

**June 2021**  
Volume 29 Number 2

# KEEPING CURRENT

*With Local 292, International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



## NOTICE

**Meeting dates and  
times on page 16 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



## LAST YEAR HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT NORMAL

### Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Well, this last year has been anything but normal. COVID-19 has taken its toll and affected the human race throughout the globe. Civil and social unrest resulting from racially charged events has injured the spirit of our country. Contract negotiations have been ongoing, and we have moved into a new building that we cannot invite our members to visit. What is next? Hopefully, for all our sanity, we can unite and move forward to make our Local better than it has ever been.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to all of our members who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. I know that we have members who have lost friends and loved ones to this terrible virus. COVID-19 has affected our entire world and it seems likely that our future will be forever altered. As we adjust and modify our behavior in relation to this pandemic, work remains slow for our members in the jurisdiction. Although job calls have been trickling in slowly, there is certainly not an abundance of work and not much to get too elated about. However, we do see a few notable projects on the radar, and we are keeping an eye on them. Hopefully, we can get our out-of-work members back on the job sooner rather than later.

Lately, the issue of race relations and social unrest in our communities has dominated the attention of mainstream news media outlets. This is a real issue in our communities and must be addressed. Local 292 will not tolerate harassment or discrimination of our members in any form. To be clear, the declaration of the IBEW (found within our IBEW Constitution) states our organization's cause as that of "human justice, human rights, human security." This cause is something that must be recognized and taken to heart. We must look out for each other and treat each other with the respect and dignity that each of us desires and deserves. I am currently working with other Local 292 officers to formulate a plan on how to best approach this issue with our membership.

The Inside Agreement has been ratified and we are continuing negotiations on the Statewide Limited Energy Agreement and the Twelve-County Addendum to the Inside Agreement at the time of this writing. We also have several manufacturing and broadcasting contracts coming due this calendar year. The remainder of 2021 will have a heavy focus on contract negotiations. Local 292 will continue working to negotiate the best possible collective bargaining agreements for our members. Our intent is to bring forward tentative agreements that are fair and equitable when we get them in front of members for ratification votes.

Local 292 is just over one year into the occupancy of our new home. We look forward to seeing you all in person as COVID-19 guidelines relax. At this point, we are planning for our annual golf outing and picnic, and we are planning on conducting in-person general membership meetings going forward. Please attend these events and participate in the Local as we bring back our in-person membership meetings. We are only as strong as our members who participate.

The past 12 months have been challenging for all of us. Now it is time to unite and bring our Local union forward. We can only do that together. I look forward to seeing you all as we move out of this horrific period and into the future.

In Solidarity,  
Jeffrey J. Heimerl



## Transitions

### Retirements

#### *Congratulations!*

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
BJORNEBO	RANDALL	P	3/1/2021
CONNETT	DANIEL	J	4/1/2021
DREIER	TODD	A	1/1/2021
ERICKSON	WILLIAM	B	5/1/2021
FEHRINGER	DONALD	P	6/1/2021
GONZALEZ	SILVIA	V	3/1/2021
HERMES	RONALD	R	5/1/2021
HINNENKAMP	DALE	G	3/1/2021
JENSEN	LARRY	D	2/1/2021
KAFKA	JAY	L	5/1/2021
KREKELBERG	GREGORY	H	3/1/2021
LAWRANCE	STEVEN	M	4/1/2021
MAGNUSON	KEITH	A	4/1/2021
NEESER	RONALD	T	1/1/2021
SATHER	GARY	M	1/1/2021
SAWYER	DAVID	W	4/1/2021
SEGERSTROM	JULI	K	5/1/2021
SIMONET	WILLIAM	J	4/1/2021
STARCEVICH	THOMAS	R	2/1/2020
VELDEY	STEVEN	D	4/1/2021
WEIGEL	DAVID	C	12/1/2020
WESTMARK	ROBERT	D	12/1/2020
WILLIAMS	JAN	G	4/1/2019

### Deaths

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
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#### Active Members

ANDERSON	WILLIAM	C	4/27/2021
VAN VLEET	KEVIN	J	5/11/2021

#### Retired Members

BANKO	HARRY	G	4/12/2021
BARR	THOMAS	J	2/25/2021
BELLCOUR	FRANK		5/26/2021
CLEM	LEROY	J	5/30/2021
CONNELL	PAUL	J	1/16/2021
DORSCHNER	MICHAEL	G	12/10/2020
ESPE	DONALD	J	2/10/2021
HANSON	CLIFFORD	H	4/12/2021
HEINEN	VERNON		2/14/2021
JOHNSON	GERALD	A	2/3/2021
MERRIFIELD	MILLER	R	4/8/2021
NORBY	DENNIS	P	10/9/2020
PANCHYSHYN	MICHAEL	J	4/30/2021
PRIEM	MICHAEL	J	2/14/2021
STERNE	WILLIAM	J	4/2/2021
STOREY	BENJAMIN	M	11/8/2020
SUTTON	MICHAEL	N	5/17/2021

### Vernon A. Heinen

October 17, 1935 – February 14, 2021

Local 292 would like to give a big THANK YOU to the Family of Vernon Heinen for their donation of \$900.00 to the Guy Alexander/Joe Krech Scholarship Fund, in memory of Brother Vernon.



# Safety Corner

## BIGGEST ISSUE ON JOBSITES TODAY: COMMUNICATION

By John Winkels

It's been a difficult year for all of us. Unfortunately, for some of us, the consequences of pandemic-related changes, work-related stresses and other emotionally significant factors have brought an unexpectedly large toll on our lives. We have seen some significant injuries and deaths come across the table at the safety committee. For me, it highlights the need to become even more vigilant and change the way we do "business as usual."

While most of us feel like we know what shortcuts are acceptable to take—or maybe even expected to take, from a contractor's view—that thought process creates some issues. Let me explain: every day, we work with others around us who do not share the same knowledge and experience we do. For example, maybe a crew gets used to doing things a certain way, even though it doesn't follow procedure. When you introduce a new member to the crew, they will default to the training they have, but the rest of the crew will default to their learned behavior (the shortcut). This may or may not cause a safety situation.

This brings up one of the biggest issues on jobsites today: COMMUNICATION! The majority of issues, safety or otherwise, can be traced back to a breakdown in communication. So please, take the time to talk things through. Use active listening to repeat back instructions in different words to be sure both parties understand what was intended to be said. Don't be surprised if what you heard isn't quite what was meant. Communication also plays a role in creating a healthy work environment. We need to be talking to each other and checking in on each other as we go through the day. If someone is having trouble at home, or is feeling harassed at work, or maybe just needs to tell someone about a concern they have, we need to be able to stop and listen to what they have to say. If we can't take the time to listen, we'll never know what we needed to hear.

*"Please, take  
the time to talk  
things through"*

### 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

**NEW LOCATION****August 14  
Picnic**

- Local 292 IBEW - 6700 W Broadway Avenue. Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
- Family Event (11a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- No Registration Required
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or [office@ibew292.org](mailto:office@ibew292.org)

**July 14  
Golf**

- Majestic Oak's Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd., Ham Lake, MN 55304
- 7 a.m. Driving Range Open and Sign-In, Shotgun Start is 9 a.m., 18 Holes of golf will be followed by dinner and awards.
- Limited to 280 Members; Lottery if needed.
- Register by July 7th.
- Registration form below
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or [office@ibew292.org](mailto:office@ibew292.org)



What's your handicap? **A** = 0-10 • **B** = 11-20 • **C** = 21-30 • **D** = 30+

**Local 292****IBEW 292 Golf  
Tournament  
Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap **A B C D**  
(circle one—see above)**Must enclose:**

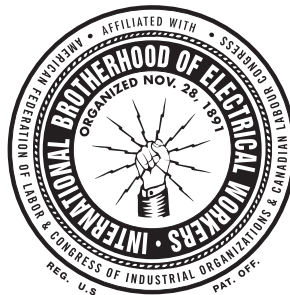
Your check for  
\$35

**Send to:**

Local 292 Golf Tournament  
6700 West Broadway Avenue  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

**Remember:**

Register by July 7th for Golfing  
Limited to 280 members.  
Lottery if more than 200 sign up.



# IBEW VETERANS Committee - LOCAL 292

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

I am pleased to announce that the Minneapolis JATC has hired the first veteran through the Veteran Electrical Entry Program (VEEP). The JATC is expecting to hire another veteran through VEEP soon.

The Veterans Committee is working together with the Benefits Office to help streamline the paperwork that needs to be done for pre- and post-deployments for our military members. The guidebook is in the works.

Many Reserve and Guard members in our Local are unaware of the importance of filing the proper paperwork with the Benefits Office and their employer before and after deployments. This includes freezing your Local 292 healthcare benefits when deployed for 31 days or more and getting your family on Tricare before you leave. What will happen if you do not freeze your Local 292 benefits? Well, you could be expected to pay for those benefits, and you could lose healthcare credits while you are away. This is avoidable if you reach out to the Veterans Committee. Too many military members are not informed by their command of how to properly prepare for deployments. The Veterans Committee can help, so please send us an email.

Lastly, I would like to let the membership know that if you have a loved one or friend who is a veteran and who has passed away, there is a list of benefits that survivors are entitled to when a veteran dies. Each case is different according to what disability benefits they are receiving before they die. The Veterans Committee can answer most questions about death and survivor benefits without having to contact Veterans Affairs. Again, the Veterans Committee can help, so please contact us.

The Veterans Committee now has our own "Service Officer" named Jeff Jarosz. He is a benefits specialist and can help with these things.

Veterans Committee Service Officer: **Jeff Jarosz**  
**Email: [jajarosz@q.com](mailto:jajarosz@q.com)**

General meetings are held at Brooklyn Park VFW in the back room by the patio.

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

Next Meetings

**Tuesday, July 20 at 5pm**  
**Tuesday, October 19 at 5pm**

Email: [veterans@ibew292.org](mailto:veterans@ibew292.org)  
We are on Facebook @ IBEW Veterans Committee – Local 292



# "SENIOR SPARKIES NOTES"

## Welcome to Summer

By Paul Klesmit, Retiree President

Welcome to summer and a hint of normalcy after over a year of isolating in our Covid Bubble! Hopefully you have all received your Covid vaccinations by now; if not, I URGE you to get one. It protects you and everyone around you. The relief it provides to lower the anxiety of being out in public is astounding, to say the least.

We held our first meeting since March of 2020 in May of this year. It was good to see some of our retirees there. We plan on having monthly meetings from now on at 12:30. Please come join us! We are planning our retiree picnic for August 12th at our new facility in Brooklyn Park. We are also planning a casino trip in October to Treasure Island. Invitations for these events will be mailed to retirees in the near future.

Our healthcare liaison, Labor First, urges us all to get our annual exams and healthcare checks. This helps lower the cost of our healthcare by helping us stay on top of our health issues. Please use this benefit and remember to call Labor First with any questions about your healthcare. As the name implies, this should be your first call with issues or questions.

Congratulations to our new retirees, and be patient, as plans are being made to celebrate with you and award you your pins, plaques and watches. I look forward to seeing your bigger-than-normal smiles as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

I'm hoping to see you all soon at a meeting, event or function. You will all be impressed with Local 292's facility in Brooklyn Park, and hopefully, in the near future, you can see it in person. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy this hint of a new sense of normalcy.

*Stay safe, Stay healthy*

Fraternally,  
Paul Klesmit  
Senior Sparkies 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Service Pins

## 50-YEAR SERVICE PIN

ADAMS	DONALD	W
BARTO	DANIEL	F
BELLCOUR	FRANK	
BIES	EDWARD	M
CAMPBELL	GERALD	L
CHRISTENSON	JERRY	J
COMBS	GARY	C
CRITCHFIELD	MIKE	D
DEGIDIO	STEVEN	C
DEMARAIS	MICHAEL	P
ESSENDROP	RAYMOND	E
FLATELAND	BRADLEE	W
FRANK	MICHAEL	J
GEIST	OLIVER	R
GOLAY	GARY	L
GRATKE	LEROY	
GUSTAFSON	DOUGLAS	D
HAMPLE	BARRY	A
HOLSCHER	RONALD	E
HORNSTEN	ANDREW	O
JACQUES	DONALD	G
JOHNSON	LONNIE	R
JONES	KEVIN	W
LAFFEY	DONALD	W
LAKEMAN	KENNETH	H
LANGE	JEFFREY	R
LASS	JAMES	A
LOGAN	DONALD	J
LOISEL	MICHAEL	J
MARTINSON	DAVID	W
MEYER	JAMES	H
NEYENS	EUGENE	H
NIEMI	DENNIS	E

NISKANEN	JAMES	D
NOVOTNY	GARY	J
OBERENDER	LARRY	L
OLSON	GREGORY	J
OLSON	JERRY	A
OTTO	DAVID	P
PARTYKA	WILLIAM	C
PETSCHL	THOMAS	G
RABE	ALDEN	D
REDEPENNING	ROGER	D
REECE	LARRY	E
RICE	ROBERT	E
RYAN	JOSEPH	P
SANDBERG	GARY	
SARDELLI	TIMOTHY	L
SHANNON	MICHAEL	J
SHELLEDY	JAMES	A
TOBIAS	THOMAS	M
TROMBLEY	DAVID	H
WELKE	VAN	G
WOOD	MICHAEL	D

## 55-YEAR SERVICE PIN

BERNARD	WILLIAM	J
BUCHHOLZ	RONALD	A
DEZIEL	GARY	F
GILBERT	HOWARD	W
HARTZELL	DENNIS	E
JOHNSON	MARLIN	L
KEINANEN	VERNON	
KLINGBERG	GARY	H
LAVIGNE	JEFFREY	N
LUNDEEN	DARRELL	L
MARCHWICK	JOHN	E
MEYER	JAMES	M

MILLER	ALLEN	W
PETERSON	ARON	L
RAHN	DAVID	C
RUDOLPH	DAVID	E
SCHMIDT	JAMES	A
STAUNER	GERHARDT	A
STOECKEL	JEROME	E
SUTHERLAND	JAMES	R
VOIGT	ROBERT	L
WALLACE	JOEL	A

## 60-YEAR SERVICE PIN

BRAUNWARTH	GEORGE	M
FORTMEYER	RONALD	A
FOSLIEN	MYRON	J
HAGFORS	CURTIS	C
JONES	SHELDON	T
KALSCHUEER	WALLACE	J
MACLENNAN	JOHN	
MEYER	ROBERT	D
MURRAY	LARRY	G
RATKA	VINCENT	J
SUTTON	MICHAEL	N
TESSMER	RICHARD	G
VANASSE	SHELDON	F
VITOLS	JOHN	J

## 65-YEAR SERVICE PIN

BERGER	CHARLES	A
LOMAS	DALE	
RANALLO	DAVID	L
SOVELL	DAVID	F

## 70-YEAR SERVICE PIN

SEWILL	DONALD	
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## News From the JATC

By Derrick Atkins, Training Director

The 2020-2021 school year has come to a successful completion! Many of our 5th-year graduates have already passed their MN Class A JW Licensing Exam and have moved on to journey-level status. The purpose of our great JATC has always been to train our apprentices to be, at a minimum, the best journey-level workers in the industry, and we are seeing that success with another great passing rate on the state exam. We look forward to next fall with the school being open with no restrictions and classes resuming back to normal.

With the onset of summer, and no classes in the building, we are updating our 20-year-old building. We will be replacing much of the flooring in the hallways and the classrooms. We will also be replacing the rooftop units and the building automation system. Thank you all for your support of the JATC.

We are offering an Electric Vehicle class in July for the EVITP certification in anticipation of more electric vehicle charging

stations to be installed. With more and more electric vehicles being sold and used out on the road, consider taking the EVITP class to keep pace with the changing technology. It is our training and certifications that set us apart from our competition. More EVITP classes will be offered this fall and winter and do count for MN license renewal.

We will be starting a Mentorship program this fall! We will be sending out more information this summer. Thank you for your help, participation, and support for this program. This is another great way to assist our new apprentices in learning our industry.

Lastly, illegal harassment should never be tolerated. Far too often I receive reports of our apprentices being subject to illegal harassment. If you witness, observe, learn of, or are involved with illegal harassment, do something about it. Inform the appropriate people about the issue so that it can be handled properly. It will only stop when people stop tolerating it and do something about it. Say something, do something, and let's create an environment of respect and dignity for everyone to be able to make a great living, which is the purpose of our great organization. Thank you!

# 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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KEEPING CURRENT

8

JUNE 2021



## Calendar

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

### June 2021

- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** Meeting.  
6pm
- 8 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm  
**Stewards** meeting. 6pm  
**General Membership** meeting. 7pm
- 10 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 19 **Juneteenth**
- 20 Father's Day
- 22 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 24 **SIS** meeting. 4 pm
- 28 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm

### July 2021

- 1 **St. Cloud Informational** Meeting.  
6pm
- 5 Office Closed 4th of July Observed.
- 8 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 13 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm  
**Stewards** meeting. 6pm  
**General Membership** meeting. 7pm
- 20 **Veterans Committee.** 5 pm
- 26 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 27 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 30 **Charter Date 1902**

### August 2021

- 5 **St. Cloud Informational** Meeting.  
6pm
- 10 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm  
**Stewards** meeting. 6pm  
**General Membership** meeting. 7pm
- 12 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 23 **EWMC** meeting. 5pm
- 24 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 24 **SIS** meeting. 4 pm