

November 2021

Volume 29 Number 3

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
Email: office@ibew292.org**

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

BY JEFF HEIMERL



RETIREMENT OF A 292 REPRESENTATIVE, AFFINITY GROUPS AND COMMITTEES, AND WORK PICTURE INFORMATION

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The first thing I would like to do here is recognize Chris Kohn for his service to IBEW Local 292. Chris is a long-time member of 292 who recently took a lay-off as a business representative and is now transitioning into retirement. Local 292 thanks you for your service and wishes you the very best in retirement. Much of Chris's work in the office will now be handled by Dave Frary.

Next, I would like to recognize and thank the Local 292 affinity groups and committees. Being an inclusive organization, Local 292 has an affiliated affinity group or committee, made up of members, for all who are interested. Our affinity groups include the Brotherhood Committee, Committee on Political Education ("COPE"), Electrical Worker's Minority Caucus ("EWMC"), History Committee, Reach out and Engage Next-generation Electrical Workers ("RENEW"), Retirees Committee, Safety Committee, Sisters-In-Solidarity ("SIS"), and the Local 292 Veterans Committee.

Each of these committees performs work and provides services for IBEW 292 members and the community at large. Our committees work tirelessly to shed a positive light on Local 292, and for that, I thank each of them. Although the names of each committee explain what their focus is, it is important to note that all affinity groups welcome everyone in the membership. I encourage all members to attend one or more of these committee meetings and get more involved with your local union. To find out more about each of these committees, please visit our Local 292 website and go to the "COMMITTEES/GROUPS" dropdown menu.

Finally, the job calls for our members in 292 has stagnated. We have a few employment opportunities coming through but nothing to write home about. In my conversations with our employers, I have learned that this fall and winter will likely be more of the same. Several projects have been delayed and the job calls will reflect this slower work picture. If you are out of work and seeking employment, please reach out to our hiring hall for information on where you can go to work. There are several work opportunities, in or near Minnesota, for members seeking employment. We have had several members traveling to other Locals for work, and I want to personally thank all the Locals that have provided work to our members.

Brothers and sisters, remember, we work a fair day's labor for a fair day's wage by giving eight hours of work, in a journeyman-like fashion, for eight hours of pay. If you are looking for work, please contact our Hiring Hall for information on job opportunities.

In Brotherhood,
Jeffrey J. Heimerl

IBEW VETERANS Committee - LOCAL 292

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

The Veterans Committee would like any 292 brothers and sisters who are Reservists or Guard members to contact us if you are planning on deploying or have been deployed in the past. We would like to make sure you are receiving or have received benefits that you have a right to under USERRA Law. **These benefits include pension credits while you are deployed as well as freezing your health care coverage so you don't use up your health care banked credits.** The Veterans Committee can help, so please contact us.

Again, I would like to let the membership know that if you have a loved one or friend who is a veteran, and they have passed away, there is a list of benefits that veterans and their survivors are entitled to when that 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 try and contact Veterans Affairs. Again, the Veterans Committee can help, so please contact us!

The Veterans Committee has our own "Service Officer" named Jeff Jarosz (jajarosz@q.com) who is a benefits specialist and can help.

MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, November 16 @ 5pm

Tuesday, December 21 @ 5pm

PALMER LAKE VFW ALL-AMERICAN POST #3915

2817 Brookdale Drive

Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

CONTACT US

Veterans Committee Service Officer Jeff Jarosz – email: jajarosz@q.com

Email: veterans@ibew292.org

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



HOLIDAY CANDY/GIFT BAG DRIVE-THRU PICK-UP

It is with heavy hearts, in these uncertain COVID times, the Children's Holiday Party has been canceled once again. We know this event means a lot to our Members and their families and we want to keep the tradition alive here at Local 292! We are scheduling a special event for a Holiday Candy/Gift Bag Drive-Through at the Hall. Included in the bag will be crayons, coloring book, candy and a special gift. The coloring book will include instructions on how to enter in the Children's drawing.

Santa will be available Saturday, December 4th from 9AM—2PM to take gift requests for his Christmas Eve delivery.

Each Local 292 Child or Grandchild between the **ages of 0-14** will have the opportunity to receive a candy/gift bag and enter the drawing. Children who would like to enter the coloring book drawing can submit one completed page from the coloring book to holidays@ibew292.org by midnight January 1, 2022. All names will be entered into a drawing to receive a gift. Please specify your Child's age so they will be placed in the appropriate age group. Santa will draw names on January 6, 2022. He will email the winners and send them a gift.

WHAT: HOLIDAY CANDY/GIFT BAG DRIVE-THRU PICK-UP.

**WHERE: Local 292, 6700 W BROADWAY AVE
BROOKLYN PARK 55428**

WHEN: SATURDAY DECEMBER 4th, 9AM-2PM

Jeffrey J. Heimerl, Business Manager, Local Union 292 IBEW



Safety Corner

MOST COMMON OSHA CITATIONS

By John Winkels

Sisters and brothers, below are the most recent “Frequently Cited Standards” from OSHA for fiscal 2021. This preliminary data was given to us from OSHA at the National Safety Council Safety Congress and Expo held in Orlando. Can you guess what the #1 cited standard is?

10. Machine Guarding (CFR 1910.212) – 1,113 violations

Citations: General requirements, point of operation guarding, anchoring of machinery, guarding exposure to lathes.

Generally found in: Metal fabrication shops, plastic product manufacturing, and machine shops.

9. Powered Industrial Trucks (CFR 1910.178) – 1,420 violations

Citations: Unsafe operation of truck, proper maintenance of equipment wasn't completed, employer not certifying the operator of the equipment, no implementation of a training program.

Generally found in: Warehousing and storage facilities, recycling facilities, cut stone and stone manufacturing facilities, and machine shops.

8. Personal Protective and Lifesaving Equipment – Eye and Face Protection (CFR 1926.102) – 1,452 violations

Citations: Inappropriate use of eye and face protection, no side protection, use of inappropriate prescription and lenses practices.

Generally found in: Roofing contractors, framing contractors, and masonry contractors.

7. Fall Protection – Training Requirements (CFR 1926.503) – 1,666 violations

Citations: No fall protection training, no written certification training, training not completed by a competent person.

Generally found in: Roofing, framing, single family, residential housing, and housing remodels.

6. Lockout Tagout (CFR 1910.147) – 1,698 violations

Citations: Failure to have energy control procedures, no training and communication by employers, no periodic inspection of LOTO Program, failure to have a complete energy control program, failure to have application of lock out control device.

*“Workers have
the right to a
safe workplace”*

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

Eric Shaw, Organizer 240

John Kripotos 244

Aaron Olson, Organizer 249

Bill Krause, Hiring Hall 224

Andrew Snope, Political Coordinator 238

St. Cloud Business Representatives

Tim Fischer, Organizer 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

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"SENIOR SPARKIES NOTES"

Happy Holidays to All Our Retired Members!

By Paul Klesmit, Retiree President

Even with available COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, flu shots, masking protocols, and social distancing, we have reluctantly decided to cancel our retiree Christmas luncheon. Keeping in mind the safety and health of our most vulnerable group within the Local, this was our best course of action. Here is hoping 2022 has better times ahead.

We are still holding monthly retiree meetings at 12:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. We have elections in December for our retiree officers and appreciate all the work from the current officers. Please come and join us for our monthly meetings.

There are new healthcare changes ahead for our Medicare retirees and you all should be receiving information on this by now.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy holiday season!

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 _____



Political

Hello Brothers and Sisters of IBEW Local 292

By Andy Snope, IBEW 292 Legislative and Political Director

As we look toward the 2022 Legislative Session, we continue to promote our legislative priorities and communicate those priorities with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels. We have had many conversations with our representatives over the summer and fall towards the run-up to the legislative session. We've had positive conversations and support from our elected officials on IBEW values and issues.

At the Minnesota legislature, the Democrats control the House and the Republicans control the Senate by a very slim margin. We continue to work with Labor-supportive legislators on both sides of the aisle. Labor continues to be part of the conversation around the big push towards renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as electric vehicle infrastructure. We've been delivering this message: *When you think of energy production and utilization, think of high-wage and benefited union jobs.* Legislators are listening.

Listed here are some of these legislative session priorities for IBEW Local 292:

- 1) We support strengthening and maintaining construction worker protections under worker safety and state wage and hour laws,***
- 2) We support maintaining the integrity of electrical inspections, standards, electrical workers licenses and apprenticeship training supervision ratios,***
- 3) We support sustainable transit and transportation funding,***
- 4) We support job creation through the funding of projects through the state bonding and capital investment process. We hope to see a strong bonding bill for 2022.***
- 5) We support the retention and creation of high-wage and -benefit jobs through the***

incentivizing of "Clean/Green/Alternative Energy" and building-efficiency goals and initiatives. We support the requirement of prevailing wage for construction projects funded with Renewable Development Account money.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Minnesota House and Legislative offices are closed to the public again in 2022. We will most likely not be doing our traditional Day on the Hill in 2022. We are exploring alternatives to engaging our legislators on important labor issues. Stay tuned, and, as always, we will reach out if there are any important issues being discussed that need action to make our voices heard. If you would like to speak or virtually meet with your legislator to discuss our labor legislative priorities, please let me know and I will arrange a meeting for you.

2022 is an election year; a mid-term election year, which typically attracts a lot of attention to the current president's agenda. President Biden has been extremely supportive of working people and, specifically, the IBEW. In Minnesota, all US Congress members are up for election, as are all Minnesota legislators in the state House and Senate as well as the constitutional offices of governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor. Please get involved and help support those elected officials that support our IBEW values and issues. To protect our electrical standards, licensing, and supervision ratios in the state of Minnesota, we need friends of labor in those elected positions.

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
asnope@ibew292.org

Retiree Picnic



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
IBEW Local Union 292
Minneapolis

Henry Miller 1
6700 West Broadway Ave
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Tuesday, December 14, 2021
2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: IBEW 292 to schedule an appointment.



Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Summer Picnic





Safety Corner

Continued from page 2

Generally found in: Plastic products manufacturing, poultry processing, saw mills, prefabricated product manufacturing, and food manufacturing.

5. Hazard Communication (CFR 1910.1200) – 1,947 violations

Citations: No written hazard communication program and no implementation, employers' failure to provide information and training, labels and other forms of communication not used, employer didn't have SDS's readily accessible for employees, all SDS's were not maintained.

Generally found in: Masonry, roofing, commercial construction, and machine shops.

4. Scaffolding (CFR 1926.451) – 1,948 violations

Citations: Employers not providing fall protection equipment, access requirements not met, braces not being used properly, scaffolds not restrained from tipping, platforms not fully planked and decked, guardrails not installed as required.

Generally found in: Masonry contractors, framing contractors, roofing contractors, and signage contractors.

3. Stairways and Ladders (CFR 1926.1053) – 2,206 violations

Citations: Ladders not being used for the purpose for what they were designed, using the top step of the ladder as a step, ladders being used on unstable and unlevel ground, employees ascending ladders while carrying objects or loads that could cause loss of balance causing falls.

Generally found in: Roofing, framing, siding, single family housing construction, and residential housing remodels.

2. Respiratory Protection (CFR 1910.134) – 2,527 violations

Citations: Failure of the employer to do medical evaluations, failure to make sure employees are able to physically don a respirator without causing a hazard to him/herself, fit testing

not being conducted prior to use and thereafter, failure to have a written respiratory program, failure to give training and information to employees of the appropriate use of the respirator to ensure the employee properly wears the respirator, employee not selecting the proper respirator for the hazard present.

Generally found in: Nursing care facilities, medical and surgical hospitals, cut stone and stone product manufacturing, assisted living facilities for the elderly, automotive body paint and repair shops. (Note: A lot of the violations were due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

1. Fall Protection – General Requirements (CFR 1926.501) – 5,295 violations

Citations: Unprotected sides and edges, roofing work without fall protection, failure to use fall protection on steep roofs, failure to use fall protection around holes.

Generally found in: Roofing, framing, new single family housing construction, commercial and institutional building construction, and siding contractors.¹

¹Fiscal 2021 Data is preliminary and may change as data matures.

Fall Protection – General Requirements has been the #1 Frequently Cited Standard for the last 11 years.

There are lots of ways for many of these citations to not occur. Remember that your employer is responsible for training you to recognize the potential for hazards. The mission of OSHA is to save lives and protect the health of America's workers. Workers have the right to a safe workplace, and it is the employer's responsibility to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Stay safe, 292!

In solidarity,
Brother John



Transitions

Retirements

Congratulations!

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
GLEASON	CHARLES	P	7/1/2021
HUBER	MARK	R	8/1/2021
HURTADO	ANNETTE	L	7/1/2021
IGNATOWICZ	MARTIN	A	10/1/2021
ISKIERKA	ROGER	A	9/1/2021
JOHNSON	ALAN	W	11/1/2021
JOHNSON	ROBERT	P	7/1/2021
JUDE	JOSEPH	G	10/1/2021
KAISER	JOHN	F	9/1/2021
KOBZA	LESLIE	J	8/1/2021
LABANDZ	RICK	J	10/1/2021
LANNERS	ROY	P	11/1/2021
LARSON	ERIC	W	9/1/2021
LATOUR	RANDALL	J	10/1/2021
LEYENDECKER	STEVEN	R	8/1/2021
MAHONEY	DAVID	M	3/1/2021
METZGER	MICHAEL	J	10/1/2021
MILLS	CYNTHIA	S	9/1/2021
NGO	CHARLES	N	5/1/2019
OEHRLEIN	TERRY	W	10/1/2021
PULLAR	STEVEN	R	7/1/2021
ROBERTS	ANDREW	J	7/1/2021
ROBINSON	ROBERT	L	2/1/2021
SAUER	SHELDON	L	11/1/2021
SPARGO	LAWRENCE	E	8/1/2021
SULLIVAN	PATRICK	M	1/1/2020
TILBURY	CRAIG	E	10/1/2021
TORVUND	DOUGLAS	A	9/1/2021
VAN VLEET	WALTER	R	7/1/2021
VOLLMUTH	RICK	M	9/1/2021

Deaths

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
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Active Members

BONZELET	ADAM	P	9/14/2021
GANZER	BILL	E	9/2/2021
HILLER	DEAN	A	7/23/2021
KILIAN	GREGORY	J	7/3/2021

Retired Members

COREY	HALLARD	N	6/23/2021
ERBES	RICHARD	D	9/15/2021
HAGFORS	CURTIS	C	7/25/2021
HEDMAN	RALPH	E	6/25/2021
JOHNSON	GEORGE	E	10/4/2021
JOHNSON	ROBERT	W	8/24/2021
JONES	ROBERT		8/4/2021
KLINGBERG	WILLIAM	P	7/10/2021
LANGE	ROBERT	W	5/14/2021
LEAVEY	WILLIAM	T	10/11/2021
MICKELBURG	DENNIS	K	8/3/2021
PENDROY	CHESTER		6/7/2021
RAUSCH	ALVIN	J	7/12/2021
SHERRARD	RICHARD	G	8/13/2021
SMITH	KENT	M	6/23/2021
STARK	CHARLES	E	4/18/2021
STEERE	DOUGLAS	R	8/10/2021
WALDEMAR	GARY	L	8/7/2021



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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Twin Cities, MN

KEEPING CURRENT

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NOVEMBER 2021



Calendar

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

November 2021

- 3 St. Cloud Informational Meeting. 6pm
- 9 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 11 Office Closed Veterans Day
- 18 Safety Committee meeting and SIS meeting. 4pm
- 22 EWMC meeting. 5pm
- 23 Executive Board meeting. 4pm
- 25 -26 Office Closed **Thanksgiving**
- 28 IBEW Founders Day, 1891

December 2021

- 1 St. Cloud Informational Meeting. 6pm
- 4 Childrens Christmas Drive-Thru.
9am-2pm
- 9 Safety Committee meeting. 4pm
- 14 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 16 SIS meeting. 4 pm
- 20 EWMC meeting. 5pm
- 24 Office Closed **Christmas Eve**
- 27 Office Closed **Christmas Day Observed**
- 28 Executive Board meeting. 4pm
- 31 Office Closed **New Year's Eve**

January 2022

- 5 St. Cloud Informational Meeting. 6pm
- 11 Retirees Club meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 6pm
General Membership meeting. 7pm
- 13 Safety Committee meeting. 4pm
- 17 Office Closed **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
- 24 EWMC meeting. 5pm
- 25 Executive Board meeting. 4pm
- 27 SIS meeting. 4 pm