

July 2016

Volume 24 Number 3

KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



Summer Fun
Retirees
July 21
.....
Picnic
August 20

Come Home in One Piece – Page 4

**Vote for Labor-Friendly Candidates
– Page 5**

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TEAM-Retirement Ready– Page 8-9

KEEPING IN TOUCH
Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
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FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

BY PETE LINDAHL



Respecting road crews, Training our future,
Ensuring license enforcement, Getting politically involved

STADIUM COMPLETED, WORK CONTINUES

Dear Members:

With the completion of the Vikings stadium, another great chapter in Local 292's history has come to an end. Along with the commercial and residential work, airport and Solar projects are going to be a big part of our lives for the next few years. It's estimated that between \$500 million and \$1 billion dollars in construction spending will take place at the MSP airport over the next 3-4 years. Projects at MSP along with several large solar projects throughout our Local's jurisdiction will be the fuel that keeps the work picture going strong.

Local 292, its members, and the Union shops we work for are constantly looking for ways to be more productive. If we lose that focus, the non-union sector will make gains on our market share. We need to be more productive than our competition.

Summer Congestion. The summer construction season is in full swing. We need to remember that our members are just feet away from traffic. Road crew workers, whether they are our members or not, need us to drive safe. Texting or other distractions while driving put these workers' lives at risk every day. Let's do our part and help them get home safe.

Training Our Future. Whether you work in the construction, manufacturing, or broadcast industries, it is important to train the next generation. The success of the IBEW has come primarily through the skilled worker. Our competition is paid significantly less and does not possess the knowledge that we do. With superior training, we can compete with anyone. However, we need to produce in one hour what our competitors produce in an hour-and-a-quarter or an hour-and-a-half. This increased production comes from both the worker and the shop. Without the IBEW and our Contractors working together, we will lose ground. Both sides need to do their share. We are the best. Let's prove it every hour!

Electrical License Enforcement. There have been a couple of non-union shops caught by our local inspectors for violation of the state ratios lately. If you know of any violations of this nature, I encourage you to call the inspector as soon as possible. The non-union sector is struggling to maintain the proper ratios. Their workers, in most cases, are unable to pass the state test due to the lack of training.

Elections Ahead. Please get involved in this year's elections, both the State Primary on August 9th and the General Election on November 8th. Elected officials sharing our interests are an important part of our success. Call our Local 292 Political Coordinator, Ray Zeran, for volunteer opportunities.

"If we work together, there isn't anything we can't do."

Pete

Profile *Business Rep John Scott Kripotos*



Business Representative
John Scott Kripotos

Local 292 Business Rep John Scott Kripotos' family has electricity in its blood.

John's Grandfather, Ted Horsch Senior, died at age 59 while still working as an IBEW Local 292 Electrician. His Father, John Thomas Kripotos, retired 23 years ago as an IBEW Local 292 Electrician. He is now 86 years old.

His Mother, Donna, is the daughter of an IBEW Local 292 Electrician, the sister of an IBEW Local 292 Electrician, and the mother of an IBEW Local 292 Electrician (John), and she has another son, John's brother, James, who is an IBEW Local 160 Electrician.

John's oldest brother, Tom, is a NALC Branch 9 Letter Carrier. His sister, Dawn, lives in Franklin, Tennessee. John is the youngest of the four siblings.

"Even before I graduated from St. Anthony High School in 1985, I knew I wanted to be an Electrician. I guess I knew that I was more of a hands-on person."

John went to Dunwoody Institute right out of high school, finishing in the requisite two-years. "It was actually 18 months," says John. "Back then they counted months."

By June of 1987, John started his apprenticeship with Local 292 at the old Park Avenue JATC in Minneapolis.

John says he has "worked pretty much all over in the Metro Area," setting up pipe, pulling wire, installing outlets and lights, and handling services. "I've had a taste of everything." He says he probably likes working with larger pipe and larger services as well as installing switch gear the most.

"As a Business Rep for the Local's North Metro area, I have quite a large territory to cover, but the area doesn't have as much construction as others," John says. Rep Chris Kohn covers Minneapolis and Ted Swenson covers South Metro. "But I do have many other responsibilities," he adds.

"I'm in the office quite a bit of the time, and I handle just about all of the scheduled events, including the picnic, the fishing and golfing excursions, and all the Christmas parties. Some people might think I'm the Local's cruise director."

John also sits on the Labor Management Cooperative Committee. "I think, with eleven years, I am the longest-serving member on that board," he says. This means that John has served on this board with five different Local 292 Business Managers.

"I really started getting into politics with Jerry and Steve," says John, referring to past Business Managers Jerry Westerholm and Steve Claypatch. "I started going to precinct caucuses, and soon I was attending district and state conventions every year, representing my precinct and senate district in Mounds View. But then it all changed for me."

John and his family moved from Mounds View to Shoreview, just a few miles away. "Now I'm one of just a few labor people at my precinct caucus meetings," he says. "I don't stand a chance of being sent forward to the conventions." He says that, while Shoreview has a lot of Democrats, "they're not so labor-oriented, not quite as labor-friendly. They're more interested in Democratic issues other than Labor's issues."

Ask John about his travels, and he'll tell you that he's been half-way around the world, while on the job.

Continued on page 3

Profile: Business Rep John Scott Kripotos

Continued from page 2

"The farthest I have ever traveled was to the Ukraine," he says, referring to the former Soviet Socialist Republic in Eastern Europe. "We were working with Alliant Kiev, building a disarming facility in Druzhba," he explains. "That's about 70 or 80 miles from a place called Chernobyl," he adds.

At the time John was a Journeyman Electrician with Metro Electric which was a subcontractor with Alliant Tech in Minnesota. "I turned down the opportunity several times before finally agreeing to go," he says. "Why not? I'll go out and see the world."

"They wanted to take apart their old World War II tank shells and ammunition," he explains. "They built what amounted to a couple pole barns, and we piped and pulled wire to the conveyors' motors and high pressure water cannons."

"They used the water cannons to blast the various projectiles, to wash out the powder. Then they carefully separated-out and saved the steel and especially the brass for reuse. They were so poor that they had to keep and reuse everything."

John plus one other electrician, a plumber, and a fitter completed the Minneapolis contingent at the site. The job lasted several weeks, and concluded with a couple free days in a city of their choice. They chose Vienna, Austria and enjoyed it greatly.

For travel a bit closer to home, John and his family have visited Hawaii, California, Las Vegas, Florida several times, and Tennessee to see his sister.

"I did a ton of hunting and fishing in my youth," John says, "at least until I started coaching." He has coached youth hockey, baseball, football, and soccer, as well as VFW baseball. "I still fish almost every year with my grade school and high school buddies, and now, more and more, I go fishing with my son Tony.

John's bucket list is always ready to go. "Even though I've been to Hawaii I've haven't been to some of the historic and natural sites, especially Pearl Harbor," he says. "But I want to." John also wants to hunt out West for elk and in Alaska for moose.

"Maybe some people don't understand all that a Business Rep does, here at Local 292, during the day, in the evenings, and even on weekends," he says.

"I've been to jail, to treatment facilities, to hospitals, and to funerals—wherever a member needs a friend, whenever a member needs some comfort."

Some of John's most rewarding activities come through his work with the Brotherhood Committee, service for which he is fiercely proud. "There are no real titles in the Brotherhood Committee," he says. "We're all Brothers and Sisters. We're there for the members."

John has been married to his wife, Kristie, for 19 years. Kristie works for her family's business as a Marketing Director in both Downtown Minneapolis and Burnsville. They have three sons, John Thomas, 17, Antonio, 16, and Samuel, 15.

Local 292 Phone Directory

Minneapolis

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

Hiring Hall / Jobline

612-378-2860

St. Cloud

320-253-1292

Inside Agreement JATC—St. Michael

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

Statewide LEA JATC

763-571-5922

Benefit Office

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

TEAM Employee Assistance Program

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

Building Trades Credit Union

763-315-3888 or 1-800-496-2460

Electrus Federal Credit Union

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

Direct Dial & Voice Mail

612-617-4 _ _ _

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Yolanna (Admin) 222

Julie (Admin) 236

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Financial Secretary

Ted Swenson 233

Executive Board

John Hall, Chairman 241

Dan McConnell xxx

Kurt Tulp xxx

Jeff Orth xxx

Marc Anderson xxx

Myles Lembke xxx

Rick Ramberg xxx

Brotherhood Committee

Message Line 247

COME HOME IN ONE PIECE

Don't Let Down Your Safety Guard During Our Great Summer Weather

Local 292 Safety Committee

What a great summer! It's hard to think about work when the sun is shining and the boat is ready in the driveway or the camper is loaded for the weekend. None of us would downplay the value of spending time with family, enjoying the outdoors. But when we're at work, our focus needs to be on task.

It's simply too easy to get caught up in thinking about how great it will be to hit the lake in a couple hours and overlook the hazard that lays hidden in your work. While most of us would agree that there's no comparison when it comes to what's more of a priority, our job or our family, it's important to take the time at work to identify the hazards that are all around you. There would be no worse way to start the weekend than a trip to the E.R. or coming home with a cast.

Let's all work together this summer and help each other when the weather makes it hard to keep our mind on work. Remember, your family is counting on you to come home in one piece

Fishing Trip





Welding Classes

By Chris Kohn, Metro Business Representative & Jose Winkles

Welding Lab instructor Jose Winkles provides hands on welding training, applied tool fabrication, proper use of materials, and real world application. Class starts with lab orientation, safety review, and proper welding technique. The lab has six welding booths equipped with Lincoln and Miller welders, Stick, Wire - feed, and Tig weld training is available as well as the use of the plasma cutter and oxygen torch. The JATC can also provide certification with a certified welding Inspector.



Political

VOTE FOR LABOR-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES MN Primary Election August 9th, General Election November 8th

By Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator

Minnesota will hold its 2016 Primary Election on Tuesday, August 9th. In many state legislative, county, and municipal districts there are contests for candidate nomination to appear on the Tuesday, November 8th General Election ballot.

You may vote early (absentee), between June 24th and August 8th, either in person at your municipal election office or by mail. Your absentee ballot must be completed and received at your municipal election office by August 9th.

As always, if you are not registered to vote in your current precinct, you may register to vote on Election Day at your polling location. You may also register to vote in advance of the Primary Election Day (by July 19th) in person at your municipal registration location, by mail, or online.

For complete details, check the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.mnvotes.org or through the link at the Local 292 website at www.ibew292.org/Political/

Respectfully, please remember to support and vote for labor-friendly incumbents and new candidates for the state legislature, county boards, and local offices.

"SENIOR SPARKIES" KEEPING BUSY, YEAR-ROUND

Dining, Gambling, Picnicking, Boat Riding, Celebrating, Touring, and Always Smiling

By Paul Klesmit, Retirees Club President

Congratulations to our 27 new IBEW Local 292 retirees, most of whom attended the May 25th Retirees Dinner at Jax Café. It is always a joy to visit with new retirees because their smiles always seem to be twice as big as several weeks before.

On April 25th, one month earlier, 33 of our retirees joined our trip to our new casino venue, Treasure Island Casino. Looking ahead, hopefully you signed-up for our summer activities, including the recent retiree picnic on June 22nd and the coming Lake Minnetonka boat ride on July 21st.

We are looking for a new site for our retiree Christmas luncheon, and we will let you know when the location has been chose.

A recent change to our bylaws allows us to hold meetings of the retirees group monthly, **year-round**, including throughout the summer. You are invited to join us at noon on the second Tuesday of the month, the same day as the regular union general membership meeting, for a light snack and some comradery with your fellow retirees. These events always feature a drawing for several door prizes.

We are always considering possible new activities for our group, perhaps including a visit to the new U.S. Bank Stadium in downtown Minneapolis.

We welcome your participation and involvement in our retirees group, now officially known as the **Senior Sparkies**. Let's see those smiles!

Retirees will also see again in this issue of the Keeping Current a voluntary sign up form in order to establish a RETIREE DIRECTORY. This is a VOLUNTEER form for retirees to share the info you wish to share with other retirees. The local office cannot give out member's info and we tend to lose contact with one another after we retire. I urge you to fill out and return the form to the local's office if you would like to maintain contact with fellow retirees. We will share these directories once they are established with retirees.



LOCAL 292 "SENIOR SPARKIES" VOLUNTARY DIRECTORY

I would like to be part of the Local 292 "Senior Sparkies" Voluntary Directory. I understand this is only to be used to keep retirees in contact with one another. I am only willing to share the information I have shared below.

Name _____ Card No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____

Email _____ @ _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Retirees Dinner



Retirement Ready



THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN MONEY.

Retirement planning isn't just about savings and investments. You should give careful consideration to where you want to live and how you want to spend that time you worked so hard for. Volunteering, vacations with family, even a second career are all retirement possibilities. Let T.E.A.M. help you with everything you need to become retirement ready.

- Articles and tip sheets on all aspects of retirement
- Information and resources on relocation and new communities
- Volunteer opportunities
- Information and support for healthy aging

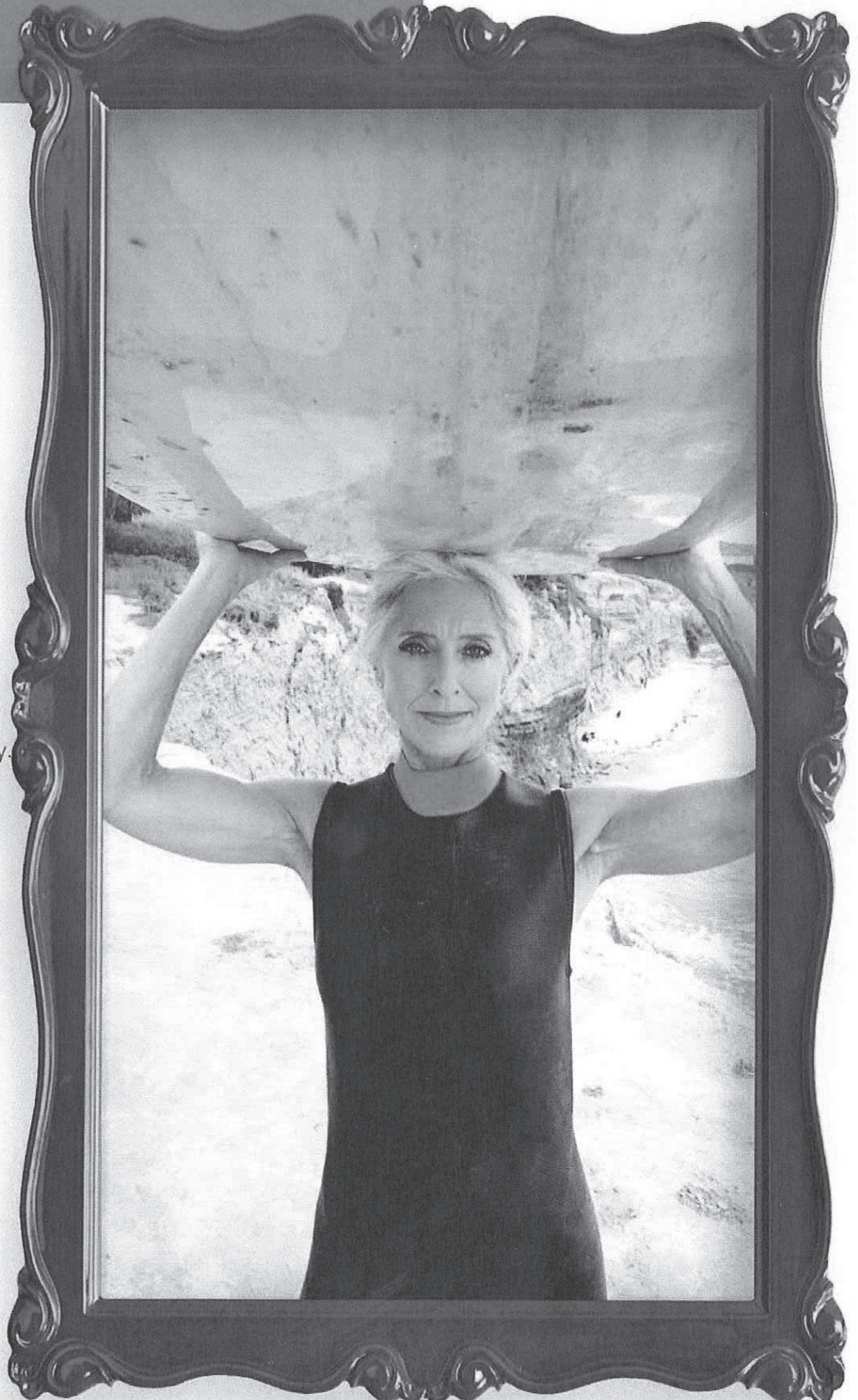
PHONE: 651-642-0182

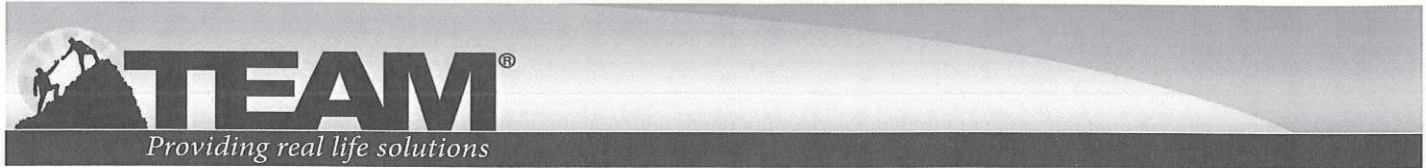
TOLL-FREE: 800-634-7710

WEBSITE: www.team-mn.com

PASSWORD: TEAMEAP

Available anytime, any day, your Employee Assistance Program is a free, confidential program to help you balance your work, family, and personal life.





Retirement Ready It's Not Just About the Money

Retirement isn't what it used to be. It takes thoughtful planning and goal setting in areas many people don't realize. It's more than signing up for Social Security and Medicare; it also means thinking about things like your home, hobbies, health, and social support.

FINANCIAL planning is what people usually think of first when considering retirement goals. The earlier you can start this process the better. Learn to budget your income and your spending now for an easier adjustment later.

- Think of Social Security and pensions as supplemental to your savings, not as your sole financial resource.
- Generally speaking, most people who plan ahead should be able to maintain about 75 percent of their pre-retirement income through Social Security, pensions and investments.
- Make use of programs that offer free financial consultations or attend workshops where you can ask questions and better understand your investment options.
- Consider an estate protection plan and make sure you have an up-to-date will prepared and updated as needed.

HOME may be where the heart is but is it a place that you can comfortably afford and maintain as you age? Consider the following when deciding where your home will be post-retirement.

- Are you close to friends and family?
- Do you enjoy the climate?
- Is your home too large?
- Would a condo or apartment be more manageable?

HOBBIES often become front and center when people first retire. After all, you're retiring from work not from enjoying your life. Think about how you're going to spend your time.

- Are there hobbies or skills you've wanted to learn but haven't had the time?
- Think about your current level of social activity and how you may want to broaden it with retirement.
- Consider volunteer work or joining local social groups.
- Is there a retirement center nearby that could provide activities and support?

Check out T.E.A.M.'s Work-Life Services tab at www.team-mn.com for additional resources or call to schedule an appointment to meet with a T.E.A.M. counselor to prepare for a retirement that is healthy and satisfying. You've worked hard for the privilege of retirement and deserve the opportunity to enjoy it.

Total Employee Assistance Management®

700 Transfer Road St. Paul, MN 55114 p 651-642-0182 f 651-642-1809 Toll Free 1-800-634-7710

Web Site: www.team-mn.com

Steward's Dinner





Transitions

Retirements as of 6/10/2016

Congratulations!

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
AHO	CHARLES	L	6/1/2016
ANDERSON	JOHN	O	3/1/2016
BORGMAN	STEPHEN	J	4/1/2016
BOWMAN	PATRICK	L	5/1/2016
BUNGERT	WAYNE	A	6/1/2016
DISCHINGER	STEPHEN	L	4/1/2016
DONABAUER	ALAN	W	6/1/2016
HOLTON	LARRY	B	3/1/2016
KLESZYK	ALAN	H	4/1/2016
LARSON	D. CURTIS		8/1/2001
LIEN	GARY	A	5/1/2016
NETTLETON	JEFFERY	G	12/1/2014
TOKLE	PETER	A	5/1/2016
VETSCH	BRUCE	G	5/1/2016
WEIMAN	GARY	W	6/1/2016

Deaths

Active Members

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
DEGIDIO	GERALD	J	3/12/2016
FRANKS	LAWRENCE	W	4/18/2016
HENKE	WINSTON	J	5/23/2016
KEEGAN	ROBERT	J	5/1/2016
KRAMER	RAYMOND	J	6/7/2016
SCHAEFFER	MARVIN	A	1/31/2016
SCHWARTZ	WILLIAM	E	3/10/2016
STRAND	CAMERON	E	2/24/2016
STREITZ	RICHARD	A	6/13/2016
SWIERCZYK	JOSEPH	W	4/9/2016
VANDE VELDE	JAMES	A	5/26/2016

US Bank Stadium – New Home of the NFC North Champion Minnesota Vikings



KEEPING CURRENT

Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, publishes KEEPING CURRENT four 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. SE, Suite 292, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

IBEW Local 292 is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action for our members and employees.

Business Manager/Peter Lindahl
President/Dan Ferguson
Editor/Michael Paul Weber

KEEPING CURRENT

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KEEPING CURRENT

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JULY 2016



Calendar

July 2016

- 4 **Independence Day.** Office closed.
- 7 **St Cloud Informational** meeting.
6 p.m.
St. Cloud union hall,
2803 Clearwater Road.
- 12 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 6 p.m.
General Membership meeting.
7 p.m.
- 18 **IBEW Golf Tournament.** Shotgun
start at 9:00 a.m.
- 20 **Brotherhood Committee** meeting.
4:30 p.m.
- 21 **Retirees Boat Trip.**
- 25 **Electrical Workers Minority
Caucus** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 26 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 28 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.
Local 292 Charter Date 1902.

August 2016

- 4 **St Cloud Informational** meeting.
6 p.m.
St Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater
Road
- 9 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 6 p.m.
General Membership meeting.
7 p.m.
- 17 **Brotherhood Committee** meeting.
4:30 p.m.
- 20 **IBEW Picnic** 11:00 am – 5:00pm
- 22 **Electrical Workers Minority
Caucus** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 23 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 25 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting.
4 p.m.

September 2016

- 1 **St Cloud Informational** meeting.
6 p.m.
St Cloud union hall,
2803 Clearwater Road
- 5 **Labor Day.** Office closed.
- 13 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 6 p.m.
General Membership meeting.
7 p.m.
- 15 **History Committee** movie night.
6 p.m.
- 21 **Brotherhood Committee** meeting.
4:30 p.m.
- 22 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 26 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus**
meeting. 6 p.m.
- 27 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.