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- Website: www.ibew153.com
- Active Membership: 960
- Serving the IBEW Local 153 Six County Area

February 2017

THE 153 METER

Spouse Employment Form

If you did not return the **Michiana Area Electrical Workers' Health & Welfare Fund Spouse Employment Information Form** to the Fund Office in Lansing, Michigan your spouse has been dropped from the Health Insurance as of January 1, 2017. The form is available at the Union Hall or online at www.ibew153benefits.org. Once the Fund Office receives your completed form your spouse's coverage will be reinstated retroactive to January 1, 2017. You **MUST** fill out this form if you are married or not! **YES, IT COMES YEARLY!**

National Electrical Benefit Fund

NEBF
Check out your benefits online
Set up a username and password
Go to www.nebf.com/nebf/

Rebuilding Together

The work day for the Rebuilding Together Project in South Bend, Indiana is scheduled for **Saturday, April 8, 2017**. There will be a breakfast meeting to hand out work assignments and t-shirts. Lunch will be provided, as well as an "after" party. Please contact the hall to sign-up to help "Make our Community Brighter!"

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HELP * Committee Chili Cook-off

*Helping Electricians Live Properly

DATE: Saturday, February 25, 2017
TIME: 11:00am—3:00pm
PLACE: Union Hall
56475 Peppermint Road

COST: \$6.00/per person or 2/\$10
Ages 6 and under free

The HELP* Committee will be hosting their 8th Annual Chili Cook-off. Bring your chili to enter. There will be door prizes and raffles. Gather your family and friends to try the different chili recipes and vote for your favorite! Proceeds will benefit the HELP* Fund which provides assistance to members in need.

Save the Dates.....

Chili Cook-off

February 25, 2017

Rebuilding Together Trades Day
April 8, 2017

Retiree Breakfast w/Spouses

May 3, 2017 RSVP required (Please **DO NOT** call prior to March retirement breakfast)

D.A.D.'s* Day Poker Run

June 17, 2017

IBEW Night at Four Winds Field

July 14, 2017

IBEW Local 153 Picnic

August 19, 2017

Births

We will gladly list the birth of your children and grandchildren. Please contact the Union Hall with your information.

Deaths

AJ Kowalski

Retired JIW, initiated August 1, 1996
May 29, 2017 - December 18, 2016

Donald R. Egendoerfer

Retired JIW, initiated January 21, 1949
October 3, 1928 - January 1, 2017

Retiree Breakfast

DATE: March 1, 2017
PLACE: Union Hall
56475 Peppermint Road
South Bend, IN 46619
TIME: 9:00A.M.
Call the Hall to make your reservation
At 574-287-8655 or 800-986-1054.

We hope to see you there!

Congratulations to Our Recent Retirees

- Thomas Scheibelhut

URGENT: Information Update

Please keep your personal information up to date with the Union Hall, including your home and cell phone numbers, mailing address, and email and "in case of emergency contacts." You may call the hall or email your information to mhan@ibew153.com

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The IBEW will be marching again this year in the South Bend St. Patrick's Day Parade on **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. We hope to have a very large turnout to show the community that we are more than bill boards and TV commercials, we are workers and families. Please contact Mike Leda or Stan Miles at the Hall for more information.

SBA* QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*Supplemental Benefit Account

CLAIM FORM:

You may access the web site www.ibew153benefits.org –click on Health, then forms, then Supplemental Benefit Account Reimbursement Form or you may contact the Local Hall or Fund Office for forms. **You must include this form with all claims. The Form authorizes the Fund Office to remove money from your account to reimburse you your out of pocket costs.** Your form(s) and claim(s) can be mailed or brought into the Union Hall to be submitted to the Fund Office. Claims received by FAX at the Fund Office will be denied. You do not need to send the originals only copies, unless otherwise requested.

WHAT DO I NEED TO SEND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES?

The best source of information on all medical claim reimbursements is the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) . The EOB shows the date of service, break-down of charges, provider name and discount, deductible and member liability. You will be reimbursed for the patient's responsibility amount.

WHAT DO I NEED TO SEND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF PRESCRIPTION EXPENSES?

There are two very good sources of information. The first is the pharmacy receipt showing the date the prescription was filled, the pharmacy and patient's name along with the name of the prescription drug dispensed and your co-payment. The second is a computer printout from the pharmacy, which will have all the information needed to process your claim.

WHAT DO I NEED TO SEND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF DENTAL/OPTICAL EXPENSES?

The best source of information is called a walk-out statement. This statement will have the provider name, date of service, patient name and a break-down of charges. If you have other dental/optical insurance that pays first, the Fund Office will need a copy of the Explanation of Benefits you receive from the insurance company. Most dental/optical providers ledgers do not show the provider discount or write-off on the ledger nor do they match up the charges with the insurance payments.

HOW DO I USE MY SBA FOR SELF-PAYMENTS TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY IN THE HEALTH & WELFARE?

You will need to attach the payment stub from your self-payment slip to a reimbursement form. The payment will be deducted from your account and you will receive the explanation of benefits when your payment is posted as proof of payment.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

Bill Haase

As I sit here in the kitchen at home trying to think of something that might be of interest to you, it is 50 degrees outside in January. If this is how the beginning of the year begins, I wonder what the remaining months and days of 2017 will bring. A new President of the United States has been sworn in, and for the Labor movement that brings uncertainty. The new president has the capacity with the stoke of a pen to eliminate Project Labor Agreements on Federal projects. These PLA's do not affect us as much here in our Local Union but if we had a large Federal project it would. Will the new administration push for the elimination of Davis/ Bacon for Federal projects? Davis/Bacon is a prevailing rate used for Federal construction projects. Contact your congressional delegation and tell them to keep Davis/ Bacon. How will our Health Care be affected, will Pension reform for Multi-employer plans such as ours be affected and will the new President support a national right to work movement (hope not)? These are all questions that will be answered over the next four years. If you agree or disagree with what is happening at the State and National level, get involved. Just being on Facebook will not bring change.

At the December/Christmas meeting the body voted to move forward in getting prints drawn up for the exterior upgrades to our building. These proposed upgrades will change the entrance to the building making it easier to access for a meeting and also to re-skin the exterior to make

it look more like an office building. Drawings are at the Hall for anyone to review, stop in and take a look. Another vote of the body will be needed to proceed to the bidding and actual awarding stage (we hope to begin this summer). Speaking of the December meeting many members were left out in the cold trying to check in for the meeting, we apologize for this. Hopefully a smoother entrance to the inside will be available with the upgrades, if not it will be addressed for those meetings where the numbers of members attending are greater than for a regular Union meeting. Close to 180 members attended the December meeting, this could be a record!

On the jobs front 153 still has about 150 travelers working and we thank them and their locals for helping us out. DC Cook completed an 89 day outage and the next one will be this fall, it will also be longer in duration than normal outages. The Niles InDeck gas fired power house has obtained their air quality permit and is moving forward for a late summer/autumn start. The Notre Dame Stadium project has probably completed hiring but the campus is still going strong with other projects that will need to be manned up. St Joseph Energy Center continues to hire and the Four Winds South Bend casino will start hiring more soon. Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph will take off shortly also as will many school projects in Indiana and Michigan. And don't forget our bread and butter jobs that are manned locally. North American Sign continues to have a strong production schedule and 153 will soon begin negotiations with Burkhart Sign and Advertising. Should you work for Burkhart, get your contract suggestions to the Steward or contact the Hall.

There are currently several members that need your prayers for

significant illnesses they are battling. I won't name them here but if you know them I'm sure they would like to have a card or a visit from you. The H&W Trustees are currently looking at ways to fund retiree health care, as this develops we will keep you informed. I hope all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Stay informed, stay healthy, work safe and see you at the next Union Meeting. Chili Cook Off is February 25th at the Hall.

Bill Haase

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

Stan Miles

Brothers and Sisters,

The work picture continues to be strong. With that, we are increasing our hours worked into our trust funds. We are depending on the markets to be strong for our Pension and Money Purchase Plans.

LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE

Our Health and Welfare fund seems to be increasing however the trustees are monitoring it monthly. Humana will be present at the May 3, 2017 Retiree's Breakfast at 9:00 am to answer questions. You can bring your spouse however when you RSVP let us know if he/she will be attending. There are several things we are keeping an eye on such as: increased contributions, the healthiness of our participants including members and their dependents, and how much are we subsidizing current and future retirees. I would like to talk about our current retirees and then about future retirees. The trustees are aware of our current retirees. We know that some retirees were around before we had a Local Union Pension plan and therefore may have limited funds available. With that in mind, we discuss how things affect that group on a regular basis. Now let's talk

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT cont

Stan Miles

about future retirees and their Health Insurance. The Health and Welfare trustees have been having special called trust fund meetings to discuss subsidizing future retirees. We are currently reviewing IBEW 697's Plan "P" and are working with an Actuary. This could be used as a guide as we move forward. The trustees are aware that something has to be done. This Health & Welfare Subsidy Plan will help our current active worker population as they move into retirement. I know this process is in its infancy but we want you to be aware that something has to be done to maintain the plan. At this time, there are more questions than answers that the trustees are asking. We are trying to decide how to figure out service credits for active participation in the plan. Stay tuned for information as we move toward a solution.

There are other things happening with our Health & Welfare plan. On January 1, 2017 the trustees instituted Prior Authorization for scheduled in-patient hospital stays. **This DOES NOT apply to Humana (Medicare) retirees!!** If you or your dependents use our Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield card, this does apply. All active participant received letters from our third party administrator TIC (required by Law) and also from BeneSys with your new Anthem cards. You should have received new cards near the end of last December. If you are unsure if you have the correct cards, then you should look at the back of your card. The bottom phone number on the right hand side of your card should be Hines and Associates Pre-Certification. Again, this applies to scheduled in-patient hospital stays.

Applying for reimbursement from your SBA should be easy. You can

download the paperwork from the Benefits website under Health and then Forms. We also have them available at the office. You can check out how much you have in your SBA by accessing through your login at the Benefits website. We ask that you don't highlight any information on the receipts as that has been known to affect the paperwork when copies are made. Also, some of the data highlighted has been the wrong information. Your help would be appreciated.

Future events are coming so mark your calendars and hope to see you there.

Chili Cook-Off
February 25, 2017

Rebuilding Together Trades Day
April 8, 2017

Retiree Breakfast w/Spouses
May 3, 2017 RSVP required

IBEW Night at the Cove
July 14, 2017

There are other things that will be coming up later in the year so watch your newsletter and hope to see you there.

In Solidarity,
Stan Miles

PRESIDENT'S/ BUSINESS AGENT REPORT

Mike Leda

Members

It's hard to believe that January 2017, is already come and gone. With this New Year, the local has made some changes to the trustees of the Pension fund. The Trustees for the fund are now Eric Grounds, Bill Haase, Rich Erickson, and Michael Leda. Many thanks go out for the years of service to Larry Emrick and Mark

Ruppert for the amount of time they have put in to this fund.

Pension forms will be coming out soon to those receiving a pension, for pension validation. This is something that is required every year. These forms must be filled out! Bring them to the Hall for us to sign and send in or they must be notarized and sent in. Do not send to us, we must see you before we sign the document!

In Stan's newsletter, Stan explained what the Health and Welfare trustees have been working on. An actual way to provide a pre-funding source for retiree's health insurance. These future changes are being carefully studied and looked at. The trustees have been meeting and working with an Actuary (number cruncher) several times to try to come up with a plan that works best for everyone. Of course, there will be a cost to this plan, nothing is free. This is what must be done to keep the Health and Welfare plans moving forward. Details of the plan will be discussed at the February Union meeting.

When talking with someone from Humana, Hines, TIC, and BeneSys always remember to write down who you were talking to, the date and the time. Also, write down what you talked about. This is important in case there is an issue with a claim or prescription, this is what we at the office need to help you with a problem.

It's a good practice in general that after a day's work write down where you worked, what you did, how many hours and job numbers. Do this when you leave the job site and get in your vehicle. You never know when this information will come in handy.

In the coming year, I plan to start a RENEW committee. What is RENEW? RENEW(Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers) is an IBEW-wide initiative

PRESIDENT'S /BUSINESS AGENT REPORT cont

dedicated to creating opportunities for members ages 35 and younger to develop the skills necessary to become active in the Union and play a role in shaping its future. This committee will set its own goals based on the needs of the Local Union and interest of its members. Greater involvement by local members of all ages is critical to the growth of the Local and IBEW.

There are many events this year for everyone to enjoy and get involved in, please mark them down on your calendar.

Also check the JATC website for upcoming classes that they have scheduled, you can get their link from our website to the JATC's home page.

Work Safe

Michael Leda

TRAINING COORDINATOR Steve Egyed

The SBJATC has adopted a new monthly apprentice & CW evaluation. This one has only 10 factors, but has a 1 to 5 scale for rating. It includes definitions for each selection, that should make it easier for the evaluator.

We are asking the contractors to also fill out the performance evaluation every time an apprentice or CW is laid off.

I would like to personally thank two trustees that are moving on:

Daryl Pendergrass was on the committee for nearly 20 years. His understanding of apprenticeship in the Michigan market will be missed. Take the time and enjoy your grandkids, you deserve it.

Bill Haase was able to balance the needs of the school and his responsibilities to the Union, better than anyone.

Both of these guys are true "Problem Solvers" and have helped me a great deal.

Steve~

Quote of the Month

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

Colin Powell

Things You Should Know

The SBJATC has opened up our monthly 1st AID & CPR training to include members immediate families and all contractors office staff. There is NO cost for taking the classes and no extra burden to the school, because we are already putting the class on. Most importantly, the more people who have these lifesaving skills the better off we all are! Call, reserve your seat, and bring your spouse down to the training center.

Course Title & Dates

CPR/ 1 st Aid	2 nd Tues. &Thurs. 5:30 PM
OSHA 10 Hour	email for online voucher
OSHA 30	Fall 2017
BICSI	Spring 2017
Trouble Shooting	In development
ICRA	February 2017
Rigging & Lifting	May 1 st

Call 574-233-1721 to reserve your seat. Some classes are limited in size.

For other classes visit: JATC153.com

MICHIGAN LICENSE CALLS

As in the past and as we look forward to 2017 Michigan License calls have been extremely difficult to fill. Several upcoming projects in Michigan will require a Michigan License.

The State of Michigan will allow an Electrician to register as a Registered Apprentice if they can provide proof of a Department of Labor Certificate of Completion Certificate of an Electrical Apprenticeship. The Contractor's Master Electrician will need to sign the application to become a registered apprentice and then send a copy of the completed application to the State of Michigan.

Beginning January 1st 2017 Michigan Licensed calls will go on our recorder to give any Michigan Licensed Journeyman the opportunity to utilize their license, if the call should go unfilled the call will then be reworded to say "Proof of a Michigan Journeyman's License or must have Proof of a DoL Certificate of Completion of an Electrical Apprenticeship" You will need to show the Hall this proof when picking up the referral.

Tax Information

Your 1095 will come in the mail from TIC. Unless you work at Burkhart or North American Sign, then they will come from your HR Departments. This form verifies your Family's health insurance coverage and will need to be filed with your 2016 taxes.

TECH CORNER

JIM OVERMYER

In today's industrial world, the DC motor is starting to be replaced by its AC counterpart. DC motors are still out there in large numbers and we need to understand how they operate. These machines offer the most torque when compared to an AC machine of the same horsepower and provide it in a much smaller package. This fact along with speed control off of zero rpm up to base speed will keep the DC machine in service for many years. One of the most important factors for good performance in the DC motor is good commutation. Commutation is the point when the brush shorts two or more segments of the commutator and offers a low resistance path for the armature reactance (CEMF) induced in the armature coils. If there is any CEMF in the coil that is being commutated, a purple haze will erupt at the brush/comm contact point, the segments being commutated. Let's back up a little and use a shunt type motor to explain armature reactance and what it takes to control it for good commutation. DC machines operate under the magnetic law that "Like Poles Repel", so as the armature coils are supplied with a DC current in a direction that produces the same polarity as the main field, the armature will rotate and provide a tremendous twisting ability known as torque. On a two pole machine, approximately 66% of the armature windings are under the main poles at all times. This influence is the torque maker, and appears as soon as the armature starts to rotate. As the coils in the slots are rotated due to the magnetic law of like poles repel, we find that the 3 factors that are needed for induction are met at the same time and a current in the opposite direction is induced in that winding. This opposite current produces an unlike pole in the armature at the same time, which is attracted to the main field poles and opposes rotation. If given a path to flow when the source voltage is removed, this unlike pole will stop the armature quickly and is labeled "Dynamic Braking". This EMF is a counter voltage and can be calculated by first finding the IR drop across the armature and then subtracting it from the source voltage. A 10 hp 240 volt armature with a lap winding has a resistance of .06Ω and will draw 38 amps at full load. It is easy to find the IR or voltage drop across the armature using the Ohm's law formula of $E=IR$, or $E=.06 \times 38$. This then tells us that the armature only sees 2.28 volts across the coils at this power setting. Subtract the 2.28 volts dropped across the armature from the source of 240 volts, and we have the CEMF or armature reactance of 237.72 volts that opposes the source and limits the circuit current. The unlike pole that is produced due to this CEMF opposes rotation and allows us to control the speed of this machine. This opposition is critical in keeping the armature from "Running Away". Try to picture just 2 segments with a coil connected between them. If the brush connects both of these segments together when the coil is energized with this CEMF, erosion of the brush and commutator surface will result from the short circuit current with no limit. Remember that this brush is supplying the armature windings from the source power and at the same time can provide a short circuit for the induced current in that winding. Enter the "Interpole", a winding in series with the armature circuit whose job it is to remove the induced CEMF just in time to commutate. The fact that the interpoles are in series with the armature makes them self regulating, so the more armature current, the stronger the interpole. This allows the interpoles to cancel the now unwanted CEMF at the time we are going to short the winding. This interpole polarity is the same as the main field that preceded it in a motor and the same polarity as the main pole that follows it in a generator. Here we go, the main field pole is a south pole on one side of the field frame. The armature has a like pole and causes the armature to rotate. As the coil is rotated in the main south pole, a north unlike pole is induced opposing rotation. As the coil rotates into the interpole flux which is a south pole, the lines of flux of opposite polarities that are trying to occupy the same space will cancel and wala, no CEMF in that coil. If this CEMF was not eliminated, it would cause sparking and ruin our machine. This canceling of the flux is just what it is, no collapsing of the field, we just wipe it out line by line or else another EMF would be induced by the collapsing flux. Most techs have the tendency to "stone the com", or bring the segments back to a new copper color by applying a polishing stone to the com. This is done as the motor rotates, and far too many commutators have their life shortened by some dodo with a stone. This should never be done unless the com has been damaged. Short brush length, weak spring pressure, a worn brush with a shunt riding on the com can damage the machine and require stoning to repair the surface. This is the only time we do this, as removing the film on the com reduces the ability of the brush to apply the source to the com. Not to be confused with a seating stone used to wear a new set of brushes to the com, which is part of the replacement procedure.

JimmyO

February & March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00am ION 4:30pm-6:30pm Open House 5:00pm JATC Interviews	3	4
5	6 10:00am Building Trades	7 1:30pm LMCC	8 4:30pm HELP 7:00pm South Central CLC	9 4:30pm Exec Bd Mtg	10	11
12	13	14 9:00am SWMI Building Trades 4:30pm EIA 5:30pm First Aid @ JATC	15	16 9:30am MBOSS 4:30pm COPE 5:30pm CPR @ JATC	17	18
19	20 10:00am Building Trades	21	22 5:30pm Exam Board Mtg	23 7:00pm UNION MEETING	24	25 11:00am Chili Cook off @ Union Hall
26	27 6:00pm JATC meeting	28 Last Day to Pay March's Union Dues Without Being Late				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Retiree Breakfast @ Union Hall 	2 10:00am ION 4:30pm—6:30pm Open House 5:00pm JATC Interviews	3	4
5	6 10:00am Building Trades	7	8 4:30pm HELP 7:00pm South Central CLC	9 4:30pm Exec Bd Mtg	10	11
12	13	14 9:00am SWMI Building Trades 4:30pm EIA 5:30pm First Aid @ JATC	15	16 9:30am MBOSS 4:30pm COPE 5:30pm CPR @ JATC	17	18
19	20 10:00am Building Trades	21	22 5:30pm Exam Board	23 7:00pm UNION MEETING	24	25
26	27 6:00pm JATC meeting	28	29	30	31 Last Day to Pay April's Union Dues Without Being Late	



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

