

Wisconsin News

SUMMER 2023

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 139

40TH
GENERAL
CONVENTION

SEIZE THE
MOMENT

INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OPERATING
ENGINEERS



**DELEGATES UNANIMOUSLY
RE-ELECT GENERAL PRESIDENT
JAMES T. CALLAHAN**

When Bipartisanship Works, So Do We

In all my days of working in the construction industry, I never would have imagined that I would see some of the things I am now witnessing as our industry evolves. I am referring to our workload and the future of our union as it pertains to our market share under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and renewable energy initiatives under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The work under the renewable energy initiatives includes the many solar projects we are currently involved with as well as the multitude of projects on the horizon. Like many of you, I was furious when the Keystone Pipeline got canceled, especially since one of the largest pipeline contractors in North America, who also happens to be from Wisconsin, had already moved onto the job. Like you, I heard several of our federal representatives claim that we would all find sustainable jobs in construction through the renewable energy projects that would be coming. Up until that time, building solar fields with union labor had been hit or miss. I must confess; I was absolutely mortified at the prospect of trying to capture our market share quick enough to get our members on these jobs. I was certain our employers would get undercut by the unscrupulous non-union contractors coming in and bidding on this work cheap on the backs of exploited workers. The only thing that would create a level playing field for fair contractors would be to establish some sort of wage minimum so that the very same utility rate payers from that area had a chance to help build it. A federal prevailing wage rule would be ideal, but these were utility companies that build with their own revenue, so those rules would never apply. Or could they?

REMINDER

Please plan to attend the General Membership Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, July 8, at the Pewaukee Union Hall, N27W23233 Roundy Drive.



Terry McGowan

President/Business Manager,
IUOE General Vice President

The Biden Administration engaged a team from the Department of Labor, under the leadership of then Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, a former union construction worker himself, to find a way to lawfully apply Federal Davis Bacon Wages to these projects and promote union labor on these projects. Beyond all belief and expectations, they structured a plan that would incentivize utility developers to utilize registered apprentices on these sites. Under the IRA plan, the utilities would in turn receive tax credits for each apprentice working on their solar projects. The percentage of tax credits is progressive, and it increases over the course of the next three years. That sounds like a pretty good deal for the utility company, right? But there is one big catch to all of this; for them to receive these credits, they must comply with the standards established by Federal Davis Bacon Law. Right now, our members are working an incredible number of hours in these solar fields, and they are apprentice rich. These sites are ideal for training apprentices because they are out in the open range. It gives apprentices a chance to get comfortable on a machine without the crowded conditions they may sometimes experience on many other jobsites.

Now that I have given you a preview of what the IRA has done for our members on solar fields, let's get back to pipeline. While the overall hours in the pipeline

Wisconsin News

Around the State

District A Report.....	4
District B Report.....	6
District C Report.....	8
District D Report.....	10

Operator's Toolkit

Training Director's Report.....	12
Know the Law	14
Political Report.....	16
CBG Report.....	18-21
Health Fund Report.....	22-25
Retiree News.....	28-29

Cover Photo

*General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers
James T. Callahan re-elected for a five-year term at the IUOE 40th General Convention on April 30.*

Photo provided by the International Union of Operating Engineers

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As part of the Callahan Administration, President/Business Manager Terry McGowan takes the "Oath of Obligation" as the 4th General Vice President at the IUOE 40th General Convention on April 30.

industry have been on a steady decline over the better part of the past decade, a new generation of pipeline is in the not-too-distant horizon; Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) pipelines. The IRA will be a part of this new age of pipeline work as well. CCS is the process of collecting the carbon monoxide gases that are emitted by ethanol plants, power plants and steel factories and piping them to deep, underground storage areas. This program is scheduled to be in full swing by the year 2030. The transport of captured carbon cannot use existing pipes, instead, the pipelines required for the CCS will be all new, dedicated pipelines. Currently, there are 5,300 miles of dedicated pipeline with a proposed installation of between 70,000 – 90,000 miles of pipeline. And with the IRA tax credit incentives, it's safe to say that most, if not all this work will have Federal Davis Bacon wage protection attached to it. Thanks to these rules written and implemented by the current administration, and as long as they are in place, it would be awfully difficult for the non-union to infest this work like they have been doing to the pipeline industry in certain states. This time, the union contractors and their workers have some protection.

As you are most likely already aware, Local 139 maintains a very high density of approximately 95% of all transportation construction throughout the State of Wisconsin. This union density has been achieved through organizing, our ability to train members in modern roadbuilding techniques at our state-of-the-art training center and working with our employers and associations to address the needs of the industry well in advance. As a result, the members of Local 139 will benefit immensely through the better part of the next decade from the \$1.2 trillion bi-partisan infrastructure bill. So, unlike the afore-mentioned incentivized programs, we have already captured most of this work, it's just that there is now more of it than most of us have seen in our lifetime. For nearly three decades, we have been hearing politicians promising to pass a long-term federal bill to rebuild our aging infrastructure and now, we finally have one. Some have expressed concern as to how much of this

money is being allocated to real infrastructure. Here is just a sample of the allocations; \$25 billion for airports, \$40 billion for bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (the single largest dedicated bridge investment in over 50 years), with \$5.5 billion being allocated just for Wisconsin roads and bridges. \$17 billion is being allocated to ports and inland waterways, and for those members who perform work in the underground utilities, \$55 billion will go to upgrade the Nation's drinking water while Wisconsin alone will also receive \$80 billion for wastewater projects. If you wish to review the full report, you can view it at: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Wisconsin.pdf>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

IUOE Local 139 Officers

Terrance E. McGowan.....	President/ Business Manager
Dan Sperberg.....	Vice President
Shane Griesbach	Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Steve Buffalo.....	Financial Secretary
Mark Gauf.....	Treasurer
Shaun McHugh	Trustee
Allan Fogel.....	Trustee
Bob Weaver.....	Trustee
Bill Dreyer.....	Auditor
Travis Martzahl.....	Auditor
Nicholas Michels.....	Auditor
Casey Aronson	Guard
Dan Marsolek	Conductor
Aaron Raab.....	Executive Board Member at Large
Cory Leist.....	Executive Board - District A
Curtis Smith, Jr.....	Executive Board - District A
Kevin Smith	Executive Board - District A
Craig Glover.....	Executive Board - District B
Matthew Ison, Jr	Executive Board - District B
Jeffrey A. Artus	Executive Board - District C
John Jankowski	Executive Board - District C
Robert Schmitz.....	Executive Board - District D
Corey Vander Loop.....	Executive Board - District D

Orange Ahead!

We are well into the summer construction season, and in all corners of the State of Wisconsin, orange barrels and flashing arrow boards have popped up all along our highways, city streets, and county roads. So, as we do every summer construction season, we remind the motoring public to please slow down and stay alert in work lanes. The Federal Highway Administration cites a combination of factors at play in deadly work zone crashes, including speeding, distracted driving, following too closely, and daily changes in lane patterns that can occur with larger road construction projects. "Work zones are temporary, but our decisions behind the wheel can make an impact forever," Wisconsin DOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. "The people working behind the barrels rely on us to drive safely." Data shows more than 2,000 crashes were recorded in Wisconsin work zones in 2022, resulting in eight deaths and more than 650 injuries. Cell phone use is one of the most common factors in distracted driving crashes. Wisconsin law prohibits texting while driving on any road. You will also see message boards stating that using handheld devices in work zones and areas surrounding emergency response vehicles with flashing lights is illegal. So, please slow down and obey the posted speed limits. Just because you drove through a work zone yesterday doesn't mean it will be the same today. Please pay attention to the men and women working behind those orange barrels.

Many happy retirement years to Jim Dewar, who served the men and women of Waukesha County very well. Your district organizer for the last three years, Mark Rabago,



Steve Buffalo

Financial Secretary, Chief of Staff,
District A Manager

will be taking over this roll. We also welcome Matt Parrent as the new Southeast Wisconsin Organizer.

The following are a few of the major road projects underway in District A. The I-43 North-South from Glendale to Grafton has a very large expansion adding a third lane in each direction and improving interchanges. This project, expected to end in the summer of 2025, has Hoffman Construction Company, Michels Corporation, Trierweiler Construction & Supply Co., Inc., and numerous subcontractors working on

this project. The 1-43 URT (Union Refrigerator Transit Railyard) road section improvements along I-43 from Capital Drive to Hampton Avenue are currently under construction. Poor bridge and pavement conditions need to be addressed relating to safety and traffic needs. The 1.7-mile Zoo Interchange project expanding I-41 to eight lanes from Swan Boulevard to Burleigh Street is expected to end in the fall of 2023. The reconstruction of the Loomis Road bridge over I-894 and the freeway, ramps, and interchanges will be resurfaced and finished by the fall of 2023.

The vertical building side of construction is also plentiful in Milwaukee and surrounding suburbs. Mixed-use storefronts with apartments and condos popping up everywhere as well as the construction of high-rise apartments and condos, especially in downtown Milwaukee.

Have a safe and prosperous summer, and please be watchful of our members working in those work zones on the highways, city streets, and county roads. 🚧



Business Agents/Organizers Serving District A



Tim Krieg



Dan Marsolek



Thomas Moore Jr



Mark Rabago



Brian Swearingen



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY THOMAS MOORE, JR

Operators Dylan Quamme and Lawrence Roethle working on the I-43 project in Glendale.



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS BY BRIAN SWEARINGEN

Apprentice Jerred Walton working for Rams Contracting in Milwaukee.



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Members Tyler Neubert and Doug Hughett working for August Winter & Sons, Inc. at the Waukesha Booster Pump Station in Waukesha.

Pass Your Knowledge to the Next Generation

The Fourth of July weekend is here, and I hope you and your family had a safe holiday! The summer weather has started, and our WisDOT projects are underway. Since the awarded projects were announced last October, our contractors secured \$330 million worth of work through May 2023.

Vertical work is going well. We have active projects from the La Crosse area down to Platteville. Rock and Walworth Counties are working on finishing the LNG plants, with dispatches coming in daily with contractors are looking to add crews.

Our solar farms are in full swing; AZCO Inc., a Burns & McDonnell Company, has projects in Rock County, Beaver Dam, and Cassville. We just signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with Blattner Energies, a Minnesota company. The PLA will have electricians, laborers, and operators performing the work in Darien. They will be looking for experienced journeymen and apprentices to fill their needs for this project in the near future. The operators will be operating all the equipment on this site.

Our paving contractors will have a busy season as well. Quite a few projects are 10–15-mile stretches, which is something our contractors have not seen in a while.

Operators are needed to fill a variety of job openings with signatory contractors. Fiber and distribution contractors are looking for directional drill and tractor-load backhoe operators for their workload. Our sewer and water contractors desperately need mainline excavator operators, loader operators, and pipelayers.

Local 139 Organizers and Business Agents have created a



Mark Gauf
Treasurer, District B Manager

working relationship with OT Site, Inc., a Division of Olson Toon Landscaping. OT Site is signatory to our Heavy & Highway and Area II Building Agreements. Welcome to Local 139! They perform site work and sewer and water projects.

On an ending note, about 17% of our members will be apprentices. Please reach out to them and help when they are in need. Being an apprentice is a crucial time in their career as an Operating Engineer. They picked a craft

that current journey workers have excelled at for many years. Pass your knowledge down to the next generation and be the person they brag about and look up to for the rest of their careers.

Hope to see you in the field, be safe while providing for your family. 🚧



Operator Ryan Bartels setting iron for J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc. in Madison.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY TIM VIKÉ



Business Agents/Organizers Serving District B



Jeremy Allen



Mike Cox



Al Fogel



Tim Vike



Bob Weaver



Operator Kou Lor working for Mathy Construction Co. in Westby.



An Ideal Crane Rental, Inc. crew dismantling and mobilizing a crane. (L-R) Operator Anthony J. Schneider, truck driver Brad Kuzlowski, Operators Steve Schwoegler, Alexander Stanke, truck drivers Cody Wilson and Ryan Nell.

Superior Continues to Keep Local 139 Members Busy!

The City of Superior has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Harbor Assistance Program to assist C. Reiss Coal Company with relocation plans of the St. Louis River facility from Duluth to Superior. The project was also awarded nearly \$8.4 million in federal grant dollars through the Port Infrastructure Development Program, with additional funding secured from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The company ships nearly 650,000 tons of limestone, coal, and road salt. Moving from Duluth to Superior will allow them to ship approximately one million tons of additional products due to increased rail capacity and the ability to adapt to larger ships. The project's first phase was placed for bid, with Northland Constructors coming in with the low bid of \$22 million for the land portion. Bids for the dredging phase will be made soon.

In Marathon County, the \$12 million Highway 29 project is underway and the work is being performed by James Peterson Sons, Inc. (JPS). RiverView Construction, Inc. has picked up \$1.3 million worth of work on the Wausau East and West High Schools to upgrade the athletic fields. Starting in July, the installation of utilities and temporary services at the old Wausau Mall will be conducted by Integrity Grading & Excavating, Inc. (IGE). IGE is preparing to begin two sewer and water projects — one in Weston and the other in Stevens Point, which will keep crews



Aaron Raab

Auditor, District C Manager

busy until the end of the season. This fall, C.D. Smith Construction, Inc. will begin working on replacing the 50-year-old library at UW Stevens Point's Albertson Hall, a \$65 million project. CR Meyer is working on a summer-long 10,000 sq. ft. addition to the Harley-Davidson factory in Tomahawk, and Musson Brothers, Inc. is conducting the excavation.

Additionally, Musson Brothers and JPS have utility work and street projects awarded by WisDOT and the

City of Rhinelander. Musson Brothers is also working on the \$8 million Highway 17 Bypass. A-1 Excavating, Inc. and Pheifer Brothers Construction Company, Inc. have started working on Highway 13 through Mellen. Michels Corporation is proceeding with the replacement of 10 gates on the Chippewa River. Hoffman Construction Company was awarded \$90 million for Heavy & Highway work from I-94 and Highway 53 between Spooner and Haugen. Monarch Paving Company is working their crews six days a week to keep up with the work for the season.

With our organizing efforts, we have recently signed new signatory contractors to Local 139: SRM Ground Services, LLC, On Call Sweeping, Ditch Creek Landscape, LLC, and Northland Concrete & Masonry Co., LLC.

In closing, I wish all 139ers a safe and prosperous work season. Please remember organizing is the key to a strong union — so start up a conversation with someone who isn't a union member. 139 PROUD! 🏡



Business Agents/Organizers Serving District C



Casey Aronson



Adam Kaseno



Mathew Laabs



Darin Rubenzer



Operator Chris Constance working for Northland Constructors at Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior.



Operators Paxton Swiggum, Karl Sander and Larry Walz working for W K Construction in Marathon County.



Operator Jose Barrios working for Dawes Rigging & Crane Rental, Inc. on the County Materials Complex project in Eau Claire.

Mentor, Advise, and Encourage

Even with the challenging weather, our spring has been very busy and jobsites are running at full force. With the Out-of-Work List at an all-time low at the start of the season, our dispatchers have had their work cut out for them, especially when filling dispatches coming in late in the day for jobs starting the next morning. Thankfully, our dispatchers do excellent work. I want to point out that dispatching is just one of the many responsibilities and tasks they handle for us daily. The next time you talk with them, please let them know you appreciate everything they do.

John Oppeneer, one of our veteran business representatives, recently transitioned into the newly created role of Statewide Research Organizer, working very closely with our organizing team. We shifted Travis Martzahl, another veteran business representative, into John's territory. We welcome Tyler Person as the new business representative, assuming much of Travis' previous territory. Tyler joins us from the Local 139 Training Center, where he was a seasonal crane instructor for six years, while also working in the bridge building industry.

When at work, we must make mentoring new members one of our top priorities. We are very fortunate to have a robust recruiting process, which allows us the ability to bring in hundreds of new members each year. Our recruiting process has been perfected and modified over time. It has taken years of planning, fine-tuning, and advertising promotions to get to the point where we can continuously replenish our membership with new members. As new members join Local 139, we can either



Shane Griesbach
Recording-Corresponding Secretary,
District D Manager

refine and train these individuals or simply say, "It's not my problem." The future of our union should be everyone's concern. The contract discussions this spring have focused more than ever on training young members. Sometimes, a friendly face and willingness to mentor, advise and encourage new members is all it takes to start them down the path to a successful career with Local 139. When on the jobsite, if you have the opportunity to put an apprentice in the operator's seat and mentor them,

please do so. By seizing every opportunity we can mentor, advise and encourage our apprentices. Ultimately we are building a stronger Local 139!

In the near future, much work will be centered around the 23-mile I-41 Project from Highway 96 in Appleton to Scheuring Road in De Pere. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) design plans for this project will continue to develop throughout 2023. Flyover ramps will be constructed as part of the Interstate and Highway 441 reconstruction, promoting a smoother traffic flow once the project is completed. Utility relocation is scheduled to begin later this year in preparation for construction. One of the first WisDOT bid lettings of this \$800 million upgrade is expected to happen in 2024. Phase I of the project will include reconstructing the existing State Patrol Safety and Weight Enforcement Facility and a new 2-story northeast region headquarters for the Wisconsin State Patrol in Wrightstown.

Please have a safe and prosperous work season, and strive to be the best mentor possible to our new members and apprentices! 🚧



Business Agents/Organizers Serving District D



Kevin Doucette



Travis Martzahl



Tyler Person



Rick Valenta



Third-generation Operator Lincoln Ashauer and his father Arthur "Barney" Ashauer working for Vinton Construction Company in Oshkosh.



Operator Corey Callahan working for Ostrenga Excavating, Inc. preparing a site for a gas substation in Oconto.



Operator Sequoia Alby-Virgin working for Wagner Excavating, Inc. in Sheboygan Falls.

Record Year for Local 139 Apprentices

Many things have been happening at the Training Center in Coloma, including wrapping up our busiest training season! The 2022-2023 training season was record-setting, with 11,694 seats filled. A wide variety of courses were offered, from safety certifications such as MSHA, Hazmat, and OSHA training, to equipment courses such as Basic Excavating, Dozer, and Advanced Grade. We applaud all members who attended these courses to update safety training and advance their operating skills. The time spent training is an investment that helps keep members and their co-workers safe and efficient on the jobsite. Thank you for investing in yourself, not only to your benefit but for the benefit of your contractor and our union..

This spring, we saw an unusually high demand for skilled operators. Many dispatches for apprentices have been coming in for various projects throughout the state, especially in the solar field industry. These projects utilize skilled operators from the beginning of the site prep, including land and tree clearing, to the leveling of the site with dirt contractors and prepping the area for pile and panel installation. Various types of equipment are necessary, including skid steer, telehandler, mini excavators, and the PD10 pile/post pounder.

We have also been busy with the building addition continuing



Dan Sperberg
Vice President, Training Director

at the Training Center. The project is about 85% complete and is expected to be completed by August 1, 2023. This will include the completion of 13 new classrooms, an auditorium, and a new shop addition. These additions will be vital as our training center sees continued growth and demand for highly skilled operators. We saw more than a 20% increase in training seats filled in the last three years from the 2019-2020 training season, when we had 9,443 training seats filled. The building addition will be utilized to the fullest extent as we meet the demands of our growing industry.

Our information sessions and orientations for new apprentices have also been in full swing. We have already signed over 200 new apprentices this year and have had over 250 individuals apply to the apprenticeship program. If you know anyone interested in becoming an Operating Engineer apprentice, please have them check out our website at 139training.org and contact us to schedule an information session at (715) 228-4911. The minimum requirements for the apprenticeship program are: a valid driver's license, high school diploma or equivalency, and passing test scores on the ACT, Accuplacer, or Ramsay jobs skills test.

We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Operating Engineers at the Training Center! 🚧



Local 139 Apprenticeship Program Accepting Applications

Do you know anyone interested in joining the ranks of the most well-trained and well-paid apprentices in Wisconsin? The Local 139 Apprenticeship Program accommodates heavy equipment operators with little to no experience in the field.

Please call the Training Center at (715) 228-4911 to register for an upcoming informational session.

Congratulations Recent Apprentice Graduates

	GRADUATION DATE
Nicholas Andrew	April 24, 2023
Kory Bautch	May 5, 2023
Joshua Bland	April 24, 2023
Max Blasnig	April 26, 2023
Brody Brunner	April 6, 2023
Shannon Buhler	April 3, 2023
Jacob Bukovic	April 24, 2023
Kasey Bunders	June 5, 2023
Jeremiah Cain	April 24, 2023
Garrett Camps	June 7, 2023
Kyle Christensen	June 5, 2023
Wyatt Clower	June 13, 2023
Antonio Colwell	May 23, 2023
Christian Constance	May 8, 2023
Chad Cox	May 1, 2023
Todd Crisp, Jr.	June 9, 2023
Clint Cross	April 28, 2023
Mason Dalsted	June 2, 2023
Brandon Dillinger	March 27, 2023
Adam Dimmel	May 12, 2023
Tyler Domke	May 5, 2023
Logan Dunn	June 12, 2023

GRADUATION DATE

Jeremy Engelbart	April 3, 2023
Tyler Finnell	March 29, 2023
Jordan Gibson	April 12, 2023
Zachary Giese	May 12, 2023
Paul Gunn	April 21, 2023
Justin Hahn	May 10, 2023
Kyle Halbleib	April 13, 2023
Jacob Halvorson	May 18, 2023
Joshua Horton	April 3, 2023
Ryan Ilse	May 16, 2023
Timothy Jacklin	April 14, 2023
Hans Jensen	March 29, 2023
Meric Johnson	March 22, 2023
Tyler Kasuboski	April 3, 2023
Ryan Kenner	May 3, 2023
Dakota Knuth	May 12, 2023
Matthew Konrad	May 8, 2023
Hayden Kressel	March 29, 2023
Aaron Kronstedt	March 30, 2023
Jacob Luckow	June 12, 2023
Cody Mayer	April 3, 2023
Taylor Miller	March 15, 2023
Drew Niles	March 29, 2023
Chance Ogle	May 18, 2023
Adam Olson	May 15, 2023
Andrew Palmer	May 22, 2023
Brandon Peak	April 21, 2023

GRADUATION DATE

Dalen Peet	June 12, 2023
Kyle Pratt	May 1, 2023
Kyle Radtke	May 8, 2023
Brent Riddlestine	May 5, 2023
Kevin Rose	April 26, 2023
Tye Schafer	April 13, 2023
Joseph Schmidt	April 26, 2023
Aaron Schneider	May 18, 2023
Devan Schroeder	May 5, 2023
Trevor Schroeder	April 10, 2023
Dylan Sobczak	April 11, 2023
Dalton Sogla	June 8, 2023
Jacob Staffon	April 27, 2023
Sean Stewart, Sr.	May 22, 2023
Andrew Strey	April 14, 2023
Michael Theesfeld	April 26, 2023
Markus Thomsen	April 17, 2023
Anthony Tilson	May 23, 2023
Thomas Tymus	April 3, 2023
Jarred Weiman	March 31, 2023
Kale Williamson	March 27, 2023
Brandon Wittenberg	April 14, 2023
Jason Wycklendt	May 15, 2023
Tiffany Zebrasky	May 1, 2023



Apprentice Benjamin Vandervort setting wall panels for J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc. at a UW Credit Union in Madison.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY TIM VIKI

Labor Movement Going Strong

Good news. After years of union-busting propaganda, anti-union sentiment, and a decline in union density, the pendulum is starting to swing back. You can't watch the news today without seeing a local Starbucks store going on strike or filing a petition for a Union election. Many college Graduate Teaching Assistants and even medical Doctor Residents across the country are seeing an increase in organizing activity. Earlier this month, the Hollywood writers went on strike, impacting the production of many current and future media platform projects. Bravo!



Pasquale A. Fioretto
Legal Counsel

the votes needed to pass in Congress, despite President Biden's support. Notwithstanding political obstacles, it helps having a Labor Board which is pro-Union, rather than an Administration which stifles workers' rights and organizing in general.

Recently the Labor Board's General Counsel, Jennifer Abruzzo, issued a Memorandum to her staff, captioned, "Procedures for Seeking Compliance with and Enforcement of Board Orders," in which she reiterated one of the Labor Board's main goal. Specifically, she highlighted (emphasis added):

As you know, the Agency's mission is to protect employees' rights to organize and bargain collectively.

As part of this uptick in organizing efforts, more and more Americans are demanding better pay, job stability, and benefits. Although union organizing reached its peak in the 20th century, the movement saw a comeback in the 2020s, even before the pandemic. From October 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, the National Labor Relations Board reported an increase of 58% in union election petitions. Indeed, many workers confronted with high inflation and cost of living increases began to organize more. Not only do they care about wages, but their causes also include more flexibility in schedules, better working conditions and a work-life balance tailored to the needs of today. Similar conditions which Local 139 has been fighting on behalf of its members for decades. The movement only gets stronger with more support.

A recent Center for American Progress study found that the mean union approval from Gen Z (those born between mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s) was 64.3%, compared to 60.5% for millennials (those born from 1981 to 1996) and 57.2% for baby boomers (those born from 1946 to 1964). As a baby boomer with several Gen Z children, I find these statistics fascinating. This generation is supposed to be "selfish" and disconnected due to technology, yet they care about one another and are willing to support a common cause. One recent US Gallup poll shows that public support for labor organizing is the highest it has been in decades: 68% approve of labor unions, the highest since 1965. Of those nearly 70%, it should come as no surprise that 90% of Democrats and 47% of Republicans approve of unions. However, union membership across the country remains steady at about 9% of U.S. adults.

Although organized labor has tried to pass legislation such as the "Protecting the Right to Organize Act" (opening new opportunities to unionization by expanding collective bargaining rights, eliminating barriers, and strengthening union election access), currently, the bill does not have

Upon her appointment as the new General Counsel in August 2021, she quickly issued a Memorandum in which she made her priorities clear: trying to undo all the harm imposed by the prior Trump-era Board cases. The Memorandum set an agenda to revisit cases which the new General Counsel deemed to have imposed "board doctrinal shifts... overruling many legal precedents which [had previously] struck an appropriate balance between the rights of workers and the obligations of unions and employers." She, therefore, encouraged her staff to identify any pending unfair labor practice charges with specific legal issues that should be reviewed. Such legal issues include the following: employee handbook rules; confidentiality provisions in separation agreements; what constitutes protected concerted activity; remedial issues; union access; employee status; and, most significantly, an employer's duty to recognize and bargain with unions.

All these changes will aid unions amid this surge in organizing that has gained momentum over the past few years. For example, the Board is likely to scrutinize Employers' workplace rules to make sure that routine policies do not interfere with workers' rights under federal labor law. Further, the Board will be looking at the practice of Employers who require workers to attend mandatory meetings during organizing campaigns which are intended to deter unionizing. Finally, issues dealing with electronic surveillance also will be on the Board's radar. An Employer's use of "intrusive" tools (such as GPS and webcams) will be scrutinized as well, due to the potential of them discouraging workers from unionizing.

One immediate change can be seen in a decision issued at the end of last year, on December 13, 2022. In a case

known as Thryv, Inc., the Board clarified the scope of its make-whole remedy to ensure that workers who are victims of labor law violations are compensated for all “direct or foreseeable pecuniary harm” suffered as a result of those unfair labor practices. This declaration is a considerable departure from the Board’s usual remedies of simply ordering reinstatement and backpay. In the decision, the Board recognized that its remedial powers extend beyond mere reinstatement and backpay.

The Board, for the first time, awarded damages for: (1) the loss of a book of business that had previously been afforded to each affected employee, (2) loss of reimbursements the employees previously received for the fixed and variable costs of maintaining a passenger vehicle for use on company business, and (3) out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred by an employee who was laid

off while on disability leave for a high-risk pregnancy. The Board’s ruling made it clear that Employers that commit unfair labor practices can now be liable for even *the indirect consequences of their unlawful conduct* (so long as those damages are otherwise “foreseeable”).

This case will have a huge impact on Employers’ future conduct. Now, Employers are on notice of potentially being responsible for out-of-pocket medical expenses, late credit card fees, or even missed rent or mortgage payments. As the Board explained, this clarification to the Board’s remedy authority will apply in every case in which the Board’s standard remedy includes a “make-whole” relief for employees. Further, the Board will apply this remedy retroactively to all cases currently pending.

It appears the tides may be turning in favor of organized labor as we enter a new construction season! 🚧

New Contractors

Badger Excavating, LLC

Arkdale, WI
Area I Building,
Area II Building,
Associated Earth Movers

BMP Maintenance

Crystal Lake, IL
Area I Building,
Area II Building,
Heavy & Highway

Ditch Creek Landscape, LLC

Waseca, MN
Heavy & Highway

DMT Contractors, LLC

Kenosha, WI
Associated Earth Movers,
Heavy & Highway

Fitzgerald Excavating & Trucking, Inc.

Goodhue, MN
Heavy & Highway

Lambert & Co Drilling, Inc.

Mt. Morris, IL
Area I Building,
Area II Building

Mitch & Sons Excavation/Utility, LLC

Kewaunee, WI
Area II Building,
Heavy & Highway

Nadeau Companies, LLC

Hampton, MN
Area II Building,
Heavy & Highway

Northland Concrete & Masonry Co., LLC

Shakopee, MN
Area II Building

On Call Sweeping

Anoka, MN
Area II Building,
Heavy & Highway

OT Site, Inc.

Verona, WI
Area II Building,
Heavy & Highway

Pave Works, Inc.

River Forest, IL
Heavy & Highway

SRM Ground Services, LLC

Stevens Point, WI
Associated Earth Movers

Ultimate Backroads, LLC

Genoa City, WI
Heavy & Highway



Operator Kyle Wickersham employed by Arbor Green Landscape installing guardrail on Sampson Road in Oconto County.

Stepping Forward with the Next Budget Bill

The majority party seems open to exploring new opportunities for the state as the election and COVID have moved to the past, and a \$7 billion surplus lies ahead. Throughout May and June, the Joint Finance Committee will continue to vote on each department's various budget proposals, including the Building Commission proposals discussed in my last newsletter article and the transportation budget.

Among conversations such as shared revenue, workforce housing, healthcare reform, and licensing there is a definite interest from leadership to reshape apprenticeship programs. The Operating Engineers have been included in conversations related to these new ideas. Below are a few highlights for ideas we are advocating for on apprenticeship:

- Expanding the Apprenticeship Completion Award Program administered by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to allow reimbursement for additional costs.
- Allowing those participating as an apprentice in an apprenticeship program to receive an individual income tax credit for apprenticeship expenses.
- Adding construction work to the list of industry-recognized certification programs for DWD and the Department of Public Instruction to approve as an industry-recognized certification program designed



Bob Welch

to mitigate workforce shortages and prepare individuals.

In mid May, the Joint Finance Committee adopted two motions to provide funding to the following programs at the DWD:

- Provide \$1,500,000 each year in additional funding to the Department's appropriation for the purposes of funding Career and Technical Education (CTE) incentive grant payments to school districts. Funding for the CTE incentive grants program would be \$8,000,000 each year.
- Provide \$3,000,000 in 2023-24, and \$4,000,000 in 2024-25, in additional funding to the Department's continuing appropriation for grants for Local Youth Apprenticeship consortia. Funding for Local Youth Apprenticeship grants would be \$9,000,000 in 2023-24 and \$10,000,000 in 2024-25.

These ideas are a great step forward and will hopefully garner bipartisan support. We will continue to keep you in the loop on how and if these will move forward. We expect to see more movement on new legislation once the budget bill is signed by the Governor which is typically at the beginning of July. Thank you for all your support, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns this legislative session.

Bob Welch is based in Madison and works on Local 139's legislative issues. 



Operator Mitch Boomsma grading a city street for Northeast Asphalt in Suamico.



Executive Director Ken Edwards of Midwest Coalition of Labor (MCL) highlighted some of the benefits of the MCL program available to active and retired members at the General Membership Meeting in Appleton. View the benefits at www.iuoe139.org/mcl or pick up an MCL Benefits Book at your nearest union hall.

In Memoriam

Frank Bender , Elroy	June 19, 2023
Terry Buck , Manitowoc.....	April 15, 2023
Harvey Corbin , Foxboro.....	April 28, 2023
Bruce Dietze , Medford	April 7, 2023
Arlen Everson , Viroqua	March 23, 2023
Larry Flood , Humbird	June 4, 2023
Daniel Fry , Browntown.....	March 30, 2023
Louis Gandt , Slinger	May 2, 2023
Paul Gintner , Valders	March 2, 2023
Donald Hord , Dubuque	May 11, 2023
Donald Johnson , Black River Falls	May 19, 2023
Vern Kuehn , Madison.....	June 18, 2023
Calvin Larson , Ripon	May 8, 2023
Jerome Mc Comb , Slinger	May 16, 2021
Scott Ogle , Medford	May 19, 2023
Paul Oleinik , New Berlin	May 22, 2023
Myron Omernik, Jr. , Custer	April 4, 2023
Samuel Pellock , Prairie du Chien.....	May 8, 2023
John Potterton , Slinger.....	May 16, 2023
George Reynolds , Boscobel	May 12, 2023
Richard Rowe , Darlington.....	April 12, 2023
Delmar Schmitt , Marinette	May 15, 2023
Duane Schultze , Greenwood.....	June 17, 2023
Alan Scott , Tomah	March 19, 2023
Richard Strykowski , Milwaukee	March 30, 2023
Richard Stuver , Pewaukee.....	May 20, 2023
Dennis Sullivan , Plover	June 5, 2023
Steve Trierweiler , Phillips	April 17, 2023
Donald Trocinske , La Crescent.....	May 16, 2023
Richard Tuura , Brule	April 25, 2023
Gary Weiler , Marshfield.....	April 14, 2023
Steven Weisensel , Edgerton.....	May 16, 2023

Labor Day Events With Local 139

Celebrate Labor Day in communities throughout Wisconsin by remembering those who made sacrifices for benefits often taken for granted, such as weekends off, worker protections, vacation time, overtime pay, and more.

A list of parades Local 139 will be participating in will be available on Local 139's website:

www.iuoe139.org

Summer Heat has Arrived!

Please do not become a statistic, hydrate regularly throughout the workday.



Holding Solar Developers Accountable



Nearly two dozen 100-megawatt (MW)+ solar projects are currently under construction or proposed for construction in Wisconsin. While scores of small solar projects under 100MW do not require Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) approval, all solar projects over 100MW and requiring PSC approval

are monitored closely by Construction Business Group (CBG).

This is because, unlike traditional powerhouses, which are generally constructed by a public utility, solar projects are often proposed and constructed by out-of-state third-party developers. A couple of the first utility-scale solar projects built by third-party developers in 2019 and 2020 used a largely transient out-of-state workforce, namely Badger Hollow I in Iowa County and Two Creeks in Manitowoc County.

When considering whether to approve any electric generation facility, the PSC has historically considered state and local economic benefits of a project, including the use of a local workforce. In their applications for PSC approval, third-party developers often tout the local economic benefits of their projects and make varying (but vague) commitments to “attempt” to hire local workers.

In a recent study issued by Forward Analytics, it was determined that a solar farm’s economic impact depends on the workforce composition (i.e., local versus out-of-state), meaning that using Wisconsin local workers generates significantly greater economic impact—as much as 150% more—than an out-of-state workforce. See [Capturing the Sun – The Economic Benefits of Using Local Workers on Wisconsin Solar Projects](https://bit.ly/SolarProjectReport) (<https://bit.ly/SolarProjectReport>). Therefore, the project’s economic benefits are substantially reduced when a third-party developer uses a transient out-of-state workforce.

Ratepayers deserve to know whether a third-party developer’s claims of economic benefits to the local community are realized. CBG, together with IUOE Local 139 and the Carpenters, filed comments in open solar

dockets asking the PSC to hold third-party developers accountable for their representations. Specifically, CBG has asked the PSC to require third-party developers to include in quarterly progress reports the use of local versus out-of-state workers.

Since CBG began filing comments in the Spring of 2021, the PSC has imposed a local workforce quarterly reporting requirement on the following projects:

- Grant County Solar in Grant County (200MW)
- Portage Solar in Portage County (250MW)
- Northern Prairie Solar in St. Croix County (101MW)
- Saratoga Solar in Wood County (150MW)

Given a recent change in PSC Commissioners, we anticipate every future solar project approval will have a local hire reporting requirement.

The PSC’s local hire reporting requirement has varied somewhat between projects. However, the final decision in the Portage Solar project provides as follows:

“The applicant shall report to the Commission on a quarterly basis:

- a) Its efforts, and the efforts of its contractors, to recruit Wisconsin residents to fill employment opportunities created by the construction of the proposed project;
- b) Its efforts to collaborate with state-registered apprenticeship programs; and
- c) The actual number of Wisconsin residents and out-of-state workers employed on-site to construct the proposed project.”

While the PSC cannot legally mandate the use of local contractors or local workers, this reporting requirement is important. First, it holds third-party developers accountable to the public and the PSC for representations made regarding the project’s economic benefits. Second, it puts pressure on third-party developers to use local workers—no one likes bad publicity.



Pre-Apprenticeship Curriculum Highlighted at the IUOE 2023 Convention

By Cynthia Buchko, CBG General Counsel

The IUOE 40th General Convention was held from April 29 – May 3, 2023. Construction Business Group was honored to have been asked to give a presentation to the entire delegation regarding the Operating Engineers Pre-Apprenticeship curriculum offered to high school students through Destinations Career Academy of Wisconsin (DCA).

DCA is an online public charter school that is a career and technical education-focused high school. Students receive a general high school education but can also take specialized classes in a career pathway, like construction. DCA's goal is to have students graduate from high school with more than a high school diploma. DCA is available to students throughout the state, and students may enroll full-time or on a part-time basis.



Construction Business Group's General Council Cindy Buchko presented pre-apprenticeship success stories at the IUOE 40th General Convention on Tuesday, May 2.

“...IUOE General President Callahan has been a vocal supporter of expanding the use of the Operating Engineers Pre-Apprenticeship curriculum...”

Local 139 was a founding partner of DCA. In partnership with IUOE's National Training Fund, Local 139 created a virtual curriculum similar to the classroom portion of several adult apprenticeship courses. Students who successfully complete the Operating Engineers Pre-Apprenticeship curriculum will have a head start on their adult apprenticeship with Local 139. The classes offered to high school students through DCA are as follows:

- Career Explorations
- Basic Construction Equipment Fundamentals
- Basic Grade and Construction Math
- Basic Maintenance of Mobile Equipment
- CDL Prep

From the beginning, IUOE General President Callahan has been a vocal supporter of expanding the use of the Operating Engineers Pre-Apprenticeship curriculum to as many states and IUOE Locals as possible. CBG has worked extensively with locals in other states over the last five years to expand the use of the curriculum. While it has taken some time, the curriculum is now being offered in six states, and we are actively coordinating with another six IUOE Locals for expansion by the fall of 2023. ▶

As the chart at right shows, in the 2022-2023 school year, over 875 course seats took the Operating Engineers Pre-Apprenticeship courses—courses developed right here in Wisconsin by your Training Center staff in collaboration with IUOE. Most of the 875 course seats are not attending virtual school full-time but part-time. Meaning, most of these students stay in their local school district and only take one or two courses a semester through a DCA online school.

CBG is proud to work on your behalf to expand the use of your pre-apprenticeship curriculum not only in Wisconsin, but throughout North America.

Enrollment Numbers							
	SY16-17	SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Wisconsin Local 139	54	120	125	148	77	142	371
Minnesota Local 49						181	323
N. Dakota Local 49							56
Oregon Local 701							50
Washington Locals 302, 612 & 701							60
W. Virginia Local 132							16

Pre-Apprenticeship Success Stories

Construction Business Group General Council Cindy Buchko’s presentation “Recruitment of the Next Generation of Operating Engineers: Pre-apprenticeship Curriculum” featured the following success stories at the IUOE 40th General Convention on Tuesday, May 2.

SUCCESS STORIES

Brody

- Graduated from Medford High School (WI)
- Completed all Pre-Apprenticeship Courses
- Worked part-time in the shop for a signatory contractor while in high school
- Signatory contractor took Brody on as adult apprentice immediately after graduation



SUCCESS STORIES

Jordan

- Graduated from HS in Southern WI
- Completed all Pre-Apprenticeship Courses
- Hired by a national signatory contractor to work on utility-scale solar project within 3 months of graduation
- First female student in WI to complete the entire pre-apprenticeship program and become an Operating Engineer apprentice



SUCCESS STORIES

Maryley

- Graduated from Caledonia HS (MN)
- Completed all Pre-Apprenticeship Courses
- Hired by a national signatory contractor to work on a large wind project
- Got the call about being taken on as apprentice on her 18th birthday



SUCCESS STORIES

Ryan

- Graduated from Northeast Ridge High School (MN)
- Completed all Pre-Apprenticeship Courses
- Secured apprenticeship with a signatory contractor BEFORE he completed high school
- Credits the courses for helping him pass the apprenticeship entrance test



Local 139 Committed to Building the Future

By Laura Cataldo, Director, Construction & Real Estate Services, Baker Tilly US, LLP



Wisconsin Operating Engineers continue to lead the trades in outreach and engagement with high school students. The simple approach of Explore-Educate-Engage is working as we continue to increase the number of students touched in all three efforts:



SPRING 2023 EXTERNSHIP DAYS

Create opportunities for students, parents, and educators to EXPLORE

In April, 600 high school students, parents, and educators from more than 50 school districts attended the Spring Externship Days at the Coloma Training Center. This event exposed hundreds of students, parents, and educators to the rewarding career path of being an Operating Engineer.

Thank you to the members and contractors who helped make this day successful!

Here is what one CTE Instructor had to say:

"Thank you for an outstanding day for the students! Our students all expressed how informative and fun the day was. It is experiences like this that help to positively promote the Skilled Trades."

The taped presentation during the bus tour of the training grounds was professionally done and was very informative. The smaller sized groups were quite beneficial for the student engagement with the simulators and the actual operating of the equipment."

Leverage partnerships to create new ways to EDUCATE

Enrollment in the certified pre-apprenticeship program for high school students through Destinations Career Academy continues to grow. There were 371-course seats in the pre-apprenticeship program during the 2022-2023 school year, including 50 high school seniors preparing to graduate. This is more than a 260% increase over last year and a 480% increase over 2020-2021.

The online curriculum developed in Wisconsin by Local 139 is now available to high school students in Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and West Virginia, and several other Locals are considering adopting the curriculum.

Offer meaningful hands-on experiences to ENGAGE

Youth Apprenticeship (YA) is the critical hands-on and paid work experience that links a student's interest to the career and potential employers. Contractors continue to explore opportunities to provide valuable work experience to high school students through YA.

Some signatory contractors, like The BOLDT Company, have been very successful in their YA programs and this year celebrated their annual Career Signing Day for 20 Youth Apprentices.



We were successful in recommending to WisDOT that DCA curriculum be an allowable option for Highway Construction Skills Training (HCST) certification. This allows high school students taking the DCA coursework to be HCST certified following graduation and eligible for contractor ASP-1 reimbursement.

To learn more about any of these workforce initiatives, please get in touch with Laura Cataldo at laura.cataldo@bakertilly.com.

Routine Annual Physicals Covered 100%

Good news, the Health Fund covers annual physicals for the participant and their spouse at 100% and no deductible. Common services are health history, blood chemistry analysis, body composition, resting blood pressure, height and weight measurements, physician-directed examination, urinalysis, mammogram, pap smear, and PSA test. The doctors' offices must correctly code the claims as a routine annual exam. When going in for your routine exam make sure you tell your physician to use the routine exam codes to ensure your claim is paid at 100%. Once the claim is billed your doctor cannot change the coding. Medicare provides an annual wellness exam if the doctor bills it correctly. If your doctor spends extra time talking to you about specific health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, etc., they may bill for an additional office visit. That separate office visit expense will be covered under the medical benefits of 90% and subject to the deductible for in-network providers only.



Rita Becker
Health Benefit Fund
Administrative Manager

growth, and chronic pain with a variety of food supplements, essential oils, magnet therapy, shock wave therapy, and a variety of holistic or alternative treatments. The provider often requires payment in advance because they know it is not covered by health insurance and can cost thousands of dollars. In most cases, the charges are not covered by the medical benefits and are not covered by the HRA. The health plan and HRA cover medical services that treat an illness or injury from a properly licensed provider working within the scope of their license, providing services that are standard

in the medical community. Any claim you submit should have a detailed list of services performed, should not be experimental, investigative, or cosmetic, and after the services are performed (not a pre-payment). Please call our office to verify coverage before paying for treatment. We want to help you avoid unexpected claim denials.

Enjoy your summer!

ALTERNATIVE AND HOLISTIC TREATMENT

There has been an increase in claims for treatment packages to improve energy levels, hormone balance, weight loss, hair



Mechanics Jeremy Callaway and Justin Anderson working for Dawes Rigging and Crane Rental, Inc. in Ixonia.

Prescription Drugs on the Rise

Sitting down to write this article, I realized my mind was blank. There is nothing new in healthcare right now. So, I figured I would get on my soapbox and rant about prescription drugs. The Fund's cost of prescriptions this fiscal year has increased by almost 20%. Some of that is due to having more eligible participants and their families, which is good because there is more work, which means more contributions to the Health Benefit Fund, etc. The contract we have with our Pharmacy Benefits Manager is good. It was negotiated through the International Union, combining ours with other Operating Engineer Health Funds throughout the US, covering more than 400,000 operators.

We are told there is always cost savings when you have large numbers of lives covered. And the contract provides us with rebates from the drug manufacturers to help with the costs. The government has taken action to cap the amount that can be charged to people with diabetes for their life-saving insulin. So, why the significant increase? These past few months, a shortage of chemotherapy drugs has put cancer patients at risk. Older chemo drugs have recently come off patent; have some manufacturers stopped making them because they can't charge as much due to generics being available? Are cost increases and shortages due to the drug companies whose only concern is their bottom line and how much money they



Mary Jane DeBattista

Health Benefit Fund Retiree Trustee

can make for their stockholders? Is it because the drug companies have too much political clout? Is it because of the outrageous contributions made by the drug companies to the campaigns of our elected officials? In every recent election, bringing down the cost of pharmaceuticals is a campaign pledge. Yet, it is widely publicized that the US pays more for prescription drugs than any other country. Keep this in mind for the next election. We need someone to step up and take action. What else can we do? Be wise consumers. The cost of prescription drug advertising is \$6 billion per year. Many of those medications cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month. Too bad they don't use that advertising budget to reduce the cost of their medications. Talk to your doctor and ask for the best medication for your condition; often, it is not the one from the commercials. In the meantime, remember every time you pick up a prescription at the pharmacy, you are fortunate to be paying only 10% or 20% of the actual cost (with a maximum cost of only \$200 per month on the (high-cost) specialty medications!

Have a great summer—get outdoors and enjoy your friends and families!



Operators Cody Miller and Travis Halvorson working for Capitol Underground, Inc. on a new subdivision in Stoughton.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY TIM VIKI

Understanding Medicare Parts A and B

I hope your season has been successful and productive. Make sure you stop by the Health Fund's booth at the picnic on August 19.

At the risk of being redundant, I would like to cover Medicare and the rules regarding the Health Benefit Fund. This topic is something I address daily.

Focusing on our membership, either at or approaching 65 years of age, the age of Medicare eligibility, please read closely.

First, what is Medicare? Medicare is the federal government program that provides health care coverage to those 65 and older. Though there are four parts of Medicare, Local 139's Health Benefit Fund coordinates with only Parts A and B.

“Once you reach the age of 65, you must apply for both Parts A and B of Medicare, even if you are still actively working.”

Medicare Part A primarily covers inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing facilities, hospice, lab tests, surgery, and home health care. Medicare Part B primarily covers physician's services, outpatient care, medical equipment, and some preventative services. Additional services can be covered under each Part. Part A is usually free, but Medicare Part B requires a monthly premium.



Shaun Mc Hugh
Health Benefit Fund Liaison

Approximately three months before your 65th birthday, the Health Benefit Fund will begin to send information regarding Medicare and the application process.

Once you reach the age of 65, you must apply for both Parts A and B of Medicare, even if you are still actively working. However, Local 139's Health Benefit Fund will remain your primary health care plan.

When you officially retire, Medicare Parts A and B become your primary health care plan, so all claims for yourself and any Medicare eligible dependents will be submitted to Medicare first.

It is imperative you sign up as soon as you become eligible. If you do not, it is possible that once you transition into retirement, you may end up with a gap in coverage, leaving you responsible for large portions of any medical bills.

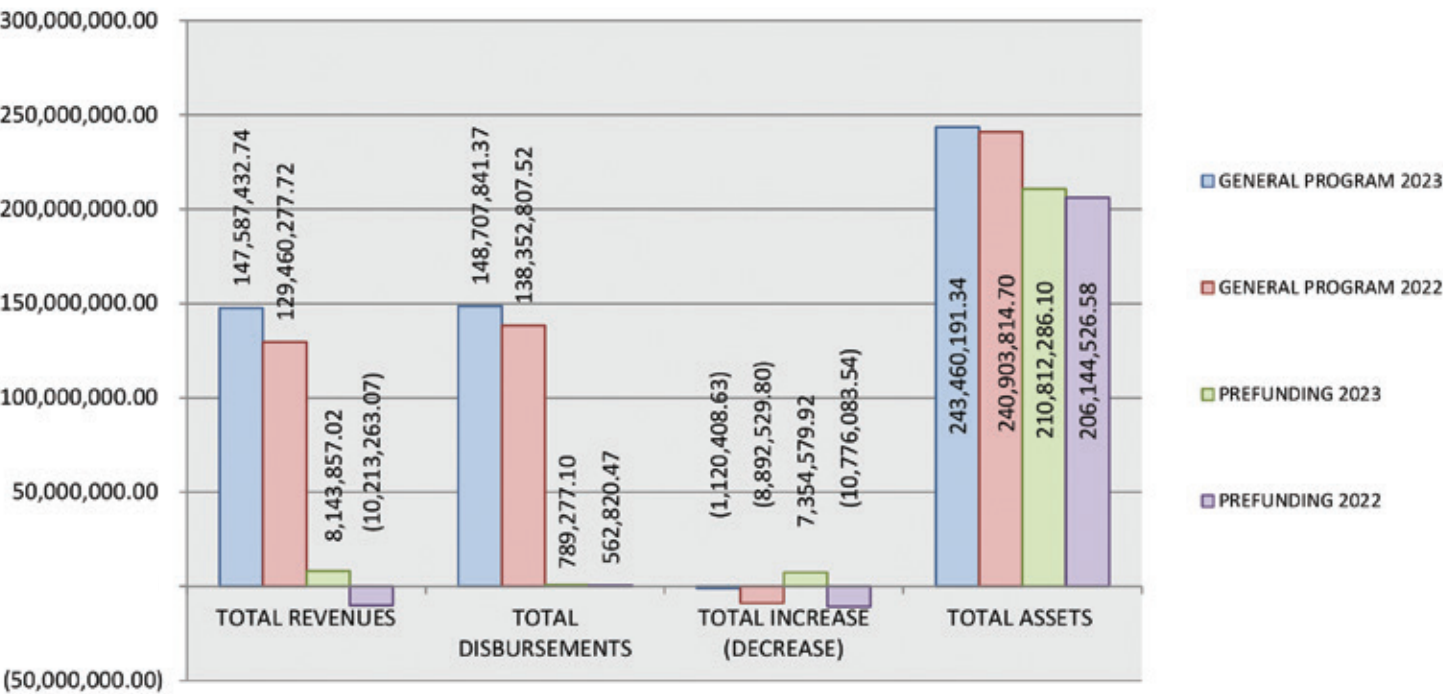
To apply for Medicare or find out more specific information, visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

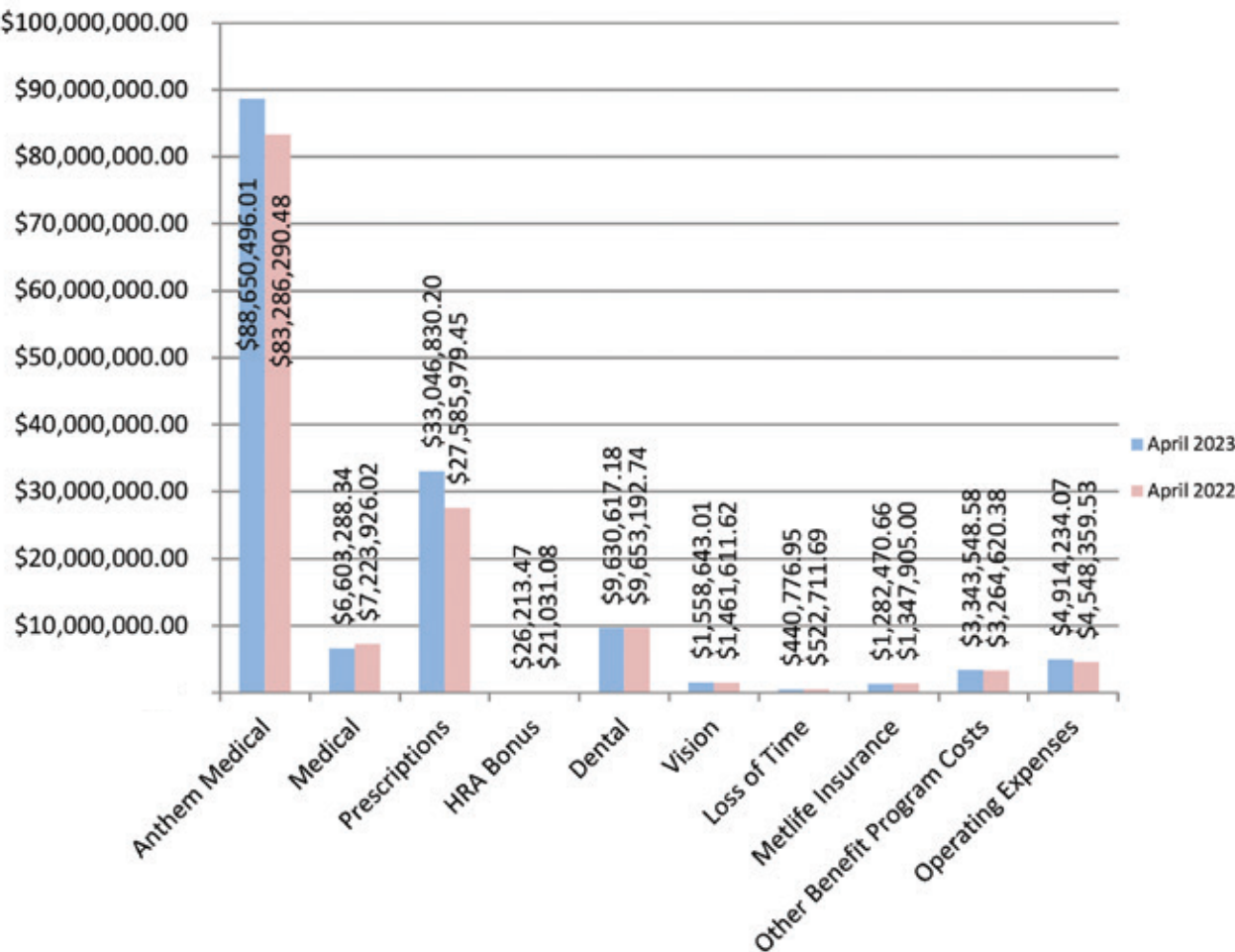


Mechanic Darrin Schley keeping Northeast Asphalt's equipment in tip-top shape in Northeast Wisconsin.

Quarterly Health Fund Activity Through April 30



Disbursements





“Stronger Together”

by Member Jennifer Johnson

I had the opportunity to attend the 12th Annual Tradeswomen Build Nations (TWBN) Conference in Las Vegas, October 28-30, 2022. The convention, sponsored by the North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU), is the largest yearly event for tradeswomen. The theme — “Stronger Together”. TWBN movement cultivates leadership, mentorship, sisterhood, and activism to address vital issues facing tradeswomen in the workforce.

Over 3,300 participants attended the conference this year. Not only were there tradeswomen representing every construction trade from across the United States and Canada but there was a significant increase of men attending in support.

You may ask, what do we do there? There are a variety of workshops to choose from; for example: “Childcare,” “Be That One Guy: Anti-Bullying-Harassment & Intimidation,” “Women in Leadership,” “CPWR- Protecting Workers’ Mental & Physical Health and Safety,” and “How to be a Male Ally in the Construction Industry,” just to name a few.

We also network, develop friendships, problem-solve, and exchange information and ideas. The Women’s Maternity Leave Package currently offered is a product of working with other trades to maintain a skilled workforce. Other Operating Engineer Locals inquired about the package to propose similar packages to their respective boards.

Each trade held a caucus meeting to discuss issues of relevance. During the Operating Engineers Caucus, I shared my story about entering the trades and spoke about the Local 139 Women and Minority Group.

There is often only one woman on a job, and they can feel isolated or intimidated, especially as an apprentice. This conference encourages, empowers, and helps tradeswomen to thrive in their industry. It can spark a desire to be more than a worker in a union but to be a union worker.

Know that your voice makes a difference for yourself, those around you, and future generations! The next TWBN Conference will be held December 1-3 in Washington, D.C.



**LOCAL 139
WOMEN & MINORITIES
GROUP**

Stronger Together!



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
[www.facebook.com/groups/
local139womenandminorities](https://www.facebook.com/groups/local139womenandminorities)

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Member Jennifer Johnson and NABTU’s IUOE Representative Linda Hamilton at the North American Building Trade’s 12th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, October 28-30, 2022. Top: IUOE women from the United States and Canada.

Local 139 to the Picket Lines



Retirees Rickard Nutt, Donald Korpela, Statewide Research Organizer John Oppeneer, and Organizer Matt Parrent in Ashland.

Local 139 started an Area Standard Picket against Manhattan Pipeline, LLC, on Friday, April 21, to highlight their payment of substandard wages and benefits. The picket lasted 50 days, occurring at Manhattan job sites in Spring Green, Ashland, and Hurley. Our banner truck helped us enlist the public's support near each of these job sites.

"Manhattan Pipeline, LLC is taking good paying jobs away from local residents by bringing workers in from out-of-state at less than Wisconsin rates," said Organizing Director Mike Ervin. "This depresses the local market and undermines Wisconsin's tax base."

We would like to thank all the active and retired members who continue to support our ongoing efforts to preserve the high level of wages and benefits earned by Wisconsin Operating Engineers.

42nd Annual Picnic

& Dedication of our Training Center's Expansion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023



RSVP ONLINE: portal.iuoe139.org

Congratulations Recent Retired 139ers

Steven Cerveny , Shawano.....	March 1, 2023	Stacy Nitzske , Vulcan.....	May 1, 2023
Joe Erickson , Lake Mills.....	February 1, 2023	Michael O'Brien , Webster.....	March 1, 2023
Scott Finco , Cedarburg.....	April 1, 2023	Brian Pecher , Arpin.....	March 1, 2023
Dan Griffith , Oregon.....	June 1, 2023	Randy Preston , Two Rivers.....	April 1, 2023
Jeffrey Guttuso , South Milwaukee.....	December 1, 2022	Michael Reed , Hartland.....	June 1, 2023
Steve Habeck , Abrams.....	May 18, 2023	Tom Roberts , Kenosha.....	February 1, 2023
Raleigh Hedrington , New Auburn.....	May 1, 2023	Harvey Rudolph , Medford.....	June 1, 2023
Gary Hollfelder , Black Earth.....	June 1, 2023	James Ruf , Bloomer.....	May 1, 2023
Bryan Holz , Berlin.....	April 1, 2023	John Schlieve , Grafton.....	April 1, 2023
Ray Hubbartt , Manitowoc.....	April 1, 2023	Mark Selner , Denmark.....	April 1, 2023
Mark Jensen , Mukwonago.....	April 1, 2023	James Sheppard , Necedah.....	April 1, 2023
Thomas Kalies , Greenleaf.....	February 1, 2023	Daniel Smith , Oak Creek.....	January 1, 2023
Terry Kasprzyk , Greenfield.....	February 1, 2023	Tim Strebis , Medford.....	April 1, 2023
Jay Kassha , De Pere.....	May 1, 2023	Richard Treptow , Black River Falls.....	April 1, 2023
Michael King , Manitowish Waters.....	January 1, 2023	Craig Troullier , Manitowoc.....	April 1, 2023
Jay Kleist , Medford.....	February 1, 2023	Daniel Truchon , Ashland.....	January 1, 2023
Brian Kracht , Howards Grove.....	February 1, 2023	Ronald Van Hammers , Elkhorn.....	May 1, 2023
Jeffrey Kruger , Rice Lake.....	April 1, 2023	Steven Wedvick , Edgerton.....	January 1, 2023
Philip Letter , Seymour.....	March 1, 2023	David Wegner , Ixonia.....	March 1, 2023
Kevin Lonergan , Livingston.....	June 1, 2023	Woody Wickersheim , Coloma.....	April 1, 2023
James Mc Laughlin , Sussex.....	February 1, 2023	Jamie Wohlrabe , Fremont.....	January 1, 2023
Joseph Michel , Verona.....	April 1, 2023	Timothy Woods , Greenville.....	April 1, 2023
Ronald Miller , Menomonie.....	June 1, 2022	Patrick Wuest , Ripon.....	April 1, 2023

Join a Retiree Club in your District

Keep in touch with your Local 139 Brothers and Sisters! Make new friends, reconnect with your work crew, and share stories. Retirees gather for monthly bus tours, casino trips, and breakfast/lunch meetings. Call your District Union Hall for additional details.



The Annual Reedsburg Retiree Spring Breakfast at Donnie's Restaurant in Reedsburg.

Retirees in attendance: Jerome "Jerry" Klubertanz, Gerald "Jerry" Mittelstaedt, John Kast, Duane "Dewey" Mittelstaedt, Joseph Montgomery, Rocky Sobeck, Jerry Montgomery, Gary Nelson, Robert Soback, Darrow Novy, Kenneth Ennis, Greg Oleson, Kevin Volk, Business Agents Bob Weaver and Mike Cox (not pictured).

Monthly Retiree Club Meetings

MADISON HALL

Call (608) 243-0139 for location
11:00 a.m., second Monday,
except July

PEWAUKEE HALL

N27W23233 Roundy Drive
10:00 a.m., third Wednesday,
except July and winter months

NORTHEAST

Jar's Bar & Grill, 4863 Elm Street, Laona
9:00 a.m., third Wednesday,
except July and December

LA CROSSE

Corky's Pizza
25 S Walnut St, La Crescent, MN
11:15 a.m., third Thursday

CENTRAL

Olympia Family Restaurant
200 Division St A, Stevens Point
9:30 a.m., third Tuesday,
except July and December

APPLETON HALL

5191 Abitz Road
10:00 a.m., first Wednesday
July 5 – Canceled
Aug. 1 – Member Birthday Party,
Ice Cream & Cake Served
Sept. 5 – Hamburger/Brat Party with Bingo

EAU CLAIRE

Maple Manor Motel
2507 S Hastings Way
9:00 a.m., first Thursday,
except July and December



The Eau Claire Retiree group (L-R) Russel "Butch" Wentlandt, Phillip Prusak, Byrl Dahl, Richard "Rich" Olsen, visited Local 139's Legacy Stone through the Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute Foundation, Inc Tribute Mall at Veterans Park in Altoona. Local 139's Legacy Stone is located at Tribute Mall in Veterans Park, Blazing Star Blvd, Altoona, WI 54720 at Field F, H6.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY CASEY ARONSON

As if that didn't make our future look bright enough, our state budget is shaping up to be just what the Wisconsin transportation system needed. Although it is not a finished product as of this publication, it has moved in a very positive and responsible manner. Governor Evers already had a \$6.5 billion transportation bill moving forward, then the GOP controlled Joint Finance Committee found an additional \$1.55 billion to tack on. This was accomplished by proposing a one-time transfer of \$555.5 million from the General Fund—made up largely of income, sales, and corporate taxes. Do you remember 15 years ago when we had to watch as one of our previous governors raided our Transportation Fund and put it into the General Purpose Revenue to balance the budget? I sure remember that. Now, I am starting to see political leaders and elected officials, from both sides of the aisles, working together to the benefit of “WE THE PEOPLE!” From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that passed in Washington, to the bipartisan effort being put forth in Wisconsin to provide our cities, towns and villages with revenue sharing like they have not seen in more than a decade, or a transportation budget sufficient to turn around the serious decay of our crumbling infrastructure. These are the kinds of things that American citizens want to see! It shows great leadership when you work together and accomplish things like this. The American public has had about enough of politicians that just fold their arms and say no to everything throughout their terms just to preserve their political careers. So, my hats off to the legislators that worked together, across the aisle, and I salute the genius of the Inflation Reduction Act, which puts fair wages on these renewable projects and helps unions across America capture all this work and gives them an opportunity to secure their market share. Brothers and Sisters, this puts trade unions

across the country on a strong upswing. This is a very rare moment in all our careers where we have a great opportunity to organize, recruit and strengthen our union as it marches forward with enough momentum to provide for many future generations of this great organization. As General President James T. Callahan said at this year's convention: We must “Seize the Moment”! 🚧




President/Business Manager Terry McGowan had the opportunity to speak at the Jack Day Environmental Education Center press conference held with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin for the Port Development Project in Green Bay on May 24.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY KEVIN DOUCETTE

REMEMBER TO RE-REGISTER

OUT OF WORK?

For Local 139 members on the Out-of-Work book, you are required to re-register between the 1st and 5th of each month beginning April through November.

BACK TO WORK?

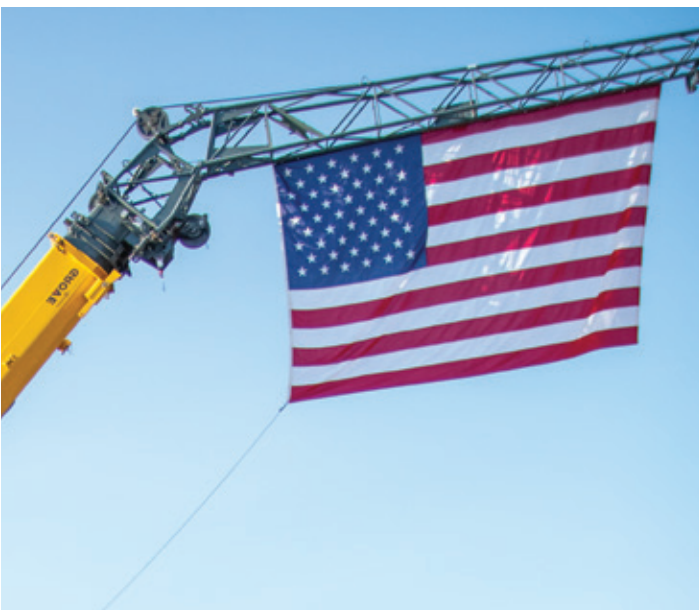
Please remember it is your responsibility to remove your name from the Out-of-Work book when you get a job and return to work.

One of the best ways to remember to re-register is to add a reminder on your cell phone calendar.

Post 139 in Action



American Legion Post 139's Post Commander Mike Burt and Post 139 Member Brian Swearingen provided a two-person color guard detail at the 7th Annual Construction Workers' Memorial in Madison on April 27.

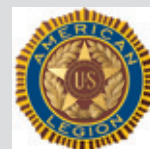


RECRUITING ALL VETERANS

**We would like our eligible veterans
to consider joining American Legion Post 139.**

Please contact Mike Burt at (715) 239-1935.

American Legion Post 139 is the first trade union
legion post in Wisconsin! To learn more, visit
www.americanlegionpost139.org.



2023 Business Representative/ Organizer Territories

DISTRICT C

Organizer: Rich Lego

- Darin Rubenzer
- Casey Aronson
- Adam Kaseno
- Mathew Laabs

STATEWIDE

Pipeline Agent: Dennis Batt
Research Organizer: John Oppeneer

DISTRICT D

Organizer: Steve Becker

- Kevin Doucette
- Tyler Person
- Rick Valenta
- Travis Martzahl

DISTRICT B

Organizer: Chris Feldmann

- Al Fogel
- Mike Cox
- Tim Vike
- Jeremy Allen
- Bob Weaver

DISTRICT A

Organizing Director:
Mike Ervin

Organizer:
Matt Parrent

- Mark Rabago
- Thomas Moore, Jr.
- Tim Krieg
- Dan Marsolek
- Brian Swearingen

