



**IBEW**  
CHARTERED AUG. 30, 1938  
**LOCAL**  
**160**

221<sup>ST</sup> EDITION | 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2025  
**NEWSLETTER**



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you well and warm. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the holiday season with loved ones. As 2025 rolls in, we have a lot to talk about this coming year.

First off, I would like to introduce 2 new additions to my staff. Business Representative Joe Foss came on board in November and will be handling multiple areas on the Utility side (Xcel Energy). Joe was a Relay Technician and worked at Riverside, he has over 20 Years with IBEW. I am so excited to have him as part of my team.

Second, I would like to introduce Outside Business Representative Jeff Bryczek. Jeff came on board in December and is a Journeyman Lineman who has worked for many Contractors across the country. He also comes with over 20 years of experience in the

IBEW. Jeff will be representing the Outside Construction folks helping Mike and Nick. I am excited to have him on board as well.

With the projected workload for 2025 looking very good for our members, the timing was perfect to add them to my team. Our membership continues to grow each month and that is awesome. We were able to secure 2 new groups with their first contracts in the last month. We now represent the Staking/Work Plan Coordinators at East Central Energy as their contract was ratified. We also represent the TSO's (Transmission System Operators) for Xcel Energy. They ratified their Agreement as well in the last month. Please join me in welcoming them to IBEW Local 160. We are still in negotiations currently with 3 other groups, with the hope of securing a first contract soon.

As I close, I want to wish everyone a Happy Spring and ask that you watch out for one another. It truly is a honor to be part of this organization with such a great membership. Take care!!

In Solidarity,

Kurt Zimmerman  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PLYMOUTH HALL ON THE **\*FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:00PM.**

**APRIL 3, MAY 1, JUNE 5, JULY 3, AUGUST 7**

\*Except when the meeting date falls on a holiday. Please make sure you check our website for meeting cancellations each month.

### MO VALLEY UNIT MEETINGS

**APRIL 29 @ 6:30PM**

Plymouth Union Hall, 13220 Co Rd 6, Plymouth

**MAY 29 @ 7:30PM**

Grand Rapids, 300 17th St SE, Grand Rapids

**JUNE 24 @ 6:30PM**

Plymouth Union Hall, 13220 Co Rd 6, Plymouth

**JULY 31 @ 7:30PM**

Grand Rapids, 300 17th St SE, Grand Rapids

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**160** **2025 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Local 160 offers 3 Scholarships each year:

- Local 160 David C. Ring Scholarship
- Local 160 Amy O'Sullivan Scholarship
- Nathan S. Blomquist Memorial Scholarship

Visit [IBEW160.org](http://IBEW160.org) to download the applications!

There are additional scholarship opportunities on our website that may be of interest but are not awarded by the IBEW Local 160.

**ALL IBEW 160 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE HALL BY APRIL 21, 2025.**





# MO VALLEY JATC NEWS & UPDATES

## BY THE NUMBERS:

- 677 Line Apprentices (97 are Local 160 hands)  
*\*3 Apprentices out of work (0 are Local 160 hands)*
- 61 Substation Apprentices (9 are Local 160 hands)
- 9 Operator Apprentices (1 is a Local 160 hand)
- 13 Traffic Signal Apprentices
- 4 Cable Splicing Technicians

For a grand total of 764 Apprentices and Trainees.

## NEWS:

It sounds like there is potentially a lot of work coming down the pipeline. As of right now we have enough substation apprentice job calls that we will have a substation apprenticeship orientation happening at the end of February with another possibly sometime in March. Substation orientation is a 4-day class that consists of 5 physical "boot camp" tasks, OSHA 10 ET&D, first aid/BLS/AED, Aerial platform rescues and confined space rescue in addition to other items. It sounds like we will be holding a line apprenticeship orientation in early March based off of contractor manpower needs as well.

I'd like to congratulate everyone that topped out last year. Missouri Valley JATC had a total of 142 graduates in 2024. Of the 142, 18 of them are members of local 160. We wish you the best of luck as a journeyman and remember to be safe, keep learning and pass on what you know to the brother or sister behind you.

Substation apprentices are now using the RLS app for filling out time reports for the apprenticeship. That means that their evaluations are now electronic as well. Many of the foreman in substation are already familiar with the process due to filling them out for the line apprentices. If you are a foreman and this process is new for you and you are having trouble getting it taken care of, reach out and I can help you get it squared away.

In solidarity,

Dave Audette  
160 Journeyman Lineman | Instructor @ Mo Valley JATC  
(651)238-3823 | Daudette@movalleyjatc.org

## REPRESENT LOCAL 160!



INTERNATIONAL  
Lineman's Rodeo

**International Lineman's  
Rodeo & Expo  
October 15-18, 2025  
Overland Park, KS**

Local 160 is excited to announce that we will be sending a limited number of Missouri Valley JATC Apprentices to represent Local 160 at this year's rodeo. If you are interested in learning more about the rodeo and/or are interested in competing on behalf of the local, please contact Dave Audette (651) 238-3823.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS ON THEIR RETIREMENT:

GORDON BORST - MO VALLEY

GREGORY HUBERTY - MO VALLEY

EDUARDO SOTOMAYOR - XCEL ENERGY

JEFF COZZI - ASPLUNDH TREE

NEWELL LIEBELT - XCEL ENERGY

THOMAS WILCOX - CONNEXUS

JEFFREY FLATEN - XCEL ENERGY

KRAIG SEELY - MO VALLEY

NORMAN WRIGHT - MO VALLEY

## Our Deepest Sympathy

**WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF OUR BROTHERS. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS.**

DENNIS K. NICHOLSON - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 10/12/24

GERALD G. KOTTRADE - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 10/18/24

JUDY G. WELCH - XCEL ENERGY - 10/19/24

CHAD M. HANSON - XCEL ENERGY - 10/25/24

THEODORE R. CERYES JR - RETIRED MO VALLEY - 11/28/24

DAVID A. KLINE - RETIRED XCEL ENERGY - 12/7/24

THOMAS L. STEWART - CONNEXUS ENERGY - 12/17/24

ROLAND L. BAKER - RETIRED XCEL/MO VALLEY - 12/26/24

## Thinking of you

**WELL WISHES WERE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

TROY ECKER - MO VALLEY

BLAINE C. JACQUES - CITY OF LAKE CRYSTAL

JOSEPH D. MILLER - MO VALLEY

EDDIE G. MARINER - MO VALLEY

MICHAEL REILAND - CITY OF ST. CHARLES





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# WELCOME NEW 160 MEMBERS!

JOSE ABREGO	ALEX HANG	JACOB MCCULLOUGH	NICHOLAS SCHWARTZ
BRYAN ANTONSON	KELLI HARDER	CONNOR MELEK	EVAN SCHWEISTHAL
DAVID BACH	NICHOLAS HARPER	LANDEN MILZ	JONATHON SCOTT
TYLER BARTA	JODY HEMANN	BENANICO MOLINA	TAISUKE SEKIMOTO
WILLIAM BELL	ZACHARY HERDERING	KYLAN MOSHER	JADE SELANDER
ROGER BERG	KATHY HERGOTT	JOHN NOVOTNY	DEREK SERBUS
JAMES BETTINGER	QUINN HOFFMAN	ANDRE O'TOOL	ERIC SLINDE
ROBERT BOHACH	GAVIN HOLDEN	ETHAN OPSAHL	CARTER SOENS
SAMUEL BURTON	GRAHAM HOLLENBECK	RYAN OSTERMAN	CARTER STANDLY
CODY CALLAHAN	AUSTIN HOWE	RUBEN PALACIOS	CAHLOR STEDMAN
LUIS CORDERO GENIS	CHRISTOPHER JETTER	BLAKE PIERRE	THOMAS STUDLEY
GRANT DORNIDEN	ROBB KENNEDY	DAKOTA PRICKETT	WILL TULKKI
HALYNN DROZD	ALEX KJOLSTAD	THOMAS PRINSEN	TYLER TURPIN
RYAN ERATH	ADAM KLAPHAKE	RILEY RAMSTORF	EMMANUEL VAZQUEZ-CASTANEDA
ROBERT FINNESTAD	CRAIG KOEHLER	RICHARD RIO	CHRIS WHITE
MIKE FISH	ZACHARY KRAKLAU	JOSE RODRIGUEZ	BENJAMIN WILSON
SHAWN FITCH	MARK LANDON	RYAN ROLFHUS	SEAN YARBROUGH
KALEB FORSCHEN	THOMAS LEE	DEVON ROUSH	WILL ZELENAK
ANTHONY GOODALE	TRAVIS LEMAY	ERIK RUDE	
CHAD GRANT	TRAVIS LIESTMAN	DAVID SHMAUS	

## TOTAL MEMBER COUNT 3,835



### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brothers and Sisters,

The days are getting longer, and we all appreciate that. Recently, while traveling, I stopped at a coffee shop wearing my IBEW Local 160 hoodie. A young man approached me, asking if I was in the IBEW. He told me his grandfather had been a lineman in New York, a member for 41 years.

We sat down and talked about his grandfather, now enjoying a well-earned retirement. The young man, just 16, spoke with such pride about how his grandfather's years in the IBEW had provided a great living and a secure future for their family. He even asked to take a picture with me to send to his grandfather, knowing how much the brotherhood meant to him. It was truly touching to see such a young person understand the value of that connection. He also expressed his own desire to join the IBEW trades, inspired by his grandfather's legacy.

Later on the same trip, in Florida, I was walking the beach at sunrise wearing my IBEW hat. I ran into a retired member who had worked in a power plant in Arizona for 38 years. He was also enjoying his retirement and spoke warmly about the IBEW brotherhood.

These encounters reminded me how proud I am to be an IBEW member. It's a great brotherhood with a rich history, and that sense of community extends everywhere. It's a reminder to be your brother's keeper and to appreciate the benefits we enjoy, benefits that were fought for by those who came before us.

In solidarity,

Scott E. Knight  
Executive Board Member

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**  
IBEW LOCAL 160 MEMBER

**PIG OUT**

**THURSDAY**  
**SEPT 25, 2025**  
**11AM-5PM**

**FOOD TRUCKS • FRIENDS • FUN**

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**LOCAL 160**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FOLLOW IBEW 160 FOR  
THE LATEST UPDATES!**



@IBEWLOCAL160



IBEW-160



LOCAL UNION 160, IBEW  
13220 County Road 6  
Plymouth, MN 55441

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**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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**PERMIT NO. 4274**



### REPS CELL PHONE #'s

Kurt Zimmerman (612) 991-0022  
Eric Spielmann (612) 512-8018  
Mike Ringstad (763) 355-7283  
Nick Steckelberg (612) 655-5210  
Darrin Helget (763) 276-8908  
Justin Arbach (763) 213-3536  
Mike Enerson (612) 368-6299  
Joshua Laven (612) 258-8617  
Crystal Gregory (612) 258-5833  
Joe Foss (763) 461-1906  
Jeff Bryczek (763) 461-1897

### PLYMOUTH

Tel (612) 781-3126  
Fax (612) 781-4225

### GRAND RAPIDS

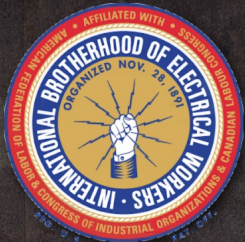
Tel (218) 326-0533  
Fax (218) 326-0534

### WEBSITE

[www.ibew160.org](http://www.ibew160.org)

### EMAIL

[160@ibew160.org](mailto:160@ibew160.org)



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### OFFICERS

Kurt W. Zimmerman - Business Mgr./Financial Secretary  
Kevin J. Kaeter - President  
Wade S. Crittenden - Vice President  
Jeffery R. Polson - Recording Secretary  
Travis J. Sullivan - Treasurer

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Tom S. Carlson  
Kenneth R. Conrad  
Clayton E. Kaeter  
Scott E. Knight  
Randal L. Nass

### OFFICE STAFF

Eric W. Spielmann - Business Representative  
Michael J. Ringstad - Business Representative  
Nicholas J. Steckelberg - Business Representative  
Darrin L. Helget - Business Representative  
Justin M. Arbach - Business Representative  
Mike K. Enerson - Business Representative  
Joshua S. Laven - Business Representative  
Crystal A. Rourke - Membership Development  
Joe P. Foss - Business Representative  
Jeff V. Bryczek - Business Representative  
Stacy L. Helget - Office Manager  
Anna J. Wilson - Bookkeeper  
Kayla M. Skalisky - Referral Clerk/Receptionist