

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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## SHORT CUTS

### Candidates endorsed for Nov. 7 election

A list of endorsed candidates in Michigan for the Tuesday, Nov. 7. General Election can be found in this edition on Page 4. Candidates are reviewed and endorsed by local councils of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, based on their past or anticipated support of issues of importance to organized labor.

### MI AFL-CIO's Bieber, Newman re-elected

LANSING – Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber and Secretary-Treasurer Daryl Newman were unanimously re-elected Sept. 21 to helm Michigan's largest labor organization for four more years. The elections took place at the Michigan AFL-CIO's 35th Constitutional Convention at the Lansing Center.

"I am deeply humbled to have been entrusted once again by our affiliates to lead the Michigan AFL-CIO as we work to not only imagine, but actually deliver the future working people in this state deserve," said Bieber. "Reflecting on eight years of work to grow the labor movement, I couldn't be more proud of the things we've accomplished as a strong and united movement. Working people in Michigan have made history and the future is ours."

In office since 2015, Bieber helped guide historic victories in the state Legislature this year, including the repeal of the state's right-to-work law and reimplementation of the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act. Newman was elected to a fourth term in office.

The Michigan AFL-CIO, Michigan's largest labor organization, is a federation representing 40 different labor organizations, 18 different central labor councils, and eight constituency groups representing over 1 million union members and their families.

### CEO pay 344x higher than U.S. workers'

The nation's chief executive officers suffered a collective drop in pay last year, but don't fret for them too much.

All told, from 1978-2022, top CEO compensation shot up 1,209 percent, while the nation's workers saw a net increase of 15.3 percent.

"Exorbitant CEO pay is not just a symbolic issue – it has contributed to rising inequality," said Josh Bivens and Jori Kandra from the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute, in a report released Sept. 21. "CEOs are getting paid more because of their leverage over corporate boards, not because of contributions they make to their firms. Escalating CEO pay in recent decades has likely pulled up the pay of other top earners. This concentration of earnings at the top leaves fewer gains for ordinary workers."

In 2022, CEO pay crept down slightly, but they were paid 344 times as much as a typical worker, in contrast to 1965 when they were paid 21 times as much as a typical worker.

Over the past two decades the ratio has been far higher than at any point from the 1960s to the 1990s.

### Quotable

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

—Anne Frank (1929-1945)



IT HAS BEEN AT LEAST 80 years since Saginaw high school students have been able to learn in a new building. That will change next year with the opening of the new Saginaw United High School, shown under construction on the Saginaw River.

## Saginaw's riverfront high school set to be a unifier, and beautifier

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

SAGINAW – A state-of-the-art building designed for modern education? Check. New onsite athletic fields and facilities? Check. A building that creates a single, unified space for the school district's high schoolers? Check. Improve a prime riverfront location – the type that's rarely devoted to the placement of a high school? Check and check.

The Saginaw United High School that's being erected under the leadership of R.C. Hendrick and Son Construction at the Saginaw River checks a lot of boxes for the school district, and promises to be a welcome asset to the community upon its expected completion at the end of next June.

The trades are erecting a five-story, 212,000-square-foot central high school for students, which is due to open next year and will bring together students from the school district's two existing – and aging – high

school buildings. "This is obviously a landmark project for us," said Saginaw Public Schools Director of Facilities Tim Furtaw II. "It is part of our strategic plan developed in 2016 to transform the district and give students an

opportunity to learn in a new building.

"Saginaw has historically been a tale of two cities, a division of east and west, and this building, for the first time in (Continued on Page 2)



PULLING WIRE at the Saginaw United High School project is apprentice Matthew Riebschleger of IBEW Local 557. He's employed by Thiel Electric.



SETTING DOMESTIC water lines at the Saginaw United High School project is Ryan Mulka of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 85. He's employed by Johnson and Wood.

## Nonunion fitter killed at Holland LG battery plant

HOLLAND – LG Energy Solution's \$1.7 billion battery plant under construction here suffered an on-the-job fatality last month, with the death of a nonunion pipefitter.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's preliminary report says "on Sept. 15, 2023, a 41-year-old pipefitter was pressure testing a pipe when a valve came off the

pipe and struck him in the head. The victim was hospitalized and succumbed to his injuries on Sept. 16, 2023."

The prior month at the LG facility, said West Michigan Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Service Trades Local 174 Business Manager Ryan Bennett, the project's general contractor, Yates Construction and their sister company Jesco based in Tupelo,

Miss., locked out piping/mechanical contractor Andy J. Egan and about 100 union pipe trades workers over a contract dispute.

"These members were replaced by nonunion Jesco workers from around the country," Bennett said. "A Jesco pipefitter was killed while pressure-testing a piping system. A 41-year-old worker from Louisiana lost his life in

## Bills to restore project labor pacts and local control start to move in Lansing

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – Michigan's local municipalities, somehow, managed to manage their own affairs from the birth of the state in 1837 until 2011.

Then, during the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder and a Republican-led House and Senate the so-called "Death Star" law was adopted, which removed the ability of local units of government to adopt their own laws that affect things like collective bargaining agreements and workplace rules that address pay, benefits, hours, and scheduling.

Now, with state Democrats in full control of the state Legislature since Jan. 1, the year of reversing state laws to now favor workers over corporations continues with lawmakers returning from their summer break. The Senate Labor Committee on Sept. 21 approved, on a party-line vote,

Senate Bills 120 and 121, which would effectively repeal that Death Star law. And similarly, there is another welcome movement to advance repeal of a state

law banning local construction project labor agreements.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce and a host of other business groups hate the idea of giving local control back to local units of government – even though for years local control



News from Lansing

had been a statewide norm and a bedrock principle of the Republican Party.

"Giving Michigan's 1,800 local governments the green light to adopt, enforce and administer individual ordinances, policies and regulations regulating private sector wages, paid or unpaid leave requirements, other fringe (Continued on Page 4)

## Biden was the first president to join a picket line – but that shouldn't be such a big deal

By Jeff Schuhrke

On Sept. 26, Joe Biden became the first sitting U.S. president to join a picket line when he visited striking United Auto Workers (UAW) members outside a GM parts facility in Belleville, Mich.

"You guys, UAW, you saved the automobile industry back in 2008 and before. You made a lot of sacrifices, gave up a lot when the companies were in trouble," the president said to picketing workers. "But now they're doing incredibly well, and guess what? You should be doing incredibly well too."

The president has voiced support for the UAW's strike at the Big Three automakers since it began on Sept. 15. But after former President Donald Trump announced plans to hold a campaign rally at a non-union auto parts plant near Detroit – which the media grossly mischaracterized as "Trump standing with striking autoworkers" – Biden was pushed by fellow Democrats to visit a UAW picket line.

As a candidate in 2019, Biden joined workers on picket lines, including striking GM employees. Candidate Bill Clinton also walked a picket line in 1992, as did candidate Barack Obama in 2007. But no president has ever joined a picket line while in office until today.

On the campaign trail, Obama promised workers that, if elected, he would "put on a comfortable pair of shoes" and "walk on that picket line with you as President of the United States

### Viewpoint

More on Biden's visit – See Page 12

of America" – a promise he never fulfilled.

As Obama's vice president, Biden rebuffed a request from Wisconsin labor leaders in 2011 to join their massive protest against Republican Gov. Scott Walker's push to curtail public sector union rights.

Biden's UAW picket line visit reflects the fact that the strike by union workers is so popular that the leader of the most pro-capitalist country on Earth believed being seen standing (Continued on Page 5)

## More of the same for state, national construction employment

Steady as she goes.

The U.S. construction industry has been on a strong, years-long run of good employment, mirroring most of the rest of the U.S. jobs economy.

And Michigan continues to be one of those strong jobs creators – our state's construction economy added 8,100 jobs from August 2022 to August 2023 – and that 4.4 percent increase ranks us No. 9 among the states during that period. According to a Sept. 19 report from the Associated General Contractors of America, Michigan now employs 192,200 workers in the construction industry – a strong increase from the 177,800 workers employed in February 2020, prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic.

The 12-month boost in jobs has been widespread: the AGC reports that 45 states saw construction employment increases (Continued on Page 2)

## Hotter, faster: A.J. Egan foreman Shook develops new national weld procedure

GRAND RAPIDS – With a reputation for being an innovator in the industry, mechanical contractor and fabricator Andy J. Egan Co. says it "creates a culture that encourages employees to explore methods for delivering higher-quality projects on expedited schedules."

Proof of this can be found in the creation of a new time-saving weld procedure developed by fabrication shop foreman Shane Shook, a member of UA Local

174. Developed in partnership with the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, Shook developed the procedure and helped create a certification that will soon be available to all UA members and contractors.

For many years, Egan has certified its own welders on a Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) procedure the company internally refers to as "Hot Gas" for hand welding. This blend of 95 percent argon and 5 percent hydrogen is

ideal for Egan's work on Schedule 10 piping for the process piping code.

(Continued on Page 4)

A BETTER WAY TO WELD – UA Local 174 member Shane Shook, left, developed a time-saving welding procedure in the Andy J. Egan shop. With him is UA Training Specialist Robert Derby, and a newly welded fitting.

Photo credit: Andy J. Egan



# Viewpoints



## Hope to end 'stunning equality'

Unionized auto workers are showing the rest of us the rich don't always have to get richer – at everyone else's expense.

Just hours before the expiration of the United Auto Workers contract with Detroit's Big Three, UAW President Shawn Fain had plenty on his mind.

Most of that plenty would be obvious and predictable. The impending expiration of his union's auto industry contract, with no new pact in sight. The state of the union's readiness for what could be the UAW's most pivotal strike since 1937. But Fain had something else on his mind as well: The continuing and unforgivable maldistribution of America's income and wealth.

"Just as in the 1930s," Fain reminded his fellow Auto Workers, "we're living in a time of stunning inequality throughout our society."

Back then, in those 1930s, UAW members began a generation-long struggle that put a significant dent in that "stunning inequality." By the early 1960s, auto worker struggles and sacrifices had helped give birth – in the United States – to a mass middle class. A majority of a major nation's households, after paying for life's most basic necessities, actually had money left over.

In all of world history, that had never before happened. We have numbers that can help tell this dramatic story. In 1928, just before the Great Depression hit, households in America's richest 0.1 percent held a quarter of the nation's wealth, while households in the bottom 90 percent held only just over 15 percent. By the mid-1970s, that bottom 90 percent wealth share had more than doubled, from 15 percent to 33 percent of the total.

And the richest 0.1 percent? The super wealthy's share of the nation's wealth had plummeted over those same years from 25 percent of America's treasure to just over 7 percent.

But then an awful turnaround began. Since 1976, as the economists Thomas Blanchet, Emmanuel Saez, and Gabriel Zucman have detailed, the pre-tax incomes of America's top 0.1 percent have jumped 10 times faster than the incomes of working adults in the nation's middle 40 percent.

Over those same years, the real incomes of working-age adults in the top 0.01 percent have soared 856 percent. The poorest half of the nation's working adults, in that same 47-year span, have hardly seen any increase at all, with their incomes rising just a minuscule 21 percent.

Autoworker take-homes have been doing even worse. Their real wages have actually been sinking over recent years. Between 2008 and July 2023, Economic Policy Institute analysts reported, real average hourly earnings for U.S. auto manufacturing workers fell 19.3 percent.

Top auto industry execs, meanwhile, have been watching their earnings skyrocket. CEO compensation at the auto industry's Big Three – Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis, the corporate outfit that's swallowed up Jeep and Chrysler – jumped 40 percent over the past four years, with each of the three CEOs last year taking home at least \$21 million. GM's current chief exec has pocketed more than \$200 million since 2014.

These same three corporate auto giants, the Economic Policy Institute adds, have "paid out nearly \$66 billion in shareholder dividend payments and stock buybacks" over the past decade, not counting the \$14 billion in dividends and buybacks shelled out so far this year.

The Big Three's overall \$250 billion in profits since 2013, the EPI goes on to point out, "amounts to nearly \$1.7 million for each of the roughly 150,000 workers covered by UAW collective bargaining agreements."

UAW President Shawn Fain seems to understand, just like his UAW predecessors back in the middle of the 20th century, that any real economic justice for auto workers is always going to demand imaginative struggle on multiple fronts.

Striking UAW workers in 1937 didn't just walk the picket line. They staged sit-down strikes that captured the imagination of working people the nation over. And that early UAW didn't just bring imagination to collective bargaining. UAW activists advanced bold egalitarian proposals on other key fronts as well, most strikingly on taxes.

In April 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed a 100 percent federal income tax rate on income over \$25,000, the equivalent of about \$470,000 in today's dollars. Who convinced FDR to push for that income cap? A *New York Times* report gave that credit to the UAW.

FDR didn't end up getting Congress to give him a green light on that 100 percent top tax rate. But by 1944 our nation's richest would face a 94 percent tax rate on income over \$400,000, and that top rate would hover around 90 percent for the next two decades, years that would see the distribution of U.S. income and wealth become significantly more equal.

In other words, the rich don't always have to get richer – at everyone else's expense.

The distribution of U.S. income and wealth can change, over relatively brief stretches of time and to a consequential extent.

The last time that consequential change took place in the United States, the UAW played a consequential role. That role may now be re-emerging.

**Sam Pizzigati**  
Editor, *Inequality.org*

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Credit: Monthly Review

"These kids don't have a little brother working in the coal mine, they don't have a little sister coughing her lungs out in the looms of the big mill towns of the Northeast. Why? Because we organized; we broke the back of the sweatshops in this country; we have child labor laws. Those were not benevolent gifts from enlightened management. They were fought for, they were bled for, they were died for by working people, by people like us. Kids ought to know that."

–Duncan "Utah" Phillips (1935-2008), folk singer, poet, storyteller

# Saginaw's United riverfront high school

(Continued from Page 1)  
100 years, will bring the city together."

The new building will supplant the district's two existing high school buildings that were built in the 1930s (Arthur Hill High School on the city's west side) and 1940s (Saginaw High School, on the east side).

Built for a population of 1,200 students, the new united school will include modern science labs, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) centers, an art classroom and all the modern amenities that are lacking in 80- or 90-year-old buildings.

Work began on the new high school in May 2022. The poor, damp soil of the riverfront location – it was an area used by loggers more than a century ago, then the site of a foundry and buried fill – led to the need to dig extra-deep 92-foot foundations. After moving beyond a difficult property acquisition phase and working with the poorly packed soil, "it's been a very smooth project, no major hiccups," said Mike Hammis of RC Hendrick. "A lot of the credit goes to a lot of good workers that we have on site."

The riverfront location, Furtaw said, "was as centrally located as we could get" in the city. Located west of the Saginaw River and south of West Genesee Avenue, the site will also be getting a new fieldhouse, new stadiums and practice fields for football, and baseball/softball, and a new fieldhouse that will host basketball. "The building transforms the skyline quite a bit, and it's part of some exciting development in the city," Furtaw said. "We're happy to be part of it."

Funding the project comes from a \$99.5 million bond issue approved by the school district's voters in 2020. As part of the bond issue, the Arthur Hill building will become the new Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, and Saginaw High School will be re-purposed into a middle school.

Hammis said there were generally 60-85 tradespeople on

site last summer, maxing out at about 130. "They have been doing great. We're very fortunate

that in a building of this size, we have a good group of tradespeople; good foremen. Everyone

has coordinated well among the trades and the contractors, and it has made my job easier."



SETTING DUCT WORK at Saginaw United High School project is Tom Fortney of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. He's employed by Dee Cramer.

## Just joking

A bus load of tourists arrives at Runnymede in Great Britain. They gather around the guide who says: "This is the spot where the barons forced King John to sign the Magna Carta!"



A fellow at the front of the crowd asks: "When did that happen?"

"1215," answered the guide.

The man looks at his watch and says: "Damn! Just missed it by a half hour!"

...

As a group of recruits stood in formation at an Army base during basic training, the drill sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out!"

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one recruit remained at attention. The drill instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him.

The recruit grinned and said, "sure were a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

## Anti-union media bias? Well, yeah.

By Jim Hightower

Here's a story about media bias. Not the flagrant, pure propaganda that defines partisan outfits like Fox News, but the daily drip, drip, drip of slanted perspectives and loaded words that lard so many of the reports put out by establishment media outlets.

In particular, when these sources of supposedly "straight journalism" cover labor issues, environmental conflicts, consumer rights, tenant battles and such, they regularly slant their reports with corporate terminology, assumptions and viewpoints. For example, when auto workers launched their momentous national strike last month, so many mainline news stories were subtly-but-surely twisted to cast rich executives and shareholders as voices of reason victimized by union bosses.

Consider the *Wall Street Journal's* Sept. 15 article announcing the UAW's walkout. The story quickly plunged into an assertion by Ford's CEO that the union's leaders "refused to engage in a responsible manner." In case readers missed this industry talking point, the *Journal* quoted another Big Three honcho four lines later, mouthing the exact same line. But... was the UAW really irresponsible, and – hello – could it be that the auto CEOs were the irresponsible players? The *Journal* didn't inquire about these basic facts.

Then, the *WSJ* quoted a General Motors PR claim that it had "made an unprecedented offer to the union." How grand! But "unprecedented" doesn't mean good or fair. Was it? The paper offers no insight, though it does declare on its own that "a sharp increase in labor costs would come at a bad time." Really? When would auto bosses and *Journal* editors consider it to be a good time for workers to get a pay increase? No follow-up to that obvious question.

The *Journal* also resorted to demonizing UAW President Shawn Fain, gratuitously labeling him a "firebrand," which the dictionary defines as "a person who kindles strife – a troublemaker." A more honest depiction

is that Fain – and the feisty UAW membership – are gutsy champions of economic fairness battling plutocratic greed. The actual troublemakers in this story are the auto chiefs and profiteers, along with their media protectors, who now assert that the autoworkers' demands are "unsustainable." The obvious question, as taught in beginning journalism classes, is *unsustainable for whom?*

Interestingly, while the *Journal's* report portrays the autoworkers' demand for a 40 percent pay hike over the next four years as an irresponsible ask, the paper doesn't even whisper that the CEOs of this \$3 trillion industry have recently pocketed 40 percent hikes in their take-home, now amounting to \$21 million a year for Ford's chief, \$25 million for Stellantis' boss, and \$29 million for GM's CEO.

This disparity is not secret information. Our little four-person Hightower Substack uncovered it with just a little digging.

Media empires like the *Wall Street Journal* know the truth of it, too, but they're in service to the existing hierarchies of power, even willing to abandon basic journalistic ethics to distort an inspiring news story of everyday people striving for a little more economic justice in our world.

## More of the same for construction

(Continued from Page 1)

over the past year.

"Construction has been a leading source of employment growth almost universally in the past year," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "But contractors report needing even more workers as large projects rev up across the country."

Wyoming had the largest percentage increase in construction jobs over 12 months (+13.0 percent, 2,700 jobs), followed by Arkansas (+9.9 percent, 5,800 jobs), Kentucky (+9.2 percent, 7,700 jobs), and West Virginia (+8.6 percent, 2,600 jobs). Texas added the most construction jobs over the year (+21,100 jobs or 2.7 percent), followed by California (+15,600 jobs, 1.7 percent), and Ohio (+11,600 jobs, 5.0 percent).

Tennessee lost the highest percentage and most construction jobs in August (-2,400 jobs, -1.6 percent), followed by Virginia (-1,400 jobs, -0.7 percent)

The AGC reiterated that most U.S. contractors report having a hard time finding workers, and that the job gains would have been larger if more qualified candidates were available to hire. "The good news is construction demand remains strong in many parts of the country," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGC's chief executive officer. "But until we as a nation do a better job preparing future workers, employers in sectors like construction will continue to struggle to find enough qualified people to hire."

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN: The REO Speedwagon factory HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE REO Motor Car Co. works in Lansing, in a circa 1920 postcard. Closed in 1975, many of the still-intact buildings were placed on the National Historic Register in 1978. Then they were demolished in 1980. Today commercial buildings populate the site.

You're probably not alone if the name REO Speedwagon brings to mind a still-touring band that made a few hit songs.

The band's name, according to the Internet, was the result of the inspiration of keyboardist Neal Doughty, who saw the name written on a blackboard in 1967 when he walked into his "History of Transportation" class – the same day his band was looking for a name.

For the City of Lansing, the REO Speedwagon name has a much broader importance, and deeper history, than the moniker that was borrowed by a band that came to some prominence in the 1980s. REO Speedwagon was the name given to a truck first produced in Lansing in 1915 by Ransom E. Olds – and its commercial sales fostered decades of truck-building that not only created thousands of jobs in Lansing, but helped win a war and move goods throughout the nation for decades.

"With the demise of the Oldsmobile brand from the General Motors lineup several years ago, the current generation may not even realize that Oldsmobile was just one of several successful ventures created by Ransom Eli Olds," wrote Bill Senefsky for *Motor Trend* magazine. "In his early years, Ransom E. Olds was granted many patents, which

led others in the industry to label him one of America's most important automotive founders, and one of his company's creations eventually became the namesake for a popular rock band – we're guessing you know which one."

Born in Ohio in 1864, Ransom Olds was a machinist and partner in his father's shop after his family moved to Lansing. Olds built a steam-powered automobile engine in 1884 and one powered by gasoline in 1896. A year later, he formed the Olds Motor Vehicle Co., along with a partner.

It was a failed venture, and then Olds started a new company, the Olds Motor Works, in 1899. His financial backer insisted he move production from Lansing to Detroit, and it was during this period that Olds created the highly successful "curved dash" car model. But by 1904, Olds was ousted from the company, and he founded a competitor back in Lansing, the R.E. Olds Motor Car Co. That name was soon changed to the REO (Ransom E. Olds) Motor Car Co., in order to avoid legal action over the use of the Olds name. (Oldsmobile became the second brand in GM, after Buick, in 1908).

What followed was an automotive company whose story was not uncommon during the past century: it was at first very

successful, a pillar in the community, and a builder of mighty structures that would seemingly produce vehicles forever. Then the company eventually lost its standing in the marketplace, saw declining sales, laid off workers and shuttered its buildings.

But for decades, the REO company was a solid part of the automotive industry, known mainly for its truck production.

"The REO brand was an immediate success, selling a record number of automobiles from 1905 to 1909," Senefsky wrote. "The REO brand proved more profitable than his original Olds Motor Works, which had become part of General Motors."

The REO Motor Truck Co. was organized as a subsidiary of the REO Motor Car Co. and began truck production in 1910.

"The company introduced its legendary Speedwagon

truck in 1915," the year that Olds withdrew from the company, Senefsky wrote. "The Speedwagon was the forerunner of today's pickup. Its sales success was copied by the competition, with 60 individual variations soon appearing. By 1925, REO's original concept was blurred entirely.

"REO's Speedwagon continued to offer industry firsts: electric starters and lighting, shaft-driven axles, and pneumatic tires mounted on steel wheels. The company expanded the option list for its lightweight Speedwagons and added heavier versions with up to two tons of capacity. In reality, the company dominated the commercial truck field. More than 125,000 Speedwagons were produced by 1925...."

REO remained "profitable though small" through 1925, "and earned a reputation for well-built cars and trucks," said a history provided by the National Parks Service. An effort to make the company more competitive by offering vehicles in different price ranges failed during the Great Depression years of the 1930s. By 1936, the company decided to focus solely on building trucks.

World War II and the need for domestic production of war materiel proved to be a boon to heavy equipment manufacturers of all sizes. "REO is best known for the trucks it built during World War II. However, trucks were one of several products the company built during World War II," wrote David Jackson for *The American Automobile Industry in World War 2*. He said during the war, REO produced 29,800 trucks and buses, as well as a variety of other war-related goods and parts: B-17 components, Navy bomb fuses, axles, transmissions and wheel as-



A 1922 ADVERTISEMENT for the REO Speedwagon, made in Lansing. "Before the REO Speed Wagon hit the road, trucks from the early 20th Century weren't working with the kind of horsepower that could overpower horses," wrote Bill Senefsky for *Motor Trend* magazine. "The REO Motor Car Co. knew that Americans needed something powerful in order to accomplish the kinds of physical labor they were undertaking as life turned complicated. The first REO Speedwagon was introduced in 1915 with a four-cylinder engine and a three-speed transmission that moved much faster than the trucks of the day, which could only hit speeds of about 10-15 miles per hour. The Speed Wagons were massive and meant for hauling large quantities, be it feed, fruits, and vegetables, or whatever else a person needed to move at the time. The Speed Wagons were a major innovation for people in every industry. Not only did they speed up transport time, but they were also able to hold more product, thus requiring fewer back-and-forth trips for those moving more than one item. It's strange to think about a truck being revolutionary, but with this vehicle, REO changed lives."

semblies, among others.

"Although World War II truck orders enabled it to make something of a comeback, the company remained unstable in the postwar era," said the National Parks Service. "In 1954 the company was sold to the Bohn Aluminum and Brass Co. of Detroit, and three years later it became a subsidiary of the White Motor Co. White merged REO with Diamond T Trucks in 1967 to form Diamond REO Trucks, Inc. In 1975, this firm filed for bankruptcy and most of its assets were liquidated."

There were five years between the closure of the REO

works on Washington Street on Lansing's south side, and its demolition. Today the area continues to be known as REO Town. A history prepared by the Library of Congress in 1978 captured a glimpse of the site before the wrecking ball came a-calling.

"The Diamond REO Motor Plant, situated in an industrial area near downtown Lansing," said the history, "consists of the only known extant and little altered structures associated with Ransom Eli Olds' successful ventures into automobile manufacturing. The most significant buildings include: 1905 office building, 1905 factory, 1908 engineering building, 1917 employee clubhouse, and four other factory buildings constructed between 1905 and 1914. The buildings exhibit many original exterior architectural features."

That analysis came the same year the former REO buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Two years later, in 1980, the entire works was demolished.



THE REO MOTOR WORKS factory was built in 1905, and is shown here in 1977 awaiting demolition. Photo credit: National Parks Service/Ralph J. Christian

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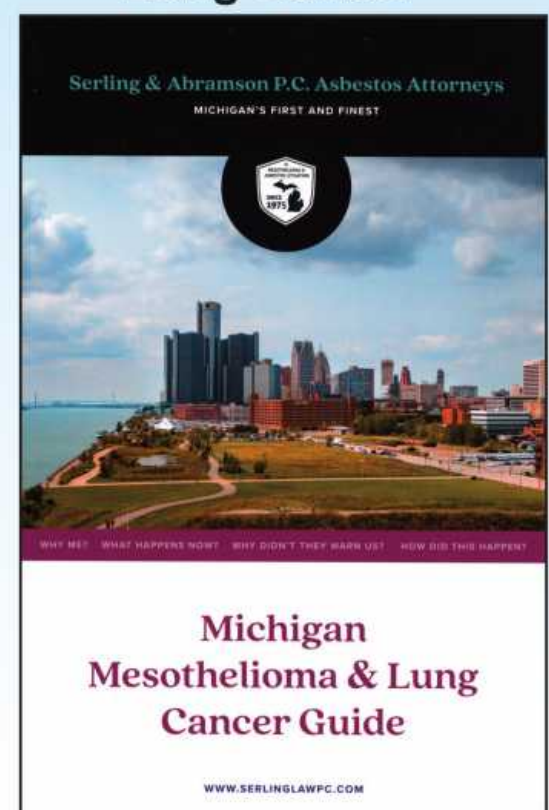
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## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers 25

NOVI – Steward meeting(s): The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, October 26, at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, October 30, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

The October Union meeting will be Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open.

Communications Alerts & E-mails; sign up via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.

Local 25 Retirees are able to work without suspension of their pension benefits effective Aug 1, 2023 with the following criteria: Must be retired a minimum of 2 months, must complete the Memorandum of Understanding with approval by Trustee Aguirre or Trustee Randick. Must be a full dues-paying member and if you are currently on lifetime status you will need to transition back to full dues paying for 1 year along with 1-year paid dues.

Those who are former L-340 Retirees are able to work without suspension of their benefits as their plan allows. The retiree is encouraged to pass on their knowledge to apprentices and other bargaining unit employees of the Employer. Contact any Business Agent who can assist you further with the details.

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.

Apprentices: Fill out your monthlies online at the website or on the mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab "Monthly Report Sign-In," this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also, located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications." You can now electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests.

Column Climb Results from the Iron Worker Picnic: Age 70 years & older: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Don Brown #785027, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jim Brown #893118. Age 60-69 years: Tom Lubig #975818. Age 36-49 years: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Matt Rajda #1252473, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Chris Reed #1317771. Age 18-35 years: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Kyle Giddings #1590775 (time 8:19), 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Joe Lynn #1551920 (time 8:31), 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Alan Keesler #1578073 (time 8:81), 4<sup>th</sup> Place Brett Schultz #1617363 (time 11:40). Congratulations to all the participants.

Everyone enjoyed the 2023 picnic; hoping everyone will come out to next year's picnic!

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) to view the block schedule. The 2023 Raising Gang Training schedule is on the website as well. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow! If you read this entire article to the end and would like one (1) Union meeting credit, please call the Wixom Training Center and mention this article. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: (248)960-2130.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org).

"Hollywood is a place where people from Iowa mistake each other for stars."

–Fred Allen (1894 - 1956)

The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a newborn child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

erwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday November 7, 2023 at 8:30 am. The All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the Bay City Chapter will be at 1:00 pm October 19, 2023 at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams St., Bay City MI 48708. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter: The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be in October 20, 2023 at 9:00 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: [www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/](http://www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/) Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options

AT WORK ON THE SECOND-floor exterior of the new Saginaw United High School are Normand Stockton and Dan Bosman of Iron Workers Local 25. They're employed by C.L. Rieckhoff.

in many locations throughout the state.

BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance Use Disorder.

Another resource for help: FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).

Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

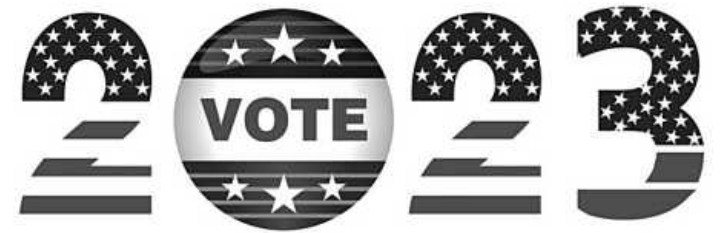
Suicide PREVENTION Resources on IMPACT: <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

OpiRescue smartphone APP to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses. It is free to use and anonymous. The app provides information and a 5-step process for how to respond to an opioid overdose event. The guidelines developed by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

In Memory: George McCrumb #699201 passed away September 20, 2023 at the age of 78 in Dewitt MI. He was a 60-year member and is survived by his wife Sandra.

Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

This information is as of Submission Time for this ARTICLE (Oct 2, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.)-



Below are candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its local affiliate councils for the Tuesday, Nov. 7 election. Some councils have yet to endorse. Feel free to vote early via a no-reason absentee ballot available at your clerk's office

And, as always, please take the time to research and to vote for candidates who support the health, safety and incomes of working people.

Following are candidates endorsed by the Greater Detroit Building Trades Council's Political Action Committee:

### Wayne County

Allen Park City Council: Gary Schlack  
Dearborn Heights City Council: Mo Baydoun  
Flat Rock Mayor: Jesse Cowell

Livonia  
Mayor: Maureen Brosnan  
City Treasurer: Susan Nash  
City Clerk: Lori Miller

City Council: Carrie Budzinski, Robb Drzewicki, Brandon McCollough

### Melvindale

Mayor: Weeler Marsee (Plumbers 98 member)

Westland City Council: Michael McDermott, Melissa Sampey

### Oakland County

Farmington Hills Mayor: Theresa Rich

Ferndale Mayor: Raylon Leaks-May

### Madison Heights

Mayor: Roslyn Grafstein

City Council: Sean Fleming, Quinn Wright

### Novi

Mayor: Aaron Martinez

City Council: Sujata Ramani

Rochester Hills Mayor: Ariane Paviani

### Royal Oak

Mayor: Michael Fournier

Commissioner: Rebecca Cheezum, Amanda Herzog, Monica Hunt

Southfield City Council: Michael Mandelbaum

### Macomb County

Mount Clemens City Council: Spencer Calhoun

### Warren

City Clerk: Mai Xiong

Treasurer: Lorie Barnwell

City Council District 1: Melody Magee

City Council District 3: Mindy Moore

City Council District 4: Garry Watts

City Council, District 5: Henry Newnan

City Council At-Large: Marie Adkins, Angela Rogensues

### Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee Counties Building Trades Council

### Burton

Mayor: Duane Haskins

City Council: Trevor Rodgers

### Southeast Michigan Building Trades Council

### Monroe

City Council: Mike Hayter

### Jackson

Mayor: Daniel Mahoney

City Council: Connor Woods

### Lansing Area Building Trades

### Ingham County

Prosecutor: John Dawane

### Lansing

City Council: Adam Hussain, Ryan Kost,

City Council At Large: Jody Washington, Tamera Carter, Trinidad Lopez Pehlivanoglu

### East Lansing

City Council: Kerry E Singh, Noel Garcia, Mark Meadows

## Bills to restore project labor pacts and local control start to move in Lansing

(Continued from Page 1)

benefits, regulations on work stoppages or strikes just creates a complex patchwork mess that hurts our state," said Michigan Chamber Senior Vice President Wendy Block.

Responded Senate Labor Chairman John Cherry (D-Flint): the state existed under this statute for nearly two centuries "and everything worked out just fine." He added: "These bills give back local government's tools to help retain and attract talent in their communities."

In 2015, organized labor rallied against the GOP's passage of the "Local Government Labor Regulatory Limitation Act," calling it a "power grab" by Lansing lawmakers and a "one size fits all" law that was clearly anti-union and anti-local control.

Now the repeal measure goes before the full Senate, which is controlled by Dems – who have already adopted laws this year that repealed the state's right-to-work law and to re-implemented the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act.

The state AFL-CIO brought 50 workers to the state Capitol on Sept. 13 to lobby for repealing the laws.

The "Local Government Labor Regulatory Limitation Act" prohibited "a local governmental body from "adopting, enforcing, or administering an ordinance, policy, or resolution that imposed certain requirements or regulations on an employer, including a requirement to pay more than the minimum hourly wage, provide paid or unpaid leave time, or provide benefits that imposed a cost on the employer, or that regulated the employment relationship in a way that exceeded State or federal requirements."

"The Snyder Administration's 'Death Star' law is a weapon of worker suppression that took power away from local communities and their workers," said Michigan AFL-CIO Chief of Staff Derek Dobies. "Working people in communities across the state, and the local leaders they elected, want to put forward policies they know will grow their workforce and boost economic prosperity. These bills give them the tools to do so."

A similar repeal bill is in the Committee on Labor in the state House.

"I ran for office so I could empower communities like mine to better address the issues facing working families," said State Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph). "I sponsored this legislation because workers across the state – including those I represent – deserve good jobs with livable wages so they can support their families, take care of their health, and plan for their futures. There's no reason for the state to get in the way of that."

Separately, the unionized construction industry is pushing for repeal of the "Fair and Open Competition in Governmental Construction Act" (Senate Bill 170) and repeal of the "Local Government Labor Regulatory Limitation Act" (Senate Bill 171).

SB 170 would overturn existing state law enacted during the Snyder Administration in 2011. Repeal would again allow local governments to stipulate the use of a labor organization through a project labor agreement for locally financed construction or demolition projects.

SB 171 would repeal another Snyder-era law. Passage would reinstate the historic ability of local governmental bodies to regulate certain rules for employers: including mandating employers to pay more than the state minimum wage or provide a higher level of fringe benefits, allow regulation of strike activity, and regulating an employer's hours or scheduling of employees.

On Sept. 21 both bills were moved to the Senate's Committee of the Whole for consideration. In the House, a companion bill regarding project labor agreements was introduced in March by State Rep. Jean Hill (D-Marquette), but it hasn't moved since.

"Members of the public want to see local projects completed safely, on time, and on budget – and my bill will give local governments an option to help with that," said Hill. "As a former Marquette City Commissioner, I recognize the importance of setting local construction projects up for success. We need to let local officials make decisions and opt-in on project labor agreements where they see fit."

## Hotter, faster: A.J. Egan foreman Shook develops new national weld procedure

(Continued from Page 1)

Shook said that it creates a hotter arc which helps to penetrate thicker-walled stainless piping. Travel speed can be increased, creating less heat input, which is an important feature when welding any stainless steel.

While the Hot Gas procedure originally started with hand welding, Egan now uses it in orbital procedures for many customers, allowing welders to complete their welds at a faster rate when compared to traditional GTAW procedures. The result is a significant time savings for a repeatable, high-quality weld. "The root welds look perfect," Shook said.

Before purchasing new orbital welding equipment early

this summer, Shook visited

local training halls later this year. Founded in 1919, Egan offers engineering, fabrication, mechanical insulation, controls and 24/7 service for commercial, industrial and institutional applications.

The company says it seeks to create "a culture that encourages employees to explore methods for delivering higher-quality projects on expedited schedules" with its "world-class fabrication shop and "cutting-edge construction technology department."

That's what happened in the development of this new procedure. "It's exciting to make this available to our members," says Derby. "Our goal is to ensure welders of all skill levels are successful with this mix of gas."

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## The Building Tradesman

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Patrick Devlin  
Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Claywell  
President

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**DOUBLE-CHECKING** a measurement in what will be a science lab at the Saginaw United High School project is Eddie Schwind of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 85. He's employed by Johnson and Wood.

## Biden was the first president to join a picket line – but that shouldn't be such a big deal

(Continued from Page 1)

alongside them was politically advantageous. "This is absolutely unprecedented. No president has ever walked a picket line before," labor historian Erik Loomis told the *Associated Press*.

Labor historian Nelson Lichtenstein similarly told the *Guardian*, "This is genuinely new — I don't think it's ever happened before, a president on a picket line."

**Presidents and picket lines.** Almost three years into his term, much ink has been spilled debating whether Biden is living up to his promise to be the "most pro-union president leading the most pro-union administration in American history," and today's event will undoubtedly further fuel that discussion.

But what often goes unmentioned is what a low bar it is to earn the distinction of most pro-union president in U.S. history. Far from joining picket lines, most presidents have firmly sided with bosses, if they weren't bosses themselves.

Twelve U.S. presidents (one in four) were literal slave owners — eight of them while in office. They physically coerced men, women and children to work for them in cruel, excruciating and humiliating conditions with no freedoms and no rights to speak of, let alone compensation.

Several presidents have deployed federal troops to break strikes and crush worker rebellions, including Andrew Jackson in 1834, Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877, Grover Cleveland in 1894, Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 and 1907, and Warren G. Harding in 1921.

Calvin Coolidge's ascent to the White House was set in motion in 1919 when, as Massachusetts governor, he defeated the unpopular Boston police strike and declared, "There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, anytime."

During wars, Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman seized control of certain enterprises or entire industries a total of 71 times to prevent or end strikes — sometimes on the side of unions, sometimes on the side of management.

Since Congress passed the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act in 1947 over President Truman's veto, the law's emergency injunction provision — allowing the federal government to shut down strikes in the private sector — has been invoked by presidents 35 times.

Ronald Reagan — the only White House occupant to have previously been a union president and strike leader — infamously fired over 11,000 striking air traffic controllers in 1981 rather than negotiate a new contract with them, setting off the modern era of union busting. Still, some presidents have also occasionally provided organized labor with moral and tangible support.

In March 1860, as the New England Shoemakers Strike was underway, candidate Abraham Lincoln addressed the situation while campaigning in Hartford, Conn. "I know one thing — there is a strike! And I am glad to know that there is a system of labor where the laborer can strike if he wants to," he said.

Four years later, as the Civil War raged, a printers' strike in St. Louis was in danger of being broken by U.S. Army troops commanded by General William Rosecrans, who saw labor disputes as impediments to the war effort. The printers appealed to President Lincoln by reminding him of his campaign remarks about the right to strike. Lincoln is said to have ordered Rosecrans to stand down.

President Teddy Roosevelt made history during the anthracite coal strike of 1902 when, instead of simply having the military stamp out the strike, he attempted to mediate a fair resolution by bringing union and management representatives to Washington to negotiate as equals.

During World War I, Woodrow Wilson rewarded union workers with shorter hours, higher wages and better conditions to avoid strikes. But Wilson was also merciless toward anti-war labor radicals, imprisoning many organizers with the Industrial Workers of the World for "obstructing" the war.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is often considered the most pro-labor U.S. president because he oversaw the New Deal — a slew of reforms in the 1930s that uplifted much of the industrial working class, including the pro-union National Labor Relations Act. A famous 1940 union poster quotes FDR as saying, "If I went to work in a factory, the first thing I'd do would be TO JOIN A UNION" — but it's unclear if he ever actually said this.

**"Earned, not freely given."** FDR's New Deal wouldn't have been possible without overwhelming Democratic majorities in Congress, a critical advantage not enjoyed by Joe Biden and his stalled Build Back Better agenda.

Nevertheless, Biden has made a decent effort. Under his administration, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has been more unabashedly pro-worker than likely any time since the 1930s. Biden has also followed union leaders' wishes on who to elevate into key positions such as Secretary of Labor and NLRB general counsel, and has used his bully pulpit to make some of the most pro-union public statements we've ever heard from a president (again, it's a low bar).

At the same time, Biden has so far failed to get Congress to pass the union-friendly PRO Act, though he was all too successful in getting Congress to preempt last year's potential railroad strike and impose an unpopular contract on rail workers despite a majority of them voting to reject it. Anti-union actions like overriding rank-and-file democracy and denying workers' their fundamental right to strike are unfortunately par for the course for U.S. presidents.

This seems to be something UAW President Shawn Fain understands. Just as Fain refused to engage in the traditional, ceremonial handshake with the Big Three CEOs at the start of contract bargaining, he and his union have so far refrained from endorsing Biden's reelection (while 17 other unions and the AFL-CIO quickly endorsed him back in June).

"Our endorsements are going to be earned, not freely given," Fain has said. This example of labor proudly standing up for itself and demanding respect, instead of reflexively bowing to those in power, likely encouraged Biden to make history by joining the picket line today. It may also be what ultimately forces the Big Three to make historic concessions to striking autoworkers.

(From *In These Times*. Reprinted under Creative Commons 3.0 license. Jeff Schuhrke has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Master's in Labor Studies from UMass Amherst)



UA Local 85

SAGINAW — The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at the Union Hall located at 3535 Bay Road starting at 7:00 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Grayling Eagles located at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

Please note: Our new mailing address for all correspondence has changed to 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513  
jpomerville@ualocal85.org  
Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515  
jbadour@ualocal85.org  
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rjanderson@ualocal85.org  
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511  
ktuthill@ualocal85.org

Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The new website is up and running. [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org). Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No.. If you have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

The new Facebook page is live. If you are currently on the Local Eighty-Five Facebook account, invites were sent to have you join the new site. UA Local 85 page is our public Facebook account. UA Local 85 Members Group is our new members only Facebook. Please like both and let us know what you think.

**JATC News:** Congratulations to our newest Journeyman Ryan Shauger!

**SUB Fund:**  
**Print Unemployment Payment History** located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

**Where to submit documents:** Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

**SUB Application for Benefits:** Must be on file in order to receive SUB Check. Available at the Hall.

**90-Day Rule:** The weeks you are claiming must be submitted within 90 days of the first Monday following the week in which you are eligible to receive a State benefit per the Plan Documents.

**Taxes:** There are no taxes taken out of SUB Fund Checks, however they are taxable wages and you will receive a W-2 at the end of the year. If you want taxes withheld from your SUB Fund Check, please indicate the dollar amount for Federal and State on each SUB submittal.

**Address & Phone Update:** Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

**Beneficiary Cards:** Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261.

**Insurance:** When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. To keep your insurance up to date.

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

**Fraternally,**  
Justin M. Pomerville  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local Union 85



UA Local 333

LANSING — The October meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 South Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing MI 48911.

**Attention:** Per Section 130 of the UA Constitution monthly dues will go from \$28.00 per month to \$31.00 per month effective January 1, 2024 for Journeymen with no change for retirees.

A Diversity Committee meeting will be held October 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways of creating diversity within Local 333 and is open to those who are interested.

**NOTICE:** Fall welding classes in Jackson and Lansing are both full. Battle Creek can still accept a couple of members wanting to learn to weld. Members wanting to sign up in Jackson or Lansing can call Tim Hicks 517-897-7250 and he will put their names on a list and notify them in case someone drops out.

**FALL SCHEDULE - WELD CLASSES:**

**LANSING.** Advanced - September 5, 2023 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 Beginning - September 6, 2023 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30

**JACKSON.** Advanced - September 5, 2023 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 Beginning - September 6, 2023 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30

**BATTLE CREEK.** Welding - September 7, 2023 - Monday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 If interested please sign up at [www.ualocal333.org](http://www.ualocal333.org) <<http://www.ualocal333.org>> - UA # and email address needed when signing up. Questions please call the Training Center 517-323-0333.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS:** Per the UA, as of January 2019 all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired, please contact Diana at (517) 323-0333. Even though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

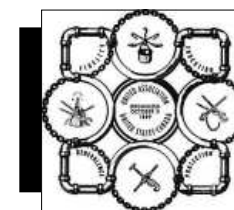
**NOTE:** Members needing assistance with the Journeyman Plumbing Code test prep please contact Tim Hicks at the Training Center.

Battle Creek Retirees' Breakfasts are held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café, 2587 Capital Avenue, Battle Creek MI at 9 am. Please spread the word.

**Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson:** Retirees will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center.

*"Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only for wallowing in."*

—Katherine Mansfield (1888 - 1923)



UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO — UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

**UNION DUES REMINDERS:** Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com). Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36.

Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

**RETIREE MEETINGS (NOTE CHANGE):** Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9:00 am at Long Island Cafe located at 5222 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 218-0003.

**MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES:** As a member, TIC International and Labor First provide a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at (888) 281-3461. For Medicare Retirees — Contact Labor First at (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION — FRINGES — TIC:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357/](http://www.facebook.com/UALocal357/). You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website.

To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information — click on the **LARGE REGISTER** button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day.

To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again — type in your email address and password — and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when the hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

**CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

**There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

**CONGRATULATIONS:**  
Congratulations to Dylan Rehm on his recent marriage to Hailey.  
Congratulations to Brandon Nelson on his recent marriage to Kassie.

*"I begin to think, that a calm is not desirable in any situation in life....Man was made for action and for bustle too, I believe."*  
— Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818)

*"No man who ever held the office of president would congratulate a friend on obtaining it."*  
— John Adams (1735 - 1826)

*"I am looking for a lot of men who have an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done."*  
— Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)

*"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."*  
— Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

*"Call on God, but row away from the rocks."*  
— Indian Proverb

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. They maintain offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

- ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES
- WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU
- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

[www.ssdfighter.com](http://www.ssdfighter.com)





Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

**Local 190**

UA Local 190

**ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING:** A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and will start at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. At this meeting the reading of the annual audit will take place. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

**MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING:** A Union meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Soaring Eagle Casio & Resort 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI. The meeting will be held in the Ojibway Room.

**CHILDREN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY:** This wonderful event will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The party will be held at the Washtenaw Community College (Morris J. Lawrence Building) from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. All RSVP's should be mailed to the Local 190, 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. **The committee must receive your notification if you are planning on attending, no later than November 24<sup>th</sup>.** We are in need of volunteers, please contact Melissa Wood at (734) 424-0962 Ext. 200. Your help is truly appreciated.

**MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN:** If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at out Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

**FUSING CLASS:** Anyone interested in registering for the fusing class, please contact Business Agent Pat Duffy at (734) 368-4423, Business Agent Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at (734) 369-1432.

**MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION - E-Mail address:** Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 or Pat Duffy 734-368-4423 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

**MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL:** Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!!!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc). Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms."

**CREDIT CARD MACHINE:** You now have the ability to pay your union dues or purchase merchandise by credit card or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A surcharge of 3.99% is added to your card on the transaction amount. We will then mail you your dues receipt and credit charge slip.

**LAI D OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS:** All members who get laid off or report back to work **please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.** PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE:** Attention all members, you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM**

**A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: A representative will be at the union hall each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.** Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

**MEDICARE:** When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office, 1-888-390-7473. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5:00pm. Friday 8am. to 3:30pm. We will be closed for lunch from noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org, members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

**Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.**

**Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Monday - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Class will start at 5:00 pm. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Monday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.** Class will start at 5:00 pm. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**Welding Lab:** The open welding lab will be shutting down for the summer starting May 25<sup>th</sup> and opening back up for night classes starting September 5<sup>th</sup>. Welding tests will be scheduled by the Training Coordinator after participants are approved by welding instructors. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays.

**ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2023 Schedule:** Second course starts Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2023 Schedule:** Second course starts Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5:00 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2023 Schedule: Second course starts Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs):** This is a two-day course. **2023 Schedule: The second course starts Sept 26<sup>th</sup>.** Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be late Fall. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs):** This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: September 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

**NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE BUILDING TRADESMAN PAPER:** Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext #210, if you would like to put a special notification in the paper.

*"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure."*  
–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



**Local 370**  
Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

**FLINT –** The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00.**

**Condolences** to the family and friends of brother Wayne "Ox" Raver. Ox passed away Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He was 62 years old and a 30 year member of Local 370. Rest in peace Brother.

**Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**Welding** September 11<sup>th</sup> thru October 11<sup>th</sup>. Every Monday and Wednesday at 4:30

October 23<sup>rd</sup> thru November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Every Monday and Wednesday at 4:30

**Rigging Certification Class** September 11<sup>th</sup> thru October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30

**CSD-1 Update** October 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26. 5-8pm. (15 spots available)

**Gas Pipe Sizing & Interpretation** October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25. (15 spots available)

**Weld Test** If you would like to take a weld test, sign up with Kaytlin and we will schedule tests as needed.

All classes and test days can be signed up with Kaytlin at 810-720-5243 ext 15.

Per our **By-Laws Article XV, The Building Tradesman** is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of Local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

**Committee and Board meetings are as follows:**

Examining Board – Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

**ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing:**

MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.

Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

**Attendance award** drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is \$150.

**Attention All Active Members in Good Standing.**

The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

**Mobile App.** Our mobile app is now available for download on you cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370**. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org)

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window (Continued next column)



**SPRINKLER FITTERS**  
**704**  
**DETROIT**

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

**DETROIT –** The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday October 11, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Retired Brother Robert "Bob" Williams who passed away on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob was a 52-year member of Local 704 where he served on multiple committees as well as the Apprentice Coordinator throughout the 90's and into the 2000's. Many of today's officers of Local 704 came through apprenticeship school under Bob. He will be sorely missed. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Any active member interested in supplemental disability insurance, critical illness, or life insurance through Colonial Life please contact Greg Herman at the Union Hall. A mailing will be sent out within the next few weeks with enrollment information. A meeting to explain how these programs work will be held Tuesday, October 17 at 5:00 P.M. at the Union Hall.

**Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order.** Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

**Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order states:** Members shall report all job starts to their local union office.

It is the members' responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.


**Phone numbers to remember:** NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

**TIC International:** 248-645-6550 for D.C. Fund distribution questions.

**Jason May (Merrill Lynch):** 248-655-4048 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

A reminder to please update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.



**Local 370, con't**

dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

Plumbing, Mechanical and Residential Code Books are now available at the hall. The books are \$75.00 each.

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our by-laws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Zack Desrochers for application and testing dates.

Local 370 ball caps and winter fleece caps are available at the union offices. Ball caps \$10.00 and fleece caps \$5.00. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 dollars each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free number is 1-888-797-5862.



**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service**  
**Local 111**

UA Local 111

**UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE:** The next Union Meeting will be in **Marquette October 26, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m.** **The October meeting in Marquette will be a special-called meeting for the nominations of officers.**

Local 111 will be accepting applications for the Plumber/Pipefitter Apprenticeship September 5<sup>th</sup> – October 13<sup>th</sup> at all UP Michigan Works! Locations. If you know anyone interested please let them know.

Anyone interested in 1-day shutdowns, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher, Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba office.

**MRA CARD:** Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill which includes:

- Patient Name
- Provider Name
- Date of Service
- Description of Service
- Amount of Service w/receipt of payment

Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

**Reminder:** Check your records and contact the hall with any changes to the following: **E-Mail, home address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death.** Please call April or Ann to have your information updated.

**Reminder:** It is your responsibility to call the hall as soon as you get laid off, the day you call in is the date that you are placed on the **Out of Work List**. If you do not call in you will not be referred to work.

**Reminder to all apprentices,** you must attend 4 union meetings per year.

**Reminder to Welders/Welding Forms:** The UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the hall. Certifications expire every **6 months** and it is **YOUR** responsibility to get your welding forms turned in on time.

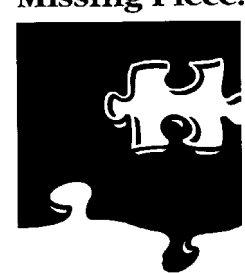
Please update all Non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA etc.) by sending a copy of your certification to the Union Hall

**Check your dues records!** You are assessed a \$50 reinstatement once you become 3 months behind. You are automatically expelled once you are over 6 months behind.

**Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site:** When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site [ua111.com](http://ua111.com) and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

**MSHA Training:** To register for an MSHA class please go to **Upconstruction.org** and go to the **MSHA calendar** to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.

**You Are the Missing Piece.**



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**



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**Detroit**  
Iron & Metal Co.  
8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)  
detroitironandmetal.com  
**(313) 841-5100**



**Local 671**

UA Local 671

**MONROE –** The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on November 2, 2023. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

**ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership.**

**Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedas-sociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.**

**Mobile App:** Our Mobile app is currently not available. They are having some issues with Apple and our administrators are working on the problem. We will be sending text messages out to all members when we get it back up and running. All members will have to re-download and re-enter their password and username.

**Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class:** We will also be holding classes to prepare Members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details.

**Condolences:** We unfortunately received word that Retiree K.D. Brewer passed away on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at the age of 94, due to injuries from fall two weeks prior. There will be a Celebration of Life held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dundee Golf Club. The Family is asking that if you know K.D. please stop by and tell some stories; our thoughts and prayers go out to them during this difficult time.

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** The open weld shop nights will change back to Thursday nights from 6pm- 10pm now that school is back in session. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Monday prior to the practice night. If we have 3 or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

\*Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date.

**Contact Justin if you want to sign up for the next UA Weld Test.**

**In Closing:** There is no better time to be a member of the UA. The membership of the UA is now over 370,000 members strong. We are grateful to have our current members and cannot wait to meet our next ones. If you know of someone, or have friends performing the work of the UA, make them aware of the many benefits of membership!

God Bless Local 671 and Union Labor.

Mike Jewell: email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)

Vinnie Fenech: email: [vinnie@ualocal671.com](mailto:vinnie@ualocal671.com)

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com)

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

*"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd."*  
–Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

*"Public opinion is a weak tyrant compared with our own private opinion. What a man thinks of himself, that is which determines, or rather indicates, his fate."*

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

*"The best way out is always through."*  
–Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)



## Local 174

### Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

#### UA Local 174

**COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

**ATTENTION:** This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

**Retiree Breakfast:** The retiree breakfast will be held on **Thursday, November 9th, 2023**, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Mandatory Apprentice Meeting:** Tuesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Union Hall from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Snacks and beverages will be provided. If you cannot attend, contact Ryan Bennett at 231-903-1416.

**Hiring Rule Reminder:** As per section 5.8 of the CBA, the 50/50 hiring provision applies only to jobs working under the Local CBA. Any national agreement jobs calling for manpower are not eligible for the 50/50 provision.

**Contact Information:** If you need to change or verify your contact information, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNION OFFICE as soon as possible so we can keep our system up to date.

**Organizing Update:** It has been extremely busy with organizing efforts. This last month I have been on assignment in the thick of organizing. A few organizers will be hitting the road with me in our jurisdiction Oct. 9-13.

Our biggest voice is OUR members! "We're all doing the same work but we're NOT all getting the same wages and benefits." We all know non-union workers; they deserve more! Give them my number and let's get them on the right track! The message is clear, you deserve better wages, benefits, and representation which is why you need a UNION! –*Work safe, Johnny Ortiz (616) 307-8551*

**Wage Allocation: The 2023 wage allocation was voted on at the June 6, 2023 membership meeting. Results were \$0.10 to the retiree bonus program and \$2.13 on the check.**

**Contract Ratification:** At the special called meeting in July 2022 the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the three-year collective bargaining agreement. The agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/ 2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 and \$7.20 over 3 years. The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language. Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on negotiations and to the members of Local #174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

**FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS).** West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098. (855) 407-5862. Toll Free

**Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare Retirees**  
Aetna: (888)290-7241 • Save-Rx: (800)228-3108 • Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

**Health insurance premium decrease:** Effective January 1st, 2023 the Local 174 health insurance premiums will be as follows:

	Current Rate	1/1/23 Rate
Active Member/Working Retiree	\$1,233.70	\$1,110.33
Non-working Pre Medicare Retiree	\$879	\$791.10
Medicare Single	\$262.55	\$123.63
Medicare Couple	\$525.09	\$247.26
Medicare w/ Pre-Medicare Spouse	\$677.55	\$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse	\$269	\$126.67

**Solxsys, Aetna, Labor First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ua174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

**Dues:** Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office. Remember that if you are expelled from the UA, you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

**Dispatch:** We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: [dispatch@ua174.org](mailto:dispatch@ua174.org) which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

**Jurisdiction:** Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Do not rely on anyone else to call in for you. They will not get into trouble. It is the member who is working in another local who has not checked-in who will get in trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractor or member working in our jurisdiction.

**Metal Trades, Helpers, and Trainees:** Please remember that if you are working as a Metal Trades, Helper, or Trainee your raises are based on the day you were first dispatched to work at that classification. If you are not sure of your dispatch date, please contact the Union office. **It is up to you to let the Union office know that you are due for a raise.**

**Labor Councils:** - Kent Ionia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location  
Lakeshore - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

**Contract Requirements:** Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states: "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Section 18.5 states, "...employees...shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you follow our agreement.

**Out Of Work List:** Please remember to call the out of work list when you are laid off. You will be placed on the list based off the date you call in your layoff. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

#### Training News:

**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023, and Thursday, November 9, 2023.

**WCP:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, October 14, 2023, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

**HVAC/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety: Flammable and Mildly Flammable Refrigerants (A2L):** As the HVACR industry continues to move forward and innovate, common refrigerants that were once used are now being phased out and replaced with Low GWP refrigerants(A2L). Technicians will require additional training for the safe handling and transportation of these refrigerants. Night training classes will be offered for A2L safety certifications and dates will be announced soon. The prerequisite required to attend this class is holding a current EPA608 certification.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

Please contact Jeff Rumsey or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

**Union Hall Extension Numbers:** Ryan Bennett, Business Manager ext:12, Nathan Phillips, Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch, Business Agent ext.14, Johnny Ortiz, Organizer ext.15, Lisa Johnson, Office Manager ext.11, Therese Simmons ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Schumaker ext. 30.



## Local 636

### Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

#### UA Local 636

**DETROIT –** The next Union Meeting will be a **Special Called Meeting** for the third reading and vote on a proposed By-Law change. It will take place on **October 17, 2023**, at 7 p.m., at St. George Roman Catholic Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

The annual financial report will be read at a Special Called Meeting on November 21, 2023.

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next retiree meeting will be held, October 19, 2023.**

**NMA updates.** For those members working under an NMA, the following procedure applies as to the requirements when an Owner/Client's in-plant employees are on strike. The Owner/Client must provide NMA contractors and their crafts with a designated neutral gate that provides safe ingress and egress both to and from plant property should there be the potential of picket lines being established by the in-plant employees. Furthermore, when properly provided and designated, it shall be the responsibility of the Owner/Client to maintain the integrity of the neutral gate and if necessary seek and obtain injunctive relief from any secondary or illegal picketing.

The NMA contractors and their crafts shall instruct their employees (members) to use only the neutral gate to ingress and egress their work sites.

It is further required and understood that NMA signatory employers and Union crafts will only continue to perform their normal work and will not perform or be assigned work that would otherwise be performed by in-plant employees.

For any further questions, please contact your Business Agents or Business Manager.

**NEW 988 crisis helpline.** The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 lifeline, new resources are now available. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

Our deepest condolences go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks:

For Retired Journeyman Brother Glenn Taylor on the passing of his wife, Ana Marlene, on May 12, 2023; for Retired Journeyman Brother Gerald Szostek on the passing of his wife, Evelyn, on September 11, 2023; and for Retired Journeyman Brother William Toburen on his passing, September 25, 2023.

May they Rest in Peace.

**Dues.** Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

**S.U.B.** Please send all requests for payment to Wanda Autrey at [subpay@pipefitters636.org](mailto:subpay@pipefitters636.org) to be processed. All requests must be filed within 30 days per the S.U.B. Trust Plan agreement.

**BeneSys** has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **#248-641-4936** or **#888-646-8920**.

**Considering Retirement?** Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. She can be reached at ext.5, so that she can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact Kristal Mar, ext.3224 at the BeneSys numbers above as well for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60-90 day notice** that is necessary to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number **248-655-4048** or email him at [jason.may@ml.com](mailto:jason.may@ml.com)

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan.** For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new number for the VRU is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is **7526**.

You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is [www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys](http://www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys).

**Worker Assistance Program.** Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol and or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling. Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund. Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits. CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times, she is working from home doing phone conferences which is still beneficial to all our members and their families. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887.

**Are you "Work Ready"?** Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at [mustbsafe.org](http://mustbsafe.org) and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE CERTIFICATION PAYMENTS.**

*"Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box."*

–Italian Proverb



## Plumbers Local 98

#### Plumbers Local 98

**DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98,** Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to [UALOCAL98.COM](http://UALOCAL98.COM).

It's an Honor to announce one of our own, Jessie Cowell, has stepped up and is running for Mayor of Flat Rock. Please tell your friends and family that a Union Man and a Veteran of the USMC, is a great bet over there. If you can help Jesse catch him in off work hours on his cell, 734-674-4867 or email [Leatherneck.0351@yahoo.com](mailto:Leatherneck.0351@yahoo.com).

**UAW Strike and pickets:** I have been asked what is my position on possible Job actions by the UAW. We work under a variety of local and national agreements. All these agreements are in force and contain provisions regarding crossing picket lines of other unions. Some of these agreements like the National Maintenance have language requiring us and other Building Trades Unions to cross and go to work. We intend to honor our agreements.

Of course, per OSHA, you are never required to work in a situation that you believe poses a threat to your life or possible physical harm. We will continue to monitor the situation along with the Locals legal counsel and will provide more information when and if the situation arises based on facts at that time. Our Contractor Association has reminded me that they will challenge any sub requests during this strike. (thanks for that shocking reminder). Bottom line you're in a Union, with a contract coming up in 2025.

**Meetings & Union Hall.** The Union Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 pm at the Union Hall.

We have a medical outfit coming to the Union Hall prior to the meeting from 4:30-7pm, they will supply flu shots, check your health with some blood tests and if they are available the new strain of Covid-19 shots. This is open to all 98 members and family.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday 5:30 pm and before all Union Meetings.

**Retiree Meetings.** The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, October 11th from 12 pm – 2 pm. at Local 98!

**2023 Awards night, letters went out.** For members who are receiving years of service awards, we again are having it at the Venetian Club located at 29310 John R. The date is Oct.19 starting at 5pm with cocktails and dinner starts at 6pm. Please confirm your attendance with the Hall.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship, Learn more at [Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship](http://Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship).

**Expelled members: "The following members" are delinquent on dues and are working for our contractors. Joshua Schartz, Douglas Voakes. If you are working with these EXPELLED MEMBERS, please push them to get with the hall and get caught up. Or if you know they have left 98 please let us know. To stay on insurance when you retire you must keep up your dues, no way around that. I get it if you are out of the trade but a working member, especially an apprentice during full employment, worries me.**

**SUB Apps/Out of Work List.** SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App weather you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702

**Benefits.** \*We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. Her name is Brooke, the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Brooke is receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Brooke. If Brooke is on the other line, please leave her a message and she will get back to you promptly.

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo for Pension issues. If you are looking to retire, please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

**In Memoriam: We are pleased to announce there are no deaths to report at this time.**

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working Non-Union or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187.

**In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98.**

*"Discretion in speech is more than eloquence."*

–Sir Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)

*"If you would stand well with a great mind, leave him with a favorable impression of yourself; if with a little mind, leave him with a favorable impression of himself."*

–Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834)

*"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy."*

–Ernest Benn

*"Riches may enable us to confer favours, but to confer them with propriety and grace requires a something that riches cannot give."*

–Charles Caleb Colton (1780 - 1832)

*"Any reviewer who expresses rage and loathing for a novel is preposterous. He or she is like a person who has put on full armor and attacked a hot fudge sundae."*

–Kurt Vonnegut (1922 - 2007)

*"That's who you really like. The people you can think out loud in front of."*

–John Green

*"Truth sits upon the lips of dying men."*

–Matthew Arnold (1822 - 1888)



Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

*To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.*

#### THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
- HRA's, HSA's, FSA's
- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
- HIPAA Compliance

With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

- |                |                    |                 |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Boston, MA     | Milwaukee, WI      | San Diego, CA   |
| Bridgeton, MO  | Omaha, NE          | San Ramon, CA   |
| Columbia, MD   | Phoenix, AZ        | Seattle, WA     |
| Denver, CO     | Pleasanton, CA     | Troy, MI        |
| Des Moines, IA | Portland, OR       | Washington, DC  |
| Hagerstown, MD | Riverport, MO      | West Covina, CA |
| Las Vegas, NV  | San Jose, CA       | Youngstown, OH  |
| Louisville, KY | Salt Lake City, UT |                 |



Michigan Painters  
District Council

**Painters DC 1M**  
WARREN – Dear Members,  
DC1M WEBSITE: [www.iupat-dc1michigan.org](http://www.iupat-dc1michigan.org)  
DC1M FACEBOOK:  
[www.facebook.com/iupat1m](http://www.facebook.com/iupat1m)  
DC 1M UNION CARDS\*



Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100  
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

**FTI of the Great Lakes Upgrade Classes (LIFT CERTIFICATION)**

FTI of the Great Lakes will be offering Lift Certification the week of October 23rd at our Lansing training Center. Please contact Shawn O'Neill for additional information 586-552-4481.

**SICKNESS and DEATH.** It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Local 514 retiree Everett Cilley. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

**PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP.** Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP  
Username: your member id#  
Password: painters

With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!**

**OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK:** To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357  
WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6pm. Please make every effort to attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. [Iupatpension.org](http://Iupatpension.org)

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you down-load this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member id printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits. If you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.

-Business Rep- Don Stepp



**Local 36**  
Elevator  
Constructors

**Elevator Constructors Local 36**  
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY, October 23, 2023, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. The next Executive board meeting will be October 16, 2023, at 5 pm. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

**Attention All Members,** this paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions.

Any work involving cabs, cab interiors, ceilings and flooring is our work. Call the hall if the cab companies are going to be on the job. Don't ever leave doors open so someone can do the work while we aren't there. The only way we don't do this work is if the cab company is a signatory company.

**Just a reminder to all members that the Local Constitution and Bylaws have been updated to reflect the new late fees for delinquent dues. They will be sent to the printer and will be available in the hall when we get them back. Call the hall with any questions.**

Being in a union isn't just about fair wages, good benefits, and safe working conditions, it's about supporting not only men and women in your local but supporting unions as a whole. Standing up for what is right and just, even if it doesn't affect you! Be a good union member!

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office and inform the hall. The same when you go back to work, call the fund office, and let them know you are back to work, and inform Ken or me.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

The IUEC has always recognized the commitment veterans, active-duty service members and their families make to the country and the IUEC. The IUEC and our signatory employers have long benefited from the experiences, commitment, and work ethic of our IUEC veterans. Paying respect to our IUEC veterans is part of our culture and we continue to look for ways that we can support our veterans in the IUEC.

To further our efforts to support our IUEC veterans, our goal is to identify how many of our IUEC members and probationary apprentices are veterans. I have sent out an email with the form to be filled out and returned to the hall or call/email the hall with the information on the form.

The IUEC is aware that our signatory employers are becoming subject to a variety of state laws mandating that some percentage of fleet vehicles must be electric-only vehicles. Additionally, we are aware as well that certain customers are mandating the use of electrical vehicles on their properties.

We want to be clear that to the extent that compliance with such policies requires the cooperation of our membership in terms of allowing for the installation of charging facilities at their homes or incurring bills for additional electricity use, that these matters require bargaining with the IUEC and not direct dealing by companies with their employees.

The IUEC is available to bargain over such items at your convenience and intends to do so in a reasonable fashion designed to both facilitate compliance with these mandates while also assuring that any policies adopted are in the best interests of our membership.

**The picnic assessment will be \$53.00 per member and will be assessed with fourth quarter dues.**

As you are aware, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2023 to receive their scheduled pay raises January 1, 2024. I highly recommend if you fall in this category and haven't done so, take the course and keep (Continued next column)

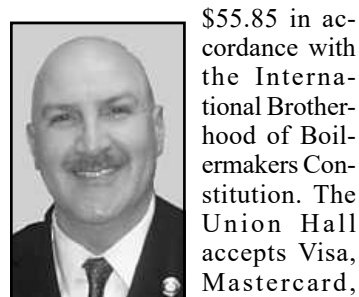


AN ARMLOAD OF DUCTS are transported by Josh Gingerick of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. He's employed by Dee Cramer at the Saginaw United High School project.



**Local 169**  
Boilermakers

**Boilermakers Local 169**  
ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **October 13, 2023**, at 8PM at the Electricians Hall. The address is 1300 Thomas Street, Bay City, MI. 48706. Current Union dues for 2023 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.



**BOB HUTSELL**  
3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

Any member interested in working with other crafts during slow employment periods should contact their Business Agent. Our current reciprocal agreements with other crafts allow you to work with other crafts and continue to contribute to your fringe benefits. These contributions also count toward your pension hours.

Any apprentice interested in working in other local areas should contact their area business agent.

Applications are now being accepted for the Boilermakers Local 169 Scholarship Essay Contest. This contest is open to 2023 high school graduates who are the son or daughter of current, active members. For more details visit our website or Facebook page. The due date for all applicants is Nov. 1, 2023. Good Luck!

**Retirees:** Retiree luncheons are now being accepted for the Boilermakers Local 169 Retiree Luncheon on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, MI.

**Area 2 Retirees** hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11 am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant, 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.

**Area 3 Retirees** luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be October 18th at 11AM at Boulevard Lounge. It's located at 316 S. Saginaw Road, Midland, MI. 48640. All area boilermakers and retirees are welcome to attend.

**Area 4 Retirees'** lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Hoodies have arrived and are for sale at the hall. We now have ALL sizes, medium through XXXL. The cost is \$40. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at [www.boilermakerslocal169.org](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.org) or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

**Attention All Retirees,** if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.

**If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list.**

We would like to extend get well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.  
Be safe and stay healthy!

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**Laborers Local 1191**  
(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

**DETROIT – Regular Membership Updates:** Please check out our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org) and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your union.

**Member Personal Information Updates:** Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

**Monthly General Membership Meetings:** are held on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays).

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **September's Retiree Council meeting will be held on Sept. 29.**

**Union Dues for 2023:** Regular monthly dues are \$35 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

**Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments:** According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

**Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union.** Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. **FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!**

**Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org) to schedule appointments for modules.

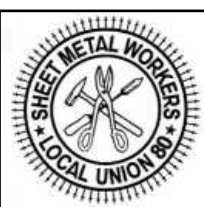
**Training:** Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeyman and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>.

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## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

**SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next general membership meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 17, 2023 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield, MI.

**UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS** Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00, unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours.

**RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE:** The 2023 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: Oct. 16 (Holiday Party) and Dec. 18. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

**RETIREE NEWS:** Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

**Effective immediately** you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on

Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575.

**BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL:** There will now be a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available all day on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** David Collar, Hunter LaCroix, Benjamin Kline, Luke Garzo, Robert Schell, Mike Boyle, Michael Trombley, Ayden Kaufmann, Jake Stier, Mario Vrane, Patrick Neesley, Paul Boughner, Dean Mattern, Matthew Ward, Randy Casey, Kyle Trombley.

**DUES PAYMENTS: YOUR DUES PAYMENTS ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF THE MONTH.** The books will close at the end of the business day on the last day of the month. **Payments made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month are considered late for that month. There will be no exception, once the books are closed it cannot be undone.** Members will receive a text message dues reminder prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving our text messaging, please call the hall. **REMINER:** We ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and do not accept American Express.

**BENEFICIARY REMINDER:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your Local 80 and international benefits. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your spouse first and if there is no spouse to your children UNLESS you designate otherwise in writing with each specific benefit. Depending on your classification you could have benefits due to your heirs from Local 80 pension, insurance, annuity and from international and SASMI. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary unless you want it to go to your spouse or children. As always seek the advice of an attorney.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall which includes the tradesman paper. You will need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well. That is not done through the hall.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH and DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION:** Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500.00. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

**WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS:** Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each members name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall prior to 3:00 pm on Friday.

**WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Everyone must obtain a work assignment prior to starting work.** If you fail to do so you could be written up on charges.

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

**LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay.** Without lay off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted without one. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

**S.U.B. BENEFITS:** Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven (7) days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

**SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY:** If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather you may collect sub for that week but only if it is at the beginning or the end of a layoff. You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete a sub application at the hall, provide a pay stub for that week and the hall will submit it to the fund office. If you are not laid off and it is due to weather the company MUST provide written documentation that it was weather related.

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.**

**Training Center News. Part-Time Instructor Opportunities.** The Joint Apprenticeship Committee is accepting applications for a part-time instructor to teach the Introduction to HVAC Installation class. Ideal candidates should have strong knowledge and experience with hanging duct in various applications, have a strong interest in helping Local 80 members improve their skills and be available to teach a 12-week night class in the Fall and Winter terms at the Training Center.

Interested Local 80 members can submit their resume to the "Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Committee" by email at info@smw80jac.org, as well as in-person or by mail to the Training Center at 32700 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48092. Call Matt at the Training Center with any questions.



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

**TROY – MEETING NOTICE:** The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **October 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm** Member meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com) for the location and date.

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **October 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm** at the Union Hall

**RETURN TO WORK BY NORMAL OR EARLY RETIREES:** Consistent with the actions of the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, the Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 292 Pension Fund ("Fund") have decided to provide a limited waiver of the Fund's suspension of benefit rule from **March 22, 2023 through December 31, 2024** only, without limitation and without incurring a suspension of benefits then in pay status. This means that, during this period, if you are working as a **sheet metal worker for an Employer that contributes to the Fund**, you will receive your monthly pension benefits from the Fund no matter how many hours you work in any one month. **This waiver is based on the current demand for sheet metal workers and is not anticipated to be continued indefinitely.** Call Paul for more information or if interested.

**OUT OF WORK:** If you become laid off, you **Must** complete an Out of Work List Registration/SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and also through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

**PLAN BENEFIT CHANGES:** The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the addition of Dental and Vision benefits under Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for Non-Medicare eligible Retirees effective April 1, 2023.

**TRUHEARING:** On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, we would like to introduce TruHearing, the **NEW** exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

**SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS:** To access your MUST account, please go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the "links" tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com). Remember that your **Username** is your full S.S. number and your **Password** is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

**DUES:** Membership dues are required to be **paid in advance of the month for which they are due.** The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are **60 days late.** To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by **4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month.** Payments received after **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. **All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).**

**LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE:** Check out the online store to purchase Local 292 shirts and jackets. Purchased items will be shipped directly to you. Access through [SheetMetal292.com](http://SheetMetal292.com) at the online store tab or <https://sheetmetalworkers292.itemorder.com/>. Contact Paul or Tony if you have any suggestions for new items or artwork changes.

**ADDRESS UPDATES:** If you move, please contact the union hall to update your address.

**RETIREES NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The 2023 schedule for the Local 292 Retiree luncheon are as follows: **December 7 (last meeting for 2023)**

The retirees' luncheon will be held at: Tavern on the Main @ 12:30 p.m., 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street.

Please contact the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the **retiree email list.** Please join us for lunch, great conversations and storytelling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

Please contact the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the **retiree email list.**

**CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL:** The Constitution and Ritual of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall will also have hard copies for members who want one.

**MEMBER ASSISTANCE:** Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at **1-800-448-8326** or [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com) for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is **available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.** Services are of no cost to active members and their dependents.

**SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST:** Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions.

It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

**UNION HALL HOURS:** Hall office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Monday through Friday.**

**TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION:** We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union Hall and we will make the change.

**FACEBOOK & TWITTER:** Be sure to check our website – [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com); Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 and Twitter - @SMW292, for updates and information.

**THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM:** The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390 (Dave) or Quintin 248.495.6764.**

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on October 14, 21, & 28. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

**Note:** Anyone that signs up for a class, must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are **NON-Refundable** if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice school.

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled in the class.



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

**LANSING – NOTICE.** This Newspaper Article shall serve as **Official Notice of ALL meetings for Local 7!**

The next **Statewide Meeting** will be **Oct. 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

\*Zone 1 December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 2 December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 3 December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

\*Zone 3 December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

\*Zone 4 December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 5 December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Please register on our website at [www.sheetmetal7.org](http://www.sheetmetal7.org) for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2023. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

**SMART Union Labels:** Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at [www.labelitscanreport.com](http://www.labelitscanreport.com) and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

**SMART Members Assistance Program** provides counselors to speak with members experiencing crisis. Call (877) 884-6227 for 24/7 assistance with Suicide Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

**ZONE 1 Info.** Zone 1 area continues to remain busy and looks to stay this way into the New Year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

**ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:**

1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like)

*– In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders*

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 remains good and looks good through the fall and into the winter. If you become unemployed please update your status with me (Apprentices please let Cody know as well). Dues are always due prior to the first of the month, keep me informed of any address and phone number changes. Our next Zone 2 meeting is not until Dec. 12. That will be our annual Christmas party please be in attendance. **Work Safe and Thank You, Mike Adams**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) --** Work in the area remains busy and we are at full employment. Please schedule your physicals by Dec. 15 so you won't see an increase in your deductibles, call me or Benesys with any questions concerning physicals. Good luck to all hunters this fall and be safe. Next retirees meeting is Dec. 12 at 12 PM at the Ponderosa on Wilder in Bay City. **Thank you, Joe Dotson**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City).** With a lot of schoolwork finishing up, work will be slowing down in our area. Contact me if you get laid off, as there are plenty of work opportunities across our State. If your address or phone number changes for any reason, call the Hall to make sure they are informed. If there is anyone needing any assistance on H & W or anything from our last meeting, along with the physical requirement, please contact me. Support the UAW workers that are on strike, work safe, and good luck in the woods and on the waters this Fall. *– In Solidarity, John Amalfitano*

**ZONE 4 Info:** Work in Zone 4 continues to stay strong, it is looking to be great for the fall and winter. We are very excited about having the first apprenticeship class starting in January, if anyone has friends or knows someone that is interested in a career in sheet metal have them reach out to Dan Bryant or myself. Fall is upon us that is always very exciting times in Michigan. Feel free to send pics of your success. Reminder to all apprentices in Zone 4/3 please remember to turn in all your required material for the grants that we are working on, It is very important that this stuff is turned in., **Thank you Your Brother Scott Brotherton**

**ZONE 5 Info** Work in the U.P. is very good and our area has a lot of work coming up. With future work looking the way it is, our zone needs experienced workers for our trade. If you know of anyone that would fit that criteria have them give me a call at 906-250-6045. The next retiree meeting is Wednesday October 11th at the Dry Dock in Harvey at 10am. *– In solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld*

**Dues Department: \*Online dues payment is now available\*** Dues of all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership, we accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you would like to take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied – Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours at 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

**Address/Telephone Changes: Article 8, Section 1** of Local 7 Work Rules: *Address Changes:* All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A notice mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone number, please contact the union hall to update your records.

**BENEFITS:** For benefit questions please contact the area office. Zone 1 – BeneSys 866-822-7037, Zone 2 – TIC 866-887-4338, Zone 3 – BeneSys 800-451-5733, Zone 4 – BeneSys 800-842-2690 and Zone 5 – Wisconsin H & B Fund 800-654-2329.

**DEATH CERTIFICATES:** Please submit to the Union Hall a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased members. Additional benefits from the International may be available.

**CONTACT US:** 4931 Contec Dr., Lansing; 517-882-4064

**Local 7 Officers:**

**Samual Fuller** (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

**Eric Farrington** (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223

**Vance Saunders** (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200

**Mike Adams** (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752

**Joe Dotson** (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

**John Amalfitano** (Traverse City) 231-590-1112

**Scott Brotherton** (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552

**Brandon Langenfeld** (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

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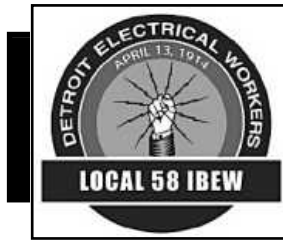
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# IBEW LOCAL 58

**IBEW 58**  
**DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

**Electrical Industry Training Center** is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroit-etc.org/continuing-education>

We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers** - are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. 9x9 brick pavers can have up to 7 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line (letter height .75"). \$100.00 Donation per Brick.

**NOTE:** No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** - Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt - if your paid-through date shows 03-23 or earlier, you have lapsed. You will need to call the office and talk to a Business Agent. It is YOUR responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement or death benefit. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone no.

\*\*\*When you are putting your information on the APP/ Website - please use your dues receipt for your Name and Card Number. **Put in your information as it appears on your dues receipt so that your information matches - i.e., jr, sr, etc.** Please this is important. Thank you!!!

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund:** We just hosted the Annual Brad Ballard Memorial Golf outing Sept. 22. It was a great turn out with beautiful weather. The winning teams finished 12 under and was a tie between Aaron Johnson and Anthony Castronova foursomes. The mystery winner was Scott Glaza foursome.

A Big Thank You to everyone who came out and participated, all the Local 58 committees that donated a basket, and all the locals, trades and vendors that made donations and sponsorships. Thanks to members of the Women's committee and Benevolent fund and all the volunteers to help make this happen. Looking forward to next year and a possible bigger event since this outing fills up fast.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail).

Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** Trunk-or-Treat and Brew & View will take place on Saturday, Oct. 21. Trunk-or-Treat will take place from 12-3:00p.m., with family, friends, and the community invited. The Brew & View starts at 6 p.m. with live music, food, and beer & wine along with a grand prize for best costume. The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 10, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** - The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 17, at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email

address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.

Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. We will be discussing our upcoming Coat Drive and preparations for the Annual EWMC Education Conference in Atlanta this January. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

**The RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 5:00 PM.

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 PM.

**The Veterans Committee** - will now be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 18 starting at 5:30 pm.

**The Political Action Committee (PAC):** If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at [registrar@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:registrar@ibewlocal58.org). Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

**Local 58's Women's Committee** - Cauldron of Cheer raffle tickets are coming around. If you've missed your chance on other Cheer raffles throughout the year, here's your chance for another one! Tickets are \$10 a piece and will be available at the Hall and at a job near you. Drawing will be at the brew and view event on Oct. 21. We are looking for ideas and volunteers for Trunk'r'Treat, please contact Angie or Liz if you'd like to help, or have some decorating tips. Congratulations to Firepit of Cheer winner Paul Daprai!!!

Thank you everyone for your purchase of raffle tickets! Thank you to all the volunteers and golfers at the 3rd annual Brad Ballard Memorial Golf Outing. A great time was had by all! Our Sister Exchange Closet is also looking for donations! If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, etc... please consider making a contribution. We do have some items available, if you or a sister you know is in need, please reach out.

Our next meeting will take place on Oct. 26 at 5:30pm at the Hall and also on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at [58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ 313-999-3829, [aanderanin@gmail.com](mailto:aanderanin@gmail.com) or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

**IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association:** Our next board meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the union hall. Our next luncheon is Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Corsi's Banquet Center, 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia 48152. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. For luncheon reservations, send your checks (payable to the Retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn: Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit 48232-0756. Questions about reservations, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

**Electrical Workers Credit Union** - Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates!! New auto as low as 5.75%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go to <http://www.ewcu.net>.

Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiary (Continued next column)



# IBEW Local 445

**IBEW Local 445**  
**BATTLE CREEK - Delta Dental** members should be receiving the new Delta Dental cards and information on the covered services. If you haven't received your cards, please contact the Hall.

**Deceased Member** It is with a heavy heart Local 445 announces the passing of 73-year member Ira Beach.

**General Membership Meeting** is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.

**Personal information** Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall if you need to update them.

**Executive Board E-Board** meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.

**Wilson-McShane** has replaced TICI for our benefit administration as of June 1, 2023. Please have a little patience as the transition has had some bumps that they are smoothing out. You can visit [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org) to create a new account under the Member Portal tab. You should have received new WEX cards that are white. Please dispose of the old blue cards as they will no longer work. The website to access your special fund is <https://ibewmichigan.lh1ondemand.com/Login.aspx>

**Retiree Breakfast:** The Retiree monthly breakfast at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend.

**Local Website** - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is [IBEW445.com](http://IBEW445.com). Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest, Recording Sec'y

**IBEW 58, con't**  
 ries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed.

State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

**As of 09/30/2023, the following members have lapsed membership:** Akers IV, Robert L.; Allen, Joshua P.; Brown III, Thomas L.; Buchanan IV, Walter J.; Campbell, Peter W.; Carington, Ian S.; Casey, Steven E.; Ferguson, William P.; Fleming, Dennis E.; Goddard Jr, Lawrence M.; Harris Jr, Raymond S.; Kidd, Michael R.; Kolafa, Timothy P.; LaRowe, Jacob Leprich, John M.; Magaluk, Philip W.; Morrisette III, William H.; Murphy Jr, Kenny R.; Palumbo, Jessica M.; Pinkard, Kanaan D.; Randall, Kenneth R.; Rice, Ryan J.; Tilley, Brian M.; Titchnell, Brandon H.; Truxal, Chad J.; Van Riper, Joseph N.; Webster, Carl.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone no, address, & email.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Gary P. Gumbetter, Mark A. Hausmann, Keith D. Pence, and Gary F. Whitman.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Gertrude Clements, widow of the late pension member Carroll Crisher; James DeGroot, pension member, 69 year IBEW membership; James Dunkley, pension member, 56 year IBEW membership; Margaret Griffin, spouse of pension member Frederick Griffin; Rusty Smith, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Donald VanLeigh, pension member, 45 year IBEW membership; Judith VanOss, Mother of JIW, Business Manager/Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 58 Paul VanOss; Grandmother to IBEW Local 58 Maintenance Ryan VanOss and JIW Timothy Witz; Etta Zelenak, spouse of pension member Gerald Zelenak.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



# IBEW Local 131

**IBEW Local 131**  
**KALAMAZOO - The next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Nov. 6, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on Nov. 6, at 5 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on Oct. 16, at 5 p.m.

**Brotherhood night** is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30PM.

**The Halloween Gathering** on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Union Hall from 5:00 to 8:00PM.

**The Work Outlook** continues to be steady. We have several open calls. Moore, Hi-Tech, KEI all have crews working on the Pfizer site. Gurtz is still working on the MAPS Project and plans to be there until the fall. Flemington Instrumentation has work until November on the MAPS project. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome look like a fall project, the steel is starting to go up. There are open calls in the hall.

**Veterans Committee** is being formed in Kalamazoo. If you would like to be on the Committee, please let Morris know. We are looking to build relationships with a common past.

**Challenge Coin Challenge,** we are currently seeking design ideas for a new coin. Go to the Local website to submit. If you have questions email Jon at [jeurent@ibew131.com](mailto:jeurent@ibew131.com).

**K - Wings Hockey** game on Jan. 26 against Fort Wayne Komets. The local website has a link to purchase the tickets.

**Three Months** or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: David Baker, Mathew Bakos, Robert Chopp III, Trevor Doxey, Brian Ellis, Jonathan Kowalczyk, Russell McBride, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Richard Peebles, and Justin Sowash.

**Life Events:** Marriage, Divorce, Birth of children, Adoption and Deaths all require documentation to be submitted to our benefits office. If you need help call the hall for guidance.

Wilson-McShane, our new benefits administrator, has the website: [michiganelectrical.org](http://michiganelectrical.org) up and running. Please log in and click on the "Member Portal" (on the left side of the screen) to begin the steps to register your account. If you would like to call their phone no., **855-633-4584**.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and IBEW PBF application takes at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications.

**Bounty Program** is available. When a member recruits a new journeyman level member who works 500-hours, and has completed the Multi-District Journeyman Wireman Examination, the recruiting member receives a \$500 bounty. When the same member works a total of 2000-hours, and attends the local's new member orientation class, the recruiting member will receive an additional \$500 bounty. When a member recruits a new CE level member who works 500 hours, and has completed the Multi-District Journeyman Wireman Examination, the recruiting member receives a \$500 bounty. When the same new member works a total of 2000 hours, and attends the local's new member orientation class, the recruiting member will receive an additional \$500 bounty.

**Retiree Lunches** at the following locations:  
 Oct. 18, Heroes Food & Spirits, 121 S. Grove St. Delton. @11 am.  
 Nov. 15, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 E. Main St. Kalamazoo. @11 am.  
 Dec. 20, Martell's, 3501 Greenleaf Blvd, Kalamazoo. @11:30. Call the hall to RSVP!

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meet at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees and others meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 S. Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @ 11:30.

Morris Applebey Business Manager



# IBEW LOCAL 948

**IBEW Local 948**  
**FLINT - Meetings.**  
**Membership Meeting** - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be on October 9th, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

**Retiree Meetings** - Our next scheduled Retiree Meeting will be taking place Oct. 3rd, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

**Party Committee** - For any interest in organizing our next event please contact President Phil Steele. It will be a Christmas themed party located at our hall. Further details will be available soon.

**AFL Educational Meetings** - Attention all members. Before every monthly meeting at 5 PM, our hall will be hosting educational meetings presented by the AFL - CIO. These meetings aim to further educate our members on core regulations, acts, and laws that play a key role in our careers.

**Book Signing** - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

**Work Outlook** - Our work outlook is slow with a gradual increase in calls projected throughout Fall. The GM Truck and Bus plant will be receiving a large portion of work including expansions on the body shop as well as the engine plant pending any work stoppage. We are still waiting on further details as to the status of a Costco. The La Fontaine dealership is in the beginning stages. The Buick City industrial park will be breaking ground soon and we look forward to calls in the coming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

**Dues Reminder** - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.

**Seeking New Membership** - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski.

**Cars 108 Partnership** - We would like to thank our friends at Cars 108 for the opportunity to be a part of Cars Cares for Kids rooftop sit event and we look forward to attending future events. Charities were raised for Whaley's Children's Center, Voices for Children, as well as The Hurley Children's Miracle Network.

**Event Turnout** - At our recent annual picnic there was a stunning show out from our local members and their families. We look forward to more family events in the near future.

**New Store Stock** - To all members interested, we have new merchandise at our hall. New stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

**New Apprentices** - We would like to congratulate our newest class of apprentices and extend our warmest welcome. We look forward to working with you all. With that our latest class of Journeyman Wireman will be graduating. Good luck to all of you and make us proud.

**New Membership** - Welcome to our latest member Nicholas Hester. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

**Retirees** - Congratulations to Timothy Kilbreath, Dale Selden, and Steven Teel on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

"When a person cannot deceive himself the chances are against his being able to deceive other people."  
 -Mark Twain (1835 - 1910),

"Not to be absolutely certain is, I think, one of the essential things in rationality."  
 - Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

"I can't give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time."  
 -Herbert Bayard Swope (1882 - 1958)



# IBEW Local 498

**IBEW Local 498**  
**TRAVERSE CITY - Meetings.**  
**Regular E Board** - The next meeting is set for Monday, Nov. 13, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting** - The next membership meeting is scheduled 7pm Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

**Negotiations** - Negotiations are coming up this winter. It would be appreciated if you could bring any good ideas to the next regular meetings.

**Solidarity Picnic** - We are planning a chili cook off for the Nov. 13 meeting. So please bring your entry to have a chance at prizes donated by Dylan O'Dwyer. If you have questions, please call Dylan at 231-649-9157.

**Work Outlook** - It looks like we will be steady to slow for the winter. All of the home local contractors have a good amount of work planned and started. It doesn't look like they will be making any large calls for manpower until the solar farm in Acme starts in 2024.

**75th Anniversary of Local Union 498 is one year away.**

The Chapter for the Local was signed on Sept. 8, 1949. We will need to have a discussion at our next regular meeting about what we want to do to celebrate this milestone in our local's history. So, please make an effort to be at the meeting for your input. One idea is to have a dinner and celebration at the maritime academy. There is a good venue for food with the culinary school there and the building was wired by CC Power with Brother Gary Davis as the Foreman. Please attend the next meeting to help with planning and implementation.

**Resale Items** - We still have some Local 498 Challenge Coins left at the hall for your purchase. They are \$10 each. We also have Local 498 t-shirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

**Retiree breakfast** - Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport rd every Monday morning at 9am.

**EVITP** - Please call the JATC and get signed up for your EVITP training. There are state and federal requirements for all workers that are on Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure projects to have this training. Tim will get you set up if you call him, it is an online class and a proctored exam at the hall when completing the class. There is \$100 deposit for the class refunded on completion. So far we have two Journeyman that have completed the training. Please consider getting this important training if you want to be eligible to work on these projects when they are available.

**Service Pins** - Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

**Email Addresses** - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at [ibew@local498.net](mailto:ibew@local498.net) Thank you!

**Important numbers for you to write in your address book:**  
**MEEHP (Health)** 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
**MEEPP (MI Pension)** 1-855-633-4584  
**(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)**  
**3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425**  
 NEBF 1-301-556-4300  
 NEAP 1-301-556-4300  
 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000  
**DUES RATES**  
 Jan 1, 2023 - Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.  
 Jul 1, 2024 - Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter.

**Info Updates** - Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN**

**IBEW 692**  
**BAY CITY – Union Meeting.** The November monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.**

**Executive Board Meeting.** The October Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, October 16, 2023.**

**Message from the Business Manager.** Contract negotiations will begin in the spring of 2024. Please contact me or your President, Brian Walker with items you would like addressed in these negotiations. Involvement from our membership is paramount to these negotiations. We are also looking for a couple replacements to our Labor Management Committee at this time. Please let us know if you are interested.

**Work Report.** Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:  
 -Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain - Many more projects to come at Powertrain.

-J. Ranck Electric – continuing work at SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility. Ranck Electric is finishing work on their Solar Site in Gladwin County.

-Master Electric has begun underground on the new Isabella County Jail.

-Countyline has secured Airport Work. Countyline has a Michigan Sugar De-Sugarization Project and also a project at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility. Look for job calls from Countyline.

-Clements Electric Independence Bridge work continues along with Bay Carbon Project just kicking off.

-Conti Electric has many projects inside I-Park (DOW) and also Cabot Chemical. Conti has also secured the Mio Dam modernization project.

Conti is continuing work out at the D.E. Kam Power Plant. Conti Electric has also secured a couple small projects inside Michigan Sugar along with a nice Fire Alarm Project on site at M.S.

-Escon has secured a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

**In Solidarity,**  
**Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary**

**Organizers' Report.** As more members become eligible for retirement, we must continue to train and recruit the next generation of qualified electrical workers. Applications for apprenticeship are accepted in-person every first and third Wednesday at the Bay City Electrical Apprenticeship Training Center during regular business hours. There is currently no application fee. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in applying. Our JATC can be contacted by calling 989.686.4890.

As always, 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to achieve higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations.

Organizers have recently made significant progress in recruiting new members from a particular local merit contractor. All told, Local 692 has organized seven new members (6 JIWs, 1 apprentice) over the past 12 months from this single contractor. There is no doubt that the industry-leading wages and benefits that come along with IBEW membership will improve the lives of these workers, their families, and the communities they call home. These new members will also actively contribute to the health and retirement plans we all rely on. Please welcome any new members you notice on job sites into our Brotherhood.

Feel free to contact agents if you are interested in up-to-date work reports or if you'd like to register on out-of-work lists. Saginaw (summer school 40s, wind tower OT), Lansing, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and West Michigan all have recently seen open calls. Local 692 expects more calls at various projects through fall into winter. IBEW 557 expects solar calls with an additional need for unindentured helpers. Please contact Local 557 for more information on helper opportunities if you know anyone interested.

-Brian Klele 989.252.9225 [bklele@ibew692.com](mailto:bklele@ibew692.com)

-Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 [bbaranek@ibew692.com](mailto:bbaranek@ibew692.com)

**Union Dues.** PLEASE NOTE: The Delegates of the 40<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022 approved a per capita increase of \$2.00 as well as a \$2.00 increase paid into the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF).

Therefore, effective January 1, 2023, monthly dues will increase to **\$45.20** per month.

**If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.**

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*

**2023 Dues: • Monthly \$45.20 • Quarterly \$135.60 • 6 months \$271.20 • Yearly \$542.40**

*To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.*

**American Income Life Accidental Death Benefit.** The second mailing has gone out recently regarding the \$3,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit available through a partnership with the IBEW and American Income Life. All active and retired members are eligible for this benefit.

The letter states that you need to return the enclosed yellow card in order to qualify and name your beneficiary. Please note you are **NOT REQUIRED** to return this card in order to name your beneficiary; the beneficiaries you have on file at the hall are sufficient. The \$3,000 benefit would be paid to your named beneficiary, not to your estate. American Income Life does offer other policies and services. If you are interested in having a representative contact you to discuss available options, you may return the yellow card in the postage paid envelope provided. If you have questions, please contact the hall at 989.684.4510.

**Retirees Lunch.** The October retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at Beer & Brats, located at 4562 N. Eastman Road in Midland.

**RENEW.** It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their communities through their local union. If you are a 692 member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in RENEW, meetings are held once a month following general membership meetings.

692 RENEW would like to thank all members and their families who attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Bags for Brotherhood** cornhole tournament this past weekend in Midland's Barstow Woods. Brian Sting and Sam Gerow took home the championship while a good time was enjoyed by all. See you next year!

**Fringe Benefits. REMINDER:** if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

**REMEMINDER:** If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list.

Effective June 1, our third-party administrator (T.I.C.) has been replaced by Wilson – McShane. Here is updated contact information for the Health Plan & Pension Fund:

**Important links & numbers**  
**Health Plan & Pension Fund:** 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

[www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
 NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300  
 IO Pension: 202.833.7000



**MEMBERS OF IBEW LOCAL 275 gather for a photo at the LG Battery plant in Holland. They're employed by Newkirk Electric.**



## IBEW Local 275

**IBEW 275**  
 COOPERSVILLE – Work in the jurisdiction is very busy. We've had open calls for the LG battery plant for some time and there are other sporadic calls hitting the recorder for other projects. If you are traveling, please consider coming home to man your local. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call.

Regular membership meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the Union Hall in Coopersville. Back by popular demand, we will be grilling food after the meetings.

This month there will be a Building Corp meeting at 6pm right before the regularly scheduled meeting on October 17th. We will be discussing making changes to the amount of our working dues that go toward the Building Corp.

EWMC is hosting their first ever pickleball tournament on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm at Bel Knap Park. There will be more details to follow for anyone interested.

By the time if this writing new tye dye shirts will be available for purchase at the Hall and new hooded sweatshirts will be coming soon.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Devon Adair, Matthew Buikema, Steven Campbell, Timothy Davis, Dorothy Deming, Joshua Erb, Jacob Hallatschek, Gregory Holmes, Jeffery Vandewater, Timothy Wenk, Michael Demond, and Brian Kelly. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.



## IBEW LOCAL 557

**IBEW 557**  
 SAGINAW – **Union News-** Work remains steady in Local 557. Calls will for Solar projects in the Local have started to come in. The projects will need a great deal of manpower that may be hard to find. In most cases, our members know someone on the non-union side of the electrical field. Now would be a great time to reach out and see if they want to switch sides. Talk to these people about your personal awesome experience in the IBEW. Let them know how good our benefits are. Local 557's new member incentive program is still up and running. This could mean some added bonuses for you AND them. The Hall and our organizer Gus are always willing to talk with anyone at any time about all we have to offer at 557.

**IMPORTANT-** Wilson-McShane switch over for benefits administration is still continuing. Visit [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org) to create your new member portal profile. If you need to call the new administrator for help, their phone number is **855-633-4584**. So far, members who've contacted WMC have had positive experiences.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** Our next meeting is November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Hall.

**MICHIGAN INITIATIVE- Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues you see or have.** If our members have any questions or see sketchy people in our jurisdiction, they can reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** Normal Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm. Come in and say hi to Renee!

**BOOK SIGNING-** If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this.

**WORK OUTLOOK-** Work is steady. Some school projects are wrapping up and others will continue on during the school year. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 has secured work at the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Calls will come in for this project in the near future as they ramp up in the months to come. Calls for both solar projects in Gratiot County for MJ Electric and J. Ranck Electric have started to come in. More calls for solar are expected in the coming months. Newkirk has a solar project at Nexteer. These Solar Projects will take a good amount of manpower to make for successful projects. The Wind Farm in Gratiot County continues to move forward as well as work for Hemlock Semi Conductor.

**HEALTH CARE-** Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and also help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com). Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

**BLUE CROSS APP-** Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include: instant access to EOB's, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOB's can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt request.

**WEX APP-** You will need to download the new WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. After doing this step, it will work the same as the old app, only more efficiently.

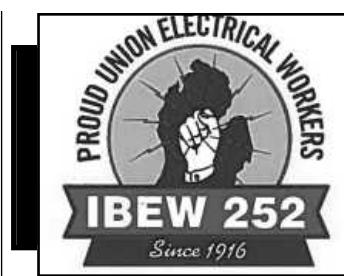
**JOB CALLS-** Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. You may also view calls for the day on the Local 557 website. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.**

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES:** Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. You may call the hall and provide the card information over the phone for your convenience. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use this service.

**CONTACT NUMBERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)

*In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager*

*"There is nothing new under the sun but there are lots of old things we don't know."*  
 -Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914)



## IBEW LOCAL 252

**IBEW Local 252**  
 ANN ARBOR – **BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED:** A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.

**TRAINING CLASSES 2023: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM**

**CPR/FIRST AID:** Tuesdays, June 6, 13, September 5, 12, December 5, 12.

**Instrumentation Part A:** Mondays, September 11 thru December 18.

**Master License Prep:** Mondays, September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16.

**EVITP:** Tuesdays, September 12, 26, October 10.

**BICSI TE350:** dates TBD if enough interest.

**BICSI Installer Copper 2 (INSC):** Mondays, November 6 thru February 19, 2024. Required text BICSI ITSIMM 8.0 (7.0 will work) \$240.00. Required BICSI INSC 8.0 workbook \$115.00. Exam Fee (if interested) \$400.00. Worth 35 BICSI CECs for current BICSI credential holders.

Will there be a code update required in 2023? We will offer classes as soon as the state adopts a new NEC 2020 or 2023.

There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register.

**TRUSTEE NEEDED:** We would like to thank Bill White for his years of service on the Board of Trustees. Bill stepped down due to obligations at the training center. If you're interested in filling the open labor trustee seat or looking for more information please contact President Mike Cox at (734)424-0978.

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat:** This year's Trunk or Treat will be held at the Union Hall on October 28, 2023 from 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Activities include: best trunk contest, best costume contest for kids 12 and under, festive games for all ages, and movies on the projector. To reserve your parking spots or if you need additional information please contact Dan Beck: (810) 858-0033. Set up will start at 4 p.m.

**Retirees' Card Game:** The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m. Please come join the fun.

**Retirees' Breakfast:** The Retiree's Breakfast will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

**M.U.S.T DRUG TESTING:** Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

**ERTS:** Please make sure that you are signed up in the Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System. You must be signed up in ERTS before working outside of Local 252's jurisdiction or your benefits will not be transferred back.

**Aflac Insurance:** Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number:

(517) 306-0144.  
**AT&T Discount:** Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit [UnionPlus.org/ATT](http://UnionPlus.org/ATT) with discount code 4924966.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement date.

If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

**NOTICE TO RETIREES:** If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the hall.

**CONDOLENCES:** The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Sherry Hutchins, who passed away on September 23, 2023. Sherri was the wife of Tommie Hutchins, the mother of Tim Hutchins, and Aunt of Channing Hutchins.

**CREDIT CARDS:** The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

**UNION DUES FOR 2023:** Effective Jan. 1, 2023, union dues for "A" members will increase to \$131.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will increase to \$67.80 per quarter for 2023.

**DUES PAYMENTS –** Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 9/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 per quarter for 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Your fourth quarter dues (October through December) are due now.

**Payments for fourth quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, December 29, 2023.**

**Future Dues Increases:**  
**Effective July 1, 2024:** A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.  
**Effective January 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.  
**Effective July 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.

*"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile."*  
 -Sir Wilfred Grenfell (1865 - 1940)

*"Technology is a way of organizing the universe so that man doesn't have to experience it."*  
 -Max Frisch

*"The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases."*  
 -Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

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 901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
 Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**

Abatement Workers Local 207  
TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for early fall so be prepared for work.



KEVIN MEAGHER

When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials.

There looks like work out of town in Virginia and West Virginia – call the office for details.

Work in other areas of the region will be picking up in



## Abatement Workers Local 207

Tennessee and OHIO as well as Kentucky. So be prepared with all of your paperwork in order. With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states, you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell.

**If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them, call the**

office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application on our website WWW.local207.ORG

**Upcoming Training classes**  
ACSR September 30<sup>th</sup> at The union hall  
New Initial class October 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

**Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.**

All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor.

Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register.

**Next Union Meeting is a regular Holiday meeting: on December 13th at 7 PM at the union hall**

WORK SAFE.

## Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

**LANSING – The next regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, October 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at J.A.T.C. Training Center Located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.**

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls.

These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International.

Local 47 Elections are coming up and nominations will be held on Friday, November 3, 2023. The following positions are up for Re-Election:

Vice President- 3 Year Term  
(2) Executive Board Positions- 2 Year Terms  
(2) JATC Trustee Position – 1 One Year Term and 2 Three Year Term

(1) Pension/Welfare Trustee Position- 3 Year Term  
(1) Union Trustee Position- 3 Year Term

(1) Market Recovery Committee Position- 3 Year Term  
Recording Secretary Position- 1 Year Term  
Sergeant-At-Arms Position- 1 Year Term

**Per the Rules and Procedures:** Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

**Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671**

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

**Toll Free: (800) 323-8079**  
**Phone No.: (517) 321-7502**  
**Fax No.: (517) 321-7508**

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: [www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org](http://www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org)

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

**JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)**

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4

(Continued next column)

## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25  
SOUTHFIELD – The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**WORKING ASSESSMENT:** Per Article XIX Section 15 (b) of the International Constitution and Bylaws, as of 6/8/2023 the Union office had to begin imposing a daily working assessment for any members working during the strike.



CURT MCGLONE

The daily working assessment is as follows for each classification:

Mechanic: \$36 per day worked, 1st year Apprentice: \$18 per day worked, 2nd year Apprentice: \$21 per day worked, 3rd year Apprentice: \$25 per day worked, 4th year Apprentice: \$29 per day worked.

The daily assessment went into effect on 6/8/2023, meaning for each day you work during the strike on or after 6/8/2023 you owe the amount listed above that fits your classification. Please note: the daily assessment will continue until a new agreement has been ratified. The Union office has a list of people who are/were manning agreement jobs during the strike.

Unless you present a paycheck stub showing less than 5 days worked during the weeks effected by the strike, you will be expected to pay 5 days' worth of assessment for those weeks. It is your responsibility to make sure your financial obligations are up to date. If you have any questions, contact the Union office.

**PER CAPITA:** Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a monthly basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments monthly to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES:** In order to be eligible for the safety module stipend, you must contact the Union Office PRIOR to taking the safety modules.

**EMPLOYMENT CHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

**LAY OFF/HIRE:** Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

**S.U.B. FUND:** Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

**SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION:** Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within thirty (30) days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the thirty (30) days will be denied per the Plan Document.

**NOTICE TO ALL:** When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

**BENESYS:** When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

**SICK AND INJURED:** Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.

*"Everything is vague to a degree you do not realize till you have tried to make it precise."*

–Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

*"If all the year were playing holidays; To sport would be as tedious as to work."*

–William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616),

## Local 47, con't

of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."

**Good and Welfare:** Get well to all our sick and/or injured members

*"The happiest excitement in life is to be convinced that one is fighting for all one is worth on behalf of some clearly seen and deeply felt good."*

–Ruth Benedict (1887 - 1948)

*"Don't be sweet, lest you be eaten up; don't be bitter, lest you be spewed out."*

–Jewish Proverb



## Rising in Saginaw

MOVING TO THE UPPER REACHES of the fourth floor of the Saginaw United High School project is Jeremy Slancik of IBEW Local 557. He's employed by Thiel Electric.

# Biden to UAW pickets: 'It's time to get back what we lost'

By Mark Gruenberg  
Press Associates Staff Writer  
WILLOW RUN (PAI) – In an historic appearance, the first-ever by an incumbent U.S. president on any union's picket line, Joe Biden told United Auto Workers members, "it's time to get back what we lost" in winning wage and benefit hikes from Ford, GM and Stellantis/FiatChrysler.

Sporting a black UAW baseball cap and blue windbreaker, the Democratic president joined red-shirt-clad members of UAW Local 174 outside Ford's historic Willow Run Ford assembly plant for about 15 minutes on Sept. 26.

"You guys, the UAW, have made a lot of sacrifices and gave up a lot," Biden declared through a bullhorn. "The companies were in trouble, but now they're doing incredibly well. And guess what? You should be doing incredibly well, too. You deserve a significant raise."

"It's time to get back what we lost."

"You've earned what you've earned and you should be earning a helluva lot more."

That means "the significant increase you need" in wages "and other benefits," he added. "It's time for them to step up for us."

The workers, who interrupted his brief remarks with cheers several times, are among the almost 18,000 UAW members nationwide who now walk lines in the union's growing "Stand Up!" strike against the Detroit 3.

It's UAW's first-ever strike against all three, just as bargaining is the first-ever against all of them at the same time. Combined, the car firms employ 150,000 UAW members, not counting those in non-Big 3 parts suppliers or 5,600 workers whom Ford employs in Canada, represented by Unifor.

The UAW strike has political and class aspects, too, though neither Biden nor new UAW President Shawn Fain – its first-ever popularly vote-elected president – mentioned politics. Fain, who followed Biden to the podium, talked class, too.

"It's a different kind of war we're fighting," not against the Axis powers of World War II, "but against corporate greed" here at home, Fain said. "Our people choose to stand up and fight for economic and social justice." His Axis reference cited Willow Run's enormous production of B-24 Liberator bombers during that conflict.

Politics enters the picture because the leading current Republican presidential contender, former President Donald Trump, is shuffling off four indictments and numerous other scandals while campaigning to retake swing-state Michigan in 2024.

Trump spoke at 8 pm on Sept. 27 at a non-union shop, Drake Enterprises in Macomb County's Clinton Twp., before a cherry-picked crowd of 500 factory workers.

Naturally, he didn't tell that crowd about his long anti-labor record out and in the Oval Office. It ranged from when he stiffed union workers and contractors on their pay for building his Trump Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City, N.J., through his anti-worker NLRB members, General Counsel and Secretaries of Labor.

It also didn't include the anti-worker rulings, stripping rights and protections, from the three right-wing Supreme Court justices he named, who cemented the court's radical right majority: Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

If there is no movement by GM or Stellantis in the talks, the UAW will call more locals out on strike. Ironically, though Local 174 in Willow Run picketed the plant there, it's the only Ford plant where workers are striking, because Ford has moved significantly in bargaining.

At pres time, the last expansion of the strike, on September 22, saw locals at 38 GM and Stellantis-unionized parts factories, but no others from Ford called to walk out, joining one plant from each automaker who began picketing a week before.

Key issues in the talks with all three automakers are wages, restoration of traditional defined-benefit pensions and health care, an end to the hated two-tier pay system at all three automakers, a shorter work week, curbs on mandatory overtime and mandatory work on the third Sunday of every month, and restoration of cost-of-living (COLA) increases.

The workers demand a 36 percent hike over four years to recover losses to inflation since the 2008 financier-caused Great Recession, which forced GM and FiatChrysler into bankruptcy.

An Obama administration loan guarantee plan saved the two, but at the cost of imposing the two tiers, eliminating COLAs, a freeze on retiree pensions which continues, and the sell-off of health care coverage to the UAW,

among other givebacks.

Ford agreed to the COLAs, the end of two tiers and several other UAW member goals, including the right to strike over domestic plant closures. GM and Stellantis have barely budged. Their sole reported agreement: Adding Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

"President Biden is demonstrating once again that he is the most pro-union president in history," AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said in a statement afterwards. "Working people know he has our backs every day and that he understands UAW members' fight for a fair contract is deeply connected to the struggle over the soul of our country."

"We stand with President Biden, the UAW, and workers across the country who are sick and tired of getting the short end of the stick. Together, we're organized to fight back against the corporate CEOs who have rigged the system against working people for far too long."

Biden's remarks on the picket line also occurred though the union was a notable absentee from the giant AFL-CIO-organized joint union endorsement of the Biden-Harris ticket earlier this year. That conclave, in Philadelphia, even drew non-AFL-CIO unions, notably the Service Employees.

But not the UAW. Both the union and the Detroit 3 back the shift to electric-powered cars, trucks and SUVs, a key part of Biden's plan to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming. But the first two federal loans to build electric vehicle battery plants went to firms in anti-union Kentucky and Tennessee, not pro-union Michigan.

The car companies also are using conversion of their plants to electric vehicle assembly, which will cost billions of dollars, as an excuse to both pause EV battery plant construction, and to deny workers' demands for the big raises. UAW also wants EV plant workers included in its contracts with the Detroit 3, rather than on separate and lower pay tracks for auto parts workers.

University of Rhode Island labor history professor Erik Loomis told CNN Biden's picket line walk and talk was "absolutely unprecedented." He said presidents – going all the way back to Theodore Roosevelt – "saw themselves as mediators. They did not see it as their place to directly intervene in a strike or in labor action."

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## Local 149

### Roofers & Waterproofers

**Roofers Local 149**  
 DETROIT – **Attention:** This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Nov. 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Nov. 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

**UAW Strike.** If a U.A.W. member is picketing the neutral gate. To protect our Union from all fines, we are asking our members to take a photo of the picket line at the neutral gate, drive to a safe location, and contact the Union Hall and your respective Contractor as soon as possible. We encourage our members to never cross a picket line.

We will be closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as soon as we have more information. In the meantime, let us keep our thoughts with the workers and their families who will be affected by this strike.

**Vacation Checks (quarterly).** The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, October 20, 2023, to distribute quarterly vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, October 21, 2023, for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. **Direct deposits** will be in member's account October 16, 2023. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

**Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit.** Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

**Outdoor Life.** If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

**Notice.** When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 10/2/2023, 2:00p.m.

**–In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149.**

*“Give me the splendid silent sun with all his beams full-dazzling.”*  
 –Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

*“I spent a lot of money on booze, birds and fast cars. The rest I just squandered.”*  
 –George Best

*“A harbor, even if it is a little harbor, is a good thing... It takes something from the world, and has something to give in return.”*  
 –Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 - 1909)

*“The gods too are fond of a joke.”*  
 –Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)



**SETTING A BLOCK WALL** inside the Saginaw United High School building are (l-r) Daryl Labean and Jack Fenton of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Davenport Masonry.



## Local 514

### Cement Masons & Plasterers

**Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514**

DETROIT – **The next membership meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7 pm. There will also be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.**

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.Mustsafe.com](http://www.Mustsafe.com) to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full social security number and your password is the first four of your social security number.

**Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account.** To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to [bcbsm.com/register](http://bcbsm.com/register) and select register now.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all your OPCMLA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

**It is important for all members to keep the Local updated on addresses, email and phone numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the Local at (248) 548-0800.**

**Death Certificates:** Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

**Lawrence Nemeth is the Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.**

**Attention all Apprentices,** now you will need to go to the website: [www.micementplasterertraining.com](http://www.micementplasterertraining.com) to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link “About” and then click on “Apprentice monthly work form instructions”. You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

If you are a Military Veteran, please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

**The Local's website is: [www.opcmiami.org](http://www.opcmiami.org). Please refer to website for updated information.**

**O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.**

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!!

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more an Apprentice must be on the crew. Help out! Call the Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure that we have all of your current contact information, address and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated for your health care and pension, and also if you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please contact the Local and we will change your addresses with all of the fund offices.

**Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons:** You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, [www.Principal.com](http://www.Principal.com) or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:  
 Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)

**If you are a first-time user, go to [Principal.com/Welcome](http://Principal.com/Welcome) Select Get Started.**

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identify), and your ID number (this is either you Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

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You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes.

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online access.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Plasterers and Cement Masons:** It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local. If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

**Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

**Plasterers and Commercial Cement Masons** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and 1-877-876-9357.

All **Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

**For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.



**LAYING A COURSE OF BLOCK** at the Saginaw United High School project are Troy Jacobs, Eric Bootz and Nathan Taljonik of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Davenport Masonry.



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

**BAC Local 2**

WARREN/LANSING - **OCTOBER 2023 CHAPTER MEETINGS:**

**KALAMAZOO CHAPTER:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

**LANSING CHAPTER:** Monday, October 09, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 119 S. Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

**TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Road West, Traverse City, MI 49685

**\*\*BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM\*\*** We are now communicating via text message with our membership regarding important updates and meetings. Please sign up via the following: texting **ZMI to 50607**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

**WEBSITE UPDATES.** Be sure to check out our new website at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

**CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED.** We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

**SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS.** Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a

**Finders Referral Bonus** for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

**A SPEEDY RECOVERY.** A speedy recovery is wished to all those who have been sick or injured. Let's keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

**\*UNION DUES\*.** All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

**We are making available to Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!**

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS.** Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2023 online training classes.

**APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS.** Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets **MUST** be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE.** During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can

be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

**FACEBOOK.** “Like” Local 2 on Facebook “Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan.”

**E-MAIL ADDRESS.** Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place “Local #2 e-mail address” then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

**PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION.**

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000  
 Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244  
 Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800

Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550

CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 ([bacbenefits.org](http://bacbenefits.org))

*“Learn to see in another's calamity the ills which you should avoid.”*

–Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

*“Patience has its limits. Take it too far, and it's cowardice.”*  
 –George Jackson (1941 - 1971)

*“Language most shews a man: Speak, that I may see thee.”*  
 –Ben Jonson (1572 - 1637)

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Outdoors

Deer hunters: we need to talk

Author's preface: "Some of what is going to be said here might not sit well. But these are things that need to be stated for the betterment of management of our deer herd."



By Chad Stewart  
Deer, elk and moose  
management specialist  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

The 2023 Michigan deer hunting season is about to kick off, and we need to have some frank conversations about deer management in this state. Primarily, our deer seasons aren't impacting our deer herd like many may think. If you are in the Lower Peninsula, we simply aren't taking enough does during the season to control the growth of our deer herd in many areas.

**Comparative harvest.** Since 2000, do you know how many years we have harvested more antlerless deer than antlered deer in the state of Michigan? The answer is one. In 2009, we had an estimated antlerless harvest of 220,913 and an estimated antlered harvest of 215,104. Every other year in this century, we've taken more antlered deer than antlerless deer. If you make a quick comparison with the states around us, such as Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin, they all typically harvest between 8 percent to 25 percent more antlerless deer than they do antlered deer in a given year. Using those measures, we should be harvesting between 43,000 and 68,000 more antlerless deer in the Lower Peninsula alone!

While this sounds like a lot, keep in mind that the Lower Peninsula has about 40,000 square miles of land. While not every square mile is created equally, and some of those square miles won't hold any deer due to intensive development or other factors that make the land unappealing to deer, one can see that such an increase in total harvest CAN be achievable, especially in areas where deer are abundant.

Furthermore, the gap between antlered and antlerless take seems to be widening. Our antlerless harvest has decreased by about 28 percent from the early 2000s to today. Our antlered harvest, for comparison, has only declined about 11 percent over this time, likely because of the decreased hunter numbers, not a



MICHIGAN DEER HUNTERS need to increase their antlerless deer harvest. MDNR photo

declining deer herd.

Taking on average about 1 to 1.5 additional antlerless deer per square mile in the Lower Peninsula can improve our overall management, help balance our adult sex ratios and even improve the quality of the bucks that we see. The current trend we are experiencing is simply not sustainable for long-term deer management in Michigan.

**Benefits to deer management.** Let's first talk about what additional antlerless harvest means in terms of management. First and foremost, if hunters are filling their freezers with antlerless deer, especially early in the season, it can provide a tremendous benefit to your current-year and future years' deer herd.

Intense doe harvest early in the season can help balance out the buck-to-doe ratio prior to the rut, which can intensify the rutting activity you see. If you think about having a lot of does on the landscape with fewer bucks, the competition for breeding can be greatly reduced, since many of these does are coming into estrous around the same time.

On the other hand, picture a deer herd where the buck and doe herd are more in balance, and that means when a doe in estrous comes by your stand, it's followed by two or three bucks. The level of excitement you can

experience during the rut can be greatly improved.

However, the typical Michigan hunting philosophy to date is to hold off on taking antlerless deer until later in the season. With online reporting, we now have the advantage of seeing how deer harvests change over time and within seasons.

Last year, excluding the early antlerless weekend, Michigan hunters didn't take more antlerless deer than antlered deer in a given day until after Thanksgiving, specifically Nov. 25. This means that nearly two-thirds of the deer season, and probably close to 80-90 percent of hunters' efforts, was over before hunters began really focusing on antlerless deer. Data supports this, as over 37 percent of all antlerless deer reported taken in 2022 came after Thanksgiving, compared to only 9 percent of all antlered deer taken during this time.

Of course, it's possible that taking those does early in the year might impact your success at taking a buck. But I am asking hunters to consider the long-term benefits of being selective in their choice of taking a buck, even if that means not taking a buck in the upcoming year. If we could get hunters to rethink their philosophy of "get your buck and then wait for a big-

ger buck to show up later in the season," we would see marked improvement in our buck age structure and more balanced sex ratios.

You might be surprised to know that nearly two-thirds of bucks reported harvested in Michigan last year had antlers, with at least one side with four points on it. But for those looking to shoot any buck early in the year, consider how much time you have left in your season and what your local deer population looks like before making that decision. The choice to shoot a doe instead of that young buck could help improve your hunting both in the current year as well as in the coming years

**Changes promoting antlerless take.** There are a host of regulations that the DNR has attempted in recent years to improve antlerless harvest, and some that have been considered but not yet attempted.

First and foremost, in the Lower Peninsula, hunters have been able to use either tag on their combo license to take an antlerless deer during the firearm or muzzle-loader seasons. This regulation change was made back in 2020 after realizing that nearly 65 percent of Michigan hunters did not purchase an antlerless license.

This means that our most

participated-in season, firearm season, had nearly two out of three hunters ineligible to shoot an antlerless deer! This change gives everyone in the Lower Peninsula an opportunity to shoot an antlerless deer and allows hunters to be selective in their harvest decisions and to take a shot at that mature doe during the firearm season without the added burden of purchasing an extra antlerless license.

The option to use one of your combo license tags on an antlerless deer instead of a younger buck is meant to help balance our deer herd. Hunters can even use their unused deer or deer combo licenses to take an antlerless deer during the late antlerless season if their efforts to harvest a deer came up unsuccessful during the earlier hunting seasons.

No longer do you have to enter a drawing to get your antlerless license. Nor do you have to purchase an additional doe license to go hunt at your cabin or a friend's farm. Each antlerless license is good for private and public land across the entirety of the Lower Peninsula.

There are other topics that regularly come up. Antler point restrictions, a "one buck" rule, "earn a buck" (the idea that a hunter has to harvest an antlerless deer before being eligible to take a buck) and changing the opening date of firearm season from the traditional Nov. 15 to instead falling on a weekend are all options frequently pitched to help alter the course of management.

But, after looking at data on each topic, a simple shift to any of these topics is unlikely to result in the impact to antlerless harvest needed to effectively manage our Lower Peninsula deer herd.

**U.P. exception.** In the Upper Peninsula, we have a very different scenario unfolding. While antlerless harvest needs to be increased in some areas of the U.P., in other areas, our deer herd exists at low densities. Despite areas with low deer densities, the allowance of antlerless deer harvest is possible. Research has shown that at low densities, hunters have minimal impact on deer populations, which prevents populations from crashing due to hunting.

Because of the differences in deer density across the Upper Peninsula, we have implemented a tiered system with how antlerless licenses can be used.

**Changing philosophy.** I

understand that many hunters may be reading this and have reservations about changing their philosophy. If you find yourself in this camp, let me share some data that we use to make our deer harvest decisions. The first is the forecast of hunters we have in Michigan, which is expected to fall to around 450,000 by 2030, down from the nearly 800,000 deer hunters we had in 2000.

It's also worth noting that our data shows that 75 percent of hunters don't take an antlerless deer, while only 17 percent of hunters take one antlerless deer in a season. Less than 1 percent of hunters take four or more deer in a season. So, the fear of hurting your deer population by removing another antlerless deer because your neighbor takes too many is probably, in most cases, unfounded. Chances are your neighbor isn't taking very many antlerless deer either.

Because of our lower hunter numbers and our continued unwillingness to shoot an antlerless deer, we are shooting far fewer antlerless deer than we have historically.

**The other side.** Most hunters are happy seeing a lot of deer, but when there are a lot of deer in an area, the level of conflicts associated with these deer can be incredibly detrimental to hunters and non-hunters alike. This past year was probably a record year in terms of the number of damage complaints our department received from farmers, and associated crop damage. The fact remains that deer numbers as they currently exist are taking a toll on our farmers.

The way our agency mitigates this damage is to provide out-of-season permits so those landowners experiencing damage can help protect their crops and livelihood. Since very few hunters like the idea of deer being shot out of season, we hunters need to do better at controlling deer numbers in the hunting seasons to limit the impacts of deer on agricultural yields in the summer.

So, hunters, we simply need to do better with antlerless deer harvest. Our harvest decisions we make between October and December can improve our deer herd, influence safety on our roads, support our farmers and benefit our forests. We need to quickly, and substantially, increase our antlerless deer harvest across much of our Lower Peninsula.

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