

**April 2019**

Volume 27 Number 2

# KEEPING CURRENT

*With Local 292, International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*



## *Summer Events*



**Fish**

**Friday, June 7th**

**Golf**



**Wednesday, July 24th**

**Picnic**

**Saturday, August 17th**



## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

**Local 292, International  
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
United Labor Centre  
312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 292  
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

**Phone: (612) 379-1292**

**Fax: (612) 379-9326**

**Web: [www.ibew292.org](http://www.ibew292.org)**

**Email: [office@ibew292.org](mailto:office@ibew292.org)**

**FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE**

**BY PETE LINDAHL**



# THANK YOU

**Dear Members,**

It's with mixed emotions that I wish all of you farewell. On March 29th, I stepped down as Business Manager of Local 292. I was offered a great opportunity with our Medicare provider, Labor First. This position will allow me to do what I have always enjoyed: working with retirees.

I would like to take this time to say THANK YOU for the last 30+ years. I have met a lot of great people over the years and have developed many lasting relationships. From my first day on the job to my last day in the office, my goal was to make things better than I found them.

The Business Manager position was challenging, yet it has been one of the most rewarding jobs I've ever had. I can't thank the Reps in the office enough for their hard work. Also, the Local 12 staff make it all happen. Joan, Gayle, Yolanna, Julie and Angel have been great to work with and I really appreciate all the work they've done. Without the Reps and the staff, Local 292 would be just another Local.

As I conclude my final newsletter, I would like to wish you all the best. There are a lot of exciting things coming to Local 292: a new building, a possible Google data center campus in Becker, one of the largest lightrail projects in the country, a great political outlook in the state and a work picture that continues to be strong. Take advantage of these good times; it's time to get ahead. It's also important to remember that our competition is the non-union. We often look at each other as a problem; this will never allow the Local to prosper and grow with solidarity. I'm proud to say we have the knowledge, the skill and the ability to produce more than any of our non-union counterparts.

Lastly, the most important thing to remember: our new members are the future. Teach them to be their best, protect each other and be safe out there.

*If we work together, there isn't anything we can't do.*

*Proud to have served IBEW Local 292!!*

*Pete*



**NEW LOCATION**  
**June 7**  
**Fish**

- Twin Pines Resort, 7827 US-169, Garrison, MN 56450
- Limited to 50 Members
- Register by May 31
- Registration form below
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org

Bus Stop #1: 7:00AM - Local 292: 312 Central Ave SE • Bus Stop #2: 7:40AM - Anoka Station: 4th Ave & Johnson St, 55303 • Bus Stop #3: 8:10AM - Elk River Northstar Park & Ride: 17200 Twin Lakes Rd, 55330

**July 24**  
**Golf**

- Majestic Oak's Golf Club, 701 Bunker Lake Blvd., Ham Lake, MN 55304
- 7 a.m. Driving Range Open and Sign-In, Shotgun Start is 9 a.m., 18 Holes of golf will be followed by dinner and awards.
- Limited to 280 Members; Lottery if needed.
- Register by July 17
- Registration form below
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org



What's your handicap? **A** = 0-10 • **B** = 11-20 • **C** = 21-30 • **D** = 30+

**NEW LOCATION**

**August 17**  
**Picnic**



- Huset Park West, 3965 Jefferson Street, Columbia Heights, MN - behind Murzyn Hall
- Family Event (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- No Registration Required
- Contact the office for more info at 612-379-1292 or office@ibew292.org

**Local 292**  
**Fishing**  
**Trip**  
**Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Stop Pickup #: 1 2 3  
 (circle one—see above)

**Must enclose:**  
Your check for  
**\$35**

**Send to:**  
Local 292 **Fishing Trip.**  
312 Central Ave SE, Room 292  
Minneapolis MN 55414

**Indicate:**  
T-shirt size (circle)  
S M L XL  
2XL 3XL

**Remember:**  
**Register by May 31 for Fishing.**  
Limited to 50 members.

**Local 292**  
**IBEW 292 Golf**  
**Tournament**  
**Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap A B C D  
 (circle one—see above)

**Must enclose:**  
Your check for  
**\$35**

**Send to:**  
Local 292 **Golf Tournament.**  
312 Central Ave SE, Room 292  
Minneapolis MN 55414

**Remember:**  
**Register by July 17 for Golfing.**  
Limited to 200 members.  
Lottery if more than 200 sign up.

# JATC: Safety Culture

By Derrick Atkins, Training Director

NFPA 70E is the standard for safe work practices for employees exposed to electrical hazards when performing work activities. Just as the National Electrical Code is written with prescriptive rules for how we IBEW electricians are at a minimum to be installing electrical equipment and wiring, 70E contains prescriptive rules on how at a minimum we are to work safely due to exposure to electrical hazards on the jobsite.

Notice the term “minimum.” As IBEW members, we should think of our work practices to be exemplary and industry-leading, and we should perform work to a standard above the minimum.

Apprentices are not to work on energized circuits. The Minneapolis JATC Apprenticeship Policy Statement says, “Apprentices shall not work alone, or with one (1) Journeyworker on conductors or equipment, operating at 50 volts or more, not placed in an electrically safe work condition, during their apprenticeship.”

There is a culture shift occurring with respect to safety on the jobsite and performing electrical work in a safe condition, and we need to keep that culture shift moving forward in the right direction. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to take an NFPA 70E training course; the document was originally developed as requested by OSHA to help comply with OSHA electrically safe work condition requirements.

It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure our safety and also the safety of others on the jobsite. Work smartly, efficiently and safely to ensure your safety and the safety of others so that you are able to return home to enjoy a higher standard of life everyday.

## Safety Corner

### TOOL PARTNERS

By Myles Lembke

Remember how, not so long ago, it was an industry standard that electricians would be paired off and work together? More recently, though, I’ve noticed that it’s becoming an industry standard to work electricians alone.

I’d like to take this opportunity to make a case for going back to the old mentality.

First, there’s the idea that tool partners share accountability. We watch out for each other’s safety.

Second, it’s easier to get help lifting something heavy or bulky. Many hands make the load light.

Third, there’s always someone to bounce ideas off when you have a partner.

We aren’t doing what’s best for our industry when we let the struggle for efficiency allow us to cut corners on safety. Let’s go to work and look for ways to re-incorporate the “tool-partner” mentality into our Brotherhood.

On a side note, I want to emphasize shutting the circuit OFF, and when you can’t, using Lock-out/Tag-out and proper PPE when there is ANY chance that there could be exposure to shock or arc flash.

*Stay safe brothers!*

#### Local 292 Phone Directory

##### Minneapolis

612-379-1292 or 1-800-337-8310

##### Hiring Hall / Jobline

612-378-2860

##### St. Cloud

320-253-1292

##### Inside Agreement JATC-St. Michael

763-497-0072 or 1-888-244-3146

##### Statewide LEA JATC

763-571-5922

##### Benefit Office

763-493-8830 or 1-800-368-9045

##### TEAM Employee Assistance

651-642-0182 or 1-800-634-7710

##### Building Trades Credit Union

763-315-3888 or 1-800-496-2460

##### Electrus Federal Credit Union

763-569-4000 or 1-800-252-4239

##### Direct Dial & Voice Mail

612-617-4 \_ \_ \_

##### Business Manager

Jeff Heimerl 237

##### Metro Business Representatives

Kent Blachowiak 242

Dan Ferguson 239

Dave Frary 233

Derrick Givens 234

Jennifer Gaspersich 225

Chris Kohn 240

John Kripotos 244

John Lutz, Organizer 249

Eric Peterson, Hiring Hall 224

Ray Zerán, Political Coordinator 238

##### St. Cloud Business Representatives

Steve Ludwig 254

Jason Carlson 243

##### Office Staff

Joan (Office Manager) 221

Gayle (Bookkeeping) 227

Julie (Admin) 236

Yolanna (Admin) 222

Angel (Admin) 223

##### President

Dan Ferguson 239

##### Financial Secretary

Jennifer Gaspersich 225

##### Executive Board

John Hall, Chairman 241

Anthony Carter xxx

Myles Lembke xxx

Dan McConnell xxx

Jeff Orth xxx

Richard Ramberg xxx

Kurt Tulp xxx

##### Brotherhood Committee

Message Line 247

# *The Opioid Crisis Continues*



In the late 1990's, pharmaceutical companies guaranteed the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription pain opioid relievers and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at increased rates. Later, as overdose rates began to increase, it became clear that these medications could become highly addictive.

The Center for Disease Control reports that 183,000 Americans have died from overdoses related to prescription opioids in the last 16 years. Opioids are natural or synthetic chemicals that relieve pain by altering how pain signals reach the brain. Common opioids include Hydrocodone (Vicoden), Oxycodone (OxyContin) and Oxymorphone (Opana) and Morphine. Opioid use can put someone at serious risk for addiction or death from overdose. The dangers increase if a person has a history of drug misuse, substance use disorder or has previously overdosed or if the person has certain mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and sleep apnea. Remember, many people suffer from mental health disorders are currently undiagnosed.

## **How to Protect Yourself?**

IF your doctor prescribes pain medications, be aware of the side effects, even if the drugs are taken as directed.

- Tolerance can increase: a person needs more medication to get the same relief. Tolerance can build rapidly
- Physical Dependence: if the medication is stopped, there will be uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms.
- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Nausea, vomiting and dry mouth
- Sleepiness

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- Confusion
- Depression
- Itching, sweating
- Low levels of testosterone
- Abuse of opioids can lead to heroin use. Between 2010 and 2015, the percentage of fatal overdoses involving heroin tripled.

**Ask your doctor for other pain relief options that may work better with fewer risks and side effects.**

- Pain relievers such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen and naproxen
- Some medications can be used for pain relief that are used to treat depression or seizures
- Physical therapy, guided meditation and exercise

**Be a Responsible Patient**

- Always take medication as directed
- Never share prescriptions
- Store prescription medications in a secure place out of reach of others
- Safely dispose of unused opioids with a community take-back program or a pharmacy mail-back program. It is permissible by the FDA to flush opioids down the toilet.

If you suspect you or someone in your life is struggling with addiction, **Call TEAM, your Employee Assistance Program at 651-642-0182** to set up an appointment for a chemical health assessment. Have frank conversations at home and work about drug use and addiction. People need to understand treating drug addiction is a positive step to disrupting the opioid crisis. TEAM will help you find the right provider and resources that best suits your needs to help you regain your life and your health.



# "SENIOR SPARKIES NOTES" OVER THE HUMP!!

By Paul Klesmit, Senior Sparkies President

After a long and bitter struggle of snow and cold, I think spring is on the way. Days are longer and snow piles are shrinking. We have a casino trip planned for April and our summer picnic is planned for June. We are also looking into another boat trip. Looking forward to another busy year and hope to get our members back to work soon.

There has been a change to healthcare for retirees, so please make sure you contact Labor First if you have any issues with your Humana coverage. This change is only for Medicare recipients. The other change is for retirees looking to return to work, who now will stay on retiree healthcare. That is huge savings for any retiree wishing to return to work.

Pete Lindahl is moving on to another position and the replacement will be in place by the time this article is received. We wish him well on his new venture. The Local is also looking into a possibility of a new building. Stay tuned for updates on this issue. The retirees were the first to contribute to the Local 292 Building Fund.

*Wishing all retirees a safe and happy... Easter.  
Stay healthy.*

Fraternally,  
Paul Klesmit  
Senior Sparkies President




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## LOCAL 292 "SENIOR SPARKIES" VOLUNTARY DIRECTORY (Update for 2018)

I would like to be part of the Local 292 "Senior Sparkies" Voluntary Directory. I understand this is only to be used to keep retirees in contact with one another. I am only willing to share the information I have shared below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Snowball Dinner





## Political

# Union Power is Economic Freedom for Working Families

By Ray Zeran, Political Coordinator

We had 257 IBEW members from the State of Minnesota and 110 members of IBEW Local 292 show up for our IBEW Day on the Hill. These members came together to increase safety on the jobsite by promoting roadside safety, protections to end wage theft, comprehensive transportation funding and tax fairness – all of which are designed to help free our time and free our choices.

Roadside safety and wage theft are common topics, but what about transportation funding? Why do we support this? Here's why: Our members spend way too much time in traffic traveling for work. Our jobs are the ones that need the flexibility to move throughout the day. Promoting other modes of transportation, such as LRT, Northstar Rail and Bus Rapid Transit, for other commuters that have a fixed time and place of employment helps free our roads from congestion. We just can't afford to wait to act any longer; our time is being stolen from us every day because of a refusal by some to invest in transportation infrastructure.

As for wage theft and tax fairness, we know that real freedom comes from having the economic ability to make choices for yourself. Public investment promotes private prosperity and that prosperity should go to individuals, not corporations. Prevailing wage is a regional economic policy that helps to assure that the dollars spent on public investments make it to the worker, who is building the future economic prosperity for the region. This is the virtuous cycle, the cycle of wages that keep pace with costs and public investment that results in economic freedom for workers. Work creates the region's prosperity, and we the workers deserve to have a piece of this economic freedom.

*“... what about transportation funding?”*



# Day On the Hill



# IBEW VETERANS ALLIANCE - LOCAL 292

By Travis Rust, Instructor Minneapolis JATC, President IBEW Veterans Alliance - Local 292

I will start off by thanking those who showed up to the first Veterans Alliance meeting in January. We had a lot of good discussions on plans and resources for the continued development of our group. I ask all those interested to show up.

As more veterans come to our meetings, we will begin scheduling Veterans Affairs representatives to come in and explain benefits and help those in need navigate the application process for benefits that they have earned. Those who have retired both from the military and the Local have a wealth of knowledge and experience that is priceless.



If anything, you can meet and hang out with others who have served and socialize. Our meetings are held quarterly (January, April, July and October) on the third Tuesday of the month from 5pm to 6pm. The meetings are located at the Labor Centre in the Guy Alexander Conference Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

The Veterans Alliance is also looking at helping Habitat for Humanity build homes for veterans in need. This is still a work in progress, and I will post new information as it arises on the following two web pages:

[www.ibew292.org/committees-groups/veterans](http://www.ibew292.org/committees-groups/veterans)

Facebook @ IBEW Veterans Alliance – Local 292

## *Gone, but not forgotten*

I would like to take a moment to remember a Local 292 veteran who was a hero to this country: Charles “Chuck” W. Lindberg (June 26, 1920 – June 24, 2007). Chuck served in the United States Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Corporal before his honorable discharge. During his enlistment, Chuck volunteered for a special Marine Corps Unit named the Marine Raiders. He first saw combat at the infamous Guadalcanal and then at Bougainville with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Raider Battalion.

The Marine Raider Unit was disbanded in February 1944 and Chuck was reassigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. On February 19, 1945, Chuck landed on Iwo Jima with a flamethrower strapped to his back. He was in 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, E Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 28<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Division. The battle of Iwo Jima would become one of the most famous battles in United States history. A picture taken on top of Mount Suribachi showing the Marines raising Old Glory would don the covers of magazines and front pages of newspapers all over the U.S. The picture has been turned into a WWII monument in Washington, D.C. What the public didn’t know is that the picture taken was of the second flag raising at Iwo Jima. Brothers

***Continued on next page***



# IBEW VETERANS ALLIANCE - LOCAL 292

*Continued from previous page*

and Sisters, Chuck was one of the last surviving Marines in the patrol that captured Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima and raised the original American flag. Chuck was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during that battle.

Local 292 honored Chuck by dedicating the Minneapolis Electrical JATC to him. You can see Chuck's flamethrower on display as well as several pictures and more information on him at the Charles "Chuck" W. Lindberg JATC Electrical Training Center in St. Michael, Minn.



*(Cpl. Lindberg in the foreground with an M1 carbine)*



**Transitions**

## Retirements

*Congratulations!*

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Pension Effective Date
BARTKOWICZ	JAMES	D	1/1/2019
BILLMARK	ARNIE	R	12/1/2018
BROKHAUSEN	RONALD	J	1/1/2019
BROWN	ALLEN	D	2/1/2019
DEMERS	THOMAS	E	2/1/2019
ENTINGER	MICHAEL	R	3/1/2019
ERICKSON	SCOTT	L	1/1/2019
FEILEN	RICHARD	A	1/1/2019
GILMORE	DEBRA	K	8/1/2017
HAGEMANN	MARK	T	3/1/2019
HAMMER	DAVID	A	1/1/2019
MAYER	MICHAEL	P	12/1/2018
NURSE	DESMOND	R	2/1/2019
O'BRIEN	DANIEL	J	1/1/2019
PALLANSCH	CLAUDIA	C	2/1/2019
PAULSEN	RICK	A	3/1/2019
PIERSAK	DANIEL	J	1/1/2019
RAMBERG	RICHARD	P	3/1/2019
SIDLA	ROBERT	A	1/1/2019
WERMERSKIRCHEN	MICHAEL	P	3/1/2019
WOOD	DONALD	A	1/1/2019

## Deaths

**Active Members**

Last Name	First Name	Mi	Date of Death
BURGER	KEVIN	M	3/5/2019
HOWEY	JESSE	C	1/19/2019
JACKSON	SHARONDA	R	1/26/2019

## Retired Members

ANDERSON	JOHN	M	2/12/2019
BARNES	DALLAS	L	1/2/2019
BENSON	ROY	C	10/8/2018
BERGSTEN	RICHARD	A	2/14/2019
BISEK	LAWRENCE	B	2/1/2019
FASBENDER	THEODORE	D	2/7/2019
HAGEN	DAVID	M	2/23/2019
JOHNSON	DOUGLES	R	2/10/2019
KOLL	RANDAL	E	2/6/2019
KRIPOTOS	JOHN	T	12/25/2018
MACY	WALTER	F	12/19/2018
NASH	JOSEPH	J	2/22/2019
OLSON	DAVID	J	12/28/2018
RAMERTH	JOHN	T	1/30/2019
SANDQUIST	REYNOLD		12/19/2018
SCHOUMAKER	MICHAEL	C	2/21/2019
WENCEL	ARNOLD	G	2/19/2019

# KEEPING CURRENT

Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, publishes KEEPING CURRENT four times a year to open a communications channel between the local's leadership and its members.

Postmaster: send address corrections to Local 292, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Labor Centre, 312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 292, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

*IBEW Local 292 is committed to Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action for our members and employees.*

**Business Manager**/Jeff Heimerl  
**President**/Dan Ferguson  
**Editor**/Traci Nigon

## KEEPING CURRENT

Local 292  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
United Labor Centre  
312 Central Ave. SE, Suite 292  
Minneapolis, MN 55414



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### April 2019

- 4 **St Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd
- 9 **Retirees** meeting. 12:30 p.m.  
**Stewards** meeting. 6 p.m.  
**General Membership** meeting. 7 p.m.
- 11 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4:00 p.m.
- 16 **Veteran's Alliance** meeting. 5:00 p.m.
- 17 **Brotherhood Committee**. 4:30 p.m.
- 18 **History Committee** movie night. 6 p.m.
- 19 **Good Friday**. Office closed
- 22 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 23 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 24 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 p.m.
- 25 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.

### May 2019

- 2 **St Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd
- 9 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4:00 p.m.
- 14 **Retirees** meeting. 12:30 p.m.  
**Stewards** meeting. 6 p.m.  
**General Membership** meeting. 7 p.m.
- 15 **Brotherhood Committee**. 4:30 p.m.
- 16 **Stewards Dinner**. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Invitation only
- 19 **History Committee** movie night. 6 p.m.
- 20 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus** meeting. 6 p.m.  
*(changed due to holiday on 27th)*
- 22 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 p.m.
- 23 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting 4 p.m.  
**Retiree's Dinner**. 6 p.m. Celebrating new retirees. Invitation only.
- 27 **Memorial Day**. Office closed
- 28 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.

### June 2019

- 6 **St Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd
- 7 **292 Fishing Trip** 6:30 a.m.
- 11 **Retirees Club** meeting. 12:30 p.m.  
**Stewards** meeting. 6 p.m.  
**General Membership** meeting. 7 p.m.
- 12 **Retiree's Summer Picnic**
- 13 **Safety Committee** meeting. 4:00 p.m.
- 19 **Brotherhood Committee**. 4:30 p.m.
- 24 **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus** meeting. 6 p.m.
- 25 **Executive Board** meeting. 4 p.m.
- 26 **RENEW** meeting. 4:30 p.m.
- 27 **Sisters in Solidarity** meeting. 4 p.m.  
**St Cloud Informational** meeting. 6 p.m.  
St. Cloud union hall, 2803 Clearwater Rd  
*(changed due to July 4th holiday)*