

July 2018

Volume 26 Number 3

KEEPING CURRENT

*With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



Summer Events

Golf Tournament

Wednesday, July 25

Retiree's Boat Trip

Thursday, July 19

Family Picnic

Saturday, August 18



KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

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FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

BY PETE LINDAHL



GOOD FOR US

Dear Members,

2018 has been a crazy year so far—a foot of snow at the end of April and 90 degrees in May. The work picture is good, but it was slow to get rolling. I would like us to think about three things that will improve our lives as we go through 2018: health care, retirement and politics. These are at the forefront this year.

HEALTH CARE

Health care costs are going through the roof. There are many factors that go into the cost of health care, and there are many ways to address these costs. The majority of Local 292 members participate in the Local 292 Health Care Plan. The balance of the membership participates in a health plan provided by the employer. Any member can participate in the 292 plan, but moving into the 292 plan requires changing the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the employer. Talk to your Local 292 Business Representative for more information.

For those of us who participate in the Local 292 Health Care Plan, cost versus benefits is a constant challenge. The Trustees and our consultants are always looking at ways to provide the highest quality care for the lowest cost. It's easy to simply raise premiums or decrease benefits, but the best way to reduce costs and continue to provide the highest quality care is to have healthy participants. Having participants who get physicals, have healthy diets, exercise and stop smoking has proven to be the best way to reduce cost. Local 292 offers, at NO charge, the Health Dynamic Super Physical. Not only is this physical free of charge to all member participants, but it's also free for all spouses. In fact, the Trustees believe this physical is such a good value to participants that we approved a \$100 credit for single people and a \$300 credit for couples who get this physical. The credit will be put towards your 2019 deductible. PLEASE take advantage of this offer. The \$100 and \$300 credits will start on January 1, 2019. **You must schedule and complete your physical in 2018 to receive credit in 2019.** Contact the benefits office for appointment information and locations. Good health benefits all of us.

RETIREMENT

I have been urging members for years to set aside as much money as possible for retirement. I will continue to encourage all members to look out for themselves when it comes to retirement savings. What's recently come to my attention are the predatory methods of outside investment firms. This is a WARNING to any retiree that has enjoyed the benefits of being part of an institutional investment plan, such as the Local 292 Annuity/401(k) plan. You are NOT required to take your money out once you retire. You may take out as much or as little as you like; it's your money. The expense ratios of institutional retirement plans are substantially lower than any outside firm. Our investment options have been determined to be some of the best places to invest in. Please be aware that a free weekend investment class that provides a free lunch is something to stay away from. We work too hard to hand over our retirement money to a predator. If you have questions, please contact our benefits office or log into your account at JohnHancock.com.

POLITICS

2018 is proving to be a big year in politics across our state. Prevailing Wage, PLAs and Right to Work are at the top of the list of key issues for working people. Governor Mark Dayton has had our backs for eight years. Without Dayton, prevailing wage laws and PLAs would have been lost and Right to Work would have been the same as in Wisconsin. The governor's seat, along with several others, is open this year. The IBEW has endorsed Tim Walz for governor. Walz is a big fan of the IBEW and will protect our interests. The primary election is August 14 with early voting prior to that. Please make a point to vote in the primary. Our future depends on those politicians who think like us and who will be there for us. If you haven't registered to vote, it's easy. Contact Ray at the 292 office for more information on how to register. If we stand around and do nothing, we will be subject to what others do to us. If we get out and do what we can to help, we will pave the way. Every politician that Local 292 endorses has been screened and is expected to vote with our best interest in mind. There is strength in being a member in Local 292.

Pete

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

Profile *Treasurer, Dave Frary*

A Spirit of Service at the 292

In the middle of this year's April blizzard, a group of 20 Local members braved the snow and made the hour-long trek to the Eagle's Healing Nest in Anoka. In what is now the first home in Minnesota for female veterans, this group installed over 60 light fixtures – then, when they realized the receptacles were old, they got a donation from the LMCC (Labor Management Cooperation Committee) and installed 100 receptacles as well.

292 Treasurer Dave Frary and a 292 business rep, Jennifer Gaspersich, were the coordinators of the volunteer project. The contractor for the project had exceeded the budget and was looking for volunteers to offset additional costs, and the coordinator of the program contacted the 292. Dave and Jennifer put out a call for help, set up the date, and solicited materials for the project. "Jennifer and I were trying to coordinate everything between the contractor and our group, but we both ended up actually picking up some tools toward the end of the day and doing some work," Dave says. When the building renovation is complete, the Eagle's Healing Nest will house 25 homeless female veterans.



The Eagle's Healing Nest, a project for which Dave Frary helped coordinate volunteers, will house 25 homeless female veterans.

Dave would much rather talk about volunteer projects like this than talk about himself. Most of his answers in our interview were fairly nondescript; short, to the point. But when he talked about this Eagle's Healing Nest project or the Kids Christmas Party from this past December, his voice picks up speed and energy, and he adds descriptive details – how the members made candy for all the kids, and how numerous volunteers also decorated the center for the kids' party (you can see photos of the party on page 6 of the January 2018 issue of Keeping Current).



The group of 292 volunteers at the Eagle's Healing Nest. Dave Frary is in the back row, far right.

While not a driving force, this penchant for service has been woven throughout Dave's life. He was a volunteer hockey coach after high school – "that took up quite a bit of time for a few years" – and has been on the COPE Committee for political education at the IBEW since 2006.

While his parents were both union members – his mother a social worker for Hennepin County and his father a 292 man himself – Dave hadn't assumed he'd be a union member. He grew up around hot rods and street rods, attending car shows and building cars. "I worked at a fabrication shop building hot rods for a while and that didn't really go anywhere, so I went to trade school," he says. He still does fabrication and mechanical work, but he now focuses on helping friends and fellow enthusiasts with their vehicles rather than building his own.

It was this connection to the automotive world that actually brought about the Eagle's Healing Nest project: the foreman working for the contractor was another automotive enthusiast, and he reached out to Dave to see if the 292 could help. With no official volunteer arm of the 292, Dave and Jennifer have taken it upon themselves to seek out and promote these opportunities for giving back to the community. "Pete allows us certain latitude to go out and take on projects, and we talked about it and both decided this was something we'd like to be involved in," he says of that project. Next up on the list is a kitchen remodel for Alliance Housing, a low-income apartment complex in Minneapolis. Volunteer updates are always available on the 292 website and are announced at the General Membership meetings.

Safety Corner

BEST PRACTICES FOR SEVERE WEATHER

By Brian Cole

Does your jobsite have a severe weather plan? All employees should be aware of the plan, and new employees should be trained on site-specific requirements. Plans should include all aspects of the jobsite, with details such as crane and aerial lift specs for wind tolerances. Trenching activities should stop, workers on scaffolding need to come down and workers caught out in the open need to be notified to seek refuge. Areas of refuge should be identified, labeled and kept clear of obstructions. If no such area is on your site, identify local businesses or municipal buildings that can be accessed quickly.

The most important tool we have against severe weather is current and accurate information. Now, we all love to play the “what does your phone say” game, but having a weather radio or specific website or app everyone can use allows everyone to be timely notified of impending weather. All workers can be notified by using an air horn to seek refuge and the lead person should conduct a head count. Some apps will even show current lightning strikes within a 10-mile radius and send an alert to workers exposed in the open or elevated in lifts. A good rule of thumb: If you can hear thunder, lightning can strike your current location. Given these tools, we can be amply informed and choose to either shut the job down for the remainder of the day or track the storm until it’s past our jobsite and, after sufficient time has passed, resume jobsite operations.

Before returning to work, the entire site needs to be evaluated, starting with a roll call of names. Trenches need to be inspected and pumped of standing water and fissures should be identified. A competent person needs to look at scaffolding, particularly footings and building ties, ensuring no floorboards have moved in excess wind. Crane operators need to thoroughly go through their checklist before resuming work. After storms have passed, an evaluation of the site-specific severe weather plan should be reviewed and changes adopted for future events.

*The most important
tool we have against
severe weather is
current and accurate
information*

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

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 _ _ _

Business Manager

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Kent Blachowiak 242

Dan Ferguson 239

Dave Frary 233

Derrick Givens 234

Jennifer Gaspersich 225

Chris Kohn 240

John Kriposos 244

John Lutz, Organizer 249

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Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator 238

St. Cloud Business Representatives

Steve Ludwig 254

Jason Carlson 243

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Joan (Office Manager) 221

Gayle (Bookkeeping) 227

Julie (Admin) 236

Yolanna (Admin) 222

Angel (Admin) 223

President

Dan Ferguson 239

Financial Secretary

Jennifer Gaspersich 225

Executive Board

John Hall, Chairman 241

Anthony Carter xxx

Myles Lembke xxx

Dan McConnell xxx

Jeff Orth xxx

Richard Ramberg xxx

Kurt Tulp xxx

Brotherhood Committee

Message Line 247

JATC: Summer Training

By Derrick Atkins, Training Director

Moving into summer, we have concluded another successful school year at the JATC. With no students in the building for the summer, the JATC instructors are busy building out two new labs, a test instruments lab and a lighting control lab, which will help our apprentices with meter usage and the ever-changing technologies of lighting control.

Every summer, we send our instructors to the National Training Institute (NTI) in Ann Arbor for further training on instruction and technical topics to ensure we have the highest quality instructors. Our instructors learn how to write lesson plans, instruct with active learning exercises, and manage and implement lab training, and they cover technical topics like overcurrent protection and power quality. Additionally, we have three top fifth-year apprentices – Daniel Tuott, Gerald Bricko and Thomas Hermans – attending

NTI, and their week-long training will include team building, leadership development, case studies and time with top industry leaders, which will all be a great benefit not only to them but also to the Local, with all of the education and experiences they will bring home. Two other top fifth-year apprentices, Patrick McNamara and Justin Greif, for the first time, will be attending the NECA National Convention this fall in Philadelphia as outstanding apprentices. We should all be proud of our JATC as one of the top in the nation, and the successes of our apprentices reflect that.

For the first time, the JATC participated in the Albertville Friendly City Days Grande Day Parade. Community outreach and letting the community know who we are is important for the promotion of our union image and what apprenticeship is all about.



The PowerPartner Solar Powered Trailer for the Grande Day Parade with JATC staff and family.

BICSI Approval for Existing Classes

By Dave Dressler, Training Director,
Limited Energy JATC

The Limited Energy JATC has three more continuing education classes that provide BICSI CECs. When you attend the Fire Alarm, Fiber Optic, or Access Control classes, you will receive 7 BICSI CECs in addition to the MN PLT credit hours. This went into effect May 22, 2018. We will be working with BICSI to add more classes to the list this summer.

Are you Cisco CCNA or CCENT certified? Have you ever thought of being an instructor? We need Cisco-certified

instructors for our CCENT exam prep courses. Even if your certification is expired, we will assist you with renewal and provide additional training to get you up to speed. This is a unique opportunity to give back to the industry while increasing your knowledge. If you are interested, please contact Dave Dressler or Brandon Nelson at the Limited Energy JATC.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Limited Energy JATC at 763-571-5922.



IBEW MS 150 Team

1984 Article

I ran across a copy of the Keeping Current from 1984, then called News Relay. The faces and the names have changed, but the message remains the same. It was authored by then Business Manager Owen Schleisman.

"It has been said, 'The future belongs to those prepared for it.' In order for Local Union 292 to carry out its primary mission of serving the membership, we must anticipate and prepare for the future. We must not allow ourselves to despair over the effects of the bad economy and the Reagan administration's anti-union policies. For Local Union 292, and other labor unions as well, we must be prepared to adapt to change, to be innovative, creative, and be willing to act courageously on behalf of the membership. We must, in a word, 'FIGHT', for the rights and dignity of ourselves and others."

Eric Peterson

"SENIOR SPARKIES NOTES"

Happy Summer, Senior Sparkies!

By Paul Klesmit, Senior Sparkies President

It's finally here and is going fast. We're busy with many activities for the IBEW. We congratulate the new retirees, 22 of whom joined us at Jax for the annual retiree dinner. It was a nice evening enjoyed by the retirees, guests, officers and staff of Local 292. We also had 125 retirees at our annual retiree picnic. It was at a different venue, at French Regional Park in Plymouth. It's a very nice venue with a big shelter and very convenient parking. The meal was supplied by Jax Café and served by retiree women volunteers. This will be our new venue for future retiree picnics. The deposit made by attendees was returned to them due to the generous donation by Local 292. They also donated \$500 worth of Cub Foods gift cards. THANK YOU, LOCAL 292.

We are planning a boat trip in July and a Target Field tour in August. Invitations were mailed out to our retirees. Please join us for some fun events. Trade Night will have happened by the time you read this, and that is always a good time. I am looking forward to the picnic and golf events hosted by the Local this summer. Enjoy the summer and all the activities with your fellow Brothers and Sisters.

PLEASE do not forget to vote in our August primary and the general election in November. As retirees who rely on Social Security and Medicare, we need to be vigilant, as these are under attack constantly. We will have updates to the changes in store for us at our monthly retiree meetings in July and September. Stay tuned.

*As always, I wish you a safe and happy summer.
Stay healthy.*



LOCAL 292 "SENIOR SPARKIES" VOLUNTARY DIRECTORY (Update for 2018)

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 Picnic



Retirees Dinner





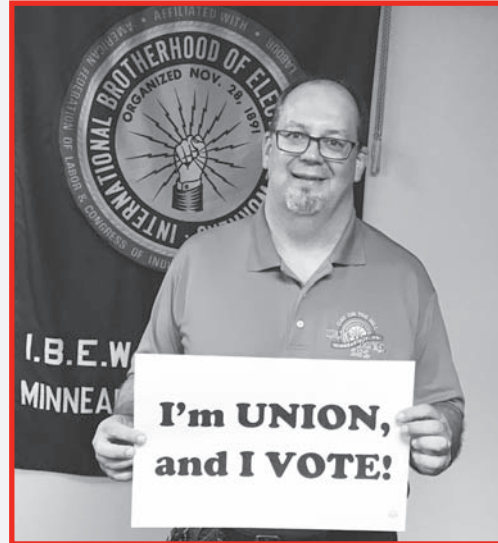
Political

I'm Union and I Vote!

By Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator

Union members across Minnesota are making a commitment to vote for candidates this November who will fight to protect our freedom to join together. We want to show all candidates and the public that Minnesota's Labor movement will turn out to vote in droves. We are asking you, as an IBEW Local 292 member, for your participation. Please go to <http://www.mnaflcio.org/> and sign the pledge. After downloading the poster, print it out and have your picture taken holding the sign. Then share the picture on social media using #mn1U. On Twitter, please tag @IBEW292 and @MNAFLCIO. Let the world know that our voices count.

For voter information or to register to vote, go to mnvotes.org. Then remember to vote in the primary on August 14. This is the same night as the General Membership Meeting, so please consider voting early



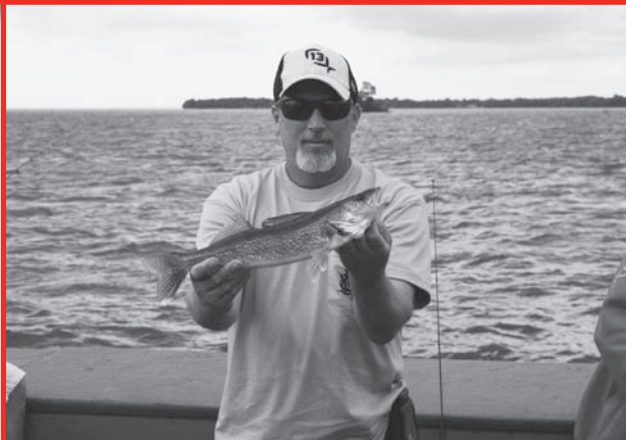
by absentee ballot starting June 29; we never know where or when we will be working on election day. Please vote early.

The candidate that has been endorsed for governor by IBEW Local 292 is Tim Walz. It's very important that we turn our members out to vote for our endorsed candidates. For more information on endorsed candidates, contact Ray Zeran at 612-617-4238.



The Minnesota DFL Convention was held June 1-3 in Rochester. Thank you to all members who attended to make sure the "L" in "DFL" was represented. We had 19 members of Local 292 who attended and who were joined by a number of other IBEW members. This picture was taken at the AFL CIO Labor breakfast. Left to right, starting in the front row: Bill Hiem (343), Dan McConnell, John Kripotos, Amado Mereno (110), Kyle O'Neill, Jesse Dahl, Steven Cherne, Greg Graif (343), Joanna Delaune, Gary Oman (110). Back row: Jeff Shannon, Dave Frary, Derrick Givens, Jason Carlson, Harold Weiss, Ray Zeran, Ken Blachowiak, Pat O'Fallon, Sean Sannis (343), Mike Hartley, Chris Arendt, John Hall, John Swenson (343). Members not in the picture that attended were Pete Lindahl, Greg Hansen and Rick Ramberg.

Fishing Trip



Dads Are Different From Moms

Whatever approach you take to fatherhood, it's helpful to remember this: You don't have to be another mom. Your child has one of those already. What your child needs most is for you to be you.

Though you smell different, sound different, feel different and play differently than mom, you still have all the necessary tools for nurturing, rearing, and interacting with your child. In fact, these differences help in the balanced development of your child.

One essential way dads are different from moms is in the way they handle their children. This difference is evident from the very beginning of your child's life. Mothers tend to be more calm and quiet when picking up and holding their babies. Fathers tend to be more playful and active. The balance benefits the baby. As children grow older, moms tend to use toys more in playing and learning, while dads often are the playthings themselves. Dads, generally more eager to serve as jungle gyms than moms, engage their children in physical and sensory learning that way. Part of the reason you as a dad tend to be more inclined toward physical play is that your body wasn't nearly as involved

as mom's for those first nine months, so you've got some catching up to do. This kind of play can help you establish the physical bond with your child that often comes more naturally to moms.



As your child grows older, differences may appear in the ways you and your wife or partner are affectionate with your child, your teaching styles, how you set limits, and how you respond to disciplinary situations. Studies have found that by giving kids more space to explore, dads encourage curiosity and help develop kids' confidence to solve problems on their own. Think about what you do differently from mom in these and other areas, and the benefits of those differences. It's always helpful to discuss the differences as well, both with your child and your spouse/partner.

Ultimately, as the dad, you will do many things differently from your child's mom. Remember that the differences are valuable, and worth appreciating.



Transitions

Retirements

Congratulations!

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
BAYER	EDWARD	D	5/1/2018
BORRIS	DAVID	J	5/1/2018
BRYANT	RALPH	D	12/1/2017
CHRISTIAN	LARRY	E	4/1/2018
GIESEN	GERARD	M	4/1/2018
HENSEL	DUANE	V	6/1/2018
KORUS	ANTHONY	G	6/1/2018
LUNDQUIST	GREGORY	D	3/1/2009
MADONNA	KEITH	D	3/1/2018
MENTH	JEFFREY	C	6/1/2018
MORSETH	HAROLD	A	4/1/2018
OBERG	MARK	S	6/1/2018
PODANY	PETER	T	6/1/2018
SCHULTZ	BARRY	D	5/1/2018
SEESTROM	TERRY	W	3/1/2018

Deaths

Active Members

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
ZIERMAN	WILLIAM	M	5/22/2018

Retired Members

BAETEN	WILLIAM	A	4/5/2018
BERGLUND	EARL	V	4/11/2018
CLAYPATCH	JACK	W	3/28/2018
DEEF	DANIEL	R	5/20/2018
EVANS	JOHN	R	4/10/2018
GREEN	IVERT	H	4/25/2018
HERLOFSKY	GERALD	A	6/4/2018
KNUTSON	JOEL	J	6/4/2018
KOSKINIEMI	GERALD	S	5/1/2018
WEISENBURGER	MALVIN		6/8/2018

Steward's Dinner



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/Traci Nigon

KEEPING CURRENT

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JULY 2018



Calendar

July 2018

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

August 2018

- 2 **St Cloud Informational** meeting.
6 p.m.
St Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd
- 9 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4:00 p.m.
- 14 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 6 p.m.
General Membership meeting. 7 p.m.
- 15 **Minnesota Primary Election**
- 15 **Brotherhood Committee** meeting.
4:30 p.m.
- 18 **IBEW Picnic** 11:00 am – 5:00pm
- 22 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 p.m.
- 23 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 27 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus**
meeting. 6 p.m.
- 28 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.

September 2017

- 4 **Labor Day.** Office closed.
- 6 **St Cloud Informational** meeting.
6 p.m.
St Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd
- 11 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.
Stewards meeting. 6 p.m.
General Membership meeting. 7 p.m.
- 13 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4:00 p.m.
- 19 **Brotherhood Committee** meeting.
4:30 p.m.
- 20 **History Committee** movie night. 6 p.m.
- 24 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus**
meeting. 6 p.m.
- 25 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 26 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 p.m.
- 27 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.