Linda Berglin. Rep. Hayden's victory will now require a special election to fill his House District 61B seat. And please remember that there will be several elections for mayors and other municipal officials in the Twin Cities area on Tuesday, November 8. Please stay politically active and support Labor's endorsed candidates when voting.

Office remodel. Our own Local 292 office remodel project will begin in the next few months. We want to better-serve our members with improved facilities at a lower cost. Included in the remodel are new bathrooms, expanded office space, new business and hiring halls, and improved signage.

Fatal job site accident. We are saddened by the loss of two of our Brothers, **Craig Carlson** and **Ronald Rajkowski**, in a tragic job site accident on 35W on October 13, 2011. We are reminded that we work in what can be a very dangerous industry. Let us all work safe and learn from the loss of part of our Family. Memorial donations for the families are strongly encouraged. Worksite safety is very important, and I cannot stress enough the need for all workers to look out for each other.

In Solidarity,
Rodger
Rodger

2011 IBEW Local 292 Service Pin Awards

65 Years of Service

Ralph E. Crabtree
Arvey J. Rice
Calvin E. Wall
Theodore F. Wallen

60 Years of Service

Raymond A. Auer
Lawrence W. Franks
Richard C. Gerritsen
Everett H. Harpestad
Arnold C. Peterson
Raymond D. Ranallo
Russell J. Whittaker

55 Years of Service

Lawrence J. Batkiewicz
Gordon C. Baum
Byron J. Beihoffer
Denzil R. Brossard, JR.
Steven D. Clark
Hallard N. Corey
Karl G. Custer
Gordon L. Dahlheimer
Maurice E. Doebbeling
Kenneth L. Ekern
Donald A. Fiebiger
Maynard H. Frisk
Harold L. Husen
Arden E. Kafka

Joe E. Kramer
John T. Kripotos
Lloyd E. LaBorde
Joseph J. Nash
Richard A. Pull
Richard A. Streitz

50 Years of Service

Melvin A. Anderson
Leonard R. Campbell
Stephen C. Frank
Lester I. Froysa
Bruce A. Harten
Ralph E. Hedman
Robert M. Heine
Warren L. Jacobson
Jerome E. Kraemer
Jeffrey S. Land
Jonathon K. Larson
David L. Lyons
Norbert E. Malecha
Lowell A. Nordeen
Edward H. Schepers
Owen J. Schleisman
Joseph M. Scholl
Ronald C. Schroeder
Richard M. Siegler
Gordon R. Slater
Douglas R. Steere
Tyrone N. Thayer



Deaths

Retired Members

Leonard A. Bellefeuille	10/7/11
Arthur E. Brundage	8/20/11
Clyde H. Christenson	12/24/10
Gilbert Q. Claypatch	12/19/10
Albert D. McGinness	6/14/11
Donald R. Miegel	12/21/10
Vern L. Perreault	10/14/11
Lester P. Schmitz	12/23/10
Harold B. Smith, Jr.	10/15/11

Active Members

Craig D. Carlson	10/13/11
Ronald J. Rajkowski	10/13/11
Wayne P. Senger	9/19/10

Retirements

Congratulations

Gary D. Ball	10/2011
Jeff L. Bankston	1/2012
Dennis L. Boedigheimer	9/2011
Raymond R. Cardinal	9/2011
Gary A. Carlson	10/2011
Robert E. Copus	12/2011
Rickey J. Decker	10/2011
Randy F. Ecker	8/2009
Terry A. Engman	10/2011
Donald I. Erickson	10/2011
Timothy D. Fish	7/2010
David M. Hagen	5/2010
Ronald L. Joswiak	9/2011
James A. Kotschevar	9/2011
Michael B. McCullough	12/2011
Ronald L. Meyers	8/2011
Duane J. Nelson	1/2012
Stephen R. Nixon	2/2011
Steven D. Oxley	9/2011
Donald A. Peterson	11/2011
James R. Phoenix	11/2011
Michael J. Priem	7/2011
Larry J. Reichenberg	8/2011
Peter F. Schmidt	10/2011
Ronald J. Starn	10/2010
Robert L. Tourville	7/2011
Rodney A. Waataja	1/2011
James R. Weseman	7/2011
Dale A. Westby	8/2011

IBEW Local 292 Garage Sale

When? Tuesday, December 13, 2011, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Where? United Labor Centre, Room 298,
just across the lobby from the Local 292 office.

Why? 100% of the voluntary donations goes to the Local 292 Foodshelf

What? Office furniture, shelving, cabinets, televisions, and much more.

A list of items and photos can be found at www.ibew292.org

MEDLINE RALLY IN ROGERS MN**Our members protest non-union California contractor**

Over two dozen IBEW Local 292 members joined several hundred of their building and construction trade brothers and sisters at a Medline Rally on October 19th.

The occasion was a protest against Medline's hiring of non-union-California-based general contractor Panattoni Construction. This contractor is using out-of-state companies and employees, including electricians, to build Medline's new, \$15 million, 350,000-square-foot distribution center in Rogers MN. The City of Rogers gave a \$200,000 subsidy to attract Medline to its city.

Medline Industries is a large medical supply company headquartered in Mundelein IL. Medline sells a line of over 100,000 products to hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and home health care equipment providers. The company has a five-year contract to supply products to the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC).

The Minneapolis Building Trades brought over 100 additional unemployed Minnesota union members to the rally to contrast with the dozens of workers from other states who are working on Medline's construction site.

"We are here today because Panattoni Construction has chosen to do what they have been doing all across the country: bringing in workers from Texas, Arkansas, New Jersey, Indiana, and Pennsylvania to complete the Medline project," said Dan McConnell, Minneapolis Building & Construction Trades Council Business Manager.

"This hurts not only Minnesota workers, it hurts the Minnesota economy, exporting our hard-earned money to other states," McConnell continued. A member of IBEW Local 292, McConnell hopes that HCMC management will "weigh-in on this" by letting Medline know that they, too, "are extremely concerned" about the company's construction decisions.

At the rally, while IBEW members chanted "Minnesota Jobs for Minnesota Workers," a vehicle with New Jersey license plates drove around the site, taking pictures of the participants. An out-of-state electrical job van closely followed behind.

“This hurts not only Minnesota workers, it hurts the Minnesota economy, exporting our hard-earned money to other states.”



Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3

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, Clown

Have your picture taken with Santa Claus!

For more information, call Dan Ferguson, 612-617-4239

A monetary donation to the Food Shelf is encouraged.



Retirees' Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14

New Location: UFCW Local 653 Hall

13000 – 63rd Avenue North

Maple Grove MN 55369

Lunch will be served at noon

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

There will be no regular Retirees Club meeting in December.



Members' Christmas Party

Friday, December 16

New Location: UFCW Local 653 Hall

13000 – 63rd Avenue North – Maple Grove MN 55369

Doors open at 6 p.m.

A Buffet Supper will be served from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,
a Light Snack will be served at 10:30 p.m.

Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come!

For more information, call Dan Ferguson, 612-617-4239

A monetary donation to the Food Shelf is encouraged.



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

Rodger Kretman 237

Metro Business Reps/Organizers

Keith Anderson	242
Jeffrey Carlson	244
Ric Chantry	240
Dan Ferguson	239
Devin Hall	235
Jeff Heimerl	249
Pete Lindahl	233
Carl Madsen	224

St. Cloud Business Reps/Organizers

Dennis Kalthoff	243
Randy Pullis	257

Office Staff

Noreen (Office Admin.)	227
Joan (Business Office)	221
Lisa (Accounting)	236
Pat (Accounting)	223

Voice Mail Only

612-617-4 _ _ _

President

Jeffrey Heimerl 249

Financial Secretary

Peter R. Lindahl 233

Executive Board

John Hall	241
Mike Heimerl	xxx
Jeff Lange	xxx
Larry MacDonald	xxx
Aaron Olson	xxx
Jeff Orth	xxx
Rick Ramberg	xxx

Brotherhood

Committee 247

**SAFETY
CORNER****COLD STRESS****Back-up in case of a break-down.****Q:** How does a Polar Bear stop a VCR?**A:** It just presses the "paws" button!**Q:** What sits on the bottom of the cold Arctic Ocean and shakes?**A:** A nervous wreck!

- Knock, Knock. *Who's there?*
Freeze. *Freeze who?*
Freeze-a jolly good fellow, Freeze-a jolly good fellow....
- It was so cold last night, the Lottery balls retracted up into the machine!

These are just dumb winter jokes, but cold weather injuries and illness are not funny. Read on.

Last year, on November 13, 2010, eleven inches of snow fell and caused over 400 auto accidents. Every year we have the season's first "big one." Give yourself extra time and following distance when it comes this year. Don't become a statistic. And double check your emergency kit in your vehicle. Make sure that you have enough "back-up" in case of a "break-down."

Exposure to freezing and cold temperatures for extended periods of time may cause serious health problems such as trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia. Get an OSHA COLD STRESS CARD, a reference guide on cold-induced illnesses and injuries. Go to www.osha.gov and download your copy today.

Remember: The General Duty Clause in the OSHA Standards states that an employer must provide a work place free of hazards that could cause illness or injury—and that includes dangerously cold conditions.

Cold weather is coming soon.

"WORK SAFE. NOBODY GETS HURT. EVERYBODY GOES HOME."*Charlie Ryan*

Fraternally,

Charlie Ryan, Safety Committee

2012 SCHOLARSHIP PREVIEW

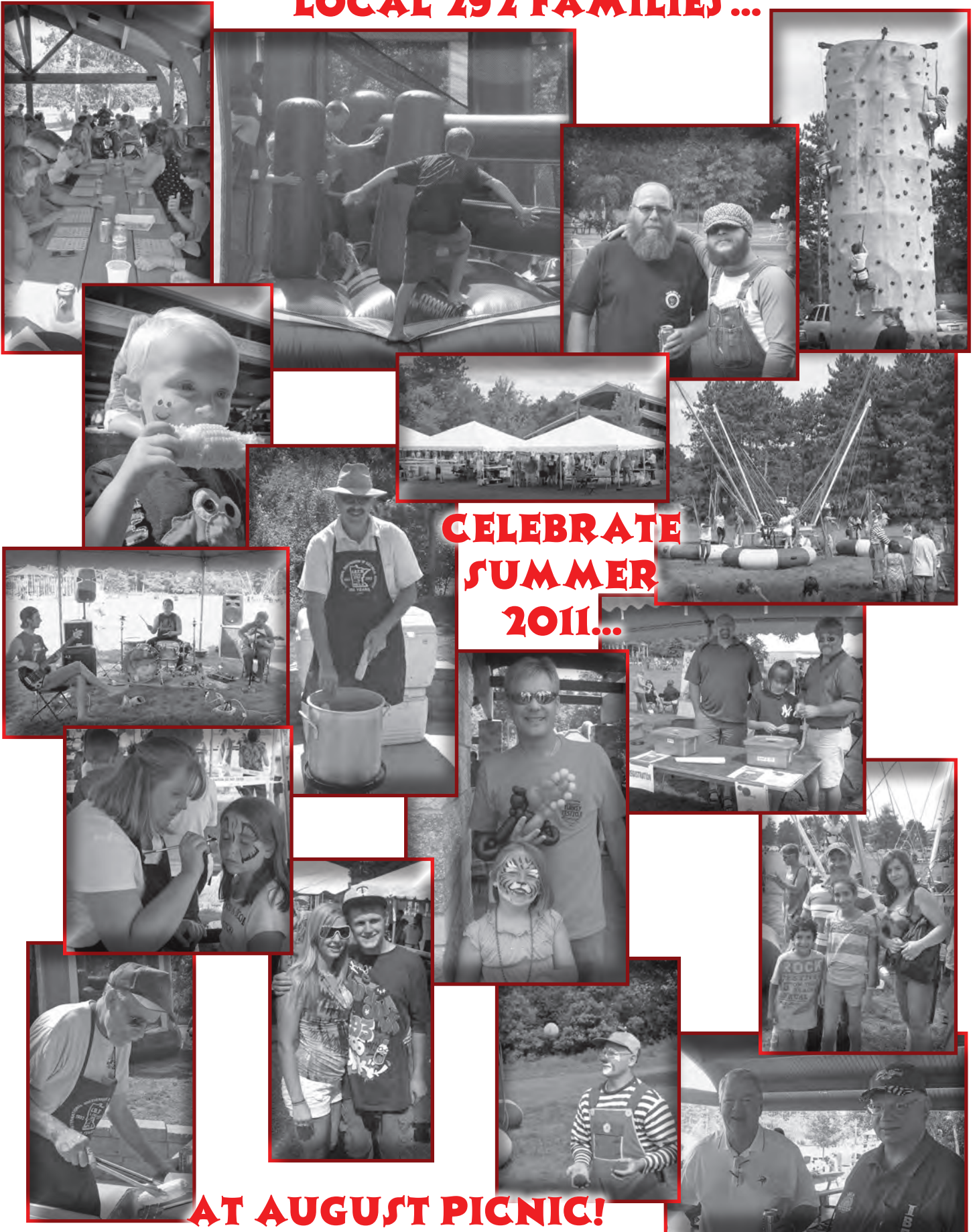
It is not too early to begin thinking about applying for one or more of the academic scholarships available in 2012. At least one of the awards has a very early application deadline. Members are advised to visit the websites for each of the sponsoring organizations to learn more about the coming year's offerings and requirements.

IBEW Local 292: Alexander & Krech Scholarship.

Deadline: March 1, 2012. More information in the next issue of Keeping Current.

IBEW International: IBEW Founders Scholarship.Deadline: May 1, 2012. For more information now, click on www.ibew.org/FoundersScholarship/**Minnesota AFL-CIO:** Several scholarships available.Deadline: April 30, 2012. For more information in January, click on mnaflcio.org**Union Plus:** Union Plus Scholarship.Deadline: January 31, 2012. For more information now, click on www.unionplus.org

LOCAL 292 FAMILIES...



**CELEBRATE
SUMMER
2011...**

AT AUGUST PICNIC!



Calendar

November 2011

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Road.
- 6 **Daylight Savings Time** ends. 2 a.m.
- 8 **Retirees' Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
- Stewards** meeting. 6 p.m.
- General Membership** meeting. 7 p.m.
- 11 **Veterans Day.** Office closed Friday.
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 24/25 **Thanksgiving Day.** Office closed
Thursday & Friday.

December 2011

- 1 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Road.
- 3 **Children's Christmas Party.** 8 a.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center.
- 13 **Garage Sale.** 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Stewards** meeting. 6 p.m.
- General Membership** meeting. 7 p.m.
- 14 **Retirees' Club Christmas Party.** 12 noon
UFCW Local 653 Hall, Maple Grove MN
- 16 **Members' Christmas Party.** 6 p.m.
UFCW Local 653 Hall, Maple Grove MN
- 23/26 **Christmas Eve/Day.** Office closed
Friday & Monday.
- 27 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 30/31 **New Year's Eve.** Office closed Friday.

January 2012

- 1/2 **New Year's Day.** Office closed Monday.

Every Month

Local 292 & 343 Retirees meet the
3rd Thursday of each month.
Brigitte's Café,
42-32nd Avenue South,
St. Cloud MN

Business Manager/Rodger Kreiman
President/Jeffrey Heimerl
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.

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