

Wisconsin News

FALL 2025

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 139



ADMINISTRATION MARKS START OF EIGHTH TERM



Navigating Through the Project Approval Process

Last year, Local 139 broke a new record for hours worked by exceeding 15 million hours reported. This increase was largely due to the workload generated by the solar field projects and the beginning of the data processing era. Maneuvering around the many obstacles that stand in the way of continuing and expanding these developments has proven to be a serious challenge. Once again, our way of life finds us in the crossfire of opposing groups for two completely different reasons. One group is the environmental coalitions that seem to find these developments to be just as dangerous as anything else we try to build. The other group finds no reason for renewable energy and wants to steer us back to energy produced by fossil fuel. One example is when the Vista Sands in Portage County faced the possibility of not getting the approval of a 5,000-acre solar development by the Public Service Commission because of the concern by a conservation group that they may be encroaching the habitat of the prairie chickens in that area. Fortunately, the developer and the conservation group were able to reach a compromise by dedicating 750 acres to the prairie chickens and a \$1 million donation to expand and maintain their natural habitat. After this agreement, the PSC approved their application, but for quite a while, proceeding with this project looked pretty grim. Another target of these environmental groups has been the data processing centers that have been



Terry McGowan
President/Business Manager,
IUOE General Vice President

flocking to Wisconsin. They are not only attracted to Wisconsin because we are part of the Great Lakes Basin, but as one developer remarked, they are also attracted to our work ethic as builders of their facilities and employees of their operations when they are completed. The biggest environmental issues that are cited are the amount of water they utilize for use in their cooling towers and the amount of energy they draw to operate. To address these issues, the developers continue to find solutions. For example, the large facility being proposed in Port Washington will be utilizing a state-of-the-art, closed system, cooling process that circulates the same water through their own treatment plant and back through the cooling towers. Providing adequate energy is yet another issue in which they are continuously seeking ways to stay as friendly to the environment as they possibly can while meeting the tremendous baseload required to operate these centers. You see, many environmental groups seemed to think that the renewable energy being produced would be enough to operate these data processing facilities, but that is not in the foreseeable future. Renewable energy is supplemental energy for now, and what is being

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Cover Photo

President/Business Manager Terry McGowan and IUOE General President John L. Downey with Local 139 Officers and elected officials, after Downey administered the oath of office to the newly elected administration on September 3 at the Appleton Union Hall.

Additional photos on page 27.

Local 139 photo

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MEETING REMINDER

Plan to attend the General Membership Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, October 11, at the Altoona Union Hall, 1003 S. Hillcrest Parkway



President/Business Manager Terry McGowan addresses members and welcomes IUOE General President John L. Downey during the Special Called Meeting on September 3 in Appleton.

put forward to supply a baseload to keep these centers running is proposed natural gas turbine engines referred to as reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) and compact modular reactors (CMR). The RICE turbines are being proposed at existing generating stations and the first CMR installation is being proposed at the former Kewaunee nuclear energy site. Well, it seems that suddenly, natural gas turbines have unacceptable levels of emissions and the new technology for nuclear power is a bad word, even though these CMR's are the safest, most reliable, air cooled, portable reactors that allow the utility company to add onto or easily replace, so they may meet the demands.

FEDERAL BUDGET PUTS TIMELINE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Another reason we may never achieve renewable energy independence is that the tax credits for utilizing apprentices on renewable sites is being phased out since the passage of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill", otherwise known as the federal budget. With the number of hours we stand to lose as this work is phased out, our biggest hope on the horizon is to continue to attract these data processing plants to Wisconsin. The solar fields have not only provided a generous number of hours, but they have also been a great training opportunity for our apprentices through the IRA apprenticeship incentives. Because so many of our members have relied on this solar work for quite some time, I would like to give you an idea of the remaining timeline mandated by the new budget. If a wind or solar project starts within 12 months of the bill's passage on July 4, 2025, it will be able to claim the tax credits as originally laid out in the Inflation Reduction Act. All other projects must be "placed in service," i.e. begin operating, by the start of 2028 to qualify. That means wind and solar developers will have until July 4 of 2026 to begin construction. Otherwise, they will have less than a year and a half to bring their projects online and still qualify for the credits as they must be operational by December 31 of 2027 if they did not start construction by July 4 of 2026. Meanwhile, all other sources of zero-emissions electricity, including stored batteries, advanced nuclear, geothermal, and hydro

power, will be able to continue claiming the tax credits for nearly a decade. So, as you can see, the timeline for solar work is not very long at all. I will say that the original draft for solar, as well as most renewables in the budget bill, was nearly an immediate termination. Now it looks like we have bought some time to apply all our efforts into moving these data processing centers forward and providing an adequate baseload, supplemented by renewable energy, whatever that may look like at the end of four years. We will continue to fight to prove that this is not only the correct direction for Wisconsin, but it is also the most efficient and eco-friendly means available by which we can achieve these goals.

ADMINISTRATION BEGINS EIGHTH TERM

In closing, of behalf of my entire staff, I would like to thank the membership for allowing our administration to continue serving you and moving our vision of Local 139 forward into the future. I also want to thank all the members who showed up at our swearing-in ceremony at the Appleton Hall on Wednesday, September 3, and we know that some of our members traveled quite a distance to be a part of it. Be assured, General President John Downey was impressed with the large friendly crowd. Finally, I want you to know that our promise to you is that we will continue to fight to advance the best interest of this union and its members. Solidarity! 🚲

IUOE Local 139 Officers

Terrance E. McGowan.....	President/ Business Manager
Dan Sperberg.....	Vice President
Shane Griesbach	Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Steve Buffalo.....	Financial Secretary
Aaron Raab.....	Treasurer
Michael Ervin	Trustee
Allan Fogel.....	Trustee
Shaun Mc Hugh.....	Trustee
Travis Martzahl.....	Auditor
Nicholas Michels.....	Auditor
Adam Nuthals.....	Auditor
John Oppeneer	Conductor
Casey Aronson	Guard
Jeremy Allen.....	Executive Board Member at Large
Joshua Comfort.....	Executive Board - District A
Cory Leist.....	Executive Board - District A
Curtis Smith, Jr.....	Executive Board - District A
Wendy Bloedow.....	Executive Board - District B
Craig Glover.....	Executive Board - District B
John Jankowski	Executive Board - District C
Joshua Szemraj.....	Executive Board - District C
Robert Schmitz.....	Executive Board - District D
Corey Vander Loop.....	Executive Board - District D

Highway and Data Center Growth Shape WI's Future

The 8-billion-dollar data center campus planned by Vantage Data Centers has the green light to be built in Port Washington following a unanimous vote by the city's common council to approve a development agreement with the Denver-based company. Plans are to construct four large data centers on the 672-acre site on the north side of Port Washington. The plan includes over 2.5 million square feet of data center space, a visitor center, and a warehouse that an undisclosed company will occupy. Vantage plans to break ground later this year, with the first phase to go online in late 2027. Construction will continue through 2028. Under the agreement, Vantage would pay for up to \$175 million in infrastructure costs, including the construction of a new water tower and repairs to the city's sewer and water utilities.

In late 2024, Microsoft Corporation paused MKE 16/17 of its expansion project in Mount Pleasant. Kiewit Corporation is beginning to reset and prepare for work on MKE 16/17. The Walsh Group has MKE 03/04 and should have that building occupied by the end of 2025. Walsh is currently moving dirt on MKE 9/10/11 portion of the project.

The East-West freeway is set to begin construction in late 2025, starting with the 3.5-mile section from the Stadium Interchange to the Marquette Interchange. The first phase will bring utility construction at the relocation sites, and some roadway construction will start. WisDOT hosted an open house meeting in the summer of 2025 to update the public on the I-794 Lake Interchange study. It has a short list of four alternatives for the areas in downtown Milwaukee. The other options include one that keeps the freeway as it is today, two plans that would make improvements to the current layout while also retaining the freeway, and then the



Steve Buffalo

Financial Secretary, Chief of Staff,
District A Manager

one improvement that removes it altogether, which in turn will open more load space for development in that area. The study does not consider changes to the main span of the Hoan Bridge or the core design of the Marquette Interchange. Some of the ideas involve connecting downtown Milwaukee to the Historic 3rd Ward, similar to the impact of the Park Freeway removal. It yielded over \$1 billion in private investments in development projects. A preferred alternative is expected by 2027, and if financing is provided, construction could begin in 2030. We will keep you

posted on the project. Stay tuned! 🚧



Operator Joshua Beatka works for Northway Fence in Milwaukee.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY BRIAN SWEARINGEN

Business Agents/Organizers Serving District A



Tim Krieg



Thomas Moore Jr



Mark Rabago



Kele Schneller



Brian Swearingen



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS BY THOMAS MOORE, JR

Apprentice Jessie Garcia and Operator Timothy Butler of Michels Construction, Inc. remove a man-made waterfall as part of the Estabrook Falls Fish Passage project on the Milwaukee River. The project will help native fish migrate upstream to critical spawning and feeding areas.



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY MARK RABAGO

Operator Tyler Engelman installs gas main for NPL Construction in the City of Waukesha.

Why Honoring the Picket Line Matters

As we continue work this fall, I'd usually begin by saying, "I hope you had a great season." This year feels a little different. While WisDOT projects will slow down during the winter, I'm confident dispatching will stay steady across many industries. Let's keep a positive outlook and stay ready.

With the clean-energy industry booming, now is the time to make sure your certifications and data cards are current. Solar farms, LNG facilities, data centers, and pipelines are all calling for skilled operators. I hear from members who wonder why the calls aren't coming. Often, the reason is an expired or missing certification. Every unchecked box can mean a missed opportunity. Staying trained and certified is the surest way to keep your career moving forward.

This year, a fellow trade union went on strike in District B. It was discouraging to see some of our brothers and sisters, along with members of other trades who crossed the line, sometimes without even knowing their rights as union members. What troubled me was seeing other trades step in to operate our equipment. Last spring, I wrote about this important topic and I'm asking again to talk with friends,



Jeremy Allen


Executive Board Member at Large,
District B Manager

coworkers, and fellow members to help spread the message and raise awareness.

A picket line is more than a few signs outside a job site. It's where working people stand up for dignity, fair wages, safe conditions, and respect. Crossing that line isn't just "going to work." It tells those risking their livelihood that their stand doesn't count, and it strengthens the hand of those who would take advantage of them.

Many of the rights we now take for granted—weekends, overtime pay, child-labor laws—exist because workers stood together and refused to cross. When we honor the line, we add our weight to generations who fought and sacrificed for progress.

Solidarity is still our strongest tool. When we stand together, we win. When we don't, we lose. The choice is clear: if you see a picket line, honor it.

Thank you for the trust you've placed in me to serve as your District B Manager and Executive Board Member-At-Large for another three years. I look forward to working with all of you as we keep our union strong. 

GOOD UNION MEMBERS RESPECT PICKET LINES

A good union member is extremely careful when confronted with a picket line situation. When a picket line is established on a job where they are working:

- They leave. They do not talk – just leave.
- They do not hang around near the job.
- They read the picket sign as they leave.
- They know that once a picket line is established, their business agents, and other union officials are legally gagged and handcuffed from giving advice pertaining to that job. They can only tell them if the picket line is authorized.

A GOOD UNION MEMBER KNOWS THEIR RIGHTS

- They have the right not to work behind any picket line.
- They have the right to decide for themselves whether to walk off a job being picketed.
- They understand that their trade may be under attack next.
- They know that a two-gate system means a picket line and they have the right not to work, no matter how many gates the employer sets up.

Carry in your wallet, refer to it when in doubt. Know your rights. Be prepared ahead of time to react to picket lines.

Business Agents/Organizers Serving District B



Mike Cox



Chris Feldmann



Al Fogel



Matt Ison, Jr.



Tim Vike



Operators Jason Oelke (left) and David Brehm work for Mashuda Contractors, Inc. on County Z in Adams County.



Member Keegan Kemp and Apprentice Dylan Digman work for J.P. Cullen & Sons, Inc. in Dickeyville.

Operator Michael Turnipseed works for Mathy Construction Company in Holmen.

Enbridge Line 5 Update

Enbridge entered a crucial phase of its permitting process, which initiated several public hearings to challenge permits and other regulatory approval issues by the DNR. The hearings began in Ashland in mid-August with opening statements and testimonies. Business Representatives Casey Aronson, Adam Kaseno, and I gave testimonies on why the reroute is important to the people of Northern Wisconsin. The project will create 700 good-paying union jobs, and many of these jobs will be filled by the highly skilled and well-trained Operating Engineers of Local 139. The 41 miles of pipeline will generate millions of dollars in local project spending, supporting Native-owned businesses, tribal community investments, and will engage in training and hiring local Native Americans. These hearings and testimonies are expected to conclude in early October.

Also in central Wisconsin, Lunda Construction Company and James Peterson & Sons, Inc. are getting underway in Rothschild at the Domtar Papermill. A 276-foot section of the



Aaron Raab


Treasurer, District C Manager

dam, made of wood, is being repaired, and half of the \$84 million price tag has gained bipartisan support from Wisconsin lawmakers. The Governor's new state budget allocated \$42 million for these repairs. The project is estimated to last up to four years.

Work at the 1,200-acre, 250-megawatt (MW) Portage solar farm was fully staffed by mid-September. AZCO Inc. will continue work as long as the weather permits into the winter months.

Breaking ground in late fall is the Saratoga Solar Farm located in Wood County. This 1,200-acre 150 MW project, yet to be pre-jobbed, is expected to start removing trees within the next couple of months.

Another major project at Sentry Insurance is underway and will keep members busy on the \$500 million renovation project in Stevens Point over the next three years. Gilbane was awarded the project. Next 150 Construction, Inc. will dispatch a few operators throughout the project, while C.D. Smith Construction, Inc. will be on site, skinning the pre-cast off the exterior and performing the interior demolition.

I hope you had a successful and busy season with plenty of work going on around the state. Please remember to update yourself accordingly on and off the Out-of-Work list for our dispatchers. It is important to make sure you are on the Out-of-Work list when collecting unemployment to avoid work search requirements. It was great seeing our members at the summer Local 139 events this year. Be safe and remember to attend your local district and sub-district meetings when you are available to support your Brothers and Sisters. 

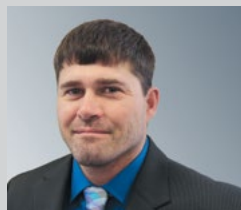


Local 139 members, including Business Agent Casey Aronson (left), showed strong support for the Enbridge Line 5 relocation hearings at Northcentral Technical College in Ashland on Aug. 12.

Business Agents/Organizers Serving District C



Casey Aronson



Adam Kaseno



Mathew Laabs



Darin Rubenzer



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY DARIN RUBENZER



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY CASEY ARONSON

Apprentice Jordan Henze works for Wells Concrete Products Company in Valders.

Lisa Kavajecz (Laborers Local 1091) and Member Harry Wickman work for Northern Interstate Construction in Superior.



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY MATHEW LAABS

Operator Lance Gliniecki works for Sheet Piling Services, LLC in Marathon County.

Operators Keep Wisconsin Moving

We had an outstanding year for work in District D. As summer progressed, there were a minimal number of members registering on the Out-of-Work list, which is a great problem to have. Demand was strongest for crane-certified and pipeline-experienced operators. These specialized skills were extremely busy this summer. Allied Power Services LLC, the new maintenance contractor at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, will need a few crane operators with an Overhead Crane certification for the spring outage. All operators must have a REAL ID driver's license before starting, so please update yours if needed—it's also required to access airports when flying throughout the United States.

In August, a newly sworn member was killed in a workplace accident just two days after joining. The loss hit our membership hard—he was proud to become one of us, and many connected with him during initiation. The tragedy also underscored what new members are entitled to at the time of death: if a member has earned eligibility in our Health Fund, the death benefit is \$20,000 for natural causes or \$40,000 for accidental death. Because he was not vested in Central Pension, all contributions made on his behalf will be paid to his beneficiary; annuity contributions are also payable to the beneficiary. In addition, through Local 139's participation in the National Coalition of Labor, active members in good standing receive a \$5,000 death benefit, plus \$2,500 more for accidental death (retirees excluded). For details on benefits for active and retired members, visit coalitionoflabor.org, which also offers strong options for purchasing life insurance.



Shane Griesbach

Recording-Corresponding Secretary,
District D Manager

The Highway 41 six-lane expansion remains on schedule and is making great progress. Zenith Tech, Lunda Construction Company, Sheet Piling Services, LLC, and Pheifer Brothers Construction Company, Inc. are expected to complete their bridgework by November. In the July letting, Lunda Construction secured bids for eight additional structures, none of which involve the Highway 441/41 Flyover Bridge, leaving that work still ahead.

Miron Construction Co., Inc., started work on its \$100 million project with

Veit & Company, Inc. and Ostrenga Excavating, Inc. at UW-Green Bay. They will also be heavily involved in the future upgrade work at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, which will include some infrastructure upgrades and the construction of a new operations center. C.D. Smith Construction, Inc. is expected to start a \$200 million 6-story addition at St. Mary's Hospital this year. Both of these general contractors have numerous projects underway throughout the state.

InterCon Construction, Five Star Energy Services, and Miller Pipeline stayed busy on distribution gas and fiber-optic work. Michels Pipeline Construction expects to finish the pipeline update and reinstall from Weyauwega to Fox Crossing by year-end, putting over 100 operators to work.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Christmas Meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity to get to know our staff and meet new members. **Please note to check the calendar for revised District D Christmas Meeting dates.** 🎄



Business Agents/Organizers Serving District D



Kevin Doucette



Travis Martzahl



Tyler Person



Rick Valenta



Member Billy Maldonado operates a self-erecting tower crane on the Five 50 William mixed-use apartment development in De Pere.



Apprentice Jordan Henze works for Wells Concrete Products Company in Valders.



Operator Kale Mc Hugh installs duct for Five Star Energy Services, LLC in Crivitz.

Over 1,000 Apprentices Train for Tomorrow

I want to begin by thanking the members who attended the Local 139 Officers swearing-in ceremony at the Appleton Union Hall. It is truly an honor to serve the members of Local 139 as the Vice President. The support from the membership was overwhelming, and I extend a sincere thank you to everyone.

The work season for our members has been busy, along with training at Coloma. The Training Center has been conducting regular crane testing, including both the CCO and OECF certification programs, which continue to gain popularity with members and contractors. Testers perform weekly exams to support members' career growth. Both training and testing for the CDL program has three to four trucks on the road nearly every week to help members obtain their Class A CDL. To meet the demands of today's jobs, the instructors have been training members on a variety of equipment, including dozers, excavators, and scrapers.

Our apprenticeship program has shown remarkable growth this year, with over 370 new apprentices enrolled and a total of 1,066 active apprentices. Required training courses have been scheduled for apprentices, and some elective courses will need to be scheduled on your own. **First-year apprentices** must complete Basic Equipment, Basic Maintenance, and Construction Regulations, which include OSHA 10, MSHA New Miner, and First Aid/CPR certifications. **Second-year apprentices** must complete Basic Grade, 40-Hour Hazmat, and 80 hours of electives. **Third- and fourth-year apprentices** are required to schedule 80 hours of elective



Dan Sperberg
Vice President, Training Director

courses. All apprentices must also keep safety certifications current by registering to renew or refresh any that are expiring. Please watch your mail and email for your course schedule and any self-scheduling instructions and remember to register early for elective and refresher courses. The Training Center is here to assist with scheduling and to help ensure you remain on track for the season.

I also want to remind members about Destinations Career Academy, our partner program that gives high school students the opportunity to explore a career as an Operating Engineer. This pathway allows students to complete some required apprenticeship courses early and gain exposure to this rewarding career. If you have high school students or know others who may be interested, please encourage them to speak with their school district about this opportunity or contact the Training Center for more information.

Please review the training opportunities available this season. The new course schedule will be mailed to all members and is available online at 139training.org. To register, you can call our office at (715) 228-4911 or sign up directly through the member portal at portal.iuoe139.org. Now is the time to upgrade your skills and certifications for the 2026 work season to better serve your contractor and create opportunities for advancement. If we can assist with crane testing, obtaining your CDL, or any other training, please contact the Training Center. I look forward to seeing everyone in Coloma this training season. 🏗️

REGISTER FOR TRAINING COURSES TODAY!



Register online at portal.iuoe139.org
or call (715) 228-4911

DAN'S PICNIC FUN FACTS

1800 pieces of chicken
400 lbs of pork
300 lbs of beef
1000 hot dogs
5 five-gallon buckets of pickles
8 gallons of olives
24 sheet cakes
200 lbs potato salad
100 lbs creamy coleslaw
300 lbs miscellaneous fruit
200 lbs miscellaneous vegetables
12 gallons of ranch
22 three-gallon containers of ice cream
And we washed it all down with 22 ½ barrels of beer!

Congratulations Recent Apprentice Graduates

	GRADUATION DATE
Bryan Appel	August 29, 2025
Ian Baier	August 21, 2025
Cole Ballschmieder	July 11, 2025
Ethan Barggren	August 6, 2025
Miguel Benitez	September 3, 2025
Hayden Berres	July 18, 2025
Dominic Bibeau	July 17, 2025
David Bohl	September 11, 2025
Benjamin Brimmer	June 30, 2025
Brian Brunkow	August 25, 2025
Trevor Burby	June 30, 2025
Cole Calmes	September 12, 2025
Andrew Cebolski	August 15, 2025
Jack Colbert	August 11, 2025
James Cooper	July 11, 2025
Collin Davis	August 20, 2025
Jacob Dernetz	September 5, 2025
Scott Dunbar	July 16, 2025
Peyton Eckel Yunto	September 15, 2025
Justin Emerich	August 4, 2025
Keegan Fischer	July 31, 2025
Shawn Gelbuda	September 2, 2025
Vincent Grall	July 7, 2025
Malik Griessmeyer	August 8, 2025
Mitchell Grossen	August 29, 2025
Matthew Gruenwald	June 25, 2025
Madison Ibarra	September 2, 2025
Brady Isaacsen	July 9, 2025
Zachary Jenness	September 15, 2025

	GRADUATION DATE
Steven Karges	August 28, 2025
Keegan Kemp	August 5, 2025
Connor Klatt	September 15, 2025
Zachary Klatt	August 22, 2025
Dylan Knudtson	September 5, 2025
Charles Konetzke	July 14, 2025
Cole Kreis	August 20, 2025
Joe Lampman	July 8, 2025
Jonathan Laude	September 9, 2025
Simon Lesniewski	September 10, 2025
Nicholas Loomis	August 7, 2025
Kyle McKeever	August 14, 2025
Erik Michels	July 14, 2025
Blake Mirsberger	July 21, 2025
Carter Montavon	August 13, 2025
Darren Moon	September 12, 2025
Michael Murphy	August 22, 2025
Timothy Nelson	August 20, 2025
Jermey Nielsen	July 21, 2025
Kyle Nye	July 17, 2025
Trevor Olson	July 28, 2025
Matthew Onesti	July 18, 2025
Evan Paff	August 15, 2025
Simon Patterson	July 15, 2025
Brendan Pokorny	July 11, 2025
Robert Promenchenkel	August 15, 2025
Mitchell Propson	June 30, 2025
Hayden Renikow	September 12, 2025
Samuel Rezk	July 14, 2025

	GRADUATION DATE
Kevin Riepe	July 8, 2025
Ethan Rubenzer	August 13, 2025
Conner Scheibe	September 15, 2025
Joseph Scheuer	July 9, 2025
Brandon Schisel	July 31, 2025
Eric Schmidt	August 15, 2025
Brice Scholtus	September 12, 2025
Trevor Schunk	July 1, 2025
Collin Schwarz	September 9, 2025
Valerie Sennholz	July 28, 2025
Jesse Sherman	August 7, 2025
Tyler Sigmund	August 1, 2025
Riley Sleeman	July 18, 2025
Dylan Sommers	September 5, 2025
Bradly Sorenson	September 16, 2025
Cameron Stadler	August 14, 2025
Benjamin Stoewer	July 30, 2025
Paxton Swiggum	July 9, 2025
Joseph Tulachka	August 25, 2025
Charles Van Straten	September 10, 2025
Dawson Vogelsang	September 16, 2025
Josiah Weckwerth	September 3, 2025
Travis Wiercinski	July 21, 2025
Jacob Wild	July 11, 2025
Travis Wilson	August 18, 2025
Mason Woods	July 11, 2025
Colin Young	July 3, 2025
Danny Zauhar	August 28, 2025

APPRENTICES IN THE FIELD

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY CHRIS FELDMANN



Third-year apprentice Keeghan Anding works for Larson Construction Company, Inc. on County Z in Adams County.



First-year apprentice Myana Cooper of M.A. Mortenson Company works on the new Nature & Culture Museum of Wisconsin in downtown Milwaukee.

LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY THOMAS MOORE, JR

Labor Board: Part II

Continuing on from our last article. The NLRB is currently operating without a quorum due to a lack of confirmed Board members. This means the Labor Board cannot formally act, issue new rulings, or enforce existing precedents. However, regional offices are still processing unfair labor practice charges and representation petitions, and can take some limited action in federal court. Recent decisions expanding employee rights remain in effect, but could be reversed by courts or a future Board.



Pasquale A. Fioretto
Legal Counsel

In the last issue, we left off with the bargaining of a contract, once a union wins an election. An employer is obligated to bargain over a first-time contract (as well as successor contracts). What does that mean?

In labor relations, “good faith bargaining” or the obligation to bargain in “good faith,” refers to the legal obligation of both the Union and Employer to negotiate sincerely and honestly with the goal of reaching a collective bargaining agreement (“CBA”)—whether it is a first-time or successor contract. The duty to bargain in good faith extends to “wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment,” referred to in legal lingo as “mandatory subjects of bargaining.” These mandatory subjects also include scheduling, work rules, work assignments, and grievance and arbitration procedures.

The Parties also are free to bargain over non-mandatory subjects of bargaining, called “permissive bargaining” subjects (and often times do). Permissive subjects can include: expansion of the bargaining unit; provisions covering job applicants; contract ratification procedures; and contributions to political action committees and to training industry funds. However, unlike mandatory subjects of bargaining, one side cannot insist that the other bargain over permissive subjects.

Bargaining in good faith means, among other things, meeting at reasonable times, providing timely and relevant information requested by the Union to facilitate bargaining, making reasonable concessions, discussing the mandatory subjects of bargaining, and making a genuine effort to reach an overall agreement. While parties do not have to agree on every point, they must approach negotiations with a willingness to find common ground. Stalling to delay the process often times has been found to be a violation of the good faith obligation by the Labor Board. Once an agreement is reached, both parties are obligated to sign a written document reflecting that agreement. If the Employer refuses, that is also a

violation of the labor law and subjects the Employer to liability.

Since its inception, the Labor Board has always encouraged collective bargaining. The Labor Board gives great deference to the parties’ bargaining process. The importance of this bargaining duty cannot be overemphasized. Private sector collective bargaining under the NLRA has played a vital role in developing the economy and improving the quality of life experienced by employees, while at the same time maintaining healthy labor-management relations.

Union contracts can impact the national and local markets for labor and influence the pay and benefits employees receive locally and across the country.

“Local 139 takes great pride in negotiating some of the best contracts for its members, providing exceptional benefits and protections...”

Negotiations between Unions and Employers produce regular pay raises and increase standards of living for union members, while providing Employers with a stable workforce. Local 139 takes great pride in negotiating some of the best contracts for its members, providing exceptional benefits and protections (such as overtime guarantees and health insurance). Through union representation and collective bargaining, employees achieve a voice in setting their working conditions and attaining both job and economic security. Through negotiation and enforcement of numerous CBAs, Local 139 has provided its members with contractual terms and conditions of employment upon which they could rely, obtain just cause protections against unwarranted discipline and/or termination, and, through the grievance and arbitration process, ensure that management complies with the obligations contained in a CBA.

When employers develop good relationships with unions, both parties can work together to find the most efficient way to resolve disputes and address other critical operational issues. This not only saves time but can also lead to a more harmonious workplace. Local 139 is not afraid to fight for its members when necessary, and employers throughout Wisconsin know it.

As summer seems to be coming to a screeching halt, continue to be safe out on the jobsites! 🚧

New Contractors

C3 Contractors

Waterford, WI

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

CRW Utility Construction, LLC

Mayville, WI

Area II Building, Heavy & Highway,
National Distribution

Dairyland Grading, LLC

Stanley, WI

Associated Earth Movers,
Heavy & Highway,

Eco Barrier Solutions 1, LLC

Oregon, WI

Area II Building, Associated Earth
Movers, Heavy & Highway

Flatirons Drilling, Inc.

Eaton, CO

Pipeline

Gregory General Contracting

Pulaski, VA

Pipeline

LK1 Services, LLC

Ashland, WI

Pipeline

Northland Crane

Princeton, MN

Area II Building

S J-3 Contracting, LLC

Eau Claire, WI

Associated Earth Movers

Winters Landscape, Inc.

Sycamore, IL

Associated Earth Movers



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY ADAM KASENO

Operators Kevin Lange, Adam Wichman, Devin Gosse, Apprentices Ryan Pankow, Brayden Vielbaum and Operator Dalton Lavicka work for Musson Brothers, Inc. in Rhinelander.



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY CASEY ARONSON

Operators Theodore "TJ" Logan, Robert Menuet (Local 234) and Kimberlie Cass work for Foundation Service Corporation in Superior.



LOCAL 139 PHOTO BY TYLER PERSON

Apprentice Jaden Lobermier (oiler) and Operator Favio Adame help construct a wastewater treatment plant for CR Meyer in Menasha.

Evers Signs \$111 Billion Budget



In the early hours of July 3, Governor Tony Evers signed Wisconsin's \$111.1 billion two-year state budget into law,

marking a 12% increase in spending over the previous cycle. The budget was finalized after weeks of negotiations that intensified near the end of the fiscal year, ultimately resulting in a bipartisan compromise shaped in part by Senate Democrats joining the talks. The Joint Finance Committee approved the plan on July 1, followed by swift passage in both chambers on July 2, with the Senate voting [19-14](#) and the Assembly [59-39](#). Key provisions of the budget include \$1.5 billion in tax relief, major investments in child care and public education, \$1.4 billion for Medicaid and health care, and over \$700 million in transportation funding.

This budget makes a clear statement: Wisconsin is committed to strengthening our transportation system, not just for today's drivers, but for the long-term health of our economy and communities. Thanks to a mix of new revenues, one-time investments, and a balanced approach to bonding, the Legislature and Governor delivered a transportation package that prepares our state for future demands.

The plan is possible in part due to nearly \$200 million in new, ongoing revenue. Adjustments to fees, combined with transfers from existing funds, will generate additional funding for the transportation sector.

The budget establishes or increases the following fees and transfers:

- Vehicle title fee: \$50 increase, from \$157 to \$207, effective Oct. 1, 2025
- Registration fees for vehicles with gross weight over 6,000 pounds: 10% increase, effective Oct. 1, 2025
- Driver's license issuance and renewal fees: \$8.50 increase, from \$24 to \$32.50, effective Oct. 1, 2025
- License plate issuance fees: \$6 per plate new issuance fee, increase of \$2 per plate for replacement, effective Oct. 1, 2025
- Special license plate fees: \$25 annual fee for new "blackout" and "retro" plates
- Railroad personal property tax transfers from the local government fund to the transportation fund: \$4.9 million
- Lapse from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

general operations: \$6 million annual transfer to the transportation fund to support driver education grants.

On top of this, a one-time transfer of \$565 million in general purpose revenue ensures that the state can accelerate needed projects right away. In addition, bonding plays a role, but will remain below historic averages. Key projects funded through bonds include major highway developments, design-build projects, and the Southeast Wisconsin Megaproject program, all of which are critical to keeping Wisconsin's economy moving.

On highways, the budget follows Governor Evers' earlier proposal, including funding for the much-anticipated I-39/90/94 reconstruction from Madison to the Dells; a project of statewide significance that will modernize a key travel corridor.


Perhaps the most encouraging theme in this budget is its emphasis on **safety**. New investments target the basics, from more funding for deicing salt to ensuring local roads and bridges are structurally sound. The budget also launches a new Work Zone Safety Pilot Program, dedicating \$600,000 to test enhanced protections for workers and drivers alike. In addition, WisDOT will receive ongoing funds for a Work Zone Safety Education Program, helping drivers better understand how to navigate these areas safely.

These aren't just line items; they're life-saving measures. Work zones are among the most dangerous places on Wisconsin's highways, and these investments acknowledge that keeping workers safe must be a top priority.

Local governments also see real gains through increased general transportation aids, restored funding from a previous veto, and a historic \$150 million investment in the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program. That means stronger farm-to-market connections, better local roads, and improved safety on rural routes.

By combining sustainable new revenues with one-time support and careful borrowing this is a responsible, forward-looking transportation budget. Through bipartisan negotiations, this budget invests in highways and local roads, while also ensuring Wisconsin's rail, ports, and airports are prepared for the future.

This is an investment that will pay off in smoother commutes, stronger local economies, and, most importantly, fewer lives put at risk on Wisconsin's roads. This budget supports the hard work of members of Local 139, whose dedication keeps Wisconsin moving forward, thank you.

The Welch Group's Stamena Mesec and Bob Welch (Senior Advisor) are based in Madison and work on Local 139's legislative issues. 



Celebrating Labor Day

MILWAUKEE



HILLSBORO



FOX VALLEY/ NEENAH-MENASHA



SHELL LAKE



MERRILL



REDGRANITE



LA CROSSE

The New Overtime Tax Deduction: Know The Facts

By Robb Kahl, Executive Director, Construction Business Group and Cindy Buchko, General Counsel, Construction Business Group



Overtime is a word Operating Engineers *love* to hear. Many of you count on substantial amounts of overtime during busy work months to help get you through slower winter

months. As you probably heard on the news or social media, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Act) passed by Congress this summer contains overtime tax relief in the form of a tax deduction.

So, how big and beautiful is the overtime deduction? You should be aware of the limitations in the Act so that you can make informed, financial planning decisions. Below is a quick Q&A guide to help you understand the basics.¹ However, you should talk with a tax professional to assess the impact on your personal financial situation.



Q: Is the overtime deduction in the Act permanent?

A: No. The overtime deduction only applies to tax years 2025-2028.

Q: Does the overtime deduction apply to my full overtime rate?

A: No. The overtime deduction only applies to the additional, half time premium applicable to overtime hours. For example, if your regular hourly rate is \$50 an hour and your overtime rate is \$75 an hour (1.5 times your regular hourly rate), the deduction only applies to the \$25 an hour premium attributable to overtime.

Q: Does the overtime deduction apply to my collective bargaining agreement overtime rules, such as overtime after 8 hours in a day or double time for work on Sundays and holidays?

A: No. The overtime deduction only applies to those hours worked over 40 hours in a week and only at the 1.5 overtime rate, which is the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime requirement.

Q: Is the overtime deduction unlimited?

A: No. The deduction is capped at \$12,500 of qualified overtime income (\$25,000 for joint filers). There is also a phase-out component for individuals whose modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$150,000 (\$300,000 for joint filers).

Q: Does the overtime deduction apply to all taxes?

A: No. Overtime pay is still subject to Social Security, Medicare, and state and local taxes.

Q: Will my employer stop taking federal income taxes out of my overtime pay?

A: No. All tax will be withheld as usual, so you will not see an increase in your weekly take-home pay. When you file your tax return, you claim the overtime deduction on your tax return, what is called a “below the line” tax deduction. In other words, you may receive a larger refund than usual or owe less tax if you regularly owe additional tax when filing your return.

Q: I am a salaried foreman. Does the overtime deduction apply to me?

A: No. The overtime deduction is limited to hourly employees.

Q: Is the overtime tax deduction guaranteed?

A: No. While the general overtime deduction is outlined in the Act, the IRS and the Treasury Department are expected to release additional guidance or regulations that could change what we believe is required by the Act. 🇺🇸

¹ Sources for the Q&A guide are: Tactical tips on taxing tips (and overtime): An overview of the OBBBA exemption on tips, Baker Tilly (Aug. 4, 2025), avail. at <https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/tactical-tips-on-taxing-tips-and-overtime-obbba>; Retroactive tax law for tips and overtime demands immediate action, payroll expert cautions, Thomson Reuters (July 22, 2025), avail. at <https://tax.thomsonreuters.com/blog/retroactive-tax-law-for-tips-and-overtime-demands-immediate-action-payroll-expert-cautions/>.

Combining Youth Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeship Classes to Build a Strong Workforce

By Mindy Mulryan, Workforce Development Director, Construction Business Group



Dominick Donabar started as a youth apprentice (YA) for Miron Construction Co., Inc. during his junior year at Winneconne High School. It wasn't until the start of his senior year that he and his parents learned about the Operating Engineer's pre-apprenticeship classes offered through Destinations Career Academy (DCA). The classes had already started, and Dominick could have been enrolled. Unfortunately, his local high school advised his parents that they "were not involved in this program" and not only would they not pay for the classes, but they would also not honor the credit for the coursework.

In order to fulfill graduation requirements, Dominick continued with his youth apprenticeship and even repeated some classes at his local high school, all while knowing he wanted to become an Operating Engineer after high school. By the second semester of his senior year, Dominick and his parents decided they would

cover the costs themselves for the DCA classes; even if his school wouldn't give him the credit for these courses. They knew he would get credit at the Local 139 Training Center in Coloma and get a head start on a rewarding future.

Dominick enrolled in all three pre-apprenticeship classes during his last semester of high school. This endeavor required not only DCA admin approval (since students typically take only 1-2 classes per semester), but also meant he had to complete these classes in addition to working for Miron, attending in-person high school classes, and trying to enjoy the last days of his senior year. Dominick's hard work paid off. He earned flying colors in his pre-apprenticeship classes, and, shortly after graduating, Miron hired him as an Operating Engineer apprentice!

Miron has kept Dominick busy working on projects in Wrightstown and Plover. And because of his DCA work, he is able to take second-year apprentice classes at the Training Center in Coloma in his first year as an Operating Engineer apprentice. Dominick's YA experience allowed him to learn about the various pieces of equipment on the job site. He saw firsthand how all the various trades worked together, helping him understand the essential elements before he even sat in a piece of equipment as a registered apprentice.

Dominick credits his DCA Basic Equipment Maintenance class as being incredibly helpful with his current work and the daily pre-inspections he has to complete. Dominick is currently working on his CDL, which he was able to start through DCA while in high school. He wishes more high schools would encourage a career in the trades so that students can take advantage of the great opportunities that are out there. Opportunities for good wages, excellent benefits — all without the burden of student loan debt.

Our young adults are making huge gains for themselves in the industry; let's help them! If you know of a contractor who can sponsor a YA, a student who is interested in pre-apprenticeship, or a high school that will support DCA, please reach out to Mindy Mulryan at m.mulryan@cbgwi.com.



Apprentice Dominick Donabar works for Miron Construction Co., Inc. on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation 34 Post Building site in Wrightstown.

School Is Back in Session – Time to Commit to Youth Apprentices!

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

WHAT IS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP?

Youth Apprenticeship (YA) is the connection between school and work-based learning. YA is a school-to-work initiative that combines classroom academic instruction with mentored on-the-job paid training. The requirements are:

- 180 hours of technically related classroom instruction
- 50 hours of mentored on-the-job paid training
- One year commitment

HOW CAN YOU ASSIST?

Sponsor a student: We are seeking employers willing to sponsor youth apprentices during the 2025-2026 school year. While it is not a requirement that the student be enrolled in the Destinations Career Academy Pre-Apprenticeship Program, we would like to find matches for those students already engaged in our pathway.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS – FALL 2025

Adams	Milwaukee
Arrowhead Union	Mondovi
Auburndale	Necedah Area
Barneveld	Neillsville
Belleville	Oak Creek Franklin Joint
Bowler	Omro
Cedarburg	Oshkosh Area
Colfax	Peshtigo
Crivitz	Portage
Denmark	Poynette
DePere	Racine Unified
Edgerton	Reedsburg
Elk Mound Area	Royall
Elkhorn Area	Sauk Prairie
Fort Atkinson	Seneca
Fond du Lac	Slinger
Granton	Stevens Point Area
Greenfield	Tri County
Greenwood	Two Rivers
Hartland	Verona Area
Homeschool	Viroqua
Hortonville Area	Wabeno
Iola-Scandinavia	Waterford
Johnson Creek	Waterloo
Loyal	Wautoma
Marion	Westfield
Marshfield	Williams Bay
Mauston	Wisconsin Dells
McFarland	Wisconsin Rapids
Medford	
Mellen	
Melrose Mindoro	

STATE OF WISCONSIN COMPETENCIES FOR OPERATING ENGINEER YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

1. Read blueprints, site plans, and specifications
2. Define site specific layout needs
3. Identify equipment related safety hazards
4. Describe uses for each piece of heavy equipment
5. Operate generators and compressors
6. Perform daily maintenance on equipment (Note: YAs cannot turn on prohibited equipment during daily maintenance)
7. Apply math skills to heavy equipment operation
8. Follow worksite health and safety practices
9. Maintain an organized and safe work area
10. Use hand and voice signals (Note: YAs cannot use hoisting equipment)
11. Assist with repair and maintenance of equipment (Note: YAs cannot turn on prohibited equipment during repair and maintenance)
12. Assist with establishing grade
13. Assist with clearing and manual excavation of site (Note: For trenches, piers, foundations, and holes, excavation is limited to 4 feet in depth or less)
14. Operate tools and equipment safely (i.e., drill, torch welder)



Westfield High School student Harlan, enrolled in Destinations Career Academy Pre-Apprenticeship Program, gains hands-on experience during Externship Day last fall in Coloma.

WHAT CAN AN OPERATING ENGINEER YOUTH APPRENTICE DO?

YA students will not be in the equipment, he or she will work alongside an Operating Engineer mentor by:

- Assisting on a job site or in the service shop, small engine shop, or crane shop
- Learning how the various trades work together on a project from start to finish
- Learning about the equipment, maintenance, tools, and numerous other aspects of the job
- Inspecting equipment, assist with minor repairs
- Learning how to read blueprints
- Using appropriate flagging techniques

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

- Youth apprentices, employers, and schools have a written Education/Training Agreement that is approved by DWD
- Youth apprentices are subject to all state and federal child labor laws
- Youth apprentices are covered by general liability and worker's compensation policies through the employer
- Youth apprentices are required to provide their own transportation to and from the workplace and their own insurance coverage
- Youth apprentices are not eligible for unemployment compensation

Invest in your future workforce today by committing to sponsor a Youth Apprentice! For more information, please contact laura.cataldo@bakertilly.com.



Dominick Donabar, sponsored by Miron Construction Co., Inc., signs as a Local 139 apprentice during Miron's signing day on June 18 in Neenah. (L-R) Apprentice Dominick Donabar, Business Agent Tyler Person and Dominick's parents, Nicole and Jeff Donabar.

Medicare Retirees – Goodbye to Liberty Dental!

Good news for **Medicare retirees!** The Health Fund Trustees will end the Liberty Dental plan effective January 1, 2026. Medicare retirees will return to the Anthem dental network. You will receive details in the mail. Anthem will mail new ID cards in December, so you can start using them on January 1.

Last year, 61% of actively working members and pre-Medicare retirees had a regular (family) doctor, but only 34% went in for a yearly check-up. Routine annual physicals are covered at 100% for members and their spouses. Please take the time for a physical every year.

The most common health concerns were low back pain, and the fastest growing long-term health issue is obesity. Breast and prostate cancer top the list of the most expensive cancers, while lung and skin cancer rates are unfortunately higher among Local 139 members compared to other industries. Just 1.5% of members accounted for 40% of all claim dollars paid in 2024. Major health illnesses can be very expensive. The top 10 cases had total bills ranging from \$440,000 to over \$1.5 million each.

Prescription drug costs are another growing challenge. Over 66% of all drug costs came from only 1.5% of our members. For the entire health fund, 12,700 people filled 127,000



Rita Becker
Health Benefit Fund
Administrative Manager

prescriptions for regular medications—costing \$9.8 million—while 284 members required specialty drugs at a cost of \$19 million. Some of those specialty drugs range from \$3,300 to \$30,600 per month! Last year, costs rose 9% for regular medications and 18% for specialty prescriptions. Specialty medications are frequently advertised on TV, radio, and the internet. Drug manufacturers spend billions of dollars in advertising each year, and pass on that cost in these very high-priced drugs. Sadly, the United States is one of only two countries that allow direct-to-consumer advertising for prescription medication.

What does this mean for you? The best step you can take is to see your doctor every year—early care prevents big problems. If you struggle with back pain or weight, talk to your doctor. Small lifestyle changes can go a long way toward improvement. Don't skip your cancer screenings—they save lives. And finally, ask your doctor about lower-cost prescriptions; many work just as well and can save you and the Health Fund a lot of money.



Operators Kent Swatzina and Derek Horbinski work for A-1 Excavating in Douglas County.

Good News About Dental Coverage!

You spoke, and we listened! Since the 2024 switch from the Health Fund to the Anthem MAPD plan, the biggest challenge for many Medicare retirees has been with Liberty Dental. Quite simply, there weren't enough dentists in Liberty's network across the state. As a result, many of you either struggled to find a dentist or paid much more out of pocket to continue seeing the dentist you've trusted for years.

The Trustees heard your concerns and made them a priority in negotiations for the 2026 renewal. We're pleased to share some great news: **effective January 1, 2026, dental services will once again be covered under the Anthem network—essentially the same coverage you had before 2024.**

If you've grown comfortable with your Liberty dentist, don't worry—most Liberty providers are also in Anthem's network. Watch for new information and updated ID cards that the Health Fund will mail to you later this year.

THE REAL COST OF CARE

You often hear about the rising cost of health care in the news, but it's hard to know what those numbers mean for you. To give you a clearer picture, here's what it cost to cover our 3,600 Medicare retirees last year:

- **\$53.3 million** for medical services
- **\$18.8 million** for prescription drugs
- **\$1.7 million** for dental services

Those numbers show just how valuable your coverage is—and why using preventive care is so important.



Mary Jane DeBattista

Health Benefit Fund Retiree Trustee

WHY YOUR ANNUAL CHECKUP MATTERS

In this issue, Rita Becker shares a recap of 2024 that looks at actives and early retirees who are not yet on Medicare. What really stood out is that only **34%** of them had a yearly checkup. That's shockingly low. The early retiree group is the most costly for the Health Fund.

Skipping a routine exam—especially one that includes blood work—can mean small problems go unnoticed until they become serious, expensive, and life-threatening. Just consider:

- A heart attack can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Blood pressure medication? Just a few dollars.
- Early-stage cancer is often treatable with medication. Later-stage treatment can mean surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, expensive medications, rehabilitation, and more.

Even if you feel great, eat well, and exercise regularly, an **annual physical is one of the best investments you can make in your health.** Before you leave your doctor's office this year, schedule next year's checkup at the front desk.

It might save you money. More importantly, it could save your life.



Operators Joshua Jelinek, Randy Schmocker, Kevin Kozlowski and John Bickler work for Stark Asphalt in Pleasant Prairie.

Check in on Your Health This Fall

As fall settles in, it's a great time to take stock of your health—whether it's scheduling a routine physical, a dental cleaning, or checking in on that lingering body ache. With that in mind, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the valuable health benefits available to you through our plan.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

- **In-Network Deductible:**
\$250 individual / \$750 family
- **Out-of-Network Deductible:**
\$500 individual / \$750 family
(Note: Out-of-network services are generally not covered, except in specific cases required by law or when referred by an in-network provider.)
- **Out-of-Pocket Maximums:**
 - **In-Network:** \$3,500 individual / \$7,000 family
 - **Out-of-Network:** \$5,000 individual / \$10,000 family

PREVENTIVE CARE (NO COST TO YOU)

Routine physicals and immunizations for you and your spouse are covered at 100% when you stay in-network, no deductible required.

OFFICE VISITS AND HOSPITAL CARE

Seeing a primary care doctor or a specialist has a 10% coinsurance (in-network coverage only). If hospitalization is ever required, you'll pay 5% of facility charges and 10% of professional charges. Emergency room visits carry just a 5% coinsurance and a \$50 copay, which is waived if you're admitted. Ambulance services are also covered at 5% if billed by a hospital and 10% if billed separately.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

- **Generics:** 10% coinsurance
- **Brand Name:** 20% coinsurance
- **Specialty Drugs:** 20% coinsurance up to \$200 per prescription (No charge after reaching the \$3,000 annual OOP max. Prior authorization required.)
- **Medically necessary infertility meds:**
Lifetime max of \$10,000



Shaun Mc Hugh
Health Benefit Fund Liaison

DENTAL AND VISION BENEFITS

Dental coverage is up to \$2,500 per person each year for routine and restorative dental services. Vision benefits include an eye exam each year plus \$300 toward glasses or contacts every two years.

WELLNESS INCENTIVE: \$200 HRA BONUS

An extra motivation to stay proactive: complete your annual physical (and your spouse, if married), qualifies you for a \$200 Health Reimbursement

Account bonus. It's a simple reward for taking care of yourself.

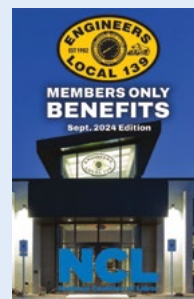
NCL OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

Local 139 also participates in the National Coalition of Labor Life Insurance Program (NCL). This program makes it possible to secure low-cost life insurance during special enrollment windows without medical exams or questionnaires, and coverage can extend to spouses and dependents. To learn more or enroll, contact NCL at (888) 212-7822.

For full details about your health and wellness benefits, visit iuoe139healthfund.org. If you have questions, call the Fund Office at (262) 549-9190.



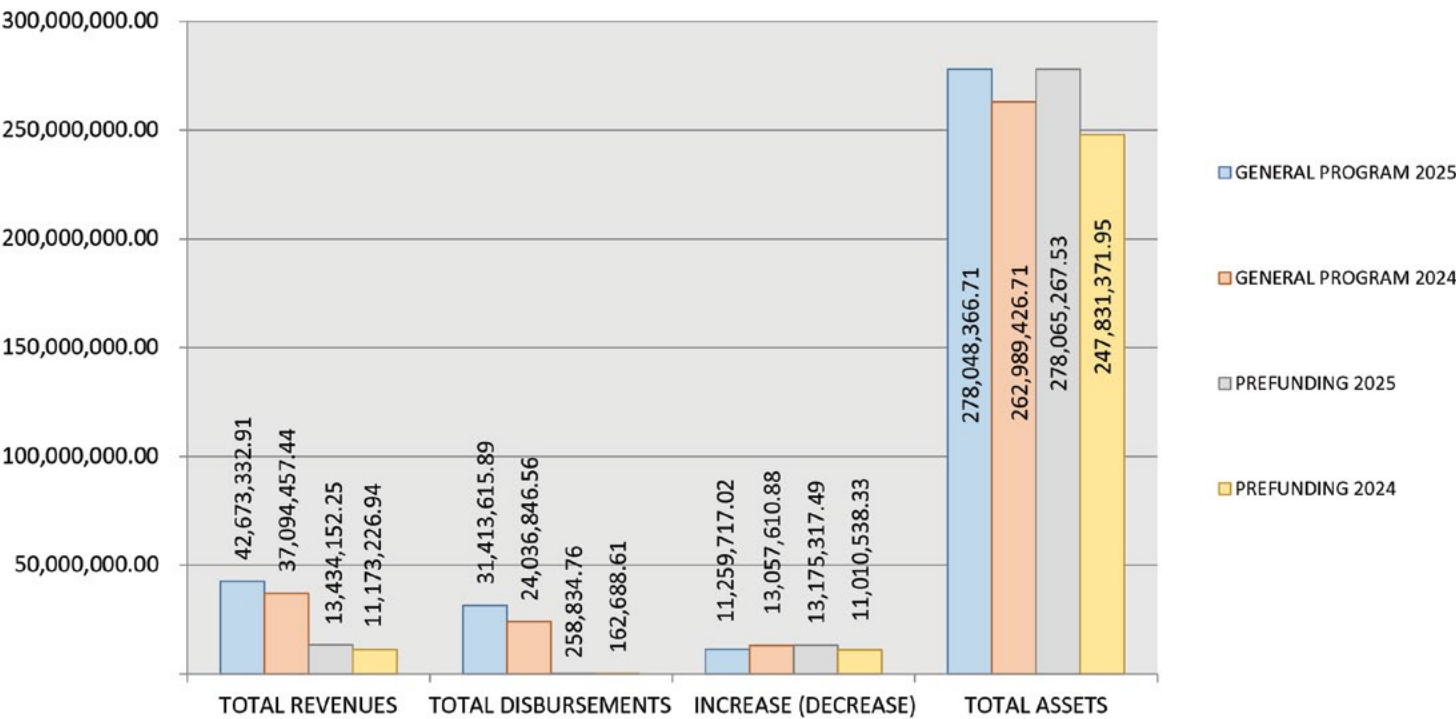
NATIONAL COALITION OF LABOR (NCL)



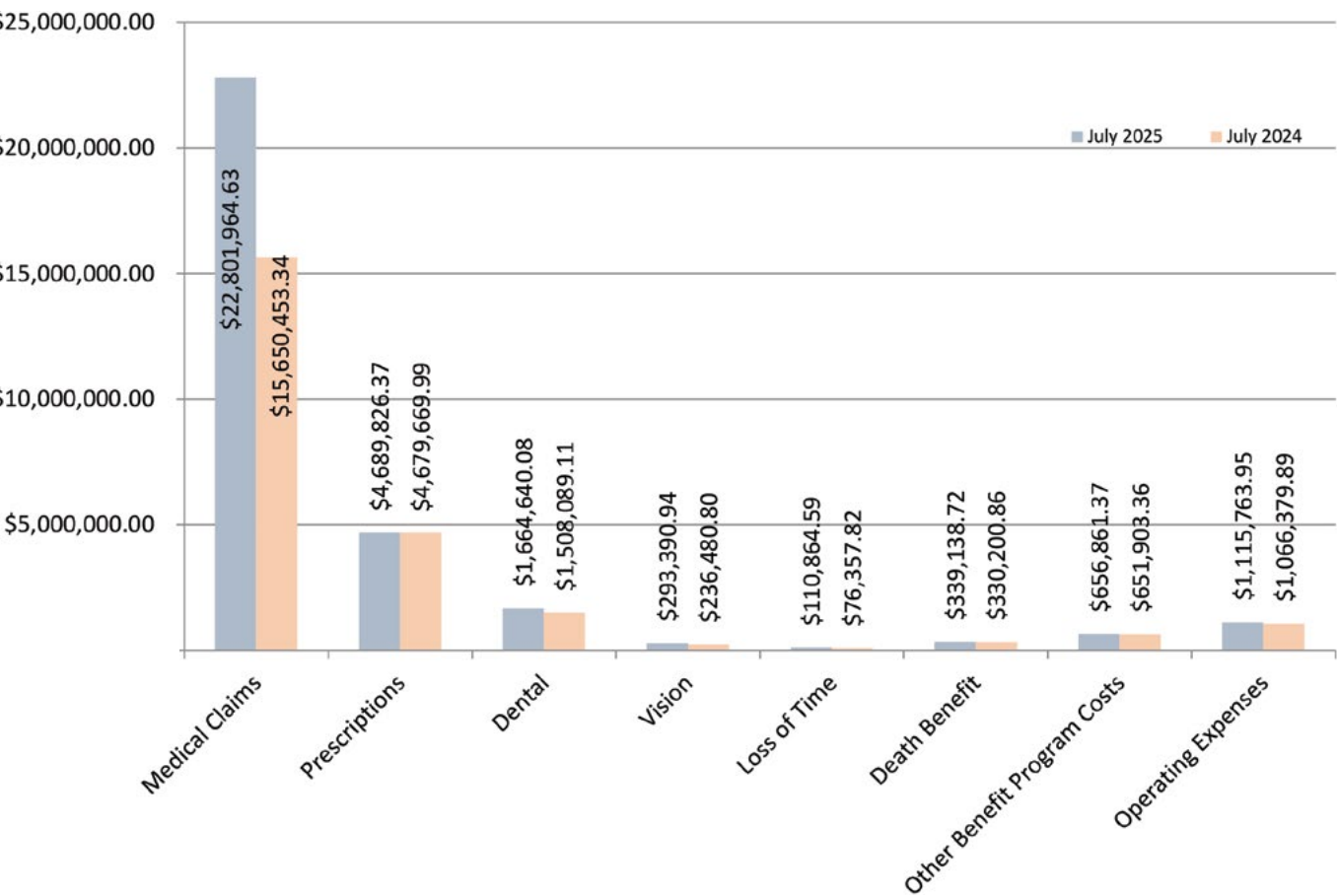
Discover your NCL member benefits:

coalitionoflabor.org/union/iuoe-local-139

Quarterly Health Fund Activity through July 31



Disbursements





Owner/Operator Tim Thor, Apprentice Wyatt Keltesch, Operators Kyle Vande Hey and Daniel Thor build a waste holding pit exceeding 20 million gallons for Hilltop Trucking & Excavating, LLC in Lark.

RE-REGISTER APRIL–NOVEMBER

OUT OF WORK?

Re-register on the Out-of-Work list between the 1st and 5th of each month.

BACK TO WORK?

Remove your name from the Out-of-Work list when you return to work.

Call your local union hall or visit portal.iuoe139.org

SPORTING GOODS RAFFLE

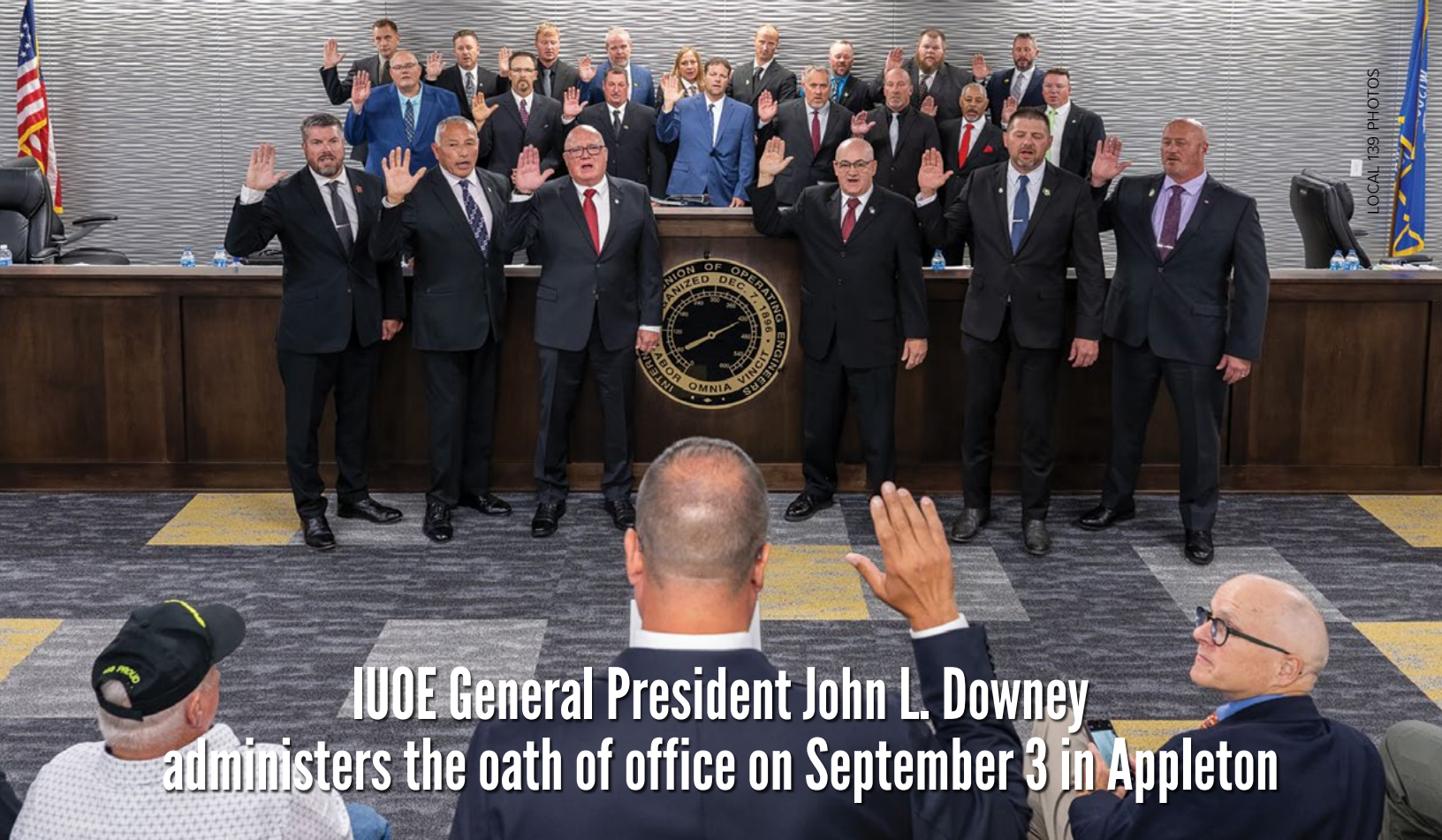
Purchase a raffle ticket for the Winter Sporting Goods Raffle at the General Membership Meeting on October 11 in Altoona.

Each ticket purchased enters you into the Winter Sporting Goods Raffle! You need not be present to win.

In Memoriam

Ronald Anderson, Kenosha August 13, 2025
John Bajdan, Whitelaw July 3, 2025
Timothy Carmichael, Elkhorn July 3, 2025
Cody Dahlke, Denmark August 13, 2025
Arnold Doty, Belleview, FL August 13, 2025
Paul Docter, Whitefish, MO June 28, 2025
Larry Epright, East Troy July 3, 2025
Robert Feucht, East Troy June 17, 2025
Tom Gaynor, Twin Lakes August 3, 2025
Raymond Happel, Hokah, MN August 10, 2025
Jerry Hughes, Menomonie September 8, 2025
Bruce Jacobson, Ramsay, MI August 31, 2025
Christopher Johnson, Edgerton August 8, 2025
Terry Johnson, Manawa August 7, 2025
Kip Kauffman, Stratford September 12, 2025
Leo Kinney, Winneconne July 5, 2025
Nick Kramer, Brooklyn August 9, 2025
Richard Lindow, Black River Falls January 20, 2025
Allen Lundt, Shawano July 26, 2025

Gregg Luchsinger, Edgerton September 20, 2025
Pete Meland, Madison June 21, 2025
Kevin Meyer, Newton August 31, 2025
Dennis Mitchell, Iron River, Michigan September 11, 2025
Dennis Mordja, Racine September 5, 2025
Randy Newholm, Kansasville July 2, 2025
Robert Nussbaum, Shiocton September 6, 2025
Myron Olson, Brule July 28, 2025
Douglas Peschel, Johnson Creek August 12, 2025
Donald Raeder, Shawano July 9, 2025
James Schaefer, Lake Delton July 31, 2025
James Shimon, Birchwood July 2, 2025
Elton Steinbrecker, Manitowoc June 8, 2025
Charles Stoxen, Luxemburg July 15, 2025
Paul Voigt, Kenosha September 10, 2025
Thomas Weisleder, Mayville July 26, 2025
Donald Weiss, Mason July 9, 2025
Darryl Wieneke Sr., Sauk City August 25, 2025
Damyen Worm, New London August 28, 2025



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS

IUOE General President John L. Downey administers the oath of office on September 3 in Appleton



President/Business Manger Terry McGowan greets District A Executive Board Member Joshua Comfort at the Special Called Meeting on September 3 in Appleton.



IUOE General President John L. Downey with Apprentices Kaitlyn Scott, Brooke Nehls, Victoria Fischer, Bailey Coenen and President/Business Manager Terry McGowan.

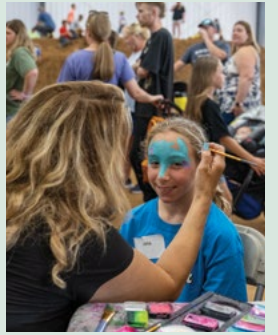


IUOE General President John L. Downey addresses the membership on September 3 in Appleton.

Our Annual Picnic Tradition Continues

LOCAL 139 PHOTOS





\$111K RAISED FOR HOGS FOR HEROES AT ANNUAL GOLF & POKER RUN EVENTS



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS



Three Veterans Hit the Road

Hogs for Heroes presented three motorcycles to veterans this summer from our fundraising efforts.



LOCAL 139 PHOTOS



Top: Hogs for Heroes Recipient #56 Naval Petty Officer First Class Johnathan Oppermann, right, and Recipient #57 First Lieutenant Dan Rigney, left, President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, center, Hogs for Heroes Founders Kevin and Audra Thompson with past recipients showing their support at the 8th Annual Poker Run in Wonewoc. **Bottom:** Terry McGowan, Kevin and Audra Thompson, and Hogs for Heroes Recipient #59 Marine Corporal James Rehme with past recipients in Coloma.

2025 Local 139 Scholarship Recipients

Local 139 awarded 12 scholarships for \$2,500 each. Sixty-three students applied for a scholarship.



District A scholarship recipient Abigail Schmidt with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan and father Kevin Schmidt (member).



District A scholarship recipient Michael Deschler with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, grandfather Jerry Deschler (member) and father Scott Deschler.



District A scholarship recipient Hunter Szyszkiewicz with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan and father Brett Szyszkiewicz (member).



District B scholarship recipient Kierra Mae Prochaska with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, grandfather John Pinkham (member) and parents Joshua Prochaska (member) and Nicole.



District B scholarship recipient Lynzi Constance Cade with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan and parents Tracy and Jerry Cade (members).



District B scholarship recipient Emma Cecilia Brackett with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, grandmother Donna Brackett (widow of member Larry Brackett), parents Ty and Angie Brackett and brother Tylor.



District C scholarship recipient Boyd Czaikowski with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, grandparents Mary Beth and Edward Czaikowski (member), sister Ellie, and parents Jackie and Nick Czaikowski.



District C scholarship recipient Grace Anne Johnas with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, father Michael Johnas (member) and grandfather John Johnas.



District C scholarship recipient Isabelle Marie Kolek with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, mother Sarah Kolek, grandparents Dora and Donald Korpela (member), boyfriend Kolyn Wolf, sister Ailee Kolek and father Todd Kolek.



District D scholarship recipients Karli and Kali Fischer with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, parents Kenneth Fischer (member) and Kim, and brother Kullen.



District D scholarship recipient Jaida Spielvogel with President/Business Manager Terry McGowan and father Jayson Spielvogel (member, not present).

MAILBAG

Dear Local 139,

I was honored to be selected as a recipient of the Local 139 Scholarship. The funds will help me continue pursuing my studies in paramedicine to work towards my goal of becoming a nurse practitioner dedicated to serving others. I sincerely appreciate your support and investment in my education.

With gratitude,
Boyd Czaikowski

Dear President McGowan,

Thank you so much for awarding me the scholarship at the District A meeting, I know by no means, you had to award me this scholarship and for that I am immensely grateful. I'll be sure to put the scholarship to good use in my sizable room and board bill (living in Madison isn't cheap). I really enjoyed being at the union meeting and hearing all the union happenings across the state. It really put into perspective just how much work is "union done" in Wisconsin. Once again, thank you so much for the union scholarship, it made me so proud to be part of a union family.

With gratitude,
Michael Deschler

Dear Operating Engineers,

Thank you all so much for the very generous scholarship money. It will go towards my tuition at NWTC, and towards my gas money as I commute every day. Your support in my professional development means so much to me, and I am so thankful to have received your scholarship. I am very excited to start school, and even more relieved that I will not be in debt. Your support truly inspires me, and I am so grateful. Thank you all again for the scholarship.

Karli Fischer

Dear Operating Engineers,

I thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient of this year's scholarship. I am truly so grateful, and I appreciate all the kind words and compliments I received at the meeting. The money will go towards my college tuition. Thanks for taking care of my dad all these years so that he could provide for our family. Again I am truly so thankful for this scholarship, it means a lot. Thanks again!

Kali Fischer

\$111K RAISED FOR HOGS FOR HEROES



Terry,

That was quite a goal you set for your leadership team; and while we're not shocked your team's tremendous efforts nailed that lofty goals...we are still shocked, and beyond grateful, that your goal translated into such a seismic donation to us, and our injured veterans. FOUR MORE lives!

From our very first meeting, you were all in, and you haven't let up. You've been such an incredible force of good to us, championing our mission, our efforts and impact, and our characters. Thank you for believing in us and for the many philanthropic values you inspire, Terry. And just as important, thank you for your sweet gift of friendship.

Kevin and Audra Thompson, Founders
Hogs for Heroes, Inc. | www.hogsforheroeswi.org

To read the full appreciation letter, visit iuoe139.org.



Left: President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, Site Coordinator and Local 139 Charity Event Organizer Bob Cayer, and Business Agent/Post 139 Commander Brian Swearingen present a \$100,000 donation to Hogs for Heroes founders Kevin and Audra Thompson at the Annual Family Picnic in Coloma. **Above:** Joe Koback presents a \$1,000 donation on behalf of SCI Badgerland Chapter. **Below:** Bob Mueller, president of CQ Concepts, Inc., presents a \$10,000 donation.



*The Election Committee includes Kenny Palmer (Chairman), Bradley Warren, Douglas Seyfert, Russel "Butch" Wentlandt, Richard Durante, and David Walsdorf, who validated the election on June 26 in Pewaukee.
Not pictured: Charles Bowen, Brad Granica, Rockie Sobeck and Donald Socha.*



Owners/Operators Travis Abler (left), Shawn Abler (top right) and Operator Timothy Towell (bottom right) clear and grub for Abler Tree Service, LLC in Green Bay.

Congratulations Recent Retired 139ers

Glen Allen , Seymour.....	April 1, 2025	Eric Marema , Burlington	May 1, 2025
Chris Andrew , Mount Calvary	July 1, 2025	Thomas Masephol , Phillips.....	June 1, 2025
Todd Babcock , Franksville	September 1, 2025	Joseph Mc Ewen , Milwaukee	May 1, 2025
Jay Brooks , Larsen	July 1, 2025	Dean Meise , Plain	June 1, 2025
Chris Brown , Watertown.....	November 1, 2023	Greg Mick , Lone Rock	September 1, 2025
Thomas Cigan , Chippewa Falls	April 1, 2025	Dennis Olson Jr. , Plainfield	July 1, 2025
William Dionne, III , Oconomowoc.....	August 1, 2025	Thomas Rathsack Jr. , Anaconda, Montana	July 1, 2025
Kenneth Dombrowski , Amherst Junction	September 1, 2025	Tony Reichert , West Bend	June 1, 2025
Kyle Frank , Milton.....	July 1, 2025	Kevin Rudoll , Cambridge	August 1, 2024
Donna Gibson , Waukesha.....	June 1, 2025	Scott Sands , Sun Prairie.....	July 1, 2025
Tim Gretzinger , Fall River	June 1, 2025	Kurt Schauf , Ridgeway, Iowa	September 1, 2025
Ronald Gurske , Avon Park, FL.....	March 1, 2025	Jay Schmitt , Plymouth.....	January 1, 2025
Michael Herington , Caledonia.....	April 1, 2025	William Schueller , Mukwonago	July 1, 2025
Richard Hubbard , De Pere.....	June 1, 2025	Timothy Silvestri , Ironwood, Michigan.....	June 1, 2025
Jeff Kaltenberg , Poynette.....	June 1, 2025	Dennis Swenby , Downing.....	June 1, 2025
Robert Kingaman , Hillsboro	July 1, 2025	Scott Swenson , Richland Center	June 1, 2025
Ronald Kuzik , Kenosha	January 1, 2025	Jeffery Wachal , East Troy.....	March 1, 2025
Timothy Lekfield , Muskego	June 1, 2025	David Woelfel , New Berlin	August 1, 2025
Darin Magin , Menomonee Falls.....	March 1, 2025	Andy Wolter , Watertown	July 1, 2025

Stay Connected with Your Local 139 Brothers and Sisters

Join a retirees club! Make new friends, reconnect with your work crew, and share stories.



Events include tours, casino trips, baseball games, health fund updates and breakfast and lunch meetings.

Retiree Club Meetings

MADISON HALL

4702 South Biltmore Lane
11:00 a.m., second Tuesday, 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

NEW SCHEDULE

11:00 a.m., meets quarterly, third Thursday in
February, May and August
Dec. 9 – Coulee Golf Bowl, Onalaska, WI

CENTRAL

Olympia Family Restaurant
200 Division St A, Stevens Point
9:00 a.m., third Tuesday,
except July and December

APPLETON HALL

5191 Abitz Road
10:00 a.m., first Wednesday
Nov. 5 – Potluck Lunch
Dec. 18 – Chicken Sandwich Lunch
Jan. 7, 2026 – Pizza Ranch Lunch

EAU CLAIRE

29 Pines, 5872 33rd Ave, Eau Claire
9:00 a.m., first Thursday,
except July and December

2025 American Legion Post 139 Scholarship Recipients

Post 139 awarded 4 scholarships for \$2,100 each. Nine veteran family members applied for a scholarship.



District A scholarship recipient Elena Rettler with Post 139 Commander Brian Swearingen, President/Business Manager Terry McGowan, grandparents, veteran/member Vern and Linda Schultz and parents Lisa and Eric Rettler.



District B Post 139 scholarship recipient Ayden Smith with Post 139 Commander Brian Swearingen, father, veteran/member Brandon Smith and mother Lyda Smith.



District C scholarship recipient Megan Wentlandt with Post 139 Commander Brian Swearingen and grandfather, veteran/member Russel "Butch" Wentlandt.



District D scholarship recipient Isabelle See with Post 139 Commander Brian Swearingen, grandfather, veteran/member Dave Walsdorf and parents Ron and Paula Prochaska.

A Summer of Success at Post 139

As summer comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a meaningful and successful past few months it has been for Post 139.

This summer was filled with activity and service to our veterans and community. One of the highlights was our Poker Run, which brought together members, friends, and supporters for a great day of riding, camaraderie, and giving back. Thanks to everyone's participation and generosity, the event was a tremendous success. All proceeds benefited Hogs for Heroes, an outstanding program that supports our Wisconsin Veterans in need.

Another proud moment for Post 139 was awarding scholarships to four deserving individuals who were related to a veteran member in good standing with Local 139. Each recipient submitted an essay reflecting on themes of patriotism, service, and family. It was inspiring to see the thought and heart put into their applications, and it was an honor to recognize these outstanding students as they continue their educational journey.

We also supported the Lunda Clay Classic this year by sponsoring a shooting station at the beautiful Highlands Sportsmen's Club in Cascade. All proceeds from this event go directly to the Fox Valley Veterans Council, whose mission is to assist local veteran families in need and connect them to resources and opportunities.

We are also very excited to announce that Post 139 has a couple of new Executive Board members. These two dedicated members bring fresh energy and ideas, and I am confident



Brian Swearingen
Post 139 Commander

they will help guide us into a strong and successful year ahead.

Scott Koney
Adjutant / Finance Officer

Hans "Tony" Jawson
Sergeant at Arms

Russel "Butch" Wentlandt
1st Vice Commander

A huge thank you to all past leadership for their help and dedication in making Post 139 what it is today!

Looking ahead, we have many opportunities to continue building on our current momentum. To make these events as strong and successful as possible, we need more of our members to get involved. We often have the same individuals volunteering. I also would like to thank Butch and Dave Walsdorf greatly for their hard work and dedication to Post 139. Volunteering doesn't have to be a big commitment. Even giving a few hours makes a real difference. It's a great way to connect with fellow members, meet new people, and be part of something that directly serves veterans and our community. If you haven't had a chance to volunteer yet, I encourage you to give it a try at one of our upcoming events. Please visit our website at americanlegionpost139.org or call me at (414) 897-6702 for more information. Your time and talent are what make Post 139 strong.



Veterans on the Job

Operators Joseph Keuer, active Wisconsin National Guard, and Patrick Schmidt, U.S. Navy veteran and American Legion Post 139 member, work for Michels Construction, Inc. at Grand Trunk Yard in Milwaukee.



Building Wisconsin Around the Clock



A Stark Asphalt night crew works on I-45 in Milwaukee. **Top right:** Roller Operator Kenneth Hesebeck. **Bottom:** Apprentice Charles Ketchpaw, Operators Miguel Rabago, Diashi Neal, Brian Gompper, and Apprentice Matt Wilinski. Not pictured: Foreman Jason Kleibor.