

IBEW Local Union 965 News

July 2008

From President Irwin

I would like to take this moment to reflect on my first year as President. Although I've been involved with the inner workings of the union for almost ten years, it's been a huge learning process and I would like to thank all of our members for the support I've been given. Each day is a new challenge which I look forward to. One of the most impressive things I've seen in the last year is how our members continue to keep stepping up to the plate; whether it's one hundred inches of snow or fifteen inches of rain, you all deserve a huge pat on the back. I saw it again at our annual solidarity picnic. We asked our members and friends who attended to donate to our flood fund. We surpassed my wildest dreams by raising over \$600, which will go to food banks in the flood damaged areas. As I take a look around our membership, I shouldn't be surprised. We have many members active in their communities. Whether it's helping teach religion class, volunteering for the local fire department, or volunteering to coach youth sports, our members are out in front in their communities. It's important as union members that we are good union citizens. One example is helping people that may be less fortunate than us and showing them the advantage of belonging to a union. I know as times get tougher there will be many more challenges to face, but, rest assured, we will continue to succeed as a union through solidarity.

Fraternally Yours,
Rick Irwin

The Need to Organize

Kemp Grutt-Assistant Business Manager & Organizer

We now have first contracts with four of our locations we organized. We are continuing to try and organize municipals and businesses that are non-union. The difference we have made with the first contract of the four locations is significant. First we have the Muscoda Police: In the first year, we got a 7.46% increase for the patrolman and a 6.21% increase for the sergeant. Next we have Muscoda Public Works: In the first year, we got the utility clerk a 7.89% increase, the police clerk a 9.23% increase, the lineman a 21.05% increase, the streets foreman a 17.56% increase, and the streets laborer a 32.03% increase. Next we have Fennimore Clerical: In the first year, we got them a 9.69% increase. Finally, we have the Cuba City craft employees: We got the foreman an 8.74% increase in the first year and the lineman a 26.49% increase. As you can see by going union there is a great advantage. The biggest reason for the large increases is not that union makes more, but by not being union, they are taken advantage of and are underpaid. There are still twenty municipals in Wisconsin that are non-union. Below is the list. If anyone knows someone in these locations, contact them and ask them if they would be interested in a meeting. The meeting would be confidential so no one would be at risk by just talking to us. There is also an award to anyone that gets us a lead which results in making a location union. If you get a lead you can contact any one of us at the union office. Here is the list of municipals we are looking at, but we will also unionize any businesses you have a lead for. Thank you.

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| Argyle | Juneau |
| Belmont | Merrillan |
| Boscobel | New London |
| Cashton | Stratford |
| Cedarburg | Trempealeau |
| Centuria | Viola |
| Cumberland | Waterloo |
| Elroy | Westfield |
| Florence | Whitehall |
| Hazel Green | |

Progressive Raffle Drawing

Holly Kaiser, Union Vice-President

Earlier this year, the membership approved the creation of a fund for a Progressive Raffle which we started in May. Each month at the Executive Board meeting, four (4) names are drawn from our membership list. In order to win, your name must be on the attendance sheet for the unit meeting you attended for that month. Each month that we do not have a winner or winners, \$25.00 is added to the fund for the next month. I would encourage everyone to attend your monthly unit meeting to become an active member and help promote and strengthen your union. Who knows, you may also win a little extra cash!

Below are the names that were drawn for the months of May and June.

Names Drawn for the May Unit Meetings - \$100.00 Fund

Nate Paulson - Stoughton - Not Present
Tim Luedtke - Monroe - Not Present
Jerry Schoenemann - Edgewater - Not Present
Michael Dorshorst Sr. - Columbia - Not Present

Names Drawn for the June Unit Meetings - \$125.00 Fund

Marilyn Bubolz - Windsor - Not Present
Joseph Williams - Rock River - Not Present
Bea Rodencal - Berlin - Not Present
Linus Smalley - Everbrite - Not Present

The Progressive Raffle Fund will increase to \$150.00 for July. We hope to see you soon at one of the monthly Unit Meetings and good luck! Have a safe and fun summer.

RETIREE CLUB

Tony Bartels, Business Manager & Financial Secretary

We held the first meeting of the IBEW Local Union 965 Retiree Club in April of this year. We discussed many topics at the meeting with a variety of speakers to discuss issues affecting retirees and best methods of communication. At that meeting Officers and Executive Board members were elected.

President: Gene Samuelson
Vice President: Curt Steindorf
Secretary-Treasurer: Bill Eddy
Executive Board: Darrel Fuchs, Tom Faull, Charles Wilhelm,
Jack Barrett and Dick Hassenfelt

The Officers of the Retiree Club met on June 9, 2008 and developed the bylaws for the Retiree Club. They have also set the next meeting of the Retiree Club on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 in the Madison Labor Temple. More information will come out later, but please mark your calendars for the meeting date.

If you retired as a member (or spouse of a member) of IBEW Local Union 965 you are eligible to join the Retiree Club. Just contact the Union Office to request a Retiree Club membership application if you wish to join. Feel free to let other retirees know about the Retiree Club as well. Active members will get an application at the time of retirement.

Retiree Lawsuit Update

By Tony Bartels

As most of you know, all active Union members working at Alliant have \$1 per pay period deducted from their pay to fund the cost of a lawsuit that has been filed against Alliant Energy. The lawsuit was filed because Alliant has decided to not live up to the negotiated agreement that pre 65 retirees will be treated like active employees when it comes to benefits. Alliant has started charging significantly more medical premiums for pre 65 retirees to the point that Alliant has stated that they will not pay more toward pre 65 retiree medical premiums than they pay in 2010. In other words, any increase in premium will be passed on to pre 65 retirees. Based on the clear violation of our negotiated agreement and the continued practice, we had no choice but to file the lawsuit.

As the lawsuit moves through the legal channels, we recently received great news. The judge has dismissed the Company's motion to have the case dismissed due to the lack of merit. In fact the judge ruled that there is significant evidence that supports the case moving forward. There is currently a discovery phase of the lawsuit that will continue through November of this year. This will include depositions from Shawn Reents, Mike Pyne and me. We will also have to exchange pertinent documents that support each party's position in the case. We can only hope that at some point Alliant will again care enough about pre 65 retirees and live up to their previous commitment.

Unit News

Unit 1

Mike Patoka, Unit Chair

Not much new in the great far north. Line crews were called to help in Lake Delton and in the Ripon area due to flooding. The Service Department also helped out in the Fond du Lac flood. Everybody returned home safely. (But if you see Kenny Vant, ask him if cows REALLY can jump over the moon.) The Data Acquisition Dept. is anxiously waiting for AMI to rear its ugly head, soon to be followed by the dreaded RIF notices. Sometime this summer is the rumor.

Amherst Jct. was afforded a visit from Alliant upper management. There was some open discussion on such topics as gain-sharing (or the lack thereof), the aging workforce, staffing levels and safety. They commended us on the fact of zero lost time accidents so far this year. He seemed open to our suggestions and thanked the group for being candid with their questions. That's about it from up here. Continue to work safely.

Unit 3

Mike Broome, Unit Chair

Hello Unit 3 members: If you haven't heard by now, I've been elected to take on the Unit Chair/E-Board position, since Gary McGrath has retired. Our July meeting is in Fond du Lac. The union picnic was Saturday, June 21 and was attended by several unit 3 members and retirees. We had about 200 people that came to enjoy the food, beverage and good company of fellow union members and their families. If any unit 3 members have any questions about anything, you can call me at (920)948-8702. Mike Broome

Unit 5

Bruce Giese, Unit Chair

Within Unit 5, members from the Village of Prairie Du Sac are into contract negotiations. At a recent unit meeting, a motion was made to donate \$100 to the Boy Scout Chapter. Dan Reilly, Chief Steward from Portage, will be taking care of the process. At the last unit meeting, it was voted on to use the unit's solidarity money to have a solidarity event at our August meeting. It looks like that meeting will be moved to the Portage Gun Club where we will have a late morning meeting followed by lunch. After lunch will be an afternoon of trap

shooting and solidarity. Much press has been made about the flooding in Iowa, both in the papers and within Alliant internal news releases, but not forgotten are the members of Local 965 who work and live in the communities in Wisconsin greatly affected by the rain and flood waters. At the recent Local 965 picnic, donated prizes were raffled off with the monies raised to be donated to the victims of the floods here in Wisconsin. Organizing (within Unit 5) appears to have come to a halt as the couple of contacts have all but dried up. So with that, I would ask that Unit 5 members look within the communities that you live and work in and if you see or know of someone who would like the benefits of Union representation. Please forward their name to the union office. As per the bylaws, if organized and you have helped secure them as union members, you could be eligible for a cash reward.

Bruce Giese

Unit 7

Mark Schoen, Unit Chair

Spring has sprung, and the grass has rizz. I wonder where all the flowers is? The Fantasy in Lights 2007 was a success with many of the unit 7 members helping out. A special thanks to Janesville, Berlin, and Columbia members for your help. We were able to donate \$1000 to local food pantries and a shelter in our service area. Unit 7 will again sponsor this in 2008. Welcome to the newest members of unit 7 – Union Financial has ratified their first contract and are a part of our unit. Please welcome the 12 newest members to our local. In April two of our brothers from Union Financial attended our meeting. On April 12, 2008 a large group of 965 members showed their support for a sister who was in need. Unit 7 had about 14 people picketing at ACEC's annual meeting in support of our sister who was let go for an unjust cause. At the end of April a labor summit was held to foster union support throughout the state for the new power plant planned for Nelson Dewey. The company will be constructing and operating this unit with union laborers. So let's show our support and in return help grow our union and the unions we work beside. In May, we attended the Alliant Annual shareholder's meeting. Again we were there to support the building of generation station at Nelson Dewey. Our meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the local union office on Park St. Madison. Talk with your Chief Steward for details, call your Unit Chair, Mark Schoen @ 669-5700, or call the office for details. I'd like to challenge each and every one of you to attend one meeting in the next year for your local unit. Union Financial will be presenting retirement information prior to some of the meeting over the next several months if you would like to meet and listen to their presentation and/or sign up for a free consult. Watch your monthly fliers for other pre-meeting events over the next several months.

WOW – What a Picnic

By Tony Bartels

On Saturday June 21, 2008 we held the IBEW Local Union 965 Solidarity Picnic. We had excellent weather and the largest turnout ever; over 200 people. We roasted a 230 pound hog which was served along with beans, coleslaw, potato salad, fruit and cookies for desert. We served soda, water, beer, slushies and margaritas. There were games to be played; horse shoes, bean bag toss and bean bag golf along with air castle for the kids.

This year we had a solidarity ride from different corners of the territory including rides that originated in Janesville, Mineral Point and Fond du Lac. There is already talk for next year to add classic cars to the ride along with the motorcycles with prizes for participants.

Let's get to the prizes. This year the grand prize was a 32 inch flat screen television supplied by Union Financial. Additionally we gave away many other prizes including: 2 rounds of golf at University Ridge from Lawton and Cates, 5-\$50 gift cards from Union Office Solutions, 4-\$25 gift cards from Kilowatt Credit Union, Portable DVD Player from Delta Dental, DVD Player and Bucky Books from Wisconsin Vision, Tickets to Badgers Homecoming Football game from Rick and Joan Irwin, Brewers tickets from Todd and Darcy Haakinson, miscellaneous clothing items from MMPR and many other prizes from IBEW Local 965.

This year the picnic also proved to be filled with generous attendees. We collected over \$600 in cash donations to be given to flood victims throughout Wisconsin on behalf of the IBEW 965 members. We also

collected several canned food items that were distributed to food banks for flood victims in Southern Wisconsin.

Hopefully this is the beginning of the momentum it will take to create solidarity among all IBEW 965 members. Together we can achieve!

Alliant-WP&L New Cassville Plant

Mike Pyne, Assistant Business Manager

As many of you know, Alliant Energy- Wisconsin Power and Light Company is planning to build a new 300 MW Coal power plant in Cassville, Wisconsin. It will be part of the existing Nelson Dewey Facility located on the Mississippi River. Local 965 feels this is an important project both for WP&L and Local 965, but this project is headed for some rough roads and it will be a momentous feat to get it built. Although this plant will be a coal burning plant, it will make the Nelson Dewey facility a cleaner coal burning facility with the use of a fluidized bed technology as proposed and with the Company's commitment to spend the money and the effort in cleaning up the existing stacks. This total project with the new unit and the cleaning of the existing emissions will make Nelson Dewey a cleaner facility than the current two units that run there today. The Company has also made a commitment to use bio-mass as a fuel of the new facility, which will also help lower emissions.

Local 965 and many labor unions have put their support into the construction of Nelson Dewey #3. It will bring an economic boost to the Grant County area and to the community of Cassville, but it will also provide many good union construction jobs for a period of time it takes to complete, which is projected for around the 2013 time frame. Local 965 will benefit somewhat in an increase to our membership by this construction, but very minimally. More importantly, we see this project as a win and a good direction in keeping the Nelson Dewey Plant viable and running for many more years, stimulating and growing the transmission possibilities and customer base in the southwest part of Wisconsin. We also see this future base load plant as a way to keep up with the growing demand for more energy by residential, commercial, and industrial customers that we have in place today and for those in the future. Alternative fuels have a future and will be important in the mix for generation, but we need to address the need and the importance for base load generating stations. Most critics don't address this factor.

Local 965 will be involved in the process of the building of this plant. We have obtained "party status" on this project with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission along with other organizations, so we will be informed of what will take place in the future as Alliant-WP&L tries to move this mountain along. We have also become an active member of a coalition made up of labor unions, community groups, business leaders and other groups that support the building of this plant. You will see a lot of conversation aimed at this project, both positive and negative. We at Local 965 will be in full support of the building of this plant and we will work to see that Nelson Dewey #3 is built. Don't forget also that Local 965 members will be operating this facility when it finally reaches its completion.

Buy American and America Works

By Tony Bartels

How many times do we need to hear that jobs are lost in America and sent overseas before we stand up and ask where did the jobs go? Over the past few weeks we heard that GM has announced plans to close the plant in Janesville in 2010. The job losses include jobs with good pay and benefits. Many of these people will now be out looking for jobs at a time that unemployment is already high. We need to ask ourselves, "How do we put people in America to work?"

In my opinion, if we spend money on products that are "Made in America"; someone in America had to make the product. I know, "Made in America" from foreign parts. At least somebody in America had something to do with the making of the product, which allowed someone to make money, which they in turn can spend on other products or services in America, which leads to another American having money to spend and so the circle continues and continues. If you buy the product made in China you have not only helped a Chinese worker make money to spend in China, but also you have turned your head on the environment and safety of the product. There is a reason that products made in America have environmental standards (Environmental

Protection Agency). There is a reason that workers in America have safety standards (Occupational Health and Safety Administration). Don't look too far to find Chinese made kids toys recalled because the level of lead in the toys was too high. Don't look too far to see China's lack of environmental controls on pollutants.

I know--you just keep hitting this issue. Those around me know that I have made it clear that by choice I will not knowingly ride in a car that is not made in America. For years I would look at a Chevy, a Ford or a Dodge and say that is ok to drive. No more! I now go to the windshield and look at the VIN number. If the VIN number starts with a 1, 4 or 5 it was assembled in America. Did you know that goes further? You can see the origin of an ATV or a motorcycle just by looking at the VIN number. As an example, I personally know that Polaris and Arctic Cat assemble ATV's in America. On the other side of that coin, there are Toyota trucks and Honda cars assembled in America. There are many more products made in America with foreign names. Buying any product "Made in America" puts workers to work in America that in turn make money that can then be spent in America. In my opinion, if all of us work on this we will help improve our economy. Remember;
Buy American and America Works!

In Memoriam

The following members of Local Union 965 have passed away in the second quarter of 2008.

John Bushaw 3-6-08—Rock River (Retired 1986)
Emil Kotajarvi 3-12-08—Portage (Retired 1986)
David Desing 3-14-08—Lake Geneva (Retired 1993)
Sally Boehm 3-16-08—Madison (Retired 2000)
Donald Hartman 3-20-08—Madison (Retired 1993)
Douglas Johnson 3-21-08—Mineral Point (Retired 1987)
Jerry Dott 3-25-08—Madison (Retired 1997)
Dolores Bartels 3-26-08—Madison (Retired 1991)
Morris Page 3-30-08—Beaver Dam (Retired 1987)
Gloria Walther 4-14-08—Mauston (Retired 2005)
Vernon Horne 5-19-08—Southern Area (Retired 1986)
Dean Kelly 5-25-08—North Area (Retired 1983)

If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Unit and Union meetings/notices for July-September 2008:

July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2 Unit 1, Best Western, Waupaca, 7:00 p.m.
July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3 State IBEW Legislative meeting, 9:00 a.m.
Unit 3, Fond du Lac, 7:00 p.m.
Unit 4, Sheboygan Labor Temple, 7:00 p.m.
Unit 6, 7:00 p.m.
July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4 Unit 2, 7:00 p.m.
July 4 Office Closed-Independence Day
July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9 Unit 7, Madison Labor Temple, 7:00 p.m.
July 9, Aug. 13, Sept 10 Unit 8, Beloit Marine Corps, 6:30 p.m.
Unit 5, Portage, Dino's Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.
July 16, Aug. 20 Executive Board meeting
July 17-18 IBEW Wisconsin State Conference
July 21 Audit Committee 1:00 p.m.
SCFL 7:00 p.m.
July 30-Aug 1 Sixth District Organizing Conference
August 9 Tentative Unit 5 Solidarity meeting
August 11 ACEC Labor Management meeting
Aug. 13-15 IBEW 2008 Utility Conference
August 18 SCFL, 7:00 p.m.
August 21 Code of Excellence Training for officers
August 28 WI Safety Labor Management meeting, 8:00 a.m.
September 1 Office Closed-Labor Day

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| Sept. 2-5 | National Membership Development Conference |
| September 4 | Financial Officer Training, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. |
| September 15 | SCFL, 7:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 17-19 | 6 th District Women's Conf. & Progress meeting |
| Sept. 22-23 | Wisconsin AFL-CIO Convention |
| September | Executive Board (date to be determined) |

Dates and times are subject to change

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Newsletter of IBEW Local Union 965 to be published quarterly. Any articles or suggestions should be sent to Lori Richardson, Office Administrator, or Tony Bartels, Business Manager.

Per Section XI of the Working Rules re: Organizing: Local 965 will give a reward to any current member in good standing with the IBEW and Local 965, who secures a person who is working in a non-union work environment at the time, who will be willing to take an active role in assisting Local 965 in organizing said work group. The amount of the reward to be presented shall follow the guidelines of: 1-6 people= Fifty dollars (\$50.00) cash; 7-12 people=One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) cash; 13 or greater=Two Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$250.00) cash. The reward will be paid to a current Local 965 member, (excluding all Constitutional Officers and Business Representatives of Local 965), when the determination is made by the National Labor Relations Board or the WERC to recognize Local 965 as the sole representative bargaining agent of the non-union work environment. The Local 965 Business Manager, along with the Local 965 Organizer, must approve all targets in order to qualify for a reward. The Local 965 Business Manager, along with the Local 965 Organizer, will make the determination that there was sufficient and positive work and/or assistance for the Local Union to warrant a reward to be given to the current Local 965 member.