

**October 2020**

Volume 28 Number 3

# 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  
6700 West Broadway Avenue  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428**

**Phone: (612) 379-1292**

**Fax: (612) 379-9326**

**Web: [www.ibew292.org](http://www.ibew292.org)**

**Email: [office@ibew292.org](mailto:office@ibew292.org)**

## FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

**BY JEFF HEIMERL**



## A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR EVERY AMERICAN

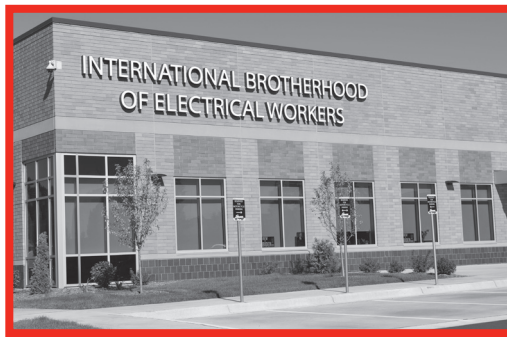
### Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This has been a difficult year for every American. Working people across Minnesota have had to pull together in getting through these difficult times. Union members understand better than anyone the importance of elected leaders who will work with us and fight for us when times get tough. Local 292 knows that in times like these, we need an experienced, proven leader who will be on our side. That is why we're recommending a vote for Joe Biden for president this fall.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have dedicated their lives to public service. They have the experience we need to lead us through the next four years. They have always stood up for union workers and fought on the side of working families. As president, Joe Biden will put the health of working people first and make sure employers are not risking our health and our lives during this pandemic. And together, Biden/Harris will defend the pensions and other benefits that we have negotiated and worked for.



The Biden/Harris team will enact actual labor reforms that will strengthen unions like IBEW 292 and make it easier for working people to organize a union. They will fight to end "right-to-work" laws nationwide and force companies that have previously negotiated in bad faith back to the negotiating table. A Biden/Harris administration will enact real penalties for companies that violate labor laws, thus deterring the violation of said laws.



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris understand the value of union work. They will promote the use of Project Labor Agreements on federal construction projects and support prevailing wage on all projects with federal funding. Additionally, Biden and Harris will invest in much-needed infrastructure projects across the country, creating good-paying

construction jobs while improving our lives and communities.

The IBEW and I believe that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the right choice for working people this November. I am voting for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for president and vice president and Tina Smith for senator at the top of the ticket

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## Political

# Hello Brothers and Sisters of IBEW Local 292

By Andy Snope, IBEW 292 Legislative and Political Director

Hello IBEW Local 292 Members,

This year's election is critically important. Early voting began on September 18. Please consider requesting an absentee ballot and voting by mail or voting early in person at select city halls and county seats. While you can vote in-person on November 3, during these uncertain times, it is a good idea to get your voting done and out of the way. You can find out more about how to vote this year at [MNVotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

### Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for IBEW Local 292 members to help volunteer in our efforts to get out the vote (GOTV) and help to inform Union members of who our Labor-endorsed candidates are. If you can contribute any of your valuable time to help in the cause, it would be very much appreciated.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation is currently running volunteer Zoom virtual phone bank shifts Monday through Thursday starting at 3pm and Saturdays at 10:30am. Please contact Joanna DeLaune at [joanna@minneapolisunions.org](mailto:joanna@minneapolisunions.org) or 612-384-5313 to sign up. Through Election Day, they will be running virtual phonebanks over Zoom, participating in lit drops, and delivering and installing lawn signs.

The East Central (St. Cloud area) Regional Labor Federation is currently running volunteer shifts every day at 1903 4th Street N, St. Cloud. Shifts are from 10am to 8pm. Please contact Jane Conrad for more information at [jane\\_conrad@outlook.com](mailto:jane_conrad@outlook.com) or 320-267-0899. Through Election Day, they will be running virtual phonebanks over Zoom, running in-person phonebanks, participating in lit drops, and delivering and installing lawn signs.

Training will be provided before any volunteer participation. The staff at the Labor Federations are willing to accommodate your schedule if you can volunteer at times other than those listed above.

We also want to encourage you to reach out to the Labor-endorsed candidates in your area. They need your help to get out the vote and get elected this year. We have links to all the endorsed candidates on our political page at [IBEW292.org/political](https://IBEW292.org/political).

If you are looking for "IBEW for Joe Biden" lawn signs, t-shirts, buttons, and hardhat stickers, please stop on by the IBEW Local 292 office at 6700 W Broadway in Brooklyn Park or give us a call at 612-617-4238 to have us bring them to you.

### Why Vote for Labor-Endorsed Candidates?

Who you vote for is your business, but please consider the following:

Consider voting for Joe Biden for president and the other down-ballot Labor-endorsed candidates listed on our website: [IBEW292.org/political](https://IBEW292.org/political). Please vote first for your job and working-family issues.

**Our current president and other members of his party, on both the federal and state level, have worked against us on these important issues:**

- Supporting the right to join a union
- Opposing "right-to-work" laws
- Supporting funding for maintaining Social Security and Medicare
- Supporting the right to collectively bargain
- Supporting worker safety and on-the-job safety, both in the face of a pandemic and at other times
- Opposing misclassification of workers or the use of "independent contractors"

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# From the Business Manager's Perspective

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along with the other Labor-endorsed candidates down-ballot. Please join me in making this a better working economy for IBEW members and working families.

In addition to our support for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for president and vice president and Tina Smith for Minnesota senator, please visit [IBEW292.org/political](https://IBEW292.org/political) to find a full list of candidates endorsed by IBEW Local 292.

Given how the pandemic has affected voting this year, we encourage you to vote by mail if you're able to do so. To register to vote, update your voter registration, or request an absentee ballot, visit [MNvotes.org](https://MNvotes.org). If you haven't already done so, you can fill out an application online to vote by mail right now. Early voting in Minnesota started on September 18. Make sure our collective voice is heard this November.

In Brotherhood,

Jeffrey J. Heimerl  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 292

## Political

*continued from page 2*

Opposing labor trafficking and wage theft  
Supporting strengthening and enforcing laws to ensure a workplace free of discrimination  
Supporting the federal PRO Act, which would strengthen union organizing laws and abolish "right-to-work" laws  
Supporting majority union sign-up or "card check"  
Appointing/maintaining strong worker advocates to the NLRB  
Appointing/maintaining strong worker advocates as federal and state department commissioners  
Supporting the Davis-Bacon Act and prevailing wage provisions, which assure high area wages and benefits  
Supporting our state license and regulations  
Supporting strong jobs in a new alternative-energy world  
Supporting a large bonding and capital investment bill to create building trades jobs  
Supporting increasing wages and benefits to all workers to help level the current income disparities  
Supporting the creation of an economy that works for everyone

**Conversely, Joe Biden and other Labor-endorsed candidates have been supportive of those initiatives.**

If you have any questions about the upcoming elections, please do not hesitate to contact me at [asnope@IBEW292.org](mailto:asnope@IBEW292.org) or 612-617-4238.

In solidarity,

Andy Snope  
Legislative and Political Director  
IBEW Local Union 292

### 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

Jeff Heimerl 237

#### Metro Business Representatives

Kent Blachowiak 242

Dan Ferguson 239

Dave Frary 233

Derrick Givens 234

Jennifer Mudge 225

Chris Kohn 240

John Kripotos 244

Aaron Olson, Organizer 249

Bill Krause, Hiring Hall 224

Andrew Snope, Political Coordinator 238

#### St. Cloud Business Representatives

Tim Fischer 254

Jason Carlson 243

#### Office Staff

Joan (Office Manager) 221

Gayle (Bookkeeping) 227

Yolanna (Admin) 222

Angel (Admin) 223

#### President

Dan Ferguson 239

#### Assistant Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Jennifer Mudge 225

#### Executive Board

Dan McConnell, Chairman 241

Keith Anderson xxx

Anthony Carter xxx

Myles Lembke xxx

Dean Lewis xxx

Dan McConnell xxx

Jeff Orth xxx

Christine Ulm xxx

#### Brotherhood Committee

Message Line 247

# **THIS INFORMATION IS INTENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING POLITICAL EDUCATION TO IBEW LOCAL UNION 292 MEMBERS.**

**The below listed candidates are proven friends of the  
IBEW and have been endorsed by the  
IBEW Local 292 COPE committee.**

**As of September 18, 2020**

US PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT	Joe Biden/Kamala Harris
US SENATE	Tina Smith
US HOUSE CD 1	Dan Feehan
US HOUSE CD 2	Angie Craig
US HOUSE CD 3	Dean Phillips
US HOUSE CD 5	Ilhan Omar
US HOUSE CD 6	Tawnja Zahradka
US HOUSE CD 7	Collin Peterson
MN STATE SEANTE 13	Michael Willemsen
MN STATE SENATE 14	Aric Putnam
MN STATE SENATE 17	Fernando Alvarado
MN STATE SENATE 18	Chad Tschimperle
MN STATE SENATE 20	Jon Olson
MN STATE SENATE 29	Chris Brazelton
MN STATE SENATE 30	Diane Nguyen
MN STATE SENATE 34	Bonnie Westlin
MN STATE SENATE 36	John Hoffman
MN STATE SENATE 37	Jerry Newton
MN STATE SENATE 40	Chris Eaton
MN STATE SENATE 41	Mary Kunesch
MN STATE SENATE 44	Ann Johnson Stewart
MN STATE SENATE 45	Ann Rest
MN STATE SENATE 46	Ron Latz
MN STATE SENATE 47	Addie Miller
MN STATE SENATE 48	Steve Cwodzinski
MN STATE SENATE 49	Melissa Lopez Franzen
MN STATE SENATE 50	Melissa Halverson Wiklund
MN STATE SEANTE 59	Bobby joe Champion
MN STATE SENATE 60	Kari Dziedzic
MN STATE SENATE 61	Scott Dibble

***Continued on page 5***

# Candidates

*continued from page 4*

MN STATE SENATE 62	Omar Fateh
MN STATE SENATE 63	Patricia Torres Ray
MN STATE HOUSE 13A	Katy Westlund
MN STATE HOUSE 14A	Tamara 'Tami' Calhoun
MN STATE HOUSE 14B	Dan Wolgamott
MN STATE HOUSE 17A	Ben Dolan
MN STATE HOUSE 18B	Heather Bakke
MN STATE HOUSE 29A	Rennee Cardarelle
MN STATE HOUSE 30A	Chad Hobot
MN STATE HOUSE 30B	Brad Kovach
MN STATE HOUSE 33A	Caitlin Cahill
MN STATE HOUSE 33B	Kelly Morrison
MN STATE HOUSE 34A	Brian Raines
MN STATE HOUSE 34B	Kristin Bahner
MN STATE HOUSE 35A	Mike Erickson
MN STATE HOUSE 35B	Jason Ruffalo
MN STATE HOUSE 36A	Zach Stephenson
MN STATE HOUSE 36B	Melissa Hortman
MN STATE HOUSE 37A	Erin Koegel
MN STATE HOUSE 37B	Amir Malik
MN STATE HOUSE 40A	Michael Nelson
MN STATE HOUSE 40B	Samantha Vang
MN STATE HOUSE 41A	Connie Bernardy
MN STATE HOUSE 41B	Sandra Feist
MN STATE HOUSE 44A	Ginny Klevorn
MN STATE HOUSE 44B	Patty Acomb
MN STATE HOUSE 45A	Cedrick Frazier
MN STATE HOUSE 45B	Mike Freiberg
MN STATE HOUSE 46A	Ryan Winkler
MN STATE HOUSE 46B	Cheryl Youakim
MN STATE HOUSE 47A	Arlan Brinkmeier
MN STATE HOUSE 47B	Dan Kessler
MN STATE HOUSE 48A	Laurie Pryor
MN STATE HOUSE 48B	Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn
MN STATE HOUSE 49B	Steve Elkins
MN STATE HOUSE 50A	Michael Howard
MN STATE HOUSE 50B	Andrew Carlson
MN STATE HOUSE 55A	Brad Tabke
MN STATE HOUSE 55B	Andrea Nelsen
MN STATE HOUSE 56A	Jess Hanson

*Continued on page 6*



# Candidates

*continued from page 5*

MN STATE HOUSE 59A	Fue Lee
MN STATE HOUSE 59B	Ester Abaje
MN STATE HOUSE 60A	Sydney Jordan
MN STATE HOUSE 60B	Mohamud Noor
MN STATE HOUSE 61A	Frank Hornstein
MN STATE HOUSE 62A	Hodan Hassan
MN STATE HOUSE 62B	Alisha Gomez
MN STATE HOUSE 63A	Jim Davnie
MN STATE HOUSE 63B	Emma Greenman
ANOKA COUNTY 1	John LeTourneau
ANOKA COUNTY 2	Noel Lutskey
ANOKA COUNTY 3	Nyle Zikmund
ANOKA COUNTY 6	Cindy Hansen
CARVER COUNTY 3	Randy Maluchnik
HENNEPIN COUNTY 5	Debbie Goettel
HENNEPIN COUNTY 6	Chris LaTondresse
HENNEPIN COUNTY 7	Kevin Anderson
BROOKLYN PARK Council	Lisa Jacobson
BROOKLYN CENTER Council	Alfreda Daniels
COLUMBUS City Council	Rob Busch
COON RAPIDS Council	Chris Geiser
COON RAPIDS Council	Sholondra Shipps-Gordon
CRYSTAL Council W4	David Cummings
CRYSTAL Council W3	John Budziszewski
MAPLE GROVE Council	Kristy Janigo
MINNEAPOLIS School Board	KerryJo Felder
NEW HOPE City Council	Andy Hoffe
PLYMOUTH City Council	Milind Sohoni
ROBBINSDALE Mayor	Bill Blonigan
ROBBINSDALE Council W1	Tyler Kline
ROBBINSDALE Council W2	Sheila Webb
RAMSEY City Council	Jeff Menth

**Who you vote for is your own business. You should know that after careful consideration and selection, the above candidates have been endorsed by the IBEW Local 292 COPE Committee; they are candidates that will fight for Labor and the values of working men and women and our families if they are elected to office.**

**Check the 292 web page frequently for any updated and new endorsements.**

**If you have any questions about the candidates listed or not listed here or any candidates outside of the IBEW Local 292 geographical area, please contact Political Director:**

**Andy Snope [asnopo@ibew292.org](mailto:asnopo@ibew292.org) or 612-617-4238.**

# News From the JATC

By Derrick Atkins, Training Director

The JATC is off to a great start for the new school year. The JATC is taking the proper and required precautions for COVID-19 in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Apprenticeship classes have resumed in a hybrid format with 25% occupancy in each classroom. Students attend school for half the day and complete the other half of the day with remote online training activities at home. This allows the apprentices to interact in the classroom, participate in labs and take tests at the JATC.

Continuing education classes are scheduled and running. You can attend a class either in person or online. Registration and listing of all classes are now available online at [mplsjatc.org](http://mplsjatc.org).

Considering the current state of the economy and the high number of individuals on our eligibility list for acceptance into the program, acceptance of applications is being suspended until March 1, 2021. There are many issues that our country is currently facing, such as the downturn in the economy. This year's election is important on many levels and I encourage everyone to get out and vote. Our apprenticeship program needs support from our elected officials, and our apprentices are the future of our Local. It is more important now than ever to get out and vote.

Thank You,  
Derrick Atkins



# 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.**

### 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**

### December 2020

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting. 6pm
- 5 Children's Christmas Party. 9am-1pm
- 8 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
- Stewards** meeting. 6pm
- General Membership** meeting. 7pm
- 9 **Retirees Christmas Lunch**
- 10 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 11 **Members Only Christmas Party.**
- 6-11:30pm
- 21 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 24 **Christmas Eve.** Office Closed
- 25 **Christmas Day.** Office Closed
- 31 **New Years Eve.** Office Closed

### January 2021

- 1 **New Year's Day.** Office closed
- 7 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting.
- 6pm
- 12 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
- Stewards** meeting. 6pm
- General Membership** meeting. 7pm
- 14 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 18 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**
- Office Closed
- 25 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 26 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm