



March 1, 2014 – Awards Banquet Photos

Contact us at 507-282-7081

www.ibewlocal343.org



IBEW Local 343
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Rochester, MN 55904



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IBEW LOCAL 343 UNION Second Quarter Newsletter 2014

Groundwire

Busy Year

From the Business Manager...Derek Mensink

It has already been a busy year for IBEW Local 343. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come. With spring thaw comes construction. The outlook for the 2014 construction season looks favorable.

I would like to thank all the Officers and Stewards that attended their training. It is your presence, along with your ambition, that helps promote, assist and have the strength to be the backbone of the IBEW Local 343. I would also like to thank the membership who attended the Awards Banquet. It was a wonderful event. If you attended and truly enjoyed the great food and hospitality, I would ask that you thank Bonnie Hinkle, Colleen Marks and Zhade Carlin. They did a magnificent job putting it together. They are a great working team! Also, I would like to thank all who are politically active in our local. Attending your precincts and spending the day in St. Paul with the IBEW Day on the Hill. Your hard work and support pays great dividends. It looks like we will be having a great bonding year, and that

means a lot of overdue construction coming to our jurisdiction.

In closing, I would like to address our organizing efforts in our local. The organizing team has worked hard over the many years. It has always been in my belief that every move has to be well planned to benefit our local. We are seeing nonunion contractors struggle to find qualified help. This is making them (the ones who typically worked against us) take a serious look at the IBEW. We have a lot to offer any contractor in our jurisdiction. So please, keep this in mind when dealing with non-signatory contractors. If you know some of them personally, chat with them about the benefits and our training. We have been very successful at helping small contractors grow and prosper. And please, Brothers and Sisters, if they are calling you to work for them, let our organizers know immediately. The more contractors we sign, the more opportunity there will be for all of our great members!

In Solidarity,
Derek Mensink –Business Manager



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Apr. 10th: Union Meeting, Rochester Hall
- Apr. 18th: Local 343 Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- May 8th: Union Meeting, Owatonna Eagles Club
- May 26th: Local 343 Offices Closed (Memorial Day)
- Jun. 12th: Union Meeting, Owatonna Eagles Club (New Member Swear In)
- Jul. 4th: Local 343 Offices Closed (Independence Day)

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

Rochester Rep Report >>> Chad Katzung

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you who attended our annual Awards Banquet in March. I am sure I speak for all of us in the office by saying we had a wonderful time. This event has always been well attended and this time was no different. We are already looking forward to doing it all again in 2015.

I know I've had enough of this snow and cold, and winter can go away sooner, rather than later. There's plenty of speculation regarding prospective jobs and projects in our jurisdiction. Some of the school work that will be coming this summer is in the process of being bid now...projecting work to begin in early summer. There is also speculation of some larger projects in Rochester with the



possibility of a late summer start. Let us hope that these jobs go from speculation to actual work and our contractors secure the majority of the projects to keep our members busy.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our summer picnic in Mankato this summer.

In solidarity,
Chad Katzung

Upcoming Work>>>

Rochester

HyVec - Scheduled to begin Spring 2014
Fire Station and Dispatch Center - Ryan
MNDOT 6th District Headquarters - 16 Million - No word yet
Broadway at Center, mixed-use development 25-story tower - Construction scheduled Summer 2014
Solar Power Facility, Oronoco - Nietz
Gibbs Elementary School - McMartin
Rochester Public Schools, 7 schools with HVAC upgrades/remodel/additions - Ryan
McDonald's - Non IBEW
Rochester Airport, Deicing Containment Facility - Bids 4/29/14
Roch. School District, Facilities Service Center Renovation - Bids 4/25/14
Civic Center - Possible in upcoming Bonding Bill
Mayo Support Services Expansion - Summer 2014
Scheels Store (Old Sears store) - 5/2014

Austin

Hornel Institute - Bids 4/17/14
Kwik Trip - Buying the Watts Cookin' and Austin Auto Truck Plaza on 4/15/14

Albert Lea

Minnesota Corrugated Box Renovation - Project was over budget
St. John's Lutheran Home - Construction possible this summer

Red Wing

Treasure Island Casino - Hunt
Prairie Island Nuclear Refueling Outage - Fall 2014
Prairie Island Nuclear Transformer Replacement - Fall 2014

Winona

Owatonna

City/County Garage - No word on it yet.
Daikin/McQuay - Possibility of expansion being talked about
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 - Muska
Civic Center - Proposed to be in upcoming bonding bill
Wells School - Went Bad
City Center Building Shell - BLK
FedEx Warehouse - Bidding Again
Parking Ramp Downtown Phase 3 - Master Electric
Assisted Living Alm Builders - Russ Nelson
Jordan Sands Project - Waiting to hear on, was told it would be IBEW
School Bond Referendum - 70 million in new school and renovations - Bidding Spring 2014
Kia Dealership - Project on hold
Calpine - Waiting to hear on from Public Utility Commission
Fleet Farm - Bidding soon
Possibility of Projects: Costco, A retail store 40,000 sq. ft addition
340 Stadium Apartments - Muska
St. Peter / LeSueur
State Hospital Projects - Bidding this Spring upon funding
Bio-Gas - Winding Down
Bimeda Project - Blk
Cambria - 3rd Phase Starting (Russ Nelson)
Marshall
Avera Cancer Institute - Thompson Electric (IBEW LU 426)

Retirements:

Donald J. Berghoff, Jr., Retired 1/1/14
Walter A. Witt, Retired 3/9/14

Our Condolences

Retired Bro. **Larry W. Reed** of Rochester, MN passed away on March 3rd. Larry had been a member since February 1962.

Retired Bro. **Myrton Stous** of Rollington, MN passed away January 15th. Myrton had been a member since October 1955.

DUES REMINDERS:

"A" members \$102.00/Qtr
"BA" members \$57.00/Qtr

Due 1st of Every Quarter
\$20.00 late fee

Marshall (cont'd)

Reginal Sport Center Complex - Being talked about

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

"Sparky Opener"

Come out and fish with some of your Brothers and Sisters!

Saturday, June 14th
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
\$20 per person

Going for biggest fish...

Walleye, Pan Fish, Bass, Northern, Rough Fish

Requires one IBEW member per boat.

Meet 1 mile south of West Newton Landing (Minnesota Side)

For more info contact:
Chris Hallet 507-251-3569
or
John Powrie 507-259-5413

Introducing... Jim Backus, Compliance Officer

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jim Backus, and I come to the great State of Minnesota from Wisconsin. I have over 25 total years of law enforcement experience both at a municipal and county level. I have a broad range of training and am a graduate of the 243rd session of the FBI National Academy. I am self-motivated, enjoy learning and have a sense of humor. Along with my law enforcement experience, I also have about 22 years of volunteer Fire and EMS service, with 11 of them being Director of EMS.

I come to the IBEW Local 343 in an effort to better promote union pride and to be part of one of the most progressive, professional unions in existence. I have

served as Vice-President of our local enforcement union and have always been actively involved with it. My last 10 years have been in an upper management position, but I have continued to be a constant supporter of our union. I truly have felt protecting and supporting the worker has been as important as protecting the public I have served.

One of my main duties will be to ensure that the non-signatory contractors are in compliance with state and federal regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, prevailing wage issues, licensing and ratios. I will also be assisting with policy/procedure creation and implementation.



I am very excited for the challenge and have learned a lot in the short time I've been here. I look forward to meeting the members. So if you're in the area, stop in and say "hi" or email me a JimB@ibewlocal343.org

In Solidarity,
Jim Backus

Mankato Rep Report...

Shane Meier



Owatonna: There are a couple of projects that will be going on in Owatonna. Pillsbury College Campus is going to be renovated for music and art camps, and this project was negotiated out to Randall Electric. There is talk of Daikin/McQuay expanding. I have talked with generals about this project and getting our contractors on the bidders list.

Mankato Area/Western Minnesota: In Mankato there are a lot of projects that are coming up with the \$70 million school bond referendum and the bonding bill with the Civic Center Project currently in the running along with some MNSCU projects at MSU. Also, we are still waiting for Wal-Mart Distribution Project to come out for bid, along with Fleet Farm, and talks of other stores looking to build in the Mankato Area. I haven't heard anything on Calpine yet, but should be hearing soon from the Public Utility Commission on what they have decided. There are projects coming out daily that we're trying to make sure we have contractors bidding these projects. Jordan Sands project

has been delayed because of the weather, but should be hearing more about this project soon. I will let people know when it will be starting. As of now the only thing I've been told is that it will be done with Union Electricians, and a company out of Texas will be coming up to do some programming on equipment. Morton Casino Project: Will not man up until the end of April or early May. I will keep everyone posted as I know more.

The Mankato office has moved to a new location: 709 S. Front Street, Suite 6. Stop by and say Hi! It's located in the old RW Carlstrom office and across the street from the new Safety Center. Picnic will be in Mankato this year & we'll be having a meeting soon to discuss details. If you'd like to volunteer please let me know. Currently I have 3 helpers (Mark Rutten, Larry Ternes & Kevin Carroll)
In Solidarity,
Shane Meier, Mankato Rep.

Organizing Department Report... by Andy Kuisle

Since the last newsletter, we have made many contacts with nonunion shop owners as well as the workers at the shops. As usual, the workers are interested in our pay scale price in comparison to their own. The owners that we meet with are, many times, interested in what kind of training we offer and what qualifications our workers carry. Currently, we have several shops that we are sitting down with on a regular basis to discuss options with. We hope this interest will lead to the signing of another new contractor in the near future.

Also, we are constantly making contacts with General Contractors, City Officials, Union Electrical Contractors and other Labor Organizations to make sure the work comes our way when it goes out for bid.



As always, when you get the opportunity to tell someone about the merits of being an IBEW electrician, as opposed to being nonunion, please do not pass up that opportunity. It is the responsibility of all of us to make sure the IBEW is strong going into the future, so that it may be enjoyed by our future generations.

In Solidarity,
Andy Kuisle

**~Summer Picnic
Volunteers Needed~**

**Picnic will be in the
Mankato area.**

**Please contact the
Hall to volunteer!**