

July 2022
Volume 30 Number 2

KEEPING CURRENT

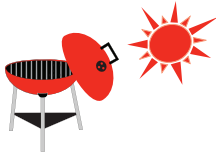
*With Local 292, International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



Summer Events

Golf Tournament
Wednesday, July 13th

Family Picnic
Saturday, August 13th



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



IBEW CONVENTION, SUMMER WORK PICTURE, AND POLITICS

The 40th IBEW Convention has come and gone. Contractors are optimistic about the summer work picture and we, as workers in the organized labor movement, have a lot of work to do this fall to ensure that labor-friendly politicians are elected to office.

IBEW International Convention

The 40th IBEW International Convention ("IC") was held in Chicago May 9–13, 2022. Originally, the IC was scheduled for Fall of 2021, but it was postponed due to COVID. At the IC, the business of the IBEW is handled by the elected delegates from each Local across the United States and Canada. For those who do not know, Local 292 sent 10 delegates, one alternate delegate, and one member to represent Minnesota on the International RENEW (young workers) committee.

This year's IC featured 31 proposed amendments to the IBEW Constitution and 42 proposed resolutions to be decided. Additionally, for the first time in history, the delegates to the IBEW IC were treated to an appearance from a sitting United States president. President Joe Biden made history when he addressed our delegates at this year's IC.

Topics for discussion at the IC included diversity, inclusion, NEBF, PBF, safety, classifications, and membership dues, among other things. Your delegation from Local 292 carried your voice to the convention on all these issues. Although I did not vote in favor of all the amendments and resolutions that passed, the democratic process prevailed, and we will soon have a new set of rules governing our business in the IBEW.

Summer Work Picture

Unfortunately, the work picture in our area remains slow. However, in my discussions with our employers, I have noticed that the employers are far more optimistic about the work picture this year than they were last year. I know it is frustrating waiting for a job call and the optimism of our contractors is of little consolation. Delayed job starts and supply chain issues will likely plague the near future in our industry, but hopefully we will pull out of this slump soon. Thankfully, there are Locals nearby where our members can go find gainful employment. I want to thank all the local unions that are currently employing 292 members; I hope we can repay this favor soon.

Politics

Everyone's favorite subject, I know! Politics are not the favorite topic of conversation for many people, but the reality is, politics affect our lives every day. Elections can and do have consequences and we, as a labor movement, must stay engaged in the political arena. We must support

Continued on page 4

IBEW VETERANS Committee - LOCAL 292

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

I would like to thank all our brothers and sisters for electing me as a delegate to represent our Local at the 40th International IBEW Convention in Chicago. It was an honor and a privilege to be part of such an event. I was able to meet with several other IBEW veterans from Locals across the country. We discussed current veterans benefits and issues at the state and federal levels as well as what committees have been doing to help their fellow IBEW brothers and sisters. There were several amendments and resolutions passed at the 40th convention concerning veterans. The Veterans Committee is looking at hosting a blood drive this fall as well. We will be discussing all of these at the next committee meeting on Tuesday, July 19.



I would also like to announce that brother Kirk Marthaler was voted in as the new 292 Veterans Committee President. Brother Marthaler is tenacious when it comes to helping veterans.

It is with sadness that I mention that one of our 292 veteran brothers, Ron Buchholz, recently passed away. Ron was a Navy veteran who spent 40 years in the IBEW. Thank you, Ron, for your service to our country and the IBEW; may you rest in peace.

One of our own 292 apprentices and another apprentice from Local 494, both of who are with the Air Force Reserve Command's 934th Civil Engineer Squadron from Minneapolis Air Reserve Base, earned the Brig. Gen. William T. Meredith trophy as the "Best of the Best Team". The event is a 7-day electrical competition at Tysdall Air Force Base in Florida. Active-duty Air Force electricians from all over the world were beaten by the team sent by the 934th Air Force Reserve in Minneapolis. Zach Hurley is a 5th year apprentice in Local 292 and Russ Holets is a 5th year apprentice in Local 494. Local 292 member and Air Force Master SGT. Tony Jarosz was their instructor in the 934th.



**Civil Engineering Readiness Challenge 2022 winners
Zach Hurley 5th year 292 apprentice, Russ Holets 5th year 494 apprentice**

Remaining Veterans Committee Meetings for 2022

Location: Local 292 Hall – Guy Alexander Room

Dates: Tues., July 19 and Tues., Oct 18

Time: 5pm-6pm

Remaining Veterans Night Out Dates

Location: Palmer Lake VFW, Brooklyn Park

Dates: Aug 16, Sept 20, Nov 15, Dec 20

Time: 5pm-6pm

Email: veterans@ibew292.org

Facebook @ IBEW Veterans Committee – Local 292

Safety Corner

BRING THE HEAT

By John Winkels

This summer we would like for you to “BRING THE HEAT” to the forefront of your safety culture. Heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rash and heat stroke—whichever it is, it can lead to serious illness or even death.

As employees or employers, it's up to all of us to take the necessary steps to mitigate these hazards while looking out for coworkers and ourselves. Some signs of heat exhaustion include thirst, nausea, irritability, weakness, headaches and dizziness, while the most severe signs are heat stroke-related, such as confusion, collapsing and seizures.

“The best way to start protecting ourselves . . . is to limit our exposure to direct sunlight or hot, humid conditions.”

The best way to start protecting ourselves from the heat is to limit our exposure to direct sunlight or hot, humid conditions. Additionally, we can protect ourselves by working in early morning hours or even calling it quits at noon to minimize our time in the heat.

Having plenty of cool water nearby, taking frequent breaks or getting more manpower than usual for a given task can be helpful too.

By taking some of these steps to become more prepared regarding heat stress, we will all help each other have another great summer.



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

From the Business Manager's Perspective

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labor-friendly candidates and support labor-friendly legislation. We have a large, uphill fight coming this fall, both in Minnesota and nationally. We will need all hands on deck to support the politicians who support us and our union way of life.

We do not support only one party of candidates, but rather, we support individual politicians based on the issues they support. Key issues that are near and dear to IBEW 292 include Davis-Bacon, Project-Labor Agreements, Right to Work, and of course, Minnesota Prevailing Wage Law. If you need more information about any of these topics or about the Local's political agenda, please contact our Committee on Political Education ("COPE"). COPE can always be a great resource for you, but this group of dedicated 292 members play an extremely important role for the Local as we near elections.

We have completed another IC and will soon have a new set of governing rules as spelled out in our

IBEW Constitution. If you have questions on the specifics of what transpired at the IC, please feel free to call. Although the current work picture remains slow, many contractors I have spoken with are optimistic that 2022 will be a good year. Keep watching the website and job line for work opportunities. I know politics is not everyone's favorite subject, but we must remain involved. Politics affects our lives and our industry. We need to support a political agenda and candidates that support our jobs and our work. If you need more information on local 292's political agenda or want to get involved with helping the local, please contact our Committee on Political Education.

Please be safe,
In Brotherhood,
Jeffrey J. Heimerl



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

The Minnesota Legislative Session has now come to an end. It was a disappointing session with very little getting done. Legislators began their work this year with a \$7.7 Billion surplus. There were as many ideas on how to use that surplus as there are residents as are in Minnesota. It could've been tax relief, spending on construction projects or providing matching dollars for the Federal Infrastructure plan. NONE of that important work got done. In addition to that surplus, Governor Walz proposed a \$2.7 Billion bonding bill. With interest rates as low as they are, now was the time to borrow money for capital improvement/construction projects; however, a bonding bill did not get done either.

A couple positive items were completed: Legislation providing a bonus for frontline workers and replenishing the unemployment trust fund were finally passed, and we did not see any attacks on the Minnesota Electrical Act that would've affected licensing, reciprocity, inspection, classifications, or apprenticeship ratios.

If we want to see positive outcomes at the Minnesota legislature, we need your help. Please vote for labor-endorsed candidates to assure a labor-friendly majority in the Minnesota House and Senate and re-elect Governor Walz to help hold the line against any attacks on working families, labor principles and our electrical licenses and standards.

2022 is an important election year. All Minnesota legislators and constitutional officers, including governor, are up for election this year, as are all our U.S. Congressional Representatives. We will need to start early and work hard to make sure our collective labor voices are heard and to secure a labor-friendly majority at the Minnesota capitol as well as help re-elect Tim Walz to another 4-year term as governor. With Tim Walz at the helm of the administration, we have been able to hold back a number of anti-worker, anti-electrical-industry legislative attacks. We have been able to garner favorable outcomes for appointments of Department of Labor Commissioner

and committee and board members that have served us well throughout the state and helped our industry.

Without securing a labor-friendly majority and without re-electing Tim Walz, I have no doubt that we will see a steady stream of anti-worker and anti-electrical-industry legislation and administrative action against us, including Right to Work. We DO NOT want to become Wisconsin. Our anti-labor enemies are poised to put us there. **If we don't restore a labor-friendly MN legislature and retain our current labor-friendly governor, Minnesota WILL become a Right to Work state!**

Please consider getting involved this year more than any other. Please help our labor family gain the recognition and support we need to maintain or improve a great standard of living and respect in the workplace, on the job site, at home, and in our communities, for ourselves and for our families.

I want to let you know of some important events and opportunities coming up this year that you can participate in to help our collective IBEW Local 292 labor voice be heard.

August 9: Statewide Primaries

November 8: Election Day

Also, please make sure you are registered to vote if you have moved recently or just haven't voted before. Please consider doing so now. Find more information about Minnesota elections, including how to register to vote, at MNVOTES.org

I am proud and humbled to serve the men, women and families of IBEW Local 292. I am grateful to be a part of the team. Please don't 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

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

By Aaron Olson, Head Organizer

We hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to warmer days. The organizing efforts continue to stay in full force, and with the longer days ahead, we look forward to contacting our future Brothers and Sisters at their places of residence.

Through the winter months, we worked alongside our neighboring Locals, engaging Top Down and Bottom-Up Blitzes. We will continue to perform blitzes through the end of the year, averaging 1 a month. Remember to reach out to the non-union electricians and say hello and talk to them about the benefits of being a union member. Also, let them

know they can organize their workplace! It is not up to the owner, but up to the employees. Employees have the right to organize their workplace, and the law is on their side. The more members that talk to non-union people, the more we reach and the better the future of our industry.

If any member is interested in opening your own electrical business, remember to give us a call. We can help you out and get you signed to Letter of Assent. It is rewarding to see our members go into business and build our industry union strong. We wish you all a great, safe summer, and please feel free to contact us. Thank you!

July 13 Golf

What's your handicap?

- 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 8th.
- Registration form below.
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org



A = 0-10 • **B** = 11-20 • **C** = 21-30 • **D** = 30+

August 13 Picnic



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

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.
312 Central Ave SE, Room 292
Minneapolis MN 55414

Remember:

Register by July 11th for Golfing.
Limited to 200 members.
Lottery if more than 200 sign up.



Transitions

Retirements

Congratulations!

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
BERG	DANIEL	J	3/1/2022
BOSQUEZ	ANTHONY	E	3/1/2022
BRANDT	KEVIN	E	1/1/2022
CAMARILLO	TONY	B	3/1/2022
CARTER	KEVIN	O	5/1/2022
COMPTON	STEVE	P	7/1/2021
COTTLE	JAMES	J	5/1/2022
CROFOOT	ROBBIE	J	5/1/2022
DOMIANO	ROCKNE	J	4/1/2022
FAIRCHILD	JAMES	L	4/1/2022
FORTMEYER	BRIAN	R	6/1/2022
GESINGER	MICHAEL	A	6/1/2022
GREB	RICHARD	A	3/1/2022
HAASKEN	JANICE	L	4/1/2020
ITEN	KURT	E	1/1/2022
JOHNSON	DAVID	A	6/1/2020
JOHNSON	STEVEN	C	6/1/2022
KAISER	BENJAMIN	J	12/1/2019
KANE	WILLIAM	M	2/1/2022
KRAMASZ	CHARLES	K	6/1/2022
LEEGARD	TODD	J	6/1/2022
MADISON	KEVIN	C	5/1/2022
MELICHAR	GREGORY	L	1/1/2022
MILLER	TIMOTHY	G	6/1/2022
MORTENSEN	KYLE	R	6/1/2022
MOY	HOWARD	D	4/1/2022
NELSON	STEVEN	J	5/1/2022
OLSON	DOUGLAS	O	2/1/2022
PALLANSCH	ROBERT	A	6/1/2022
PALMA	MIKE	T	1/1/2022
PIVEC	STEVEN	E	3/1/2022
PTAK	MICHAEL	A	4/1/2022
RATHMAN	GREG	J	3/1/2022
RUSSELL	STEVEN	J	4/1/2022
SCHMITT	KAREN	A	6/1/2022
SKINNER	DALE	W	5/1/2022
SKRIEN	RICHARD	W	4/1/2022
SPRAGUE	ROGER	S	6/1/2022
STREIFEL	PATRICK	R	4/1/2022
VANHAVERMAET	PAUL	J	5/1/2022
WIVINUS	CHARLES	J	5/1/2022
YOHNKE	MICHAEL	R	3/1/2022
ZELLMER	JOHN	D	1/1/2022
ZIMNIEWICZ	RICHARD	J	3/1/2022

Deaths

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
BORG	BRADLEY	G	3/18/2022
HARRIS	CHRISTOPHER		3/3/2022
JONES	MARCUS	A	4/8/2022
KRENGEL	RICHARD	H	6/5/2022
STEINER	DAVID	R	4/24/2022

Active Members

BORG	BRADLEY	G	3/18/2022
HARRIS	CHRISTOPHER		3/3/2022
JONES	MARCUS	A	4/8/2022
KRENGEL	RICHARD	H	6/5/2022
STEINER	DAVID	R	4/24/2022

Retired Members

AVERY	ROBERT	W	6/17/2022
BLACKOWIAK	DAVID	A	5/31/2022
BUCHHOLZ	RONALD	A	4/26/2022
EISENZIMMER	RONALD	C	5/11/2022
GRATKE	LEROY		3/22/2022
HASSELIUS	ROBERT	H	5/24/2022
MCKAY	DEREK	D	4/23/2022
STILES	JAMES	E	6/11/2022
TURCHI	ROBERT	G	6/5/2022
YORK	ADOLPH	A	3/27/2022



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.

nd 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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JULY 2022



Calendar

July 2022

- 4 **Independence Day.** Office Closed
- 6 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting.
6pm
- 12 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 4:15pm
General Membership meeting. 5pm
- 13 Local 292 Golf Tournament.
- 14 **Safety Committee** meeting and **SIS**
meeting. 4pm
- 19 **Veterans Committee.** 5pm
- 25 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30pm
EWMC meeting. 5pm

- 26 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 28 **SIS** meeting. 4pm
- August 2022**
- 3 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting.
6pm
- 9 **Retirees Club** meeting. 2:30pm
Stewards meeting. 4:15pm
General Membership meeting. 5pm
- 13 Local 292 Family Picnic.
- 11 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 22 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30pm
EWMC meeting. 5pm
- 23 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm
- 25 **SIS** meeting. 4pm

September 2022

- 5 **Labor Day.** Office Closed
- 7 **St. Cloud Informational** meeting.
6pm
- 8 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4pm
- 13 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30pm
Stewards meeting. 4:15pm
General Membership meeting. 5pm
- 22 **SIS** meeting. 4 pm
- 26 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 pm
EWMC meeting. 5pm
- 27 **Executive Board** meeting. 4pm