

August 2020

Volume 28 Number 2

KEEPING CURRENT

*With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



NOTICE

**Meeting dates and
times on page 12 are
tentative due to
COVID19.**

**Please check ibew292
website for
up to date info.**

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 JEFF HEIMERL



WHERE TO BEGIN?

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Well, where to begin? Throughout the past several months, the entire globe has experienced extremely abnormal societal changes. These changes have affected all of us in the IBEW, the construction industry, and the country. We are living through a pandemic that has taken its toll on factors that affect our daily lives. We have witnessed racial and social unrest in Minneapolis and around the country following the killing of George Floyd. The previous several years of lucrative employment have been replaced by double-digit unemployment rates in the United States. We, as organized labor, are in a very important election cycle, and, on top of everything else going on, Local 292 has officially moved into our new home at 6700 West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park. From a Local 292 standpoint, chaos is really the only way to describe the past several months.

This pandemic, known as the coronavirus or COVID-19, has many of us scared for our lives and the lives of our loved ones. There seems to be an uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and how to best deal with its containment. I understand that many of our members have tested positive for this virus. However, thankfully, at the time of this writing I am unaware of any fatalities among the membership that are directly related to COVID-19. The best advice that I can relay to you as members is to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations. Both the CDC and MDH recommend that we observe social distancing guidelines, wear face coverings, and self-isolate when feeling symptoms of the virus. These recommendations and a list of symptoms can be found on each of their respective websites. Additionally, we have posted links to these websites under the COVID-19/Member Information tab on our website at IBEW292.org. Please follow these guidelines, and hopefully, together, we can all remain safe and healthy through this pandemic.

The killing of George Floyd, while he was detained by Minneapolis police officers, sparked several days of demonstrations in the streets of Minneapolis. It seems that the great majority of these demonstrations were carried out peacefully; however, violence and destruction of property also played a part. Mr. Floyd's killing,

Continued on page 9

IBEW VETERANS Committee - LOCAL 292

**By Travis Rust, Instructor Minneapolis JATC,
President IBEW Veterans Alliance - Local 292**

I am pleased to announce the Veterans Committee is holding meetings again. These meetings provide a wealth of veteran benefit information and a list of contacts; we have direct contacts with VA-employed benefits personnel as well as with Veterans Service Officers through the DAV, VFW and American Legion.

All 292 members are welcome, and if you have a family member or friend who has served and you have any questions about benefits they may be entitled to, please feel free to drop by one of our meetings. We can help navigate a VA loan, GI Bill benefits, VA health care, a Service-Connected Disability claim or veteran funerals. It is also a great time to just hang out and talk about our military experiences, meet new people and enjoy the camaraderie.

A few months ago, the Veterans Committee assembled a small working party to rough in a home for the Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity (CMHFH) Veterans Build in Sauk Rapids. We had to keep the crew small due to health concerns.



Continued on next page



Pictured from left to right are Brothers Travis Rust, Scott Crawford, Joe Carlson, Matt Marthaler and Kirk Marthaler. Not pictured are Brothers Jason Carlson and Jeremy Weed.

IBEW VETERANS Committee - LOCAL 292

Continued from page 2

We appreciate the opportunity to help a veteran in need and would like to thank Brothers Jason Carlson and Jeremy Weed for their help on the build. We would also like to thank Erickson Electric for donating the material and tools and for getting the permit for the build. I have been informed by the CMHFH that there is funding for a second Veterans Build next year, and I will keep everyone updated as that project nears.

If any members know of a low-income veteran in need of a home who would like to apply to the program, please contact us or Jessica Dahl at the CMHFH office.

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity

3335 West Saint Germain Street, Suite 108
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
320-248-8256
jdahl@cmhfh.org

The Veterans Committee will have members at the Palmer Lake VFW in Brooklyn Park on the third Tuesday every month for Vets Night from 5pm to 6pm for those who want to drop in and hang out or ask a few questions. Our remaining general meeting will take place Tuesday, October 20, at 5pm.

All meetings will be conducted at:

Palmer Lake VFW All-American Post #3915
2817 Brookdale Drive
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

You can find a copy of the most recent VA benefits book online here:
www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

You can email us here:
veterans@ibew292.org

We are on Facebook:
Facebook @ IBEW Veterans Committee – Local 292

You can find a local news article on the Veterans Build here:
wjon.com/electricians-step-up-to-wire-veterans-build-home-in-sauk-rapids

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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Dan Ferguson 239

Assistant Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Jennifer Mudge 225

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Dan McConnell, Chairman 241

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Anthony Carter xxx

Myles Lembke xxx

Dean Lewis xxx

Dan McConnell xxx

Jeff Orth xxx

Christine Ulm xxx

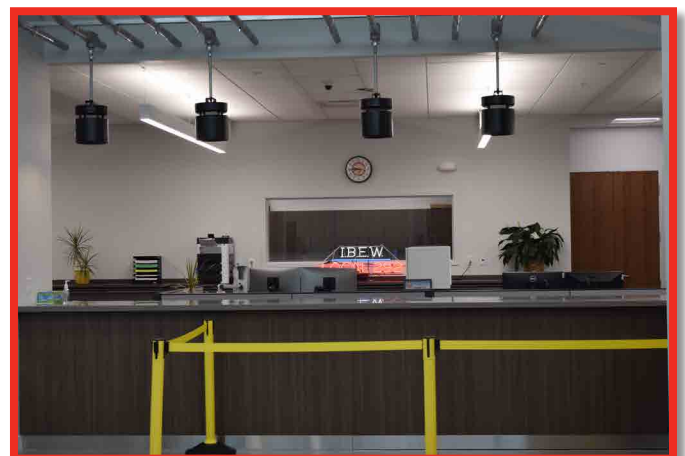
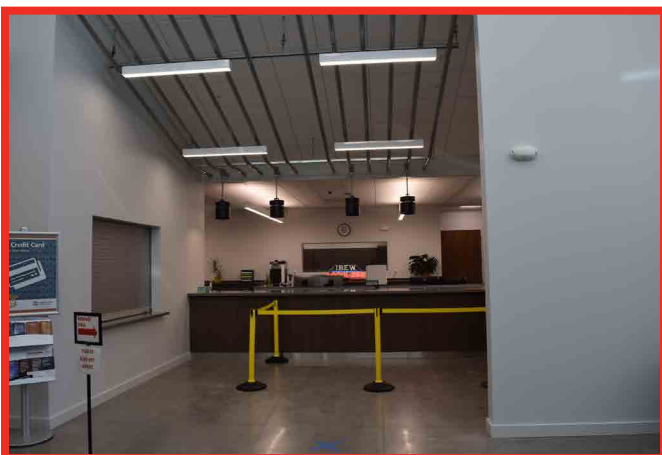
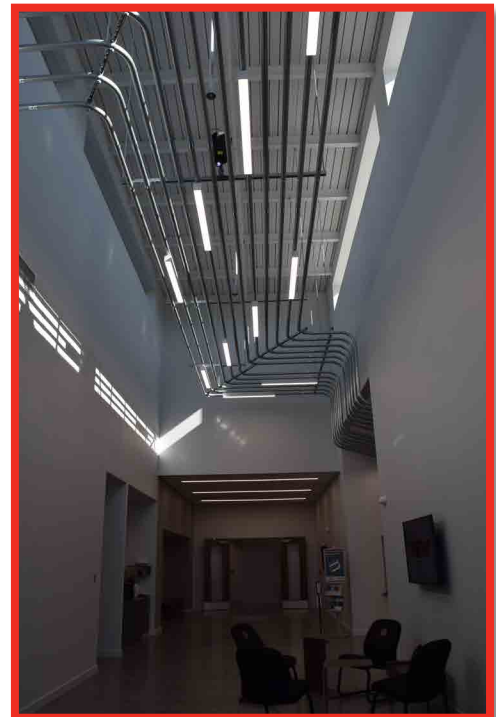
Brotherhood Committee

Message Line 247

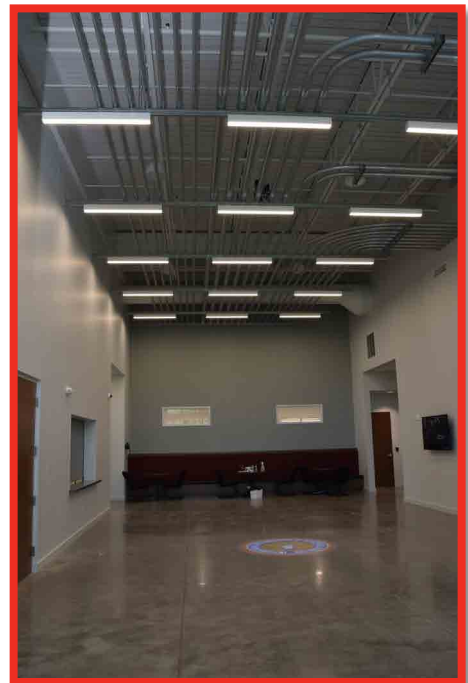
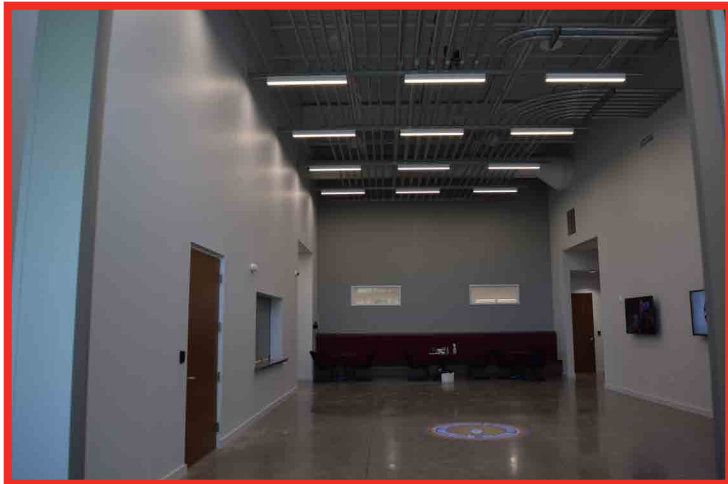
Our New Building



Our New Building



Our New Building



"SENIOR SPARKIES NOTES"

What a Year

By Paul Klesmit, Retiree President

What a year 2020 has been so far. This will be one we will never forget. I'm hoping to find all my fellow retirees and members safe and healthy. It was an exciting year with the completion of our new union hall, and we were looking forward to holding meetings and social events at the new facility. However, with all meetings and events being put on hold or canceled, we will follow Local 292 for guidance as to when we can resume retiree meetings. With the pandemic still on its rampage and the protests across the nation, these are scary times, indeed. This brings up our political climate and how important it is to vote. It is easier and safer now to vote by mail, and I urge you to do so. If you need any assistance in voting by mail, please contact the Local to help you with the process.

Stay safe and healthy.

Fraternally,
Paul Klesmit, Retiree President



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 _____



Political

Hello Brothers and Sisters of IBEW Local 292

By Andy Snope, IBEW 292 Legislative and Political Director

2020 is an important year. All Minnesota legislators are up for election this year, as are all our U.S. congressional representatives and one U.S. senator – and, you may have heard, there is an election for the office of President of the United States. We will need to start early and work hard to make sure our collective labor voices are heard. This year is extremely important because the legislators we elect will be drawing political district lines throughout the state and country after the U.S. population numbers are collected in the census. We need to elect legislators who are committed to assuring that legislative district lines are drawn fairly and are not open to gerrymandering.

2020 is also a census year. Collecting accurate information on the country's population will assure correct representation in Washington, D.C. Minnesota is very close to losing a congressional seat; we could go from eight U.S. representatives down to seven. Please participate in this year's census. Stand up and be counted.

This year, more than any other, please consider getting involved to help our labor family gain the recognition and support we need to maintain and improve a great standard of living and to gain respect in the workplace, on the job site, at home and in our communities. There will be important political campaign opportunities coming up. We need your help contacting fellow IBEW

292 members to discuss the importance of supporting labor-endorsed candidates. Please consider volunteering to help this year. Our collective IBEW Local 292 labor voice must be heard. Watch the IBEW Local 292 Political page on our website (in the Committees/Groups section) and the Local 292 Facebook page for updates on important volunteer opportunities.

Most importantly, make sure to vote for those labor-endorsed candidates on or before Election Day, November 3. Absentee voting for the general election starts on September 18. Consider absentee voting this year. With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unknown what Election Day voting might look like. Don't take the risk; vote from the comfort of your home and mail in your ballot. For more information about how and where to vote, go to [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the legislative or political process.

In Solidarity,

Andy Snope, IBEW Local 292 Legislative and Political Director
612-617-4238
asnopes@ibew292.org

From the Business Manager's Perspective

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along with the protests that followed, brought an emotional light to an issue that needs to be addressed in our society. The racial and social unrest among citizens must be addressed at the local, state and federal levels of government. I do not profess to have the answers to these issues, but I can say with confidence that changes surrounding these issues will be coming. As far as Local 292's position, I quote from the Declaration of the IBEW: "Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, and human security." These words ring true with respect to Local 292. We are and will continue to be an inclusive organization, striving to diversify our ranks and include women and people of color at every turn.

Recently, many construction projects that were scheduled to start have either been delayed or canceled. These delays and cancellations have contributed to the increase in unemployment among our members. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of COVID-19 looming, I have no predictions on when we can expect to see lucrative employment opportunities for our members again. However, we will continue working to increase opportunities every chance we get. We will continue to encourage our signatory employers to competitively bid any and all projects that we are aware of, and we will work with elected officials to help level the playing field by enforcing the laws that our contractors abide by. Hopefully, by working together, we can attain full employment of our members again sometime in the near future.

Our efforts to increase employment opportunities are not limited to working with our contractors. These efforts also include supporting labor-friendly political candidates at the polls this fall. Make no mistake: your vote counts, and it is very important to the future of Local 292 and of organized labor. While the country was essentially in lockdown due to COVID-19, the National Labor Relations Board

(NLRB) continued to work diligently, making rulings on case after case. Many of these cases were to the detriment of us in organized labor. The current NLRB is very unfriendly to organized labor when it comes to worker rights, organizing and union representation. The president of the United States appoints the members of the NLRB, and we definitely need new, labor-friendly board members appointed. Please remember to get out and vote for labor-friendly politicians in this year's election. Information on registering to vote and on our labor-endorsed candidates can be found on our website.

Local 292 is the proud owner of a new Minneapolis office. We have officially moved into the new building, and we are getting settled. Unfortunately, we have not been able to open the building fully yet. As many of you know, again due to COVID-19, we have had to cancel our general membership meetings for the past several months. This means that we cannot even show off our new space to members. For an organization like ours, which depends on member involvement, this pandemic is hitting extremely hard. I hope that we can regain some normalcy soon and welcome all our members to the new building.

There is a lot going on right now. We are living through unprecedented times, and there is an extreme amount of uncertainty regarding where things will settle. However, we are all part of this great union. We all play a role in helping each other, so as long as we are willing to help one another, we will make it through these uncertain times. I am committed to helping any members in need. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Brotherhood,
JH

News From the JATC

By Derrick Atkins, Training Director

The JATC staff has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year. Based on guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the decision has been made to conduct classes for the upcoming school year in a hybrid format. Apprentice classes will be reduced to 25% occupancy of classrooms and students will attend half-day in-person and half-day remote/online. In the hybrid format, apprentices will be able to have face-to-face class time for better instruction, do hands-on training in the labs and perform all testing at the JATC. The hybrid format will allow an easy transition in the future to either full-time remote or full-time face-to-face classes, depending on what circumstances may dictate due to COVID-19.

Continuing education classes are being scheduled and will be available for registration at the end

of August. You will be able to attend classes in a fully remote online application, in a classroom restricted to 10 attendees or in the commons area with up to 40 attendees. Face masks will be required in addition to social distancing. We encourage you to attend a 2020 Code Update class and pick up your copy of a 2020 NEC. Although the state of Minnesota has not adopted the new Code yet, we are hopeful that it will soon.

Due to a large class of fifth-year students graduating from the program, and to ensure we have an adequate workforce for the future, a small class has been hired into the program this year. The class size is about a fourth of the size that would normally be enrolled. We are looking forward to another successful school year and hope to see you in class!





Transitions

Retirements

Congratulations!

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
AHMANN	DONALD	R	2/1/2020
ANDERSON	RONALD	C	11/1/2019
BARTELS	CHARLES	R	3/1/2020
BEAUMONT	DALE	M	7/1/2020
BJUR	JEFF	E	3/1/2016
BOROWICZ	JEROME	M	5/1/2017
CATON	RICHARD	A	6/1/2019
CLAYPATCH	STEPHEN	P	7/1/2020
EGGERSGLUESS	RANDY	L	5/1/2020
FLEISCHHACKER	GERALD	B	7/1/2020
GALLATIN	WILLIAM	R	5/1/2020
GAMMELGAARD	JAMES	F	1/1/2020
HAMARI	MICHAEL	A	4/1/2020
JOHNSON	SCOTT	B	3/1/2020
JOHNSON	CRAIG	R	7/1/2020
KANIS	BRADLEY	S	6/1/2020
KIMBALL	KEITH	A	6/1/2020
KOTSCHVAR	THOMAS	L	7/1/2020
LENTNER	TIMOTHY	A	6/1/2020
MCSHANNOCK	MARY	H	1/1/2020
MENARD	JOE	A	4/1/2020
MOLITOR	BERNARD	N	7/1/2020
MORGEL	TERRENCE	P	4/1/2020
MURRAY	TIMOTHY	L	1/1/2020
OTTO	DOUG	J	4/1/2020
SCHROEDER	KEVIN	M	6/1/2020
SHANNON	JEFFREY	G	8/1/2020
SIMON	DALE	S	8/1/2020
SIRBA	JOHN	F	2/1/2020
SWORSKI	MARK	J	6/1/2020
WEGWERTH	STEPHEN	A	9/1/2015
WESTBERRY	RONALD	A	4/1/2020
YOBIE	JAMES	R	6/1/2020
YORK	ADOLPH	A	12/1/2016
ZIESMER	MARK	E	7/1/2020
ZYLMAN	JOEL	M	8/1/2020

Deaths

Active Members

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
BORRESEN-BERG	MICHAEL	J	3/31/2020
HONN	STEVEN	M	5/18/2020
MCGINNIS	STEPHEN	J	9/20/2019
SWICK	JAIMIE	J	6/3/2020
SCHMIDT	NELSON		4/15/2020
TENNISON	MATTHEW	J	8/24/2019

Retired Members

AUER	RAYMOND	A	4/9/2020
BLANCHARD	WILLIAM		5/31/2020
DEUTSCH	WERNER	J	3/2/2020
EGGERSGLUSS	MELVIN	V	3/20/2020
EVANS	MICHAEL	J	4/29/2020
FRISCHMON	PATRICK	M	4/30/2020
GRUBER	ROBERT	J	3/3/2020
HERSCHBERGER	EUGENE	F	9/30/2019
KILIAN	JACOB	J	3/4/2020
KLOBE	JAMES	A	4/30/2020
LUNDEEN	JAMES	K	6/26/2020
MCGUIRE	TERRY	M	6/25/2020
MCKAY	THOMAS	J	5/8/2020
NEKORA	NELIN	J	4/5/2020
POPMA	JERRY	R	12/23/2019
RANALLO	DOUGLAS	E	7/23/2020
WOODS	JAMES	B	6/9/2020



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, 6700 West Broadway Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428.

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

Business Manager/Jeff Heimerl
President/Dan Ferguson
Editor/Traci Nigon

KEEPING CURRENT

Local 292
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
 6700 West Broadway Avenue
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55428



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Calendar

All meeting dates and times are tentative due to COVID19. Please check ibew292 website for up to date info.

September 2020

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6pm
 St. Cloud union hall,
 2803 Clearwater Rd.
- 7 Labor Day Office Closed
- 8 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 10 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 28 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm

October 2020

- 1 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6pm
- 8 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 13 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 20 Veterans Alliance. 5pm
- 26 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 27 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm

November 2020

- 5 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6pm

- 10 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 11 **Veterans Day** Office Closed
 Provisional Holiday
- 12 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 14 **EWMC International day of Service**
- 23 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 24 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day** Office Closed
- 27 **Day after Thanksgiving Day**
 Office Closed
- 28 **IBEW Founders Day, 1891**