



IBEW Local 343
9 80th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

!! Updated Referral
Procedure Enclosed !!

!! Awards Banquet
Invitation Enclosed !!



OPEIU#12
AFL-CIO-CLC

Contact us at **507-282-7081** www.ibewlocal343.org

DAY ON THE HILL INFO:

The IBEW Minnesota State Council will hold its annual Day-on-the-Hill **Tuesday, March 20, 2018**. We have a registration deadline of 5:00 PM, Friday, February 23, 2018.

Please let Jim Backus know if you would like to attend, jimb@ibewlocal343.org or call 507-951-8267. More details will follow as the date approaches.

Retirement:

Kevin A. Chirhart – 10/11/17

Our Condolences:

Retired Bro. **Alvin Tupper** – Rochester, MN – Passed away 10/27/17. Al had been a member since January 1958

Retired Bro. **James E. Stanton** – Rochester, MN – Passed away 11/13/17. James had been a member since September 1982

Member **Randy R. Olson** – Mazepa, MN – Passed away 11/21/17. Ralph had been a member since September 1996

***2018
UNION
DUES***

**"A" Members
\$117.00/Qtr**

**"BA"
Members
\$63.00/Qtr**



4th Qtr Newsletter helpers: Top - L to R: Rob Kochie, Ray Goodew;
Bottom – L to R: Ray Kranz, Tom Huiting **THANK YOU!**



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- The Abuse of Apprentices Stops Now (insert)*
- 2018 Awards Banquet Flyer/Invitation (April 7, 2018 – insert)*



IBEW LOCAL 343 UNION

**First Quarter Newsletter 2018
January, February, March**

Business Manager...Chad Katzung



Happy New Year to all of the members of Local 343. I hope everyone had a great holiday season with friends and family. As we start out the New Year it's always good to refresh yourself with the rules of referral and re-sign as well as to take a look at the contract to refresh yourself with those rules as well. It's easy to forget over time how things work and what the intent of the language means. Over the last year we've had a lot of unfilled calls and as you know, it's the IBEW responsibility to fill those calls. If we are unable to fill the calls in 48 hours the contractor is allowed to secure their workers from another source. In 2005 local 343 was directed by the International office that we are allowed to set dispatch hours, but dispatch must remain open until all the calls are filled. I don't believe this was spelled out in the referral procedure very well and was not an issue until just recently. I have added a sec 5.3 (a) to the referral procedure to clear this up. Please take a look at the referral procedure and familiarize yourself with it. A copy has been included.

I also cannot express enough how important it is for you to know what your pay and benefits should be. We've had a few instances this last year that members were not being paid correctly and they were unaware it was happening. If you have any questions at all on pay, benefits, hours of work, shift rates... anything, feel from to contact Shane, Steve or myself. We are here to answer any and all of the questions you may have. It's easier to take the time to explain it now than it is to figure out what happened later. Also, don't hesitate to check the hours that are paid into your benefits fund. You can stop by the Local 343 office as we have copies of all the NEBF Reports for you to review. Or, you can contact Jenny Nord at Alan Sturm & Associates, Inc. They will also be able to verify the hours that were reported and they would have the most up to date information. You are the only person that can verify if the benefits that were paid are truly the hours you worked. All it takes is a simple mistake of entering a 4 instead of 40 to lose out on 36 hours of benefits.

Again, please don't hesitate to contact any of us with any problems or concerns. I hope you and your family have a Happy New Year.

In solidarity,
Chad Katzung

Dates to Remember:

- 01/01/18: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (New Year's Day)*
- 01/01/18: 1st Quarter Union Dues DUE*
- 01/11/18: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In – Eagle's Club, Owatonna, MN*
- 02/08/18: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In – Eagle's Club, Owatonna, MN*
- 03/08/18: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In – Union Hall, Rochester, MN*
- 03/20/18: Day on the Hill*
- 04/01/18: 2nd Quarter Union Dues DUE*
- 04/07/18: 31st Annual Awards Banquet - St. James Hotel, Red Wing, MN*
- 04/12/18: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In – Eagle's Club, Owatonna, MN*

**Dues Increase for
2018**

Organizing Department Report by Andy Kuisle

As winter moves into our area and the workload slows down, we will be changing the organizing focus of manning work to finding new, prospective signatory contractors for local 343. Several shops are interested in the ability to get manpower at a moment's notice, as our economy continues to strengthen and the demand for qualified electricians becomes more apparent. There are 2 large shops whose guys have shown interest in joining the union, so we may be able to start a campaign at one or both of the shops. We will keep the membership informed along the way as this develops.

As a state, all of the MN organizers have been working together under the guidance of our new SOC (State Organizing Coordinator) to get our message out to some of these larger, multi-local, non-union shops such as Berd Electric, Magnum Electric or Faith Technologies. We have been doing statewide blitzes on these contractors when they are in several jurisdictions at the same time to let them know what our area standard wages are and the benefits they are missing out on by not working under a collective bargaining agreement. These shops have many more workers than your average local non-union contractor, and they are able to complete large jobs that we used to think were only able to be completed by large Union contractors. They have become a major obstacle in our Union Contractors' paths to secure jobs especially in the Multi-family/multi-use, solar and grain handling sectors. As always, be mindful to let the non-union know what it means to be union. There are nearly 1000 of us in this local. That means if each one of us tells even one non-union worker the benefits of belonging to Local 343, we are communicating with nearly 100% of the non-union electricians in our jurisdiction. Furthermore, they will listen to you as they are your friends, neighbors and relatives. In Solidarity, Andy Kuisle

Rochester Rep Report >>> Steve Cardell

Hello Brothers and Sisters,
Hello to all, I want to start out by saying "thank you" to our local and traveling hands for the help on the Prairie Island outage. There were some successes and some failures, but it is over now! RPU has also wrapped up since the last newsletter. We are picking up some more Solar in the area...just too bad winter has arrived now, as they will be worked on through it. Hopefully everyone had enjoyable holidays and got to spend time with their families. Although the calls have slowed lately I hope everyone that wants to work is employed, even some of the more recent calls have went to book 2.
All I have to say about politics this letter is take a minute and really think about who you have voted for in the past, and fact-check them to make sure you are getting the things promised to you by your candidate.
I am still getting lots of calls with questions about pay, shift work and other things. I want to thank you for the calls. Sometimes a phone call can save a lot of problems before the mistakes are made.
Final thought for all of you that have been ported into other locals, it only takes a minute to call that hall and verify you have been checked in. This simple phone call can solve a lot of problems, and it is the brotherly thing to do. As always remember: professional product for your professional price. The customer deserves that.
Keep your eyes open on the week-ends. If you see our competition, give us a call so we can check permits and licenses; 2000 eyes are better than 10!

Steve Cardell
Local 343 Assistant
Business Manager



Mankato Rep Report >>>

by Shane Meier

Owatonna/Mankato & Western Areas

2017 has been a very good year for vertical construction & solar projects in this area. As we look forward to 2018 a lot of jobs sites are mobilizing right now and going to start soon. Owatonna had a lot of school work this year & most of it has wrapped up. We are still working on getting somemaintenance accounts around town.

Mankato/St. Peter/New Ulm Areas this is where most of the work will be coming in early 2018.

Mankato has Southern Power Expansion which will probably start hiring around the first of the year into March, there is also a Hospital Remodel/Addition that will be starting to ramp up early on in the spring, as they are still debating on some criteria as there might be another expansion in the near future. St. Peter State Hospital will be also putting in calls early in spring of 18; Gustavus Adolphus College is running some numbers, as of this writing, for a Clinical Science Building to hopefully start in the spring. New Ulm it sounds like Kraft Foods will have a couple of projects coming up this spring. In Western Minnesota there is talk of more wind turbine farms coming, and as of right now there is some solar being talked about all around our jurisdiction. Once we get more confirmation on these projects we will inform the membership. We did purchase a new building in Mankato & have recently moved in. This spring we will have an open -house for anyone interested in coming over to take a tour. We have had a very positive response from Apprentices being able to be trained over here and members for Journeymen Training Classes. I hope everyone had A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year... looking forward to 2018!!!!

In Solidarity,
Shane Meier



TAX SEASON:
Year End Statements will come from **Sturm and Associates** and will be sent out towards the end of **January 2018. This statement will show what you paid in for your working dues and any contributions to annuity/401k.**

Chad Katzung, Business Manager
507-251-6009
Andy Kuisle, Membership/Marketing
507-951-5456
Jim Backus, Membership/Compliance
507-951-8267
Bonnie Hinkle, Pensions/Financials
507-282-7081 x112
Brooke Bly, Administrative Assistant
507-282-7081 x120

Contact Us:

Steve Cardell, Business Rep (Eastern)
507-208-8016
Shane Meier, Business Rep (Western)
507-995-4880
Andy Toft, JATC / Apprentice Office
507-282-7081 x118
Colleen Marks, Membership/Referral
507-282-7081 x 222

Compliance Officer Report.....Jim Backus

Brothers and Sisters!!

Here we are in December already!! Where did the year go! As we close out 2017, I want to AGAIN thank those of you who have called or sent a text with information on possible violations. The information provided to me AGAIN have resulted in successful investigations. You, as members, are the eyes and the ears of the local, and I truly appreciate any information that is provided to me.

It has been busy with lighting retrofit jobs throughout our area. Almost all of these jobs are being subcontracted to contractors outside of Minnesota. So again, if you see anyone doing these jobs please let me know. I know there are a number of retrofits coming up yet. I have also been monitoring a few prevailing wage jobs. I am currently waiting for certified payroll reports on these jobs so I can review them. There are also additional prevailing jobs coming up so we will be watching to see who those are awarded to.

I happened to recently read an article where OSHA released their top 10 cited violations for fiscal year 2017. (These are nationwide violations, not just specific to Minnesota). They indicate this list is preliminary as not all violations have been added to their reporting system but they do not believe it will affect the listed order. Here is their list (as listed on the Business and Legal Resources website):

- Fall Protection in construction** (29 CFR 1926.501) 6,072 violations
Frequently violated requirements include unprotected edges and open sides in residential construction and failure to provide fall protection on low-slope roofs.
- Hazard Communication** (29 CFR 1910.1200) 4,176 violations
Not having a hazard communication program topped the violations, followed by not having or not providing access to safety data sheets.
- Scaffolding** (29 CFR 1926.451) 3,288 violations
Frequent violations include improper access to surfaces and lack of guardrails.
- Respiratory Protection** (29 CFR 1910.134) 3,097 violations
Failure to establish a respiratory protection program topped these violations, followed by failure to provide medical evaluations.
- Lockout/Tagout** (29 CFR 1910.147) 2,877 violations
Frequent violations were inadequate worker training and inspections not completed.
- Ladders in construction** (29 CFR 1926.1053) 2,241 violations
Frequent violations include improper use of ladders, damaged ladders, and using the top step.
- Powered Industrial Trucks** (29 CFR 1910.178) 2,162 violations
Violations included inadequate worker training and refresher training.
- Machine Guarding** (29 CFR 1910.212) 1,933 violations
Exposure to points of operation topped these violations.
- Fall Protection—training requirements** (29 CFR 1926.503) 1,523 violations
Common violations include failure to train workers in identifying fall hazards and proper use of fall protection equipment.
- Electrical—wiring methods** (29 CFR 1910.305) 1,405 violations
Violations of this standard were found in most general industry sectors, including food and beverage, retail, and manufacturing.

If anyone has any questions, requests for information or has any information regarding violations, please contact me at jimb@ibewlocal343.org or at 507-951-8267. Let's be safe and have an enjoyable Holiday Season!

In Solidarity,
Jim Backus

Remember to let us know if you've moved or changed phone numbers!

