#### December 2014

Volume 21 Number 4

# KEEPING CURRENT

With Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers





- Holiday Party
   Recap Page 2
- Scholarship Information -Page 3
- Service Pins -Page 5

#### KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

> Phone: (612) 379-1292 Fax: (612) 379-9326

Web: www.ibew292.org Email: office@ibew292.org

#### From the Business Manager's Perspective



By Pete Lindahl

# 2015, A BIG YEAR FOR CONTRACTS

Dear Members:

**CONTRACTS.** Local 292 will be negotiating 18 separate Collective Bargaining Agreements over the next year. The first on the calendar will be the **Inside Construction and Maintenance Agreement** with negotiations beginning in early 2015 with the intention of completing the contract by the middle of April. Contract suggestion forms will be mailed to members in late December with the hope of developing the final negotiation strategy by mid-January. Once you have received the suggestion form, please complete it and return it to the 292 office or email <u>ias@ibew292.org</u>. I have been using these suggestion forms over the past five years with great success.

Shortly thereafter, the **State-Wide Limited Energy Agreement** will be jointly-negotiated by the five IBEW Inside Local Unions across Minnesota: 110, 242, 292, 294, and 343. This Agreement covers approximately 1,200 Technicians in the state. Suggestion forms will be sent out to members in early March. These negotiations will begin towards the end of March or early April with the intended completion in the middle of June.

Along with the Inside Construction and Maintenance Agreement and the State-Wide Limited Energy Agreement, 16 others will be negotiated over the next year. These Agreements may cover only a few members or as many as 100. In each case, we will work with our members to achieve the fairest contract possible. Below is a list of the agreements which will be negotiated throughout the next year.

American Midwest Power (AMP) City of MPLS Electronic Technicians City of MPLS Traffic Controlwerx Eclipse Lighting

Electric Motor Service FMS Corporation FOX Television HCMC (bio-med) Hennepin County Traffic JT Electric Parson's Motor Shop University of Minnesota Broadcast University of Minnesota Construction WCCO Television Ziegler Equipment

**POLITICS.** I would like to thank all the members who volunteered to pound signs, knock on doors, and phone bank during the 2014 political season. What a great job! Without your help, the election results would have been worse. Electing Mark Dayton and the rest of the state-wide officers was a great accomplishment. Also, a special thanks to everyone who voted.

**CHRIS KOHN.** I have completed the hiring of Reps in the office. The latest addition was Chris Kohn. Along with several stand alone contracts, Chris will cover the jurisdiction of Minneapolis. Please welcome Chris as he stops by your jobsite.

**HEALTH CARE.** As of January 1, 2015, an enhancement to the dental coverage will go into effect. This enhancement increases the maximum annual benefit for still-working members from \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00. The new maximum will include oral surgery as well as implants. This enhancement is a great benefit with minimal additional cost. Unfortunately this will not affect the Retirees.

**INVESTMENTS.** As I dig deeper into the financial state of the Local, I find it necessary to make several investment adjustments. I will be meeting with our financial consultant to create an investment strategy which will change the cash flow <u>away</u> from the Local paying the bank to hold our funds and <u>towards</u> the bank paying us to hold our funds.

**HOLIDAYS.** With the Holidays approaching, please remember those who are not so fortunate. Even with our work picture improving, there are still members that are in need. Local 292's food shelf can always use contributions.

I would also like to remind the entire membership about the social gatherings in December and February. These gatherings are a great way to visit with others and also to meet new friends. Please see page 2 of this Keeping Current for more details on each event.

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

In Solidarity,



Keeping Current 2 December 2014































# Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6
Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 200
Doors open at 9 a.m.
The Teddy Bear Band plays at 10:30 a.m.
Candy, Toys, Songs, Dance, Face Painting,
Magician, Clown

Have your picture taken with Santa Claus! More information: John Kripotos, 612.617.4244 A monetary donation to the Food Shelf is encouraged.

# Retiree's Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 10
UFCW Local 653 Hall
13000 - 63rd Avenue North
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Lunch will be served at noon
RSVP required.

Call 612.379.1292 for more information.

There will be no regular Retirees Club meeting in December





























# Member's Christmas Party

Friday, December 12
UFCW Local 653 Hall
13000 - 63rd Avenue North
Maple Grove, MN 55369
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Buffet Supper from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Light Snack at 10:00 p.m.
Members only

More information: John Kripotos, 612.617.4244 A monetary donation to the Food Shelf is encouraged.

## Snowball Dinner and Dance

Saturday, February 14 UFCW Local 653 Hall 13000 - 63rd Avenue North Maple Grove, MN 55369 6 p.m.

Members and Guests
Call 612.379.1292 for more information.

A monetary donation to the Food Shelf is encouraged.

# **Hard Work Pays Off**

#### By Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator

The members who attended the September General Membership Meeting voted to hire 4 full time political staff to work on the Labor 2014 campaign. These four worked daily at phone banking and door knocking. Many of our members received a call from them, asking for volunteers to participate. Thank you to those individuals who responded with volunteer shifts. Based on the numbers from all the affiliated Unions, we ranked number one in volunteer shifts for this campaign and I for one am very proud of what we accomplished. The elections are over and everyone knows the results. Minnesota bucked the National trend and voted Labor endorsed for all the state constitutional officers. We also won the four targeted races in the Metro for State Representatives Rosenthal, Selcer, Erhardt and Applebaum. Who we elect does affect our jobs, thank you to the Membership for contributing to Union strength and solidarity.

#### **IMPORTANT DENTAL BENEFIT UPDATE**

As of January 1, 2015, an enhancement to the Local 292 Dental Benefit will go into effect.

The Maximum Annual Benefit \$1,500 will be increased to \$2,500, for active members.

Oral Surgery and Implants will be included.

This will provide our members with a greater benefit at virtually no additional cost.

Note: Retirees are not included in this dental benefit update.



# For the Record

### Deaths Active Members

| 9-1-2014   |
|------------|
| 10-10-2014 |
| 11-5-2014  |
| 10-16-2014 |
|            |

#### Retired Members

| rectifed tylenibe   | al co     |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Garry J. Flam       | 9-7-2014  |
| Donald A. Houle     | 9-15-2014 |
| Milton E. Johnson   | 9-7-2014  |
| Robert S. Jurkovski | 9-15-2014 |
| Dale E. Magnuson    | 9-9-2014  |
|                     |           |

### Retirements Congratulations

| Congratulations      | 10      |
|----------------------|---------|
| Bruce L. Bowen       | 8/2014  |
| John L. Bradley      | 9/2014  |
| Franklin R. Fohey    | 9/2014  |
| Glen S. Grachek      | 10/2014 |
| Douglas D. Gustafson | 11/2014 |
| Terry P. Hollins     | 8/2014  |
| John E. Maxwell      | 10/2014 |
| Steven C. Merrifield | 10/2014 |
| Richard O. Miller    | 9/2014  |
| Kirk D. Nelson       | 8/2014  |
| Everett D. Pettiford | 10/2014 |

#### SCHOLARSHIP PREVIEW

# Local 292, Union Plus®, IBEW Founders, MN AFL-CIO Scholarships available for members and their dependents



It is not too early to begin thinking about applying for one or more of the academic scholarships available in 2015 to members, spouses, and dependent children. At least one of the awards has a very early application deadline. Here are the highlights:

Local 292's own Alexander & Krech award pays \$2,000 towards further education in 2015 for dependent children of current IBEW Local 292 members at a college or trade school. The application deadline is March 1, 2015. An application form for this scholarship is printed in this issue of Keeping Current, and is also available for downloading at the Local 292 website: www.ibew292.org The Union Plus\* scholarship pays from \$500 to \$4,000 as a "one-time cash award" for studies beginning in the year the scholarship is won for current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and dependent children. The very early application deadline is January 31, 2015. For more information, refer to the Union Plus website: www.unionplus.org

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship offers "\$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's, or postgraduate degree in an approved field" for IBEW members. The application deadline is May 1, 2015. For more information, refer to the IBEW's website: www.ibew.org

The Minnesota AFL-CIO makes several scholarships available, usually with an April 30, 2015, application deadline. For more information about these opportunities, check the organization's website in January 2015: www.mnaflcio.org

Please remember that some of the scholarship applications are quite lengthy and involved, requiring significant research, thought, and writing. Applicants are advised to begin the application process as soon as possible. Members and their dependents who will be continuing their education anytime in the next several years might want to review the various scholarships, requirements, and forms at this time.

#### **LOCAL 292 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2014**

## Emma Penzenstadler attending U of M in Animal Science; Luke Hemphill enrolled at U of ND in Mechanical Engineering

Emma Andrea Penzenstadler and Luke Andrew Hemphill won the 2014 Guy Alexander & Joseph Krech IBEW Local 292 Scholarships earlier this year. Both are 2014 high school graduates.

Emma graduated from Chisago Lakes High School, having taken a variety of college in-school, on-line, and PSEO classes in addition to her standard classes. She is now attending the University of Minnesota, studying towards a degree in Animal Science. Her father, James Penzenstadler, is a Journeyman Electrician at Lakes Area Electric, Inc., in Chisago City MN.

Luke graduated from Elk River High School, maintaining a high grade point average and ranking third in his senior class. He is beginning a course of study towards a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of North Dakota. Michael Hemphill, Luke's father, is an Electrician working for Collin's Electrical Construction Company in St. Paul MN.

**EMMA.** Although Emma took advantage of several college-level opportunities for advanced study while in high school, it is abbreviations such as 4-H, FFA, and BPA which appear throughout her activity resume which point towards her goal of a degree in Animal Science.

She was president of her school's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter where she spent time teaching her community where food comes from and how farmers raise the food. As vice president of her 4-H club she was a youth representative on the management board, an active member of the auction committee, and a county ambassador, helping to mentor and facilitate programs and activities for younger members. In the Business Professionals of America (BPA) organization, Emma was a Minnesota regional officer. There is more.

"A big activity that has taken most of my time is showing cattle. I have shown cattle most of my life, and I spent most days through high school working with animals. I competed last December to represent Minnesota and the Hereford breed of cattle as the Minnesota Hereford Queen—and I won."

She represented her breed throughout the state during the past year and she won the honor of representing the Minnesota Hereford Breeders Association at the Junior Hereford Nationals in Pennsylvania this past summer.

"All the activities that I have been involved in have helped me to grow as a person," says Emma. "My leadership skills have been put to the test many times in the last couple of years. My public speaking skills have improved with the public appearance opportunities that I received from these activities. I hope to grow my skills more and more every day."

Emma's family has a strong union background. "My parents, great uncles, and cousins are proud union members, and sometimes they actually introduce themselves by their local numbers." She is grateful for the good wages and great benefits her own family has been receiving, benefits which allowed Emma and her sisters to be more "personally" raised by both her parents.

"I believe one thing that would strengthen organized labor would be the unionization of commercial workers, especially the workers at Target and Walmart. With such a large number of employees, unionization would bring membership up to a great level. Unions are a great thing for everybody, and I wish more people would understand it."

**LUKE.** When he applied for the Local 292 award, Luke said, "I believe I am a good candidate for the Guy Alexander & Joseph Krech Scholarship because of my academic and extracurricular merits. I put in the hard work necessary to maintain my grades in high school and to be involved in numerous activities."

In addition to excellent grades in high school, he filled his spare time with a wide range of activities, including Cross Country Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Track and Field, the National Honor Society, Link Crew, Leadership Training, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Youth Group, and volunteering in his community.

Setting goals is important to Luke. "I have created a mindset for myself in that, if I set a goal, I will accomplish it."

"I have been accepted into several accredited engineering colleges, and I plan on making the most of my college education. I would like to receive my bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, and I have high hopes for my future as a mechanical engineer. And I will work very hard to achieve excellence."

Luke believes that he will make "the absolute best return" on Local 292's investment in his higher education, eventually helping to strengthen America's automotive industry through innovative projects while working as a mechanical engineer.

Luke says that Local Union 292 has had a "huge impact" on his family, citing the fortyhour workweek, safe working conditions, dental insurance, vacation and holiday pay, paid overtime, and wages higher than most nonunion employment. "My father receives all of these benefits, and this has helped our family stay economically stable, he adds."

"Labor unions are very valuable. They make employment fair for both the employer and the employee. They prevent companies from taking advantage of their workers, and they allow companies to reach their maximum output. They create a healthy balance between the needs of corporations and the needs of workers."

"All of Local 292's business representatives and support staff join me in congratulating this year's scholarship winners," said Business Manager Peter Lindahl. "We wish both Emma and Luke the best."

#### 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 292 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 312 CENTRAL AVENUE SE – SUITE 292 MINNEAPOLIS MN 55414

Entry Deadline: March 1, 2015

| DATE                     |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| FULL NAME OF APPLICAN    | Γ   |
| HOME ADDRESS             |   |
| PHONE NUMBER             |   |
| CURRENT EMPLOYMENT ANI   | D/OR STUDENT STATUS   |
| EMAIL ADDRESS            |   |
| NAME OF PARENT           |   |
| HOME ADDRESS OF PARENT   |   |
| PARENT'S EMPLOYER        |   |
| PARENT'S TYPE OF WORK OF | R TITLE   |
| ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOM   | E 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.

TRANSCRIPTS ARE REQUIRED IN BOTH CASES. TRANSCRIPTS DO NOT NEED TO BE SEALED.

On a separate sheet, please prepare 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 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.)

#### INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please refer any questions about this scholarship or the application form to the IBEW Local 292 Office.

Phone: 612-379-1292 or Email: office@ibew292.org

# 2014 IBEW Local 292 Service Pins Awards

#### 70-YEARS OF SERVICE

Raymond A. Johnson Albert J. Loehlein

#### 65-YEARS OF SERVICE

William Blanchard Ivert H. Green Richard J. Miles Alvin J. Rausch Raymond L. Schaefer

#### 60-YEARS OF SERVICE

Roy C. Benson
Paul J. Connell
Jake G. Eekhoff
James P. McGowan
Lloyd A. Peterson
Lewis R. Rausch
Sylvester J. Rudolph
Malvin Weisenburger

#### 55-YEARS OF SERVICE

Dallas L. Barnes
Donald E. Briesemeister
Leonard R. Carlson
John D. Cookos
Gerald L. Dehne
Clifford R. Ebert
Richard W. Hagen
Gary H. Harten
Jack M. Hendrickson
John M. Kvalsten
Donald W. Meinhardt
Joseph E. Piersak
Earl M. Sorensen
James E. Stiles

#### 50-YEARS OF SERVICE

Dennis H. Anderson David R. Biorn Richard Brosseau

Bruce O. Fox Glenn G. Heine Gregory B. Jones Kenneth D. Jones Ronald L. Joswiak Randolph M. Klatt Milan W. Klitzke Robert A. Kloiber Terry L. Lattery James K. Lundeen Robert W. Malmquist Dean L. Nicholson David C. Palmquist Arnold M. Pirsig Thomas R. Riley Earl E. Swanson

# Notes from the field and from the office

# PROTECTING <u>OUR</u> WORK FOR <u>OUR</u> MEMBERS By Ted Swenson, Business Rep

Brothers and Sisters:

It is clear that many of our members are either not aware or are not concerned with protecting the work that we – as union electricians – have historically done. The following are examples of work that should be performed by electricians:

- Installing light fixture bases. Setting the Sonotube, installing the reinforcement steel, installing the anchor bolts, and placing the concrete and finishing.
- Installing concrete duct banks. This includes installing the reinforcement steel and forming and placing the concrete – not just the conduit!
- Saw cutting concrete slabs to install conduit and floor boxes. This includes removing concrete and patching the floor. (See article III section 3.11 of our agreement)
- 4. Core drilling for sleeves or conduit.
- Installing temperature and motor controls. This includes all low voltage controls. (Also, as per our contract, this type of low voltage work shall be installed by inside wireman, not limited energy members.)
- Hand digging and trenching. Any excavation that is done by shovel or with walk-behind trenching equipment shall be performed by electricians, not 49ers.
- Installing plywood on walls in electrical and telecommunication rooms for mounting of equipment.
- 8. Installing sleeves in floors and walls of concrete pours.
- Installing temporary lighting and power. This includes cord connected devices.
- Moving and handling of all electrical materials and equipment. This includes switchgear and transformers

It is understood that jurisdictional disputes can be very difficult to resolve, but we must make an effort to claim this work and help keep <u>our</u> members working! Taking action before the work begins usually results in a better outcome. Therefore, if you encounter a potential problem, please notify your job or shop steward or contact a union rep as soon as possible. Your name will remain anonymous. Let's work together, protecting <u>our</u> work for <u>our</u> members.

Thank You!

#### **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

#### **Benefits Office**

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

#### TEAM Employee Assistance Program 1-800-634-7710

#### Building Trades Credit Union 763-315-3888 or 1-800-496-2460

#### Floature Foderal Condit Vision

Electrus Federal Credit Union 763-569-4000 or 1-800-252-4239

#### Direct Dial & Voice Mail

612-617-4\_\_\_

#### **Business Manager**

Peter Lindahl 237

#### Metro Business Representatives

|                                  | Control of the second |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kent Blachowiak                  | 242                   |
| Dan Ferguson                     | 239                   |
| Oneka Jenkins                    | 230                   |
| Chris Kohn                       | 240                   |
| John Kripotos                    | 244                   |
| John Lutz, Organizer             | 249                   |
| Carl Madsen, Hiring Hall         | 224                   |
| Ted Swenson                      | 233                   |
| Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator | 238                   |

#### St. Cloud Business Representatives

| Dennis Kalthoff | 243 |
|-----------------|-----|
| Steve Ludwig    | 254 |

#### Office Staff

| Joan (Office Manager) | 221 |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Lisa (Admin)          | 236 |
| Gayle (Bookkeeping)   | 227 |
| Jeana (Admin)         | 223 |
| Gina (Admin)          | 222 |

#### President

Dan Ferguson 239

#### 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

# 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.

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

#### KEEPING CURRENT

Local 292 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers United Labor Centre

United Labor Centre 312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 292 Minneapolis, MN 55414

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 92590
Twin Cities, MN

KEEPING CURRENT







#### December 2014

- 4 St. Cloud Informational meeting. 6 p.m. St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Road
- 6 Children's Christmas Party. Minneapolis Convention Center. 9 a.m.
- 9 Stewards meeting. 6 p.m. General Membership meeting. 7 p.m.
- 10 Retirees Christmas Party. RSVP req'd. UFCW Local 653 Hall. 12 p.m.
- 12 Members Only Christmas Party. UFCW Local 653 Hall. 6 p.m.
- 16 Executive Board meeting, 4 p.m.
- 17 Brotherhood Committee, 4:30 p.m.
- 18 Sisters in Solidarity. 4 p.m. History Committee / Movie Night 6 p.m.
- 22 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. 6 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve. Office closed.
- 25 Christmas Day. Office closed.
- 31 New Year's Eve Office closed Provisional Holiday

#### January 2015

- 1 New Years Day. Office closed.
- 8 St. Cloud Informational meeting. 6 p.m. St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Road
- 13 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30 p.m. Stewards meeting. 6 p.m. General Membership meeting. 7 p.m
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Office closed Provisional Holiday
- 21 Brotherhood Committee. 4:30 p.m.
- 22 Sisters in Solidarity. 4 p.m. History Committee / Movie Night 6 p.m.
- 26 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. 6 p.m.
- 27 Executive Board meeting, 4 p.m.

#### February 2015

- 5 St. Cloud Informational meeting. 6 p.m. St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Road
- 10 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30 p.m. Stewards meeting. 6 p.m. General Membership meeting. 7 p.m
- 14 4th Annual Snowball Dinner & Dance. UFCW Local 653 Hall. 6 p.m.
- 18 Brotherhood Committee. 4:30 p.m.
- 23 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. 6 p.m.
- 24 Executive Board meeting, 4 p.m.
- 26 Sisters in Solidarity. 4 p.m. History Committee / Movie Night 6 p.m.