

## DUES INCREASE 2014

"A" Members: \$102.00

"BA" Members: \$57.00

### Due Date Reminders:

January 1, 2014

April 1, 2014

July 1, 2014

October 1, 2014

\*\$20.00 Processing  
Fee Added Each  
Month for all Late  
Dues Payments.\*

Payment Methods:  
On-Line: Visa,  
Mastercard, Discover,  
American Express.  
Cash, Check or Money  
Order



Tom Small...Picnic Organizer



Summer Picnic 8/3/13

~More pictures located on our website~

Contact us at 507-282-7081

www.ibewlocal343.org



IBEW Local 343  
9 80<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904



July 11<sup>th</sup> New Officer Swear-In

### Coming soon >>>

## In The Next Issue

Business Manager's Report

Rep's Reports

Organizing Department Report

### In this issue >>>

Business Manager's Report

Rep's Reports

Organizing Department Report

Oct. 2013 SCM/JATC Newsletter (insert)

Retirements

Condolences

Fighting Fraud (insert)

Dues Increase for 2014



## IBEW LOCAL 343 UNION

Fourth Quarter Newsletter 2013

# Groundwire

## Labor Movement--You should be concerned

Brothers and Sisters, I hope that what I have written in the next few paragraphs will hit home. When I say "home" - I literally mean **home**. The importance of the ongoing fight we are dealing with every day. We have been fortunate with some spurts of work throughout our jurisdiction. The Brotherhood has seen some relief, and we're finally getting some financial reprieve. There is no doubt that with Destination Medical Center coming to Rochester, the future looks promising for the building trades in S.E. Minnesota.

With all of that said, I would like you to look around. Take a look at what type of work you are presently doing. Look at the small construction being done in your area. I ask you, to ask yourself, who is doing the majority of that work? Are they signatory contractors? Are your brothers and sisters working on that project, or are non-union electricians doing the work? Are they electricians who work for a sub-standard wage of \$20-25 per hour with no healthcare or retirement? Believe me, we see who is doing that type of work, and we see who are pulling those permits. It is a major concern for the IBEW. Is this acceptable? I would hope your answer

### From the Business Manager...Derek Mensink

is "No!"

How do we change the direction of this course? Is status quo good enough? I ask you these questions with deep sincerity. I ask you for your help. AS IBEW Local 343 Members, we cannot allow ourselves to continue down this path. We need to be a part of ALL work being done in this jurisdiction.

Here is what I am asking of you. We all live in (or are a part of) a community. We all know school boards, city council members, mayors, and (more importantly) non-union electricians. I will be asking you (in your area of residence) for some assistance. We will be actively pursuing members who want to make a difference. It seems like an insurmountable task, but if we all work together, we can all make a difference. Again, I plead for your help. Please think about the above questions and concerns. Do you have something to offer? In the near future we will be making calls to you, the membership, for your help in the area you live in. I would hope you would be willing to take some time out of your busy schedule to assist the staff. Together we will make a difference for all of our fellow electricians.



Thank you for your consideration ahead of time.

In Solidarity,

Derek Mensink-Business Manager

## Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>: Union Meeting, Rochester Union Hall
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED (Provisional)
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>: Union Meeting, Owatonna Eagles Club
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED
- Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED (Provisional)
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>: Union Meeting, Owatonna (New Member Swear In)
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED
- Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED (Provisional)
- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: Local 343 Office CLOSED

Another summer has come and gone, and the work picture is still hanging in there for the Fall. Currently, we have about 60 travelers working the Local, with the majority of them working at the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant. The outage is in full swing and will run until the first part of December. Thanks to the travelers who helped us to man this.

One project that we lost was the new Menards store, north of Rochester. A lot of hours from Local 343 were spent lobbying for the interchange so Menards could build their new store. A lot of hours were also spent talking to the general contractor and Menards to use our contractors on the project, but it all fell on deaf ears. Menards was good at spending your local tax dollars for the



interchange, but they don't feel you're worth putting to work on the project. So, I ask every local member to contact Menards, and let them know you will shop somewhere else. If they don't want us around, we don't need them around.

Remember that the October Union Meeting will be at the Union Hall in Rochester. I look forward to seeing everyone then.

In Solidarity,  
Chad Katzung

### Health Insurance Info

Remember that 343 members have the option to Opt-Out of Health Insurance  
We also have a Health Reimbursement Account Option  
Contact Jenny at Sturm & Associates for details  
1-800-247-0401



SE Minnesota Building & Trades Retiree Luncheon 9/24/13



### Mankato Rep Report >>>

Shane Meier

Owatonna: There was plenty of project bidding in Owatonna this summer, a lot of which IBEW Local 343 contractors thought they had a good chance of landing some work, but in the end, we came in 2<sup>nd</sup>. We did have one project went our way with some short-calls, and that was the Target Store Expansion. We'll continue to work hard on landing more projects in Owatonna in the future.

Mankato & Western Areas: In Mankato there has also been plenty of project bidding, with our contractors picking up some of these projects and staying busy with their personal accounts. We do have Imperial Plastic Plant project that will be looking for guys in early October for some underground work. The Children's Hospital has also started to come out of the ground and will, hopefully, be looking for a couple guys on this project. There is plenty more work coming up for bids yet this year, with no exact

date of when these projects will actually get underway, but we will keep everyone up to date as best we can. There has been nothing about Wal-Mart to report on as of now. I did speak with Calpine, and the only new information they had for me was their engineer/development team have been talking with the Public Utility Commission about their plans. I have been talking with the Project Manager at Morton (Jackpot Junction Casino), and by the next couple weeks, we should have a good idea of when they'll be hiring.

As always, if you hear of anything, please contact us so we can try to get IBEW contractors bidding on these projects. If you know of anyone thinking about wanting to work in the electrical industry, please have them contact us at any time.  
In Solidarity,  
Shane Meier, Mankato Rep.

### REMINDER: Keep Us Informed

Please remember to notify us if any of your contact information changes. (i.e., mailing address, home phone number, cell phone number, email address) You can notify us of these changes in several different ways:

- 1.) Visit the website (click on Forms, then Change Address/Phone Form)
- 2.) Stop by the Hall M-F, 8am – 4pm and complete Change of Address Form
- 3.) Mail us your information
- 4.) Call us at 507-282-7081 ext. 222

If you keep us updated, we can keep YOU updated!

### Upcoming Work >>>

#### Rochester

HyVee – Scheduled to begin Spring 2014  
Fire Station and Dispatch Center – Bid is slated for Jan. 2014  
MNDOT 6<sup>th</sup> District Headquarters – 16 Million – No word  
Broadway at Center – Mixed-use development 25-story tower Spring 2014  
The Waters on Mayowood- Union  
Wood Lake Meeting Center – Bids 9/25/13  
Habitat for Humanity – Bids 9/27/13  
Oronoco Public Works Building – Bids 10/10/13

#### Austin

Hormel Institute – On hold – Tentatively scheduled to begin July 2014  
Hormel Rendering Project – Kestner

#### Albert Lea

Southwest Middle School HVAC – Bids 10/1/13  
Minnesota Corrugated Box Renovation – Bid to Invited List of Generals 9/30/13  
St. John's Lutheran Home – Possible bids 1/14

#### Winona

#### Red Wing

Prairie Island Power Plant – B&W, Collins and D&Z – Outage has started

#### Mankato

Wal-Mart -In Mankato Paper "it will be operational by 2015"  
Street/Highway Projects – Mankato Electric Vine Project – Went Bad  
Woodside Apartments Phase 2 – Bidding Soon  
Plastic Company – Project Started Helm Electric (IBEW 292)  
I & S Project – Fischer & Hoehn/Master Civic Center – Proposed to be in upcoming bonding bill  
Wells – Went Bad  
Downtown Apartment Project – Bidding fall  
FedEx Warehouse – Preliminary Bidding  
Parking Ramp Downtown – Bidding this f  
Assisted Living Alm Builders – Russ Nelson  
Jordan Sands Project – Still Working On  
Bio-Gas-Will be bidding soon  
Bimeda Project- BLK

#### Owatonna

City/County Garage- No word on it yet.  
Aldi Grocery Store – Went Bad

#### St.Peter / LeSueur

State Hospital Projects – Schammel  
Bio-Gas – Will be ending this fall  
Bimeda Project – Blk  
Cambria – 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Starting (Russ Nelson)

#### New Ulm

Martin Luther College – Went Bad  
Hospital Projects- Went Bad  
Schell's Brewery – Went Bad  
Kraft Food – Parsons Electric

#### Fairmont

Ethanol Plant Work-Dewar  
Bank Project-Dewar  
Water Treatment Plant- Egan Companies  
Power Plant-Dewar Electric

### Save the Date:

**2014 Awards Banquet March 1, 2014  
Kahler Hotel, Rochester**

### Organizing Department Report...

by Andy Kuisle

Since the last newsletter, the organizing efforts of Local 343 have been to organize the work, as well as inform the non-union workers in our jurisdiction. We have also had many good meetings with non-union contractors as well.

We are entering a fragile time in our Local in the upcoming months and years, with the coming of the Destination Medical Center in Rochester. As most of you know, the size of the proposed project will significantly change the landscape in Rochester and the surrounding communities forever; from Mayo Clinic itself, to hotels, businesses and homes that will be coming behind the new infrastructure. Due to the amount of work



that will be performed in our areas over the next decade, we are at a crucial tipping point in our Local. If the non-union companies, that are already established in our towns (as well as those that will inevitably spring up) are able to meet the demand for labor and manpower faster than Local 343 can, we will fail. The power of a Union resides in its membership strength and solidarity. We need to meet the up-

coming challenges head-on and all pitch in to do our part to ensure the success of this Local for future generations; whether it be talking with the non-union, helping pass out literature, phone banking or some other concerted Union activity. The Business Manager addresses in his article some of the upcoming actions we will be taking to ensure our survival during this crucial time. THANK YOU, to all of you members who are already active. But to those of you who aren't, I urge you to please step forward if you are called upon to help. Your own security and livelihood may depend on it.

In Solidarity,  
Andy Kuisle

**Retirements:**  
James A. Bell 7/31/13  
Terry J. Fox 8/1/13  
Allen L. Rupp 8/1/13  
Jerome L. Dick 8/7/13  
David P. Nelson 9/27/13

**Our Condolences**  
Retired Bro. Edwin J. Stueber of New Ulm, MN passed away on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Edwin had been a member since September 1971.  
Retired Bro. Millard Vitse of Rochester, MN passed away on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Millard had been a member since September 1956.  
Retired Bro. Norman Thiel of Redwood Falls, MN passed away on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Norman had been a member since May 1962.  
Brother Dwight M. Higgins of Rochester, MN passed away on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. Dwight had been a member since 1981.  
Retired Bro. Jack Zummach of Hot Spring, AR passed away on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Jack had been a member since October 1978