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- Telephone: 574-287-8655 Fax: 574-233-5234
- Website: [www.ibew153.com](http://www.ibew153.com)
- Active Membership: 1062
- Serving the IBEW Local 153 Six County Area

**February 2018**

# 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, 2018. The form is available at the Union Hall or online at [www.ibew153benefits.org](http://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!**

## Retiree Breakfast w/Spouses

May 2, 2018 RSVP required (Please **DO NOT** call prior to March retirement breakfast) Humana will be here to answer questions for those that have them. They will not be doing a formal presentation. It is very important that we know how many will be attending to properly prepare for the amount of food that will be required. With that being said, **please call on or before April 24<sup>th</sup>**. There will be no Anthem reps here for anyone under 65. This means you have to be on Medicare.

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## HELP \* Committee Chili Cook-off

\*Helping Electricians Live Properly

DATE: Saturday, February 24, 2018

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.

## WANTED...CONTRACT PROPOSALS

The INSIDE Collective Bargaining Agreement is once again up for negotiations in early Spring 2018.

Send any ideas & proposals in writing to the Hall for consideration by the Labor side of the Labor Management Committee. Please email submissions to [smiles@ibew153.com](mailto:smiles@ibew153.com) or [mleda@ibew153.com](mailto:mleda@ibew153.com) put "Contract proposal" in the subject line. Or fax them to 574-233-5234.

## Rebuilding Together

The work day for the Rebuilding Together Project in South Bend, Indiana is scheduled for **Saturday, April 7, 2018**. 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!"

## Births

### Micah & Jennifer Williams

Son, born December 23, 2017  
His name is Blaze Micah  
Weight: 7 IL 12 oz  
Length: 19 inches

### Stan & Susan Miles II

Son, born Decmber 29, 2017  
His name is Stanley Bruce III  
Weight: 8lbs 13oz  
Length: 21 inches

### Dylan Barrier & Holly Caparell

Son, born December 30, 2017  
His name is Ashton Orion  
Weight: 8 lbs 10 oz  
Length: 20 inches

### Aaron & Jessica Williams

Daughter, born January 8, 2018  
Her name is Brynnelea Ann  
Weight: 6 lbs 11 oz  
Length: 20.5 inches

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

## Deaths

### David Carper

JIW, initiated October 19, 2009  
March 26, 1961 - November 23, 2017

## Retiree Breakfast

DATE: March 7, 2018  
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

- ◆ Rick Miller
- ◆ Jeffrey Berg
- ◆ Roger Mutti

## 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 17, 2018**. 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.

## URGENT: Information Update

We are gathering cell phone numbers and emails for a new mass texting/email software upgrade. If you would like to be notified via either of these, please call the Hall or email us at [mhan@ibew153.com](mailto:mhan@ibew153.com). We have a lot of obsolete information (old land lines, old emails, old cell phone numbers) in our system right now, so please be sure to update us even if you think we have your information already.

## LEGAL BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR IBEW 153

IBEW 153 dues paying and retired members and their families will now get access to a new Legal Benefit Program automatically - no enrollment forms or fees required. Beginning in June all IBEW 153 members, current and paid up on dues, and retirees will have the availability to take part in a free 30-minute legal consultation at the Union Hall every first Thursday from hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required at least three days prior to the open consultation day and is done by contacting attorney Troy Warner at the contact information listed below. Consultations can also be scheduled at other times and to be held at the office of Warner Legal Services by setting up a time with attorney Warner.

WARNER LEGAL SERVICES, L.L.C.

110 South Taylor  
South Bend, IN 46601  
Office: 574-289-7112  
Texts: 574-400-5884  
[Troywarner.law@gamil.com](mailto:Troywarner.law@gamil.com)

## Merrill Lynch Seminar

A Money Purchase Plan Seminar will be held at the Union Hall on Tuesday, April 17th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. This Seminar will instruct you on how to access and navigate the Merrill Lynch Online site as well as the TIC/153 Benefits website. A representative of Merrill Lynch will be on hand to help with investment questions and options. Please call the Hall to sign up 800-986-1054 or email Marisa at [mhan@ibew153.com](mailto:mhan@ibew153.com). **This class requires you to bring a laptop.**

## 2018 Membership Dues

'A' Membership Dues.....\$38.00 per month. Please change your Bill Pay. *When Union Dues are delinquent, your Death Benefit from the International Pension is not in effect.*

## BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

### Bill Haase

Doesn't it sound odd saying 2018? When I was a kid and we dreamed what might lie ahead in the far off year 2000 I thought if I made it I would be considered ancient. Eighteen years later and we have kept moving forward. IBEW 153 will be 105 years old in April 2019, seems like yesterday we were celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> at the Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo. When I came into the Local, dues were if I remember correctly \$8.50 per month and working dues were a resounding 1% of gross and you paid it all monthly at the Hall or in my case at a Unit#1 meeting. There was no deduct from your weekly pay check. Information was distributed by attending monthly meetings and talking amongst ourselves either on the job or at a function of the Local Union. It would be another 10 years or so before there was any semblance of a Newsletter, which if I recall was every 3-6 months before the next issue. A website was started about 20 years after the newsletter began. Forty years ago messages were left with the Secretary and returned when the agent returned to the office and there were no answering machines at our homes. Now we have email, texts and if you leave a message on my office land line phone I get an email on my cellphone that I can choose to respond to immediately. Technology has changed and we have to change with it. Although it may appear that we move a little slowly at times we are trying. Paying dues online will be coming soon as well as bidding on jobs if you are on the out of work list. All it takes is money and training. For the convenience of not coming to see us at the Hall, it will exceed \$3,000 a year in dues money plus a setup fee. Free opinions are now at our fingertips; check out our Survey Monkey questionnaire by going to our website for the upcoming Inside negotiations.

The building renovation is moving along nicely and with this winter so far it's not going as fast as we thought it would. For now the main entrance is on the north side of the building and hopefully in a month the east side will be ready to assume as being the main entrance. I have heard several comments about this renovation, some good and some bad. This is our building, the location seems to work better for our members and the travelers that need to sign our Book II. The attendance is up at all General Membership meetings since we moved in June of 2014. The scheduling of events at our Hall is easier because there are no other Trades that share the building. Merrill Lynch training, officer training, EIA meetings, COPE meetings, ReNew meetings, HELP Committee events and special called meetings are now available anytime we set them at our Hall. As the progress continues on the Hall, now and in the future,

consideration must be given to making it easier to maintain and to heat and cool the building. We are a part of the Michiana area and we need to be and look the part. We will present our Union with dignity when we have politicians coming to our COPE meetings. We ask that you present yourself as a professional while on the job while at the same time we have a Union Hall that is a place for professionals to gather and share thoughts.

Upcoming negotiations include the Inside and Burkhart Sign agreements. The ESCO agreement negotiations are complete. I want to thank the agents and staff here in the Hall for their help in sharing the duties that are needed in running the office.

The Union meetings are still the fourth Thursday of the month and will remain there until November. We hope to see you at the meetings as well as the upcoming HELP Committees Chili Cook Off on February 24th.

In Solidarity,

Bill Haase

### **ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT - Stan Miles**

Brothers and Sisters,

Well 2018 is off and running. Work has slowed a little unless you want to work at D.C. Cook. By the time you read this article most of the calls will have been filled for Cook. The work outlook going into the spring does look good as there are many projects that continue to be forecasted. From the Niles power plant to the additional work at the new Four Winds Casino. Also, Notre Dame has continued to grow with new projects forecasted into the next 5-10 years.

Contract negotiations will begin soon for the Inside contract. If you haven't already, please take the survey monkey for input into the upcoming negotiations. You can get to the survey via our web page. Another way is to have your e-mail address registered with the Union Hall so we can get information directly to you. We need your contract proposals to the hall as soon as possible. It would help if you label your proposal with the current Article/Section number. The ESCO Agreement has been settled with a 3 year contract. They will have a raise of 7.76% during the duration of the contract. Congratulations to our ESCO workers.

The Health & Welfare Trust has sent out its Annual Spouse Employment Form. It originally went out the second week of September and the second notice went out the first week of November. Also, there was a third notice that was sent. It looks like a lot of postage was spent on these notices. It would be nice if we turned them in the first time. If you have

## ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT cont

Stan Miles

medical coverage through our Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Anthem plan, please help us help you. Our Spouse Employment forms are due **every year**. As of this writing, we have only had about **69%** of the forms returned. If your Spouse Employment form was not returned, your spouse was dropped from coverage on January 1, 2018. This **does not** apply to our Humana retirees or those who are new to our membership after May 1, 2017. It's always easier to do the form when it's due rather than later. It could impact your spouse's claims whether it's a prescription issue or regular medical claim.

Plan 4 is our latest fund that was created to help with subsidizing retiree health insurance premiums. It is schedule to go into effect on January 1, 2019. The final service credits are being calculated. Remember the more years you work and are in our Health insurance plan the larger your subsidy will be.

The Union Hall renovation has begun. Please bear with us as we work through this process. We will continue to use the north door until the new entry way is built. The dock that was on the north side of the building is now gone and has been filled in and topped off with asphalt.

Upcoming Events include:

February Union Meeting:	February 22, 2018
Chili Cook-Off:	February 24, 2018
March Union Meeting:	March 22, 2018
Rebuilding Together:	April 8, 2018

In Solidarity

Stan Miles

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Mike Leda**

With the start of the new year the search for the apprenticeship trustee is now over. Chris Wilson was selected. With many candidates applying it was a tough decision and I would like to thank those who showed an interest in filling that position.

That being said here is a brief explanation of some committees that can use some help.

EIA-meets once every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm for one half to one hour Committee works on advertising with a marketing consultant, t-shirts, sweatshirts, donations and team sponsorship's.

COPE meets once every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday when required

at 4:30pm for an hour to one and one half hour Committee meets with candidates running for office, attends some functions, and decides on distributions.

HELP committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm for an hour. Committee runs events like Chili Cook Off, Breakfast with Santa, etc. and helps members in need

RENEW meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 5:00 pm. This is a new committee for members under 35 years of age. To develop the skills necessary to become active in the Union and play a role in its future. Some of which is to organize after work functions, such as food drives, family events, etc.

Health and Welfare Trustee- meets quarterly This Trust Fund deals with monies, policies, appeals etc. Training will be required

If you are interested in joining anyone these committees please contact me. The committees are a vital part in the continued operation of our local, and more involvement is needed!

The first event RENEW is having is at the Chili Cook Off on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. They are having a bean bag tournament with the cost of entry being a nonperishable food item.

Trust funds will be meeting at the end of February. Hopefully your yearly spousal form from TIC is turned in and remember your health insurance deductibles start over. For the retirees, their yearly TIC pension form will be coming out soon.

In recruiting news Bob and I are working on an Industry Night for May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Century Center. This is for a giant recruitment night to organize workers. Also, if you're out and see a job site, or a non-union contractor working in our local, make sure to call and let us know. Bob and I cannot be every where all the time, and calls from members really help us out.

Inside and Burkhart contract talks will be starting soon, so it is not to late to get your contract ideas to the Hall.

Michael Leda

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Bob Banaszak**

Greetings brothers and sisters,

I hope all is well with you and your family. As to what I have been working on; besides normal organizer activities. I have been working on an Industry Night, which we partner with our signatory contractors to hold a job fair for

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT cont

### Bob Banaszak

unrepresented electricians, and future electricians only. It is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>, so it's a way off but there is a fair amount to do. Mike and I participated in a job fair at U.P. mall since my last article. To which we spoke with several people but most were apprentice level applicants. Mike and I also spent a cold snowy day hand billing Spectrum in support of our brothers and sisters having trouble at the bargaining table in local 3. I also rode up with Stan to Lansing to fight for prevailing wage in Michigan. Where it is under attack. As it turns out, the first petition sampling didn't produce enough signatures. So, a new larger sampling is being tested. After the results of ABC's appeal. We may be calling on members to help us acquire signatures on a petition of our own to get the prevailing wage law on the ballot. If each member of the Michigan building trades can get 4 signatures we can accomplish this. Many hands making light of heavy work in action here.

I would like to start with a little recruiting from within. Simply stated treat each other as you would like to be treated if the roles were reversed. It is disheartening to hear stories of members being treated poorly, or judgement was passed before they arrived on the jobsite. We have to remember that we have no idea what a member is going through in their life. So, we can't take their actions personal. Life often times weigh heavy on us, and with the speed and stress of performing quality work at a productive rate. Causes some to behave poorly. So, what am I getting at? That this job will be different, that everything will go smooth. How do we do that? We do not attack someone's character before they make it to the jobsite. Everyone deserves a fresh chance. Everyone deserves to make a job what it can be. You could get to know someone. Take that person in question and make them your tool buddy, I guarantee you'll have lots in common and maybe a fresh perspective on many issues surrounding us today.

And if there are still issues. Use the systems in place by the agreements, bylaws, and constitution that we operate under to address them.

If we can all work together treat each other fairly, let bygone be bygones, and treat each other how we want to be treated. The sky is the limit for what we can all achieve together!

In solidarity

Bob Banaszak

## TRAINING COORDINATOR

### Steve Egyed

The following people have a diploma, certificate, and/or awards at the SBJATC. Stop by anytime to pick them up.

Scott Applegate, Matt Broglin, Jacob Carter, Anthony Cenkush, Joe Choquette, Joe Ciesielski, Joe L. Clark, Kyle Cline, Mike Cook,, Thomas Decloedt, Dan Gearhart, Wade Grubbs, Jon Haddock, Joe Hannah, Andrew Hardy, Tim Hartz, Tim Hein, James Helmke, Josh Hernan, Jacob Hill, Bradley Huntman, Raymond Ivers, Kyle Kauffman, Chris King, Erich Klank, Jacob Korenstra, Paul Krause, Darin Leeper, Jacob Merrill, Jeremy Merrill, Connie Moon, Curtis Morey, Andrew Moubray Jeff Nihart, Stacy Noland, Tom Panting, Nick Peterson, Kendall Pickens, Jason Piontek, Bridney Radley, Mike Ryan, Geroge Salvador, Andrew Shank, Brett Shearer, David Sirk, Josh Smith, Justin Smith, Tim Spurr, Kenny Talboom, Jesse Upham, Anthony Vitale, John Walz, Dustin Zultanski.

## Things You Should Know

The Apprenticeship Committee has authorized the construction of an 8100 sq.ft. pole building, This building will be for storage and hands-on training. Right now the apprentices are only spending about 18% of class time doing hands-on training. With the LMS and this building we hope to increase the hands-on labs to 35% of the time they spend at the apprenticeship school. We all know that people learn best by doing. If you get a chance please thank the Trustees: Mike Taff, Don Lode, Derrick Amberg, Jennifer Brown, Tye Noland, John Taylor, Chris Wilson, and Mike Leda.

I would like to thank Robert Klein for his years of service as a trustee. He is now helping us as an instructor. I would also like to welcome Chris Wilson to the committee. I am sorry to say "Happy Retirement" to Roger Mutti. Roger has helped this apprenticeship school in so many ways, I couldn't list them all. I must say "Thanks and Safe Travels"

## Course Title & Dates

CPR/ 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. & Thurs. 5:30 PM
OSHA 10 Hour	email for online voucher
OSHA 30	Fall 2018
BICSI	Spring 2018
Trouble Shooting	In development
ICRA	February 19th & 21st 2018
EVITP	Spring 2018

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

For other classes visit: JATC153.com

## TECH CORNER

### JIM OVERMYER

This time it's something we use and depend on daily, the lead acid storage cell. This device is a mystery to most, as the charging of the battery is accomplished by current flow through the electrolyte and the plates. When constructed, the posts on the battery are marked with a + or —, which dictates the direction of current flow through the electrolyte. The polarity can be reversed by merely putting the positive lead from a charger onto the negative post and vice versa. Early in my mechanical career I had a 62 Ford come in that had some problems and a dead battery. I repaired the problems and recharged the battery. Everything was cool until the customer came back a few days later and said the car ran better than it ever had, but now the radio didn't work. He said the radio was fine when it quit, so what happened that would make the radio inoperative? I checked it out and was baffled by the radio. After some time, I noticed that the battery had a positive ground. Ford, to my knowledge was the last to change to a negative ground in their automobiles. I pulled the lights on and let it set for a few hours until it was completely dead and recharged the battery in the opposite polarity. Ford was using tube type radios at the time, so the old tubes in the radio refused to conduct with the wrong polarity. Wala, when recharged the radio came on loud and clear and away they went. Back to the battery. Like many electrical devices where energy is converted from one source to another, the battery does the same. When charging, electrical energy is converted to chemical energy, and stored depending on the content of the sulfuric acid that has been made by the process of electrolysis. When providing energy to the loads, the chemical energy is converted back to electrical energy, and will do so until the electrolyte is reduced to water. Check this out. When the battery is assembled, it has a series of plates that are connected to the posts. Every other plate has either a positive or negative link to it's post of the same polarity. The plates (also known as electrodes) are made of lead sulfate and are identical for both polarities. When the electrolyte is poured into the cells, it is mostly distilled water with a small content of sulfuric acid mixed in. In order for the battery to provide power, it must have a series of plates of dissimilar metals. The charging process will take care of that, as the current flowing through the electrolyte, (a process called electrolysis), will convert both sets of plates to dissimilar lead electrodes. As the current flows through the mix, the water electrolyte breaks down and starts chemical reactions. This reaction causes the negative plates to become spongy lead and the positive plates to become lead peroxide along with the water being converted to sulfuric acid. Water has a density of 1, where a fully charged battery has a mix of water and acid and has a density of 1.285. When testing the electrolyte for it's level of charge, the hydrometer will float some or all of the little colored balls telling the viewer just how the battery is charged. The denser the electrolyte, the more balls that float to the surface. Each ball has a different weight, so the lighter float first when the fluid is partially charged, on up to all floating at fully charged. The automatic float chargers stop charging when the fluid has the correct ratio of acid to water and has the density of 1.285. Overcharging with a standard charger can and will damage the plates and change the electrolyte to both Hydrogen gas and Oxygen gas. The high concentrate of acid as the result of this will damage the plates and ruin the battery. This can be an explosive issue, as the gas can explode and blow the battery apart with ease. On a cold morning, I climbed into my service van and hit the starter as I did each day to head to the shop or job I was assigned to. I thought some of my friends had placed one of those devices that you connect to the spark plug wire to explode when the ignition hits that plug. The truck shook and when I opened the door, I noticed the dome light was very dim. When I opened the hood, the top of the battery was blown off and acid was all over the place. I carried buckets of water out to the truck to wash the acid down and called in to report my absence. A trip to maintenance to pick up a new battery and I was back on the road. If someone had been standing there, I have no doubt they would have been injured. Hydrogen gas is very volatile and should be avoided at all costs. When installing jumper cables to start someone's vehicle, always place the cables with the ground installed on a metallic part of the engine so as to keep the connection away from the battery. Remember that the discharged battery will give off the gas as the parallel connection of two batteries and the alternators of today's vehicles can easily put over 100 amps into the circuit easily. This will breakdown the electrolyte and make the deadly gas to blow up in your face. Remove the cables from the running vehicle that was used to start the dead one first. Remember to be safe, even when performing simple tasks such as jump starting someone's car with your vehicle. Technology has gained many steps to keep the gases from exiting the cells with the sealed batteries we purchase today, but practicing safe procedures will always pay off.

JimmyO

## February & March 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00am-4:00pm ION	2	3
4	5 10:00am Build- ing Trades	6	7 <b>9:00am</b> Retiree Breakfast @ Union Hall  	8 4:30pm Exec Bd Mtg	9	10
11	12	13 9:00am SWMI Building Trades 4:30pm EIA 5:30pm First Aid @ JATC	14 4:30pm HELP 7:00pm South Central CLC	15 9:30am MBOSS 4:30pm COPE 5:30pm CPR @ JATC	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Parade
18	19 10:00am Build- ing Trades	20	21	22 7:00pm Union Meeting	23	24
25	26 6:00pm JATC meeting	27	28 5:30pm Exam Bd Mtg	29	30 <i>Last Day to Pay April's Union Dues Without Being Late</i>	31



**IBEW Local 153**  
56475 Peppermint Road  
South Bend, IN 46615

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

