

### Dates to Remember:

10/01/15: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Union Dues DUE  
10/08/15: Union Meeting, Owatonna Eagle's Club  
11/11/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Provisional Holiday)  
11/12/15: Union Meeting, Owatonna Eagle's Club  
12/10/15: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In, Local 343 Hall, Rochester  
11/26/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
11/27/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
12/24/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
12/25/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
12/31/15: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
1/1/16: LU 343 Offices CLOSED  
1/1/16: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Union Dues DUE

### 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!



Our Faithful Newsletter Helpers  
Maurice Meyers, John Guyse, Jim O'Neil (missing Tom Huiting)

**SAVE THE DATE ~ Mark your Calendars!**  
**The Awards Banquet will be held Saturday,**  
**April 2, 2016 at the**  
**Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato, MN**



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

### **In this issue >>>**

Business Manager's Report

Rep's Reports

Compliance Officer Report

Organizing Department Report

Oct 2015 SCMNJATC Newsletter (grey insert)

Retirements

Condolences

Summer Picnic Pictures (insert enclosed)

Flag Pictures (insert enclosed)

Upcoming Work (white insert)

**REMINDER → DUES INCREASE for 2016**



IBEW LOCAL 343 UNION

Fourth Quarter Newsletter 2015  
October, November, December

# Groundwire

## **Business Manager...Derek Mensink**

### Know Your Agreement

The new 2015 – 2019 Inside Construction Agreement will be sent out soon to every member who works under this particular agreement. This agreement is a legal binding contract between the employers and employees working in IBEW Local 343's jurisdiction. It is very important that you take time to review and get to know what is inside the agreement. The agreement spells many important items:

- Employer Rights – Union Rights
- Wage Payments – Working Conditions
- Referral Procedure
- Apprenticeship and Training
- Fringe Benefits
- Safety and Health
- Many other articles

I would also like to point out some important changes since our last agreement:

- 1) **Section 2.03** – Workers Compensation Insurance – Both parties agreed to establish a jointly managed alternate workers compensation program, which allows for optional participation by signatory contractors and IBEW Local 343.



- 2) **Section 3.01** – There shall be one (1) fifteen (15) minute paid break between the start of the shift and the lunch period and one (1) fifteen (15) minute paid break between the end of the lunch period and the end of the work day. The employer may determine where and when these breaks are to be taken.
- 3) **Section 3.07** – Applicants that are required to be subjected to pre-employment drug testing on a day other than the referral start date, shall be paid 2 hours base wage plus mileage, when the mileage from the applicants residence to the testing site is over 50 miles one way. One way of travel is on the applicant and the other is paid by the employer in the above instance. Applicants who fail the test shall receive no reimbursement for drug test time, mileage, or expense reimbursement.
- 4) **Section 3.11 (a)** – When **four (4) or more employees** are on the Job without a Foreman present, a

Journeyman shall be designated as a working Foreman and receive the Foreman's rate of pay. When the 12<sup>th</sup> employee is assigned to a job, an additional Foreman shall be established and one of these Foremen shall be established and one of these Foremen shall be designated by the Employer as General Foreman. Thereafter, an additional Foreman shall be designated for each eleven (11) additional employees on the job. There need not be more than on General Foreman on any one job.

- 5) **Section 5.12** – Each job site shall be allowed a ration of two (2) apprentices for every two (2) Journeyman Wireman.

This agreement is your livelihood on the job. Many of the rules have changed over the years. Some have been for the better. Some have not been a benefit to us. But, we need to continue to uphold what our contract reads. We need to continue to follow the rules of the **agreement** and our **constitution**. So please, work as a Brotherhood and abide within the agreement and our constitution. Stand with pride and solidarity.

Best Regards, Derek Mensink



Another summer is in the history books and the work for the summer has been good. We have a few large school projects just starting and some are well under way. At Byron school the footings are going in and the walls are going up. Stewartville is also well on its way. The Grand Meadow School project was secured by a Union contractor as well. The Rushford-Peterson school will have been bid by the time you received this. Unfortunately the Mayo Civic Center has not progressed as fast as we had hoped and they didn't need as much manpower as they were expecting by this point in the project. A lot of these projects will help to keep a lot of our members working throughout the winter and into next summer.



Prairie Island Nuclear plant's outage will be under way by mid-October. We'll have about 120 total IBEW members working the outage, and of that, we'll have 90 Book II working. I'd like to thank all the travelers that have showed up to help man the work in our area. It's truly appreciated.

The summer picnic was another good time, and I hope everyone that made it had a good time as well.

In Solidarity , Chad Katzung

Mankato & Western Areas:  
It has been a very busy summer with a lot of projects being bid in the spring and starting right away, but the bidding has slowed down as of now. Going into the fall these projects will be having calls coming in and most of these projects running through the winter months and bring us right into the spring of 2016. As of now we are still waiting to hear on a general for the Calpine project and other projects being talked about that are of substantial size could be coming in early spring, one of those projects would be Aurora Solar Project which we are still waiting to hear on and would have multiple sites in our jurisdiction. Organizing has been going great and informing the uniformed. Again, if you know of anybody interested in learning more about the IBEW, please have them get in contact with us. Also, the marketing of IBEW LOCAL 343 has been working on many fronts and look for it to keep ramping up. It was awesome seeing a lot of our members at the picnic in Winona, and hope they had a good time! Look forward to seeing a good turnout at the Banquet which will be held in Mankato next year.

In Solidarity,

Shane Meier



Contact Us:

- Derek Mensink, Business Manager:  
507-282-7081 x114
- Chad Katzung, Business Rep (Eastern):  
507-282-7081 x115
- Andy Kuisle, Membership/Marketing:  
507-282-7081 x113
- Shane Meier, Business Rep (Western):  
507-345-2133
- Jim Backus, Membership/Compliance:  
507-951-8267
- Andy Toft, JATC / Apprentice Office:  
507-282-7081 x118
- Bonnie Hinkle, Pensions/Financials:  
507-282-7081 x112
- Colleen Marks, Membership/Referral:  
507-282-7081 x 222

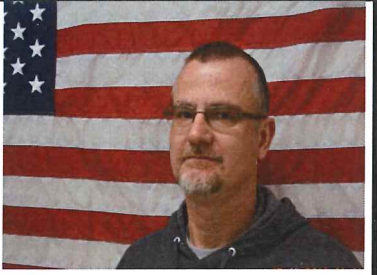
Organizing Department Report...  
by Andy Kuisle



Since the last newsletter there have been quite a few nonunion workers that have called me with interest in what a Union could do for them. As always, I ask them how they were prompted to find out more about Local 343. More now than ever their response has been, "I know one of the local's members and he/she urged me to give you a call and find out more." To those of you who are out there promoting our local and informing the nonunion about the merits of being IBEW, we applaud you. No matter how many newspaper, radio or TV ads we put together in promotion of our local, nothing can compare to you, the membership, telling your side of the story to your friends and neighbors. Also since the last newsletter, we have had the opportunity to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> district Organizing conference at the end of July, as well as the International Organizing Conference last week. In these meetings we attended workshops to better understand how to streamline the organizing process, as well as gathering, processing and reporting of information. We also received our assignments or goals set by the International, and how they will expect us to be organizing through the rest of the year and into 2016. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call. And again, thank you to all of you who chose to be active in spreading the word of the IBEW and the safety, security and higher standard of living it provides to all of us. In Solidarity,

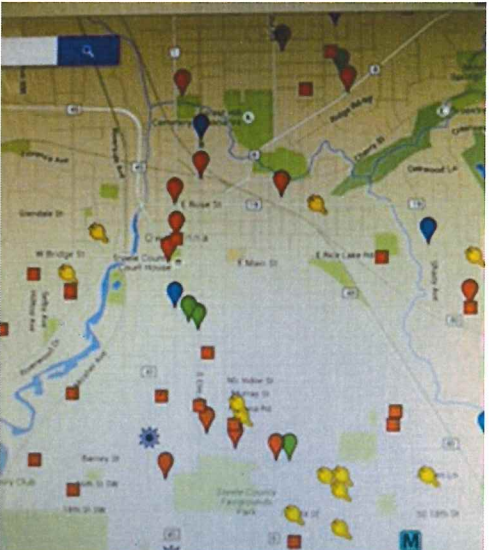
Andy Kuisle

Compliance Officer Report...  
Jim Backus



Brothers and Sisters,  
It has been about one year since our Google mapping system has been in use. It has proven to be very valuable in organizing and as a data collection point. As Andy or I participate in any type of organizing effort, with non-union electricians or contractors, the information is updated on the map and the color of the icon is changed to indicate contact had been already made. Since January of 2015, Andy and I have conducted well over 200 house calls and over 60 non-union contractor visits. Again, all of this is added to the map to indicate who we've spoken to and also to plan what area will be next to visit. When this is determined we are able to visually see where these electricians and shops are, allowing us to strategically plan our route, which makes our efforts much more effective and efficient. Since this is internet based, it can be accessed from a desktop computer, laptop or smart phone.

As we learn of new JW's or apprentices, they are added to the map. Since this tool is continually used, it becomes more accurate each day. As you can see on the snapshot below, there are different colors and shapes of icons, all of which have a different meaning to us. (All names have been removed for purpose of this article). Not only has this been very useful to Local 343 but there has been interest in other Local's in Minnesota to utilize this same concept. Local 14 out of Wisconsin recently used this to plan and execute a large blitz, which aided them immensely.



Also in the last quarter I have been involved in a timely investigation into a contractor. Once this is completed, and all of the information compiled, it appears there will be multiple state agencies involved. My goal is to have this finished within the next month. If anyone has any questions or has any information for me regarding violations, please contact me at [jimb@ibewlocal343.org](mailto:jimb@ibewlocal343.org) or 507-951-8267. In Solidarity, Jim Backus

**\*2016 UNION DUES\***

"A" Members \$108.00/Qtr  
"BA" Members \$60.00/Qtr

DUE the 1<sup>st</sup> of EVERY Quarter  
(Jan. 1, Apr. 1, Jul. 1, Oct. 1)

\$20.00 Late fee each month  
you are late

**2015 UNION DUES**

"A" Members \$105.00/Qtr  
"BA" Members \$57.00/Qtr

**Unemployment!**

If you are drawing unemployment, you must be on our books to indicate you are actively seeking work. The unemployment office does do random audits.

**Our Condolences:**

Retired Brother **Robert "Bob" H. Peterson** of Dodge Center, MN passed away September 5, 2015. Bob had been a member since March 1980

**Retirements/Disability:**

- Douglas A. Neff – 4/3/15
- Robert H. Peterson – 5/15/15
- George Nyari – 6/30/15
- Gary R. Stoos – 7/5/15
- Michael B. Hicks – 7/31/15
- Richard D. Olson – 9/1/15
- Alan S. Whealdon – 9/8/15

**Military:**

Benjamin R. Bunnell, JIW – Air Force Reservist – Military Leave 7/13/15

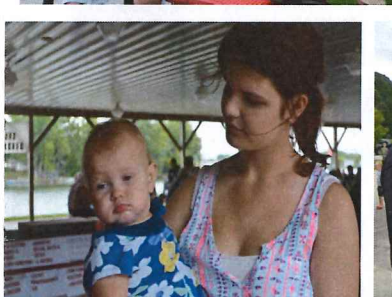
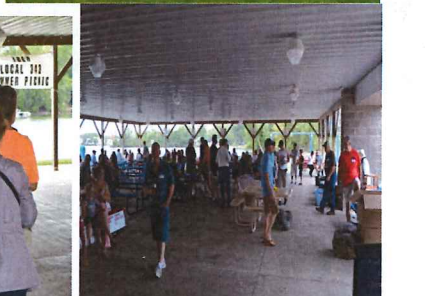
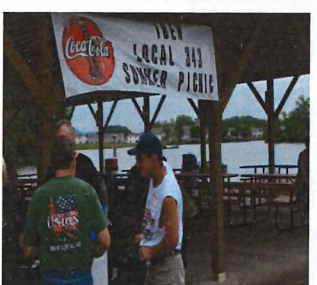
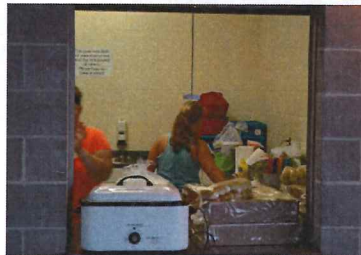
**Reminder, if you would like to receive informational texts from the hall please send the text **ibew343** to the number **44244**. You will get a confirmation text back asking if you want to confirm. If you do then you type yes.**

**STANDARD TEXT RATES DO APPLY. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE UNLIMITED TEXTING THIS WILL COUNT TOWARD YOUR MONTHLY ALLOTTED TEXTING.**

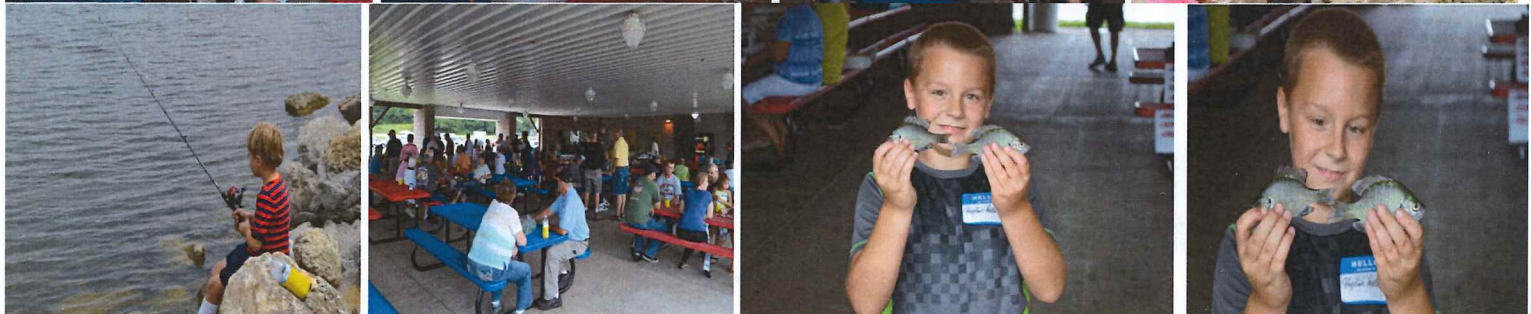




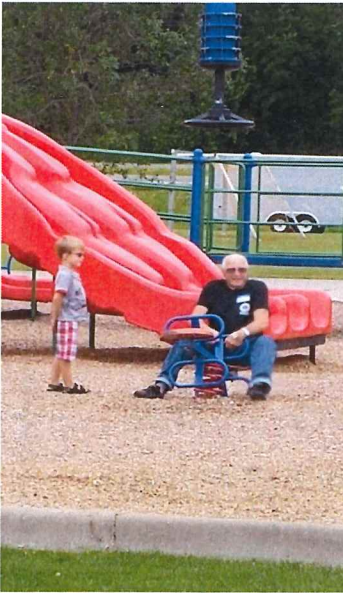
Local 343 - Summer Picnic - August 8, 2015 - Goodview, MN









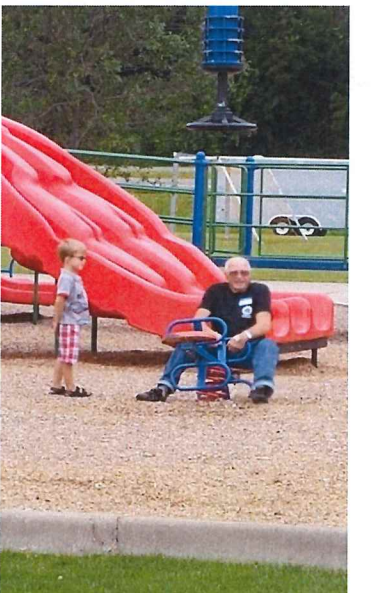


**Thank you to the following donators to this year's Summer Picnic!**  
*(Prizes included \$1,780.00 in cash & gift cards, tools, jackets, 32" TV, tool bags, and Vikings Football Tickets!)*

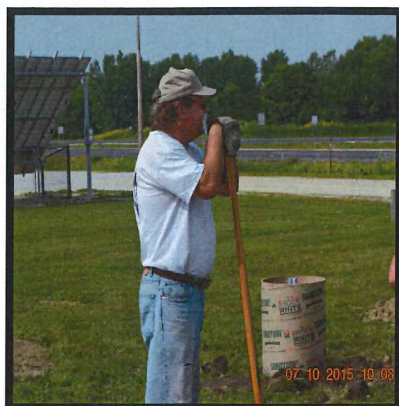
*NECA	*Accord	*Collins	*Anderson, Helgen, Davis & Cefalu
*J. Becher	*Olson Electric	*Cummins & Cummins	*Paape Companies
*Legacy Professionals	*Alan Sturm & Associates	*O'Connor Electric	
*Muska	*Premier	*Tom Parker Electric	*Foster Electric
*Viking Electric Supply	*Egan/Nietz/Kestner	*Parsons	
*Hunt	*Thompson Electric of Albert Lea		
*Electrus Federal Credit Union	*BLK		

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*Hunt	*Thompson Electric of Albert Lea		
*Electrus Federal Credit Union	*BLK		







The Flag Project is complete! The United States Flag, MN State Flag and the IBEW Flag were officially raised August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Illuminated by 3, 13-watt LED spotlights, the flags are proudly displayed day and night.

Our thanks go out to Nick Schneider of Neitz Electric for pulling the permit and supplying the auger truck.

Thank you to Brother Paul Meyer for his pinpoint accuracy in the operation of the auger. Leitzen Concrete (union) supplied the base material. API Lifts donated the all-terrain scissor lift to stand the poles.

Special thanks goes out to the members who donated their time and labor: Mike Bambrick, Jr., Dan Goodew, Brady Moore (Mike Tupper's grandson), Mike Tupper, Andy Toft, Tom Small, John Swanson and Brent Weinberger



## 2015/16 NEC CLASSES

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**IBEW LOCAL 343 MEMBERS—NO COST, other IBEW UNION MEMBERS--\$25**  
**UNION MEMBERS OTHER THAN WITH THE IBEW--\$50, NON-UNION MEMBERS--\$200.00 FOR A**  
**16 HOUR CLASS, 2014 Code Books are available for \$70.**

**SATURDAY is an 8 HOUR CLASS good for ceu's in, MN-(8 Code), WI-(8 Code),(IOWA-(9 Code) 9 hr class)**

**SUNDAY is an 8 HOUR CLASS good for ceu's in, MN-(8 Code), WI-(8 Code), (IOWA-(9 Code) 9 hr class)**

**No partial credit of classes is granted, you must attend the entire approved class to receive credit.**

**THESE 16 HOUR CODE CLASSES ARE GOOD FOR 16 HOURS IN MN, WI & IA**

**ALL WEEKEND CLASSES RUN 8AM TO 5PM**

**PLEASE CALL 507-529-7721 TO REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES**

### THESE CLASSES START AT 8AM

RED WING	WHEN:	SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2015,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	SUPER 8, 232 Withers Harbor Drive, Red Wing
WINONA	WHEN:	OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2015,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	RIVERPORT INN, 900 Bruski Drive, Winona
ALBERT LEA	WHEN:	NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2015,-Instructor—SCOTT HIGGINS
	WHERE:	ALBERT LEA LABOR TEMPLE , 1407 Hwy 13 North
MANKATO	WHEN:	DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2015-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	OPERATING ENGINEERS HALL, 308 Lundin Blvd

### 2016 CLASSES

ROCHESTER	WHEN:	JAN 16 & 17, 2016,-Instructors-MARK SPARKS/DAVE HYRKAS
	WHERE:	IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL 9-80 <sup>TH</sup> ST SE
WINONA	WHEN:	FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2016,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	RIVERPORT INN, 900 Bruski Drive, Winona
ROCHESTER	WHEN:	MARCH 5 & 6, 2016,-Instructor—CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL 9-80 <sup>TH</sup> ST SE
ALBERT LEA	WHEN:	APRIL 9 & 10, 2016,-Instructor—SCOTT HIGGINS
	WHERE:	ALBERT LEA LABOR TEMPLE , 1407 Hwy 13 North
ROCHESTER	WHEN:	MAY 7 & 8, 2016-Instructor—MARK SPARKS /DAVE HYRKAS
	WHERE:	IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL 9-80 <sup>TH</sup> ST SE
MANKATO	WHEN:	JUNE 25 & 26, 2016-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	OPERATING ENGINEERS HALL, 308 Lundin Blvd
WINONA	WHEN:	JULY 23 & 24, 2016,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	RIVERPORT INN, 900 Bruski Drive, Winona
OWATONNA	WHEN:	AUGUST 20-21, 2016,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	OWATONNA HY VEE
ROCHESTER	WHEN:	SEPTEMBER 24 & 25, 2016,Inst. MARK SPARKS /DAVE HYRKAS
	WHERE:	IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL 9-80 <sup>TH</sup> ST SE
ALBERT LEA	WHEN:	OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2016,-Instructor- SCOTT HIGGINS
	WHERE:	ALBERT LEA LABOR TEMPLE , 1407 Hwy 13 North
RED WING	WHEN:	NOVEMBER 12 & 13, 2016,-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	SUPER 8, 232 Withers Harbor Drive, Red Wing
MANKATO	WHEN:	DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2016-Instructor-- CARI HELBERG
	WHERE:	OPERATING ENGINEERS HALL, 308 Lundin Blvd

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### 16 HOUR CLASS. 16 CODE CEU'S

#### 4 NIGHT CLASS MONDAY AND TUESDAY 5PM TO 9PM

AUSTIN	WHEN:	FEBRUARY 8-10-15-17, 2016, 5PM-Instructor—SCOTT HIGGINS
	WHERE:	AUSTIN LABOR CENTER 316 4 <sup>TH</sup> Ave NE

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## **2 HOUR CODE CLASS—unlicensed registration renewal class 2 CODE CEU**

### **CODE BASIC CONDUCTOR FILL & AMPACITIES CLASS 2 HOUR CLASS**

Bring a calculator-code book & pencil to class, Good for unlicensed registration renewal

**ROCHESTER:**      **WHEN:**      **SEPT 30, 2015, WEDNESDAY, 5:00 TO 7:00PM, Instructor Dan Goodew**  
                         **WHERE:**      **IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL, 9-80<sup>TH</sup> ST SE ROCHESTER 55904**

### **OSHA 70-E ELECTRICAL SAFE WORK PRACTICES CLASS 4 HOURS**

The First rule in working safely with electrical equipment is to DEENERGIZE. If you have to work on energized circuits, you need to work safely. This class will cover the OSHA requirements for Personal Protection Equipment and tools when it comes to working on energized circuits. You will receive a 70E card after this 4 hour class

**ROCHESTER:**      **WHEN:**      **OCT 28, 2015, WEDNESDAY, 5:00 TO 9:00PM**  
                         **WHERE:**      **IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL, 9-80<sup>TH</sup> ST SE, Rochester**

### **OSHA 10/30 HOUR CERTIFICATION (3/9 NIGHT CLASSES)**

More customers and jobs are requiring that the employees have the OSHA 10 hour Safety Training card to work on the job. Here is your chance to get yours. At present the OSHA 10 cards are good for life, however there are some customers that will require the OSHA class be taken with in the last 3 years. For the 30 hour OSHA class you will need to attend all 9 classes.

**ROCHESTER WHEN:**      **OCT 19-21-26, 2015, OSHA 10, 5PM-9PM**  
                                 **NOV 16-18-23-30, DEC 2-7, 2015 OSHA 30**  
**WHERE:**      **IBEW LOCAL 343 HALL 9-80<sup>TH</sup> ST SE, Rochester**

**WE TAKE APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS ANY TIME AND WILL BE TESTING AND  
INTERVIEWING AT LEAST EVERY OTHER MONTH  
THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO GET INTO THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM  
HAVE ANYONE INTERESTED GIVE ME A CALL AT 507-529-7721**

**APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS:** Applications can be completed at the JATC office in Rochester.(1-507-529-7721) or print off from; [www.IBEWLOCAL343.ORG](http://www.IBEWLOCAL343.ORG) PLEASE CALL TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES-507-529-7721, Andy Toft.



# **Upcoming Work**

IBEW Local 343 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Newsletter (Oct – Dec 2015)

## **Rochester area**

Civic Center addition – Premier  
Broadway at Center – Hunt, no word on start date.  
Dover-Eyota School District – McMartin  
Byron School – Hunt  
Stewartville School – Ryan  
RCTC – CTECH Building – McMartin  
Pepsi Cola Distribution Center – Non IBEW  
Chatfield Center for the Arts – Oct 6  
Main Heights Auto Dealership – Planning  
New Horizon Day Care – Planning  
Affordable Housing Project – Project pending city council approval

## **Austin**

Jay C Hormel Nature Center – Design Phase.  
Spam Museum – Fox  
Science Park Apartments – Bids 7/2  
5 Megawatt Solar farm- Planning Stage

## **Albert Lea**

City of Albert Lea Pole Building Warehouse – Bids Oct 6  
Freeborn Wind Energy Project – Planning 200 Megawatt farm.  
St. Johns – Fox

## **Grand Meadow**

Gymnasium and classroom addition – Ryan

## **Red Wing**

Prairie Island Nuclear Plant – Ongoing Maintenance – Outage fall of 2015.  
Gymnastic Center – Planning

## **Winona Area**

Rushford-Peterson School – Bids Sep 24. No word.  
Aquatic Center Caledonia – Bid Sep 22 – No word.

## **Owatonna**

City/County Garage- No word on it yet, did get state funding  
New Power Plant – Being Discussed with SMMPA  
Art Center Project – Waiting to hear on  
Hotel – Waiting to hear on



# Upcoming Work

IBEW Local 343 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Newsletter (Oct – Dec 2015)

## Mankato

Street/Highway Projects – River City Electric/MN Signal  
Woodside Apartments Phase – Muska  
Civic Center- Premier Electric  
Spee Dee Delivery – Javens Electric (Non IBEW)  
New School- Javens Electric (Non IBEW)  
Calpine – Waiting to hear from Calpine on when it will start  
Possibility of Projects: Costco, A retail store 40,000 square foot addition.  
MSU Clinical Science Building- Russ Nelson Electric  
Mankato Transit Facility – Schammel Electric  
Mixed Use Shell – Master Electric  
Ambulatory Service Building – Hunt Electric  
Powder Coating Shop N. Mankato – Master Electric  
Ridley Building Shell- BLK Electric  
Dairy Queen- Master Electric  
Viking Electric Wholesale House- Master Electric  
Sisters of Notre Dame Solar Project- Hunt Electric

## St. Peter/Le Sueur

State Hospital New Building Project – Schammel Electric  
Cambria -5th Phase (Russ Nelson)  
School Bond Referendum – waiting to hear on

## New Ulm

Kraft Foods – Parsons Electric  
3m – Hunt Electric  
School Bond Referendum- Paul's Electric (Non IBEW)

## Fairmont

Ethanol Plant Work – Dewar Electric

## Marshall

ADM -Various Projects-BLK Electric  
Regional Sport Center Complex – waiting to hear on

## Renville/Olivia

Hospital Project- E2 Electric (IBEW)  
CottonWood School Project – E2 Electric (IBEW)

## Windom

Toro Warehouse – Olympia Tech (IBEW)