

**LOCAL UNION 160, IBEW**  
**2909 Anthony Lane**  
**St. Anthony, MN 55418**

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## **NEWSLETTER - 189TH EDITION**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018**

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Andrew D. Kieffer - Membership Development

Rose M. Eiden - Bookkeeper

Shari L. Johnson - Office Manager

Stacy L. Helget - Secretary

Ami L. Johnson - Receptionist/Referral Clerk

# General Membership Meetings

## Our Next Union Meetings Will Be Held:

- Minneapolis:**     **February 1 & March 1, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. - St. Anthony Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane
- Becker:**           **February 15 & March 15, 2018**  
6:30 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall
- Mo Valley:**       **February 27, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.**  
St. Anthony - Union Hall  
**March 23, 2018- 7:30 p.m.**  
Grand Rapids Union Hall  
300 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids
- Great River :**     **February 8 & March 8, 2018**  
6:00 p.m. - 12423 Pine St  
Becker Union Hall

**Attention Retirees:** Next meeting dates are January 24 & February 28, 2018. So mark your calendars

The Retirees would like to welcome new members John Harris, Ken Heuer and Keith Isachsen.

Anybody that is retired from Local Union 160 may join this club for \$15.00 a year.

## LOCAL UNION 160'S ANNUAL STEWARDS TRAINING

When:           Saturday, March 3, 2018

Where:          Local 160's Union Hall  
2909 Anthony Lane  
St. Anthony, MN 55418

Time:           9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

This invitation is to all union stewards of Local 160. If you are interested in going to our Annual Stewards Training, please contact the hall at (612) 781-3126 no later than February 27, 2018.

Lunch will be served afterwards.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

All scholarship applications will become available towards the end of January 2018. If you are interested in receiving the forms please call the hall at (612) 781-3126 and they will be mailed out to you.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Ami at the same number.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In February we will be holding two orientation classes, open to **all** members. This will be a good opportunity to meet brothers/sisters outside of your work group as well as learn about our history and how your union works. The sessions are February 20, 2018 at 6:30 in the St. Anthony Hall and February 27, 2018 at 7:30 in the Grand Rapids Hall.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

In Solidarity,  
Andy Kieffer  
Membership Development Coordinator  
(612) 258-5833



### Reps Cell Phone #'s

Bob Boogren - (612) 308-5520  
Dan Kieffer - (612) 309-8640  
Jon Michels - (612) 750-3755  
Kurt Zimmerman - (612) 991-0022  
Tom Cassidy - (763) 213-3536  
Marty Carey - (612) 723-2001  
Eric Spielmann - (612) 799-3997  
Mike Ringstad - (763) 355-3755  
Andy Kieffer - (612) 258-5833

**Minneapolis Tel #** (612) 781-3126

**Minneapolis' Fax #** (612) 781-4225

### **Grand Rapids Phone Number**

Tel. # (218) 326-0533

Fax # (218) 326-0534

### **Becker Office Numbers**

Marty C.- (763) 262-1197

Eric S.- (763) 262-1198

Kurt Z. - (763) 262-1189

Fax # (763) 262-1168

**Local Union 160 web site - [www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org)**

**L.U. 160 general email address - [160@ibew160.org](mailto:160@ibew160.org)**

From the Editor, Rose M Eiden

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, & the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Local Union does not guarantee that contents of the publication are correct, & statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Local Union #160.

# *A Word or Two From Your Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

First I hope everyone of you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin the new year, Local 160 is seeing a couple of major events happening with our members.

The line clearance tree trimming on the Great Northern Transmission Line is underway. Currently, there are approximately 400 people working on that project, which includes people from Minnesota Power, Hunt Electric, Crux Subsurface and Northern Clearing. Almost all of our reps from Local 160 have gone through Minnesota Power's safety program which will allow us access to the right-of-way, enabling us to visit with our members on this project.

Next, some of our employers are making arrangements to send help to Puerto Rico to assist in the electrical restoration as a result of Hurricane Maria. Given the logistics involved, this is no small task.

With both these projects along with your everyday work, always watch out for each other and put safety first. Everyone needs to come home to their families.

Congratulations and nice job goes out to the Reps and the negotiating committees on the following Agreements that have been ratified: Agralite Cooperative (Inside & Outside), Redwood Electric, Great River Energy/Herc, North Itasca, Kandiyohi Cooperative, Willmar Municipal, City of Lake Crystal (Maintenance, Utility), City of Bricelyn, City of Rushford, East Central Energy and Lyon Lincoln.

Day-on-the-Hill will be Tuesday, March 20, 2018. If you are interested in going, please contact Ami by February 23, 2018 and we will put your name on the list. If you have never been to this event, please also leave your shirt size with Ami so we can order you a shirt.

Lastly, and I can't stress this enough, please keep in mind that any member can contact any one of the Business Reps for assistance. We are here for all of you. If you noticed on the previous page, all cell phone numbers are now listed.

In Solidarity,

Robert J. Boogren  
Office: (612) 781-3126  
Cell: (612) 308-5520  
Fax: (612) 781-4225

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## **IBEW Volunteers Begin Slow Work of Rebuilding Puerto Rico**

New York Local 3 member Lou Alvarez has seen devastation before, but nothing prepared him for what he saw when he arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, leading the first group of IBEW volunteers to arrive after Hurricane Maria made landfall two weeks before.

"The destruction was unbelievable, horrible," Alvarez said.

Huge wooden poles were snapped like toothpicks. Concrete and steel poles were ripped out of the ground, foundations still attached. Not one or two at a time either, he said. Everywhere, nearly a dozen at a time.

"I know what it takes to get things built and what it takes to destroy them. I haven't had this feeling of destruction since 9/11, but this was everywhere, for miles and miles," he said.

When a call went out from the AFL-CIO for IBEW volunteers to rebuild Puerto Rico, hundreds of IBEW members from around the country answered. The first group of 15 volunteers from New York Local 3 arrived Oct. 4, after Hurricane Maria pounded the island, shattering its already ailing electrical infrastructure.

Alvarez, a journeyman inside wireman and Local 3 executive board member, was chosen by Local 3 Business Manager Christopher Erikson, who is also International Executive Council Chairman, and Business Representative Benjamin Arana to be the group's leader.

Two days later, they were joined by a crew of 12 volunteers, two from Orland, Fla., Local 222, one from Vegas Local 357, and seven from Miami Local 349 and two from Atlanta Local 613, led by Local 349 member Sergio Mayor.

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After arriving, they dropped their gear at the Coliseo Roberto Clemente, a basketball arena in San Juan that Mayor quickly converted into a makeshift work camp, setting up rows of cots in a room behind the bleachers.

Alvarez and Mayor coordinated their work each morning with AFL-CIO group leaders and local political leaders in San Juan, Bayamon, Calmito and Levittown.

“We offered our services, said we were there to do whatever would help,” Alvarez said. “And they were happy to send us out.”

They did a little bit of everything, from repairing roofs to wiring up generators.

“An antenna array smashed one of the chillers up on the roof, and they didn’t have enough AC,” Alvarez said about the San Juan Municipal Hospital, one of the city’s public hospitals. “It was more like body and fender work than electrical work—which was pretty shoddy to begin with—so we straightened it all out and got it up and running again.”

They installed a fence at the Boys and Girls Club in Luiza. They connected two warehouses in San Juan so it could store relief supplies. They connected a generator to the teaching hospital, and every day they distributed food and water, removed downed lines, cleared debris from houses and cut down trees.

A nonprofit donated water purification systems that could treat 1,800 gallons of contaminated or sea water every day. Alvarez said the volunteers pre-wired and installed nearly a dozen in San Juan and several towns throughout the island.

The second Local 3 group, led by James Andino arrived Oct. 11, specifically tasked with getting the port back in operation. They focused first on clearing the piers, then fixing the navigation lights that help cruise ships dock and unload safely.

At the end of each long day, they returned to the Coliseo, where conditions were challenging. They only had power the first two days; at about 1 a.m. on the second day, power went out and never came back.

“That day we woke up hot, sweaty and grouchy. We were tired from the bad night’s sleep, but nobody complained,” Mayor said. “We knew there were people out there in worse conditions than us.”

While many of the volunteers had no connection to Puerto Rico, some did, and IBEW members who could not make the trip also had family that needed help. One volunteer borrowed a car from a cousin so they could get to more isolated communities. They added to their numbers when they were joined by Joseph Rufrano, a Local 3 member who happened to be in Puerto Rico before Hurricane Maria hit,

Where they could, Alvarez and Mayor said they checked in with the extended IBEW family, and when they needed help, the IBEW crew went to work.

They took portable generators and hooked them into multiple houses’ service. One woman’s house was so poorly wired, Alvarez said, that the generator wouldn’t work. They rewired the interior of her house.

Local 222 Business Manager Bill Hitt said Nelson Giboyeaux and Larry Hicks -- retired linemen who volunteered from his local -- had nearly 80 years of experience between them. They told Hitt the conditions were like nothing they’d seen.

“It was old-fashioned work. They couldn’t get heavy equipment to the jobs,” Hitt said. “If you needed a hole, you used a shovel. You needed to stand up a pole, you used a pulley and a rope.”

The scale of the catastrophe was evident everywhere, Alvarez said, but two sights stood out for him.

First were the trees. Puerto Rico is supposed to be green, but it looked like late fall,” he said. “The trees were stripped bare of their leaves. Even the palm trees only had one or two fronds left.”

And then there were the endless queues. Whether the neighborhood was poor or middle class, people waited for clean water. They waited for ice to keep food from spoiling in dark refrigerators. Men and women, old and young, American citizens who looked just like Alvarez and his family, were standing in line for basics.

A second group of Local 3 volunteers arrived five days after Mayor’s crew.

Alvarez’s crew drew heavily from members of the Santiago Iglesias Educational Society, a Local 3 Latino club. But the group included men and women with roots from across Central South America to Italy and Ireland.

The average age was near 45, Alvarez said, but there was a wireman with only two years as a journeyman and another with over 30.

“They were chosen because they were eager to go and could arrange it with only three days’ notice,” Alvarez said. “We had enough volunteers to send four more planes.”

They flew down on a donated United Airlines flight with 330 union volunteers, including members of the building trades council and dozens of nurses.

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“It’s crazy, crazy, crazy,” he said. “Imagine a place twice the size of Long Island where parts of Brooklyn and Queens have power and the rest is dark - for months and months. It’s really sad.”

Even three months after the storm passed, the need was still great. In late November, Fifth District International Vice Joe Davis and International Executive Council Member Bill Riley were asked by International President Lonnie Stephenson to coordinate the distribution of 2 tractor trailers of bottled water for the Puerto Rico Relief Mission. Mayor went back to San Juan to supervise delivery and distribution.

At Christmas, one-third of the island was still without power and many of the roads were still impassable. Officials from the bankrupt, state owned utility Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority said parts of the island will not have electrical service for four to six months.

Given the reports he has heard back, Miami Local 349 Business Manager Bill Riley said they might be optimistic.

“They told me it looked like years, not months,” said Riley, who is a member of the IEC. “With the appropriate funding, the IBEW could supply needed manpower, but we’re talking thousands of linemen working full time for a year just to get back to where they were before the storm.”

The volunteers began returning home the same way they arrived, in three stages, from Oct. 18-25.

The night before the first group left for home, all the IBEW volunteers gathered in a restaurant. The mood was high, he said, as it always is when brothers and sisters get together after days of demanding work. They shared a meal and a few drinks and a commitment to see the work finished.

## SUPER BOWL LII

As we all know February 4, 2018 is vastly approaching and the residents of Minnesota are not only getting excited about Super Bowl LII being played at U.S. Bank Stadium, but also with the thought that maybe our own Minnesota Vikings might have a great chance to be playing that day. Only time will tell. Good Luck Vikings.



Minneapolis streets closing around U.S. Bank Stadium in preparation for Super Bowl LII.

The City began the first phase of street closures around the U.S. Bank Stadium on January 2, 2018 in preparation for Super Bowl LII on Sunday, February 4.

The closures include:

- ◆ Chicago Avenue between Fourth and Sixth streets;
- ◆ Norm McGrew Place between Third and Fourth Street; and
- ◆ Fifth Street South between 11th Avenue South and the loading dock of the 511 building.

The closures will remain in effect until mid-February.

Over the past several months, the City of Minneapolis has worked closely with stakeholders, including the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee, NFL, their vendors and several other local partners to craft a traffic management plan that will enhance the Super Bowl LII experience while providing as minimum disruption to traffic and parking as possible.

Stay up-to-date on the latest information related to Super Bowl LII street closures by signing up for City traffic alerts at [minneapolismn.gov/traffic](http://minneapolismn.gov/traffic). For more City-related Super Bowl LII information [minneapolismn.gov/SuperBowl](http://minneapolismn.gov/SuperBowl). For additional travel tips for the 10-day Super Bowl festival, visit [mnsuperbowl.com/transportation](http://mnsuperbowl.com/transportation).



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**Teacher:** How old is your father?  
**Kid:** He is 6 years.  
**Teacher:** What? How is this possible?  
**Kid:** He became a father only when I was born.  
**(Logical! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)**

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**Teacher:** Maria, go to the map and find North America.  
**Maria:** Here it is.  
**Teacher:** Correct. Now, Class who discovered America?  
**Class:** Maria

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**Teacher:** Glenn, how do you spell crocodile?  
**Glenn:** K-R-O-K-D-I-A-L  
**Teacher:** No, that's wrong.  
**Glenn:** Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

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**Teacher:** Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?  
**Donald:** HIJKLMNO.  
**Teacher:** What are you talking about?  
**Donald:** Yesterday you said it's H to O.

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**Teacher:** Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?  
**Clyde:** No, sir, it's the same dog.

---

**Teacher:** Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?  
**Harold:** A teacher.

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**Kindergartener:** It was my invisible friend, not me!  
**Teacher:** Invisible friends aren't allowed at school. He'll have to leave.  
**Kindergartener:** But I don't have a car or a license, and my dad's at work.  
**Teacher:** Well then he'll have to go to the office until the end of the day.  
**Teacher:** (yes, I sent an invisible friend to the office. With a straight face.)

**LOCAL 160 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Lucas Balyeat	Billy Bendickson
Curtis Binkley	Steve Binkley
William Binkley	Timmy Bourman
Mark Butler	Matthew Carlson-Thompson
Daniel Comstock	Heath Corneliusen
Timothy Crompton	Adam Enberg
Richard Filipowski	Ryan Fink
Kyle Gibson	Donald Gustafson
Jonathan Hansen	Mark Haverland
Terry Jacobson	Amy Key
Jessie Kittleson	Cole Koisti
Luke Kranz	Jean LaCosse
Daniel Lamaack	Brian Larson
Scott Larson	Ryan Letourneau
Jose Lopez	Bradley Luecken
Alan Lundquist	Anthony Mai
Jose Martin	David Meek
Matthew Nortup	Eli Rahier
Jacob Rotert	James Schulz
Paul Skrivseth	Travis Smith
Jacob Smothers	Andrew Stoskopf
Brady Struna	TJ Swenson

**Membership Count = 3129**



***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS AND SISTER ON THEIR RETIREMENT.***

Keith Aalderks - Xcel Energy  
Timothy Adelman - Xcel Energy  
Keith Asfeld - Xcel Energy  
Charles Baune - Xcel Energy  
Lonny Burris - Xcel Energy  
Gary Caviness - Xcel Energy  
Marvin Dinville - Xcel Energy  
Walter Duncanson - Xcel Energy  
Jeffrey Faust - Xcel Energy  
Ileen Gertz - Xcel Energy  
Paul Grangroth - Xcel Energy  
John Harris - Xcel Energy



***GET WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE***

***FOLLOWING MEMBERS:***



Todd Bohnen - Xcel Energy  
James Nading - Xcel Energy  
Luke Villeneuve - Xcel Energy  
John Willman - Mo Valley



# IN MEMORIAN

*We are deeply saddened by the loss of our brothers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families & friends.*

William D. Gloede - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 11/28/17  
Raymond Hageman - Retired Mo Valley - Died 11/25/17  
Jeffrey D. Lathrop - Retired Xcel Energy - Died 1/3/18  
Curtis Lauramore - Retired Mo Valley - Died 12/14/17  
Richard J. McCormick - Retired NSP - Died 12/1/17  
Guy McGandy Jr - Retired NSP - Died 12/3/17



**Retirements continued:**

Keith Isachsen - Xcel Energy  
Douglas Knutson - Xcel Energy  
Gary Kulkay - Xcel Energy  
Stephen McMoore - Xcel Energy  
Bruce Mitchell - Mo Valley  
Trenton Nikle - Xcel Energy  
Ronald P. Olson - Xcel Energy  
Kim Potter - Connexus Energy  
Robert Quick - Xcel Energy  
Donald Rask - Xcel Energy  
Gary Rundle - Xcel Energy  
Michael Srur - Xcel Energy  
Gary Strantz - Xcel Energy  
Ron Sundeen - Xcel Energy  
Scott Trisco - Xcel Energy  
Bruce Tvedt - Xcel Energy  
Thomas Weinand - Xcel Energy  
Joe Weinzettl - Xcel Energy  
James Zindler - Xcel Energy