

IBEW LOCAL 343 UNION NEWSLETTER 2ND QUARTER

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Dates to Remember:

- 04/1/2026 2nd Qtr 2026 Union Dues DUE**
- 04/03/2026 Good Friday – Union Hall Closed**
- 04/05/2026 Easter**
- 04/11/2026 Awards Banquet – Rochester**
- 05/25/2026 Memorial Day – Union Hall Closed**
- 07/01/2026 3rd Qtr 2026 Union Dues DUE**

Union Meetings

- 04/8/2026 Union Meeting/ New Member Swear-In - MANKATO**
- 05/13/2026 Union Meeting/ New Member Swear-In, Eagles Club, Owatonna**
- *06/10/2026 Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In, Local 343 Hall, Rochester**
- 07/8/2026 Union Meeting/ New Member Swear-In - MANKATO**

* indicates ROCHESTER HALL

ALL Union Meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.

Pension/Disability:

- Mark L. Wilson – Grand Rapids, MN – Member since 1983 – 42 Years
- Steven L. Roberts – Rochester, MN – Member since 1981 - 45 Years
- Thomas R. Kaiser – Winona, MN – Member since 1994 – 31 Years

We honor and dedicate this section to our fallen Brothers and/or Sisters.
Forever should they live in our hearts and our memories.



Tom N. Huiting
Rochester, MN – Member since
08/11/1970 – DOD 04/01/2026

**When
something's
missing from
life or work,
we're here.**



What we offer:

Short term, face-to-face or telehealth counseling sessions FREE to you and eligible family members to solve personal problems and workplace issues that affect your ability to work safely and effectively. Our counseling services are available no matter where you work or live.

All services
are confidential

24/7 Phone
Assistance



800.634.7710
startwithteam.com

Business Manager Report

by Robert Ernst

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

This quarter has been filled with both surprises and scheduling challenges. We were honored with the opportunity to host the 6th District Government Affairs and Membership Development Conference here in Rochester, MN. Seeing firsthand how much work goes into organizing a conference was truly eye-opening. My hat is off to the International for the tremendous effort they put into hosting conferences throughout the year.



I would like to extend a special thank you to Marcus Freeman-Lee. I asked Marcus to sing the National Anthem and lead the conference in the Pledge of Allegiance. Standing before a room filled with Business Managers, Representatives, and Organizers from across the 6th District, Marcus—dressed in full uniform—represented both his country and Local 343 with the highest honor and professionalism. Thank you, Marcus.

We were also fortunate to have representation from Mayo Clinic to speak about the \$5 billion Bold Forward Unbound Project. Brian Elsworth and Erik Lindstrom shared insights into the Unbound Project currently underway in downtown Rochester. Brian spoke in great detail about the strong working relationship between Mayo Clinic and IBEW Local 343 and how we can successfully accomplish this massive project together. It is clear there is a strong future ahead for our membership.

On April 11, 2026, we held the 39th Annual IBEW Local 343 Awards Banquet at the International Event Center. The evening brought together members for a night of fellowship and recognition. It was great to reconnect with many familiar faces and meet members I had not yet had the opportunity to know. The night was filled with good food, meaningful conversations, and strong union pride. I want to thank our staff for the hard work that made this event such a success. If you have not attended one of these events, I strongly encourage you to take part in a night dedicated to our membership.

Looking ahead, there will be challenges and obstacles to overcome. While work was slow for a couple of months, the books are beginning to move again. The work outlook for this summer is very positive, with several large projects in downtown Rochester. We are going to need all ‘hands on deck.’

Sean Sannes and I have selected our negotiating committee, and we have already met several times in preparation for upcoming negotiations. As we move forward, we encourage full participation from our membership. Always remember—our strength is in our numbers. The stronger we show up, the better the results we achieve. Your involvement matters, because the future is brighter when all our members are part of the picture.

It looks to be a busy and exciting summer ahead.

United We Stand, Brothers and Sisters.

Compliance Officer Report by Jeff Fields

This past month has been busy on multiple fronts, with continued focus on protecting prevailing wage standards, organizing efforts, and preparing events.

We filed a complaint against Community Electric related to the Belview Water Treatment Facility project for potential worker misclassification and supervision ratio concerns. In addition, ongoing payroll reviews and job site visits remain a priority to ensure contractors are properly classifying and paying electricians at the correct prevailing wage rates.



Out of 138 tracked prevailing wage projects in our jurisdiction, 63 have been awarded to signatory contractors, 38 to non-signatory contractors, 24 are pending, and 13 have not yet been bid. These numbers continue to show that prevailing wage laws help create a level playing field for our contractors.

We also identified concerns with a contractor's wage submissions in the commercial prevailing wage rate process. Our findings were forwarded to MNDOLI and helped Local 292 overturn a county award in their jurisdiction that this contractor had won.

A major enforcement win came from the state's investigation into a local solar contractor. After submitting our findings, the state fined the contractor over \$27,000 for prevailing wage violations on the Marshall Public Schools *Solar for Schools* project. Two additional projects remain under investigation.

Rochester was selected to host the 6th District Organizing Conference in March, and significant time has been spent coordinating with the International 6th District office and local leaders. We also continue to meet with Building Trades partners and attend public hearings to advocate for projects that support our members' work opportunities.

We are preparing to launch our new website soon. While there have been some delays in addressing technical issues, we believe the final product will better serve our membership, including a new sign-in feature to improve communication and access to time-sensitive information.

As always, if you see or hear something that doesn't seem right on a jobsite, please reach out. Staying informed and involved is how we continue to protect our work and our standards.

In Solidarity,
Jeff Fields

Western MN Rep Report by Mark Rutten

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Spring is here! Job calls will start to pick up. School projects will begin along with road work and other projects waiting for the ground to thaw. Western area of Local 343 jurisdiction will be busy and keep our members working.

Day on the Hill was a huge success with nearly 500 Union Electricians from all the IBEW locals in the state of Minnesota. It was good to talk with all of our Senate and House Representatives to see where they stand on our very important labor issues. Without labor endorsements we wouldn't have the things that are true and dear to your way of living. Sign up next year for Day on the Hill. It's great way to get close and personal with your Representatives. Always do your homework and question the candidate from either party that you would like to vote for to make sure they are looking out for your best interest.

I've been noticing an uptick in mental health issues lately, mainly suicides, some locally and statewide in the news. Let's look out for one another, watch for signs and seek help if needed. If you or someone you know is struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, drugs or alcohol, contact TEAM for help at 800-379-1292, or go to their website www.team-mn.com Your Mental Health Matters. It's OK to not be OK.

Retirees meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Happy Chef in Mankato at 10am. Stop by Mankato Training Center anytime to visit or call (507)995-4880.

In solidarity,
Mark Rutten
Local 343 Western Rep



Organizing Department Report by Jason Lindahl

Hello brothers and sisters,

Spring is approaching fast now! The last few weeks have sure been up, down and sideways because the weather is going from blizzards to 70-degree days, but I think the end is in sight!

I hope all of you have remained healthy since the last newsletter. Our organizing efforts remained steady and broad. We have had a lot of meetings with journeyman, apprentices and contractors that are interested in joining or working with 343. Most of these happened away from the office and to every corner of our local. We have organized 22 workers since July 2025 and are cultivating relationships and offering opportunities to many contractors.

With our organizing numbers being what they are so far, I would like to thank everyone for their organizing efforts. Our success would not be possible without direct contact, member referrals and by being the best at what we do. These are just 3 ways members support organizing.

We had a fun night at our annual awards banquet this past Saturday Evening at the Rochester airport view Events Center! Thank you to Brook, Colleen and Bonnie for all your work to make our event great.

In solidarity,
Jason Lindahl



Eastern MN Rep Report by John McNallan

Brothers and Sisters,

As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, we're heading into what looks to be another busy summer across our region. The work picture continues to improve, and there are several major projects moving forward that will create solid opportunities for our members.

Over the winter, steady progress has been made on Mayo Clinic's "*Bold Forward Unbound*" project in downtown Rochester. This development is transforming the area, with entire blocks cleared and major infrastructure already underway. Crews are working on tunnels, parking ramps, and a new steam and power generation plant. Excavation has also begun for two new clinical buildings—the Waterman and Ozman—which together will total more than 1.8 million square feet. While full-scale electrical work may still be about a year out, the foundation is being laid now for significant union work ahead.

Another project drawing attention is the Google data center in Pine Island, formerly known as "*Project Skyway*." Google officially announced ownership earlier this year, and the project is planned in four phases. The first phase, expected to begin in February 2027, includes a 250,000-square-foot data center and a 35,000-square-foot office building. Once complete, the full project will reach approximately 1 million square feet.

We're also seeing movement on energy infrastructure. The "*Sandhill*" and "*Crane*" battery storage projects north of Byron have received approval from the Public Utilities Commission. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2027, with completion targeted for late 2028. These projects total 400 megawatts of battery storage —another positive sign for our trade.

Looking ahead to this summer, there's already work on the board. We have already seen calls come in for the Prospect power plant, and Mayo currently has four parking ramps in various stages of construction. A new commuter ramp on North Broadway is set to begin, and the Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system will include multiple active job sites. In addition, large multifamily developments like the Klimt and Civic Center North will bring a mix of retail space and over 300 housing units to the area.

All signs point to a busy season ahead. That means opportunities to put our skills to work, support our families, and continue building strong communities. Let's keep safety at the forefront, look out for one another on the job, and take pride in the work we do every day. What we build matters—and it shows in every project we touch. Wishing you all a safe, productive, and rewarding summer. And don't forget to take time to enjoy it with your families— that's what we're working for.

In Solidarity,
Eastern Representative





Limited Energy Graduates



Inside Graduates



Retired Members

Awards Banquet
April 11, 2026
International Event Center
Rochester





Scholarship Recipients



35-Year Award Recipients



40-Year Award Recipients



55-Year Award Recipient



60-Year Award Recipient



65-Year Award Recipients



Day on the Hill
March 24, 2026



POLITICAL COORDINATOR by John Swanson

Sisters and Brothers!

2026 IBEW Day on the Hill was another memorable event. Tuesday March 24th over 450 IBEW members from all over Minnesota gathered at our state capitol in St. Paul. Local 343 had 72 members sign up to learn about issues and the process. They educated their elected representatives about several topics including data centers, removing Minnesota's moratorium on new nuclear construction, protecting our licensing, ratios, apprenticeship standards and asking for a large bonding bill to support local infrastructure.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that attended!

It was a great day weatherwise and our new pullovers were perfect attire for walking between buildings. Once again, it was a challenge meeting with house reps due to ongoing construction. We did our best to coordinate meetups around the capitol site and I apologize for any confusion in that regard. I enjoyed the tater tot hotdish at the Centennial Building cafeteria, it was ok, but not as good as Mom's or the Lincoln Elementary school lunch lady's version in Willmar.

The 2026 election season is ramping up! The February 3rd precinct caucuses are a distant memory. We are in the middle of convention season. Delegates to the DFL and GOP state conventions last weekend in May are being elected. Candidates for Minnesota House and Senate are being endorsed. Both parties' welcome visitors to observe the activities. The Democrats are meeting in Rochester at the Mayo Civic Center May 29-31st. The Republicans are meeting in Duluth at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) May 29-30th. There may be a cost to attend as a visitor to either convention, so plan accordingly.

We need members to run for local elected office such as school board, city council, county commissioner because our voices should be part of decisions made locally. Please reach out if you are interested and I will do my best to help you decide.

"The world is run by the people who show up." — Benjamin Franklin

In Solidarity,

John Swanson

Political Coordinator

507-951-2239

jswanson@ibewlocal343.org



SAVE THE DATE
Summer Picnic
August 8, 2026
Goodview, MN

2nd Quarter Upcoming Work

Rochester

McCallister Deli NW - Accord
 Fire Station #3 Mechanical Upgrades - Adair
 Duct Bank for Unbound - Egan
 RPT North Commuter Ramp - Medina apparent low
 Mayo Plummer 2 - Adair
 Rochester Regional Sports Complex - Medina
 Rochester International Airport - NEO
 Mayo 2 Discovery Square 3rd Floor - Accord
 Mayo Superior Drive Support Center UPS - Egan
 Mayo Gonda, temp for Unbound - Hunt
 Mayo Mary Brigh 2 Sub Station X-formers/ATS Switches - Foster/Premier
 Prospect Power Plant - Foster/Premier
 Mayo 5th Floor Siebens - Foster/ Premier
 Civic Center North 265 unit Apartments - Collins
 Olmsted County Waste to Energy Plant Expansion - Planning
 Taco Bell - planning
 City Walk Apartments - Accord
 Klimt Apartments - Accord
 Mayo High School improvements (summer 2026) Egan
 Rochester WWTP Rehab and Improvements - Egan
 Graham Park Exhibition Center - McMartin
 Mayo Charlton Lobby Level MRIs - Adair
 Mayo Dan Abraham Healthy Living Center - Adair
 Mayo West Village Ramp - Egan
 Mayo North arrival Ramp - Egan
 Mayo East Gonda Entrance - Egan
 Saint Mary's Ramp - Medina
Pine Island
 Google Data Center, Planning 2027
Byron
 Utility Battery Storage Facility - planning Spring 2027
 Byron Solar (200MW) - Planning
Austin
 Hormel - Egan
 Austin WWTF - Fox
 Apple Valley Foods - Egan
Albert Lea
 (Mayo) Rehab center- Albert Lea Electric
Red Wing/Lake City/Plainview/Wabasha
 Alleghany Apartments, Wabasha - Accord
Winona Area
 2 Fathoms Restaurant - Key
 Winona State University resident hall - Accord
La Crescent
 Whispering Roots Grow Facility - Munson
 Cannabis Dispensary - T.D. Padesky
Lewiston
 Emergency Services Building - P&T Electric
 Lewiston School Upgrades - P&T Electric
Eyota

Menards Nail Dist. Warehouse - site work
 Foresight Bank - Planning
 Mabel Canton Schools - Accord
Owatonna/ Waseca
 Owatonna Wastewater Treatment Facility - Killmer Electric
 CDI - Muska Electric
Mankato
 Hospital Projects - Master & BLK Electric
 MSU Small Projects- Master & BLK Electric
 MSU Armstrong Hall - Planning waiting on Bonding Bill
 MSU Clinical Science - Hunt Electric
 Mankato Downtown Hotel Development - Planning
 Mankato WWTP - BLK Electric
 Rolls Royce Solutions Inc. - Muska Electric
 Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) - Hunt Electric
 Chick-fil-A - Master Electric
 Walmart D.C. Truck Maintenance - Master Electric
 Walmart D.C. Critical Power - Morse Electric
 Kato Engineering - Master Electric
 Veterans Memorial Bridge - Hunt Electric
 Poplar Apartments - J.Becher Electric
 MAPS Kennedy & Hoover Elementary schools - BLK Electric
 Viking Electric Supply - BLK Electric
St. Peter/Le Sueur
 St Peter Regional Hospital - BLK Electric
 St Peter Elementary School - BLK Electric
 St Peter MNDOT Truck Building - Hunt Electric
New Ulm/Redwood Falls/Marshall
 3M - Hunt
 Kraft Projects - Parsons
 National Guard Marshall - Paul's/Hunt
 HWY 19 Traffic Signals, EV Chargers - River City Electric/Hunt
 Solugen Marshall - on hold
 Lyon County Power Plant - Kiewit Corporation IBEW
 Cedar Mountain Schools Morgan & Franklin - Hunt Electric
Fairmont/Amboy/Madelia
 Ethanol Plant Work - Master Electric
 Martin County Public Safety and Justice Center - Planning
 Fairmont Community Center - Planning
 Fairmont WWTP - Dewar Electric
 Winnebago Mfg. in Blue Earth - Bidding
 Blue Earth WWTP - Premier Electric
 Truman School - Dewar Electric
Renville/Olivia/Winthrop
Windom/ Jackson/St James
 Jackson Law Enforcement Center - Dewar Electric
 Mountain Lake Generator Project - Premier Electric
 Butterfield-Odin United School - Hunt Electric
 Smithfield Foods St James - Bidding

“A MINUTE WITH MIKE”

SCMNJATC Training Director, Mike Bambrick



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Spring of 2026 has officially arrived! As I write this, the temperature outside is climbing toward 70 degrees—though the forecast later this week calls for snow and freezing rain. Springtime in Minnesota never fails to keep us on our toes.

One of the biggest updates from the JATC this quarter is the addition of a new full-time instructor. We are pleased to welcome Tyler Hameister, who joined our staff in early April as our fourth full-time instructor. Tyler graduated from the program in 2017 and has most recently been working in the field with Medina Electric. As the JATC continues to experience unprecedented growth, expanding our instructional team is essential to ensuring every apprentice has access to the

resources and support they need to succeed. We are confident that Tyler will be an outstanding addition to both the staff and the program.

This time of year, I receive many questions about hiring—specifically, when hiring will begin and how many apprentices we anticipate bringing on for the summer. While I wish I could provide more concrete numbers, I want to outline the process, so everyone understands how these decisions are made.

First, hiring an apprentice is a two-way commitment. The apprentice commits to the program, and the program commits to providing the classroom instruction and on-the-job opportunities needed to reach the 8,000 hours required by the Minnesota Department of Labor to sit for the licensing exam. Because of that commitment, we will never hire a new apprentice for a project if we have currently indentured apprentices who are out of work and available to staff that job.

Second, we do not hire apprentices simply for the sake of hiring. Every apprentice brought on during a hiring season is hired to fill a specific manpower need on a specific project. These two factors make it difficult to predict exact hiring timelines or numbers. That said, with the volume of work expected locally, we anticipate hiring a significant number of apprentices this summer.

If you know someone interested in pursuing an electrical apprenticeship, we offer monthly tours on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM. Prospective applicants can sign up by visiting scmnjatc.org and clicking the “About” tab. If that time doesn’t work, please have them reach out to me directly at mbambrick@scmnjatc.org or 507-529-7721. I’m always happy to meet with anyone exploring a future in the trade. Our goal is to ensure that anyone interested in this industry understands the opportunities available to them and how to prepare for the journey ahead.

Finally, it’s time for the word of the quarter. Last quarter’s word—Cheddar—didn’t get many mentions, nor did the staff member who came up with it (Justin). So, we’ll try a new one: Nikola. If you’ve made it this far, mention “Nikola” the next time you see me. Bonus points (not redeemable for anything, of course) if you can guess which staff member coined it.

Here’s to a warm and safe spring of 2026. I look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic on August 8th in Winona.

2nd Quarter 2026 SCMJATC NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS to our newest graduate

Andrew Speedling

NEC CLASSES BASED ON 2023 CODE

PURCHASING CODE BOOKS

2026 NEC Softcover Code Books are available for \$137.00

2026 NEC Spiralbound Code Books are available for \$145.00

2026 NEC Handbooks are available for \$249.00

2026 NEC Code Book Tabs are available for \$25.00

Contact Mike to schedule a time to pick one up.

Upcoming Classes

WHEN: April 25-26 – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Daily

INSTRUCTOR: Brandon Benson

WHERE: Mankato – IBEW Local 343 Union Hall, 816 South Bend Ave.

WHEN: June 27-28 – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Daily

INSTRUCTOR: Dan Goodew

WHERE: Rochester – IBEW Local 343 Union Hall, 9 80th St. SE

Soares Grounding and Bonding based on the 2023 NEC, SATURDAY is an 8 HOUR CLASS good for ceu's in MN-(8 Code), WI-(8 Code), N.D-(8 Code),(IOWA-(9 Code) 9 hr class)

2023 NEC Code Calculations, SUNDAY is an 8 HOUR CLASS good for ceu's in MN-(8 Code), WI-(8 Code), N.D-(8 Code),(IOWA-(9 Code) 9 hr class)

No partial credit of classes is granted, you must attend the entire approved class to receive credit.

THESE CODE CLASSES ARE GOOD FOR 16 CEU HOURS IN MN, WI & ND. IA IS GOOD FOR 18 CEU HOURS

You can register for classes by visiting our website ibewlocal343.org/education/journeyman-training-classes/ or by contacting MIKE BAMBRICK at mbambrick@scmnjatc.org or by calling 507-529-7721.



IBEW Local 343 Calendar



2026

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
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March 2026						
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April 2026						
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May 2026						
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31						

June 2026						
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28	29	30				

July 2026						
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August 2026						
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30	31					

September 2026						
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October 2026						
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November 2026						
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29	30					

December 2026						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Important dates

= Union Meeting = Quarterly Membership Dues are DUE = Re-Sign (JIW's) 10th – 16th

= Holidays – Local 343 offices are CLOSED: May 25 (Memorial Day); July 3 (Recognition of 4th of July); September 7 (Labor Day); November 26 and 27 (Thanksgiving Day and Day After Thanksgiving); December 24 (Christmas Eve); December 25 (Christmas Day); December 31 (New Year's Eve)

= Provisional Holiday – Local 343 offices are CLOSED: April 3 (Good Friday); November 11 (Veteran's Day)

Union Meetings start at 6 p.m.

Membership Dues for "A" members are \$147.00 per quarter

Membership Dues for "B" members are \$78.00 per quarter

Welcome New Members!!!

January 14th - No Swear-In



February 11th Swear-In



March 11th Swear-In

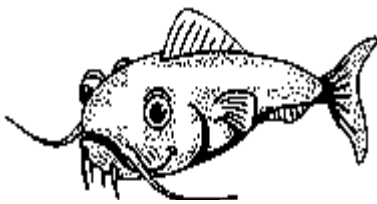
SPARKY FISHING OPENER

Brothers and sisters are invited to a fun-filled day of fishing on the Mississippi River!

WHEN: June 13th, 2026

TIME: 8 am to 3 pm

WHERE: Meet at Great River Lodge,
Buffalo City, Wisconsin



*Fishing for the Biggest:
Walleye, Pan Fish, Bass,
Northern, & Rough Fish*

You must have one IBEW member in boat. We will weigh in at 3pm with food and prizes afterwards.

Questions, call Chris Hallett (251-3569) or John Powrie (259-5413).

I.B.E.W. - N.E.C.A. ELECTRICAL TRAINING

Contact Us:



Front row: (L to R) Julie Strike and Mike Bambrick. Back Row: (L to R) Justin Sauers, Brandon Benson, Casey Saunders and Tyler Hameister.

CONTACT US:

Michael Bambrick Jr – Training Director
Phone – 507-529-7721
Cell – 507-513-9090 mbambrick@scmnjatc.org

Brandon Benson – Instructor
Phone – 507-601-5542
bbenson@scmnjatc.org

T. Justin Sauer – Instructor
Phone – 507-601-7496
tjsauer@scmnjatc.org

Casey Saunders – Instructor
Phone – 507-513-8512
cwsaunders@scmnjatc.org

Tyler Hameister – Instructor
Phone – 507-272-6191
thameister@scmnjatc.org

Julie Strike – Apprenticeship Administrator
Phone – 507-289-7187
jstrike@scmnjatc.org

Robert Ernst - Business Manager
507-208-8016 bob@ibewlocal343.org

John McNallan - Eastern Rep
507-251-6009 johnm@ibewlocal343.org

Mark Rutten - Western Rep
507-995-4880 mark@ibewlocal343.org

Jason Lindahl - Organizer
507-951-5456 jason@ibewlocal343.org

Jeff Fields - Compliance Officer
507-951-8267 jeff@ibewlocal343.org

Bonnie Hinkle - Pensions/Financials
507-282-7081 ext 112 bonnie@ibewlocal343.org

Brooke Bly - Administrative Assistant
507-282-7081 ext 117 brooke@ibewlocal343.org

Colleen Marks - Membership/Referral
507-282-7081 ext 222 colleen@ibewlocal343.org



SAVE THE DATE
Summer Picnic
August 8, 2026
Goodview, MN

GROUNDWIRE

IBEW Local 343 Newsletter
9 80th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904