



# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Since 1952

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

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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 3.

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.

### Devlin receives civil rights award

Amid the Detroit Labor Day festivities this year, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin was given the 2023 Metro Detroit AFL-CIO "Hall of Fame Award" by the group's Civil Rights Hall of Fame Committee.

Devlin, a former business manager of Sprinkler Fitters Local 704, has been serving in the building trades position since 1999. The committee recognized Devlin's "40 years of overseeing union contracts" and leadership role in "countless projects around the State of Michigan. You've been a champion on civil rights issues for your members, their families and our community."

Devlin, whom the group called "an outstanding citizen in our community," was awarded a plaque of recognition by Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Vice President Dorethea Brown-Maxey during the lineup of speakers at Roosevelt Park in front of the Michigan Central Train Station after the Detroit Labor Day parade.

### Diesel price fuels higher cost index

The price of materials and services used in nonresidential construction increased 1.1 percent from July to August, driven by an extreme jump in diesel fuel costs, according to an analysis released Sept. 14 by the Associated General Contractors of America. Diesel fuel costs soared 34.6 percent from mid-July to mid-August. It was the largest one-month jump for diesel since 1990.

The AGC said most other indexed commodity prices were "subdued." "The steep climb in diesel prices since July is a reminder that construction cost worries have not gone away," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. Prices for most major construction inputs other than fuel were stable or declined in August, the report said. The 1.1 percent monthly increase in construction input costs was the largest since January.

Overall the index for new nonresidential building construction bid prices posted a mild year-over-year increase of 0.1 percent.

### Quotable

"Almost everything – all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure – these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart."  
—Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)



## Hudson's Site tower movin' on up

THE MASSIVE HUDSON'S site development in downtown Detroit is continuing to reach for the sky, as project manager Barton Malow, its subcontractors and building trades union workers last week had placed 37 of the tower portion's planned 48 stories. The tower will contain residences and a hotel. The 11-story mid-rise will contain office space, exhibition space and ground-floor retail. Still named for the demolished department store that sat on the space, owner Bedrock says the connected lower box and tower will comprise a total of 1.5 million square feet of space along Woodward Avenue. Topping out at a planned 685.4 feet tall, the tower will be the state's second-tallest building, behind the 727-foot-tall hotel at the Renaissance Center. The project could be complete next year.



## State of the unions: Upswing in worker activism gives hope to labor movement

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Looking past organized labor's consistently anemic membership levels in recent decades, the state of the nation's unions in 2023 has a number of positives.

There is significantly greater worker activism and strike activity. Workers are targeting non-traditional companies like Starbucks, Amazon and even Blue Bird buses in rural Georgia for organizing. A Gallup poll earlier this year found that 71 percent of Americans approve of labor unions – the highest number in almost 60 years. And support for unions among young people is very strong.

Those factors and others are put into perspective in the annual State of the Unions address by AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond, which was released before Labor Day on Aug. 31.

"The idea of a union may sound complicated, but in reality, unions are just a group of people coming together. They are about

*'It's been a long time since this country has seen workers united like this'*

—AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

each of us becoming the most powerful version of ourselves that we possibly can," said Shuler.

"And there is nothing better than finding that power alongside the people we work with and being a part of something bigger than ourselves. That's all a union is. It's that simple. People in this country have been searching for their power for a long time now, young people especially."

An AFL-CIO-sponsored poll conducted by the public research and strategy group GBAO in concert with the state of the union address confirmed the support of unions by 71 percent of respondents – and that support cut across party lines. The poll found that union supports include, 52 percent of Republican voters,

(Continued on Page 3)

## Worker shortages, lousy candidates top contractor concerns, survey says

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Remember that string of decades – basically the past 100 years – when the major barometer of the health of the U.S. construction industry was employment prospects for workers; and for contractors, the availability of projects to build?

For the foreseeable future, at least, the nation's strong building market is taking care of those

traditional concerns. Now the nation's contractors have what is becoming a different, entrenched worry: attracting enough motivated, qualified workers willing to move into a construction career.

On Sept 6, the Associated General Contractors of America and Autodesk released their 2023 *Workforce Survey of U.S. Contractors*. This is the AGC's 11th annual industry survey, and its results continue to illustrate the need to find better job candidates in a generation they say is producing a pool of barely hireable or un-hirable workers.

"The biggest takeaway from this year's Workforce Survey is how much the nation is failing to prepare future workers for high-paying careers in fields like construction," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "It is time to rethink the way the nation educates and prepares workers."

Simonson noted that 85 percent of construction firms report they have open positions they are trying to fill. Among those firms, 88 percent are having trouble filling at least some of those positions – particularly among the craft workforce that performs the bulk of onsite construction work.

Among the conclusions from respondents, complaints were aplenty from contractors about the lack of quality job candidates: "Many noted that applicants will accept positions but never show up to work. Others talk about employees who are incapable of arriving on time, or who report to work only erratically. Many also focus on the fact that candidates

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FEMALE ELECTRICIANS from across Michigan participated in the state's first IBEW Michigan Women's Conference in Detroit in July.

### 'Building a stronger labor movement'

## IBEW sisters gather at first Michigan conference

DETROIT – Female electricians in Michigan are a demographically small but growing group, whose needs, outlook and experiences on the job can differ from their male counterparts.

Enter the inaugural IBEW Michigan Women's Conference,

among the first such statewide meetings in the nation, although the IBEW International Union has hosted such conferences for a number of years. Held July 28-29 at the Motor City Casino Hotel and IBEW Local 58, the Michigan event welcomed 150 women electricians from IBEW local unions

across the state, who took part in activities and heard from a lineup of helpful speakers who conveyed a variety of information – and provided a forum for sisterhood.

"It's important for women to know they're not alone in this in-

dustry, and being aware of issues that are important to us is vital to building a stronger labor movement," said Detroit IBEW Local 58 Registrar Jeannette Bradshaw, an organizer of the event.

The conference imparted

(Continued on Page 14)

## Pact bolsters workers' rights in Washtenaw Co.

ANN ARBOR – A Washtenaw County-wide agreement meant to add further job-related protections for workers was formalized during a signing ceremony on Aug. 31

Reflecting the state's pro-worker tilt during this past year, it's the first such agreement in Michigan and can provide a template for the rest of the state's 83 counties.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) formally establishes "a collaborative partnership to enforce workers' rights, conduct joint

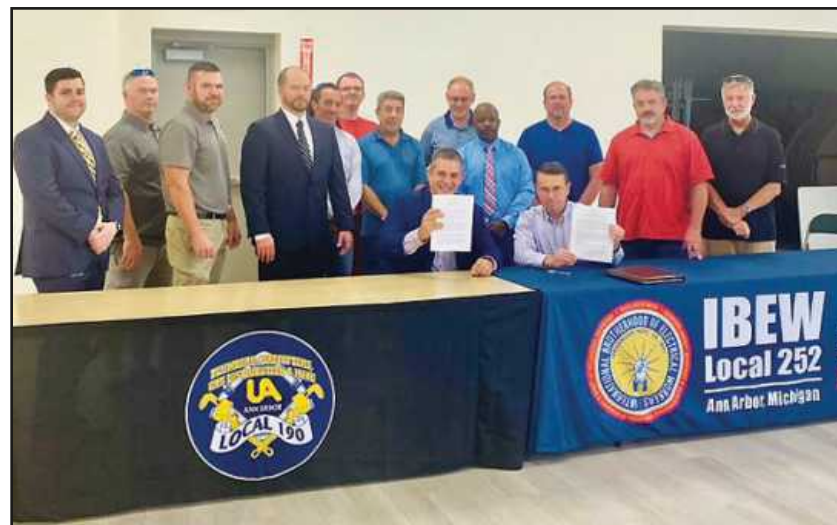
county/state investigations and outreach efforts, and share information" between the state and county. "The MOU will expand and improve protection for Washtenaw County's workforce, and level the playing field for responsible employers."

The document was signed at the IBEW Local 252/UA Local 190 union hall.

"Certainly, protecting workers is at the heart of the work we do, and many of our statutes include provisions for referring cases to local prosecutors," said Sean Egan, LEO's labor deputy director and a member of West

(Continued on Page 2)

THE MICHIGAN Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office used the dual union halls of United Association Local 190 and IBEW 252 on Aug. 31 to sign an agreement to further protect workers' rights.





# Viewpoints



## Worker voice, worker power

This Labor Day is a moment to celebrate the resurgence of trade unionism. The labor movement is more popular today than it has been in generations and is doing more to earn that popularity.

But one aspect of trade unionism gets insufficient appreciation: unions as instruments of worker voice and workplace democracy.

In a nonunion workplace, most workers below the level of executive and supervisor simply have no voice. If they make suggestions or requests that rub management the wrong way, they are putting their jobs and livelihoods on the line, since they can be fired at will.

There is also zero democracy in a nonunion workplace. It's a totally authoritarian, top-down operation.

Compare this with unions at their best. UPS, in its latest contract, finally agreed to air-condition delivery trucks. That was a demand from sweltering rank-and-file drivers, pressed by a powerful union, the Teamsters, and backed up by the credible threat of a strike – worker voice linked to worker power.

I've written about the hotel workers represented by UNITE HERE. Their shop stewards are elected by the rank and file. One of the most successful and admirable demands from hotel workers, which has been written into union contracts, is opportunities for "back of the house" employees, heavily Black, Hispanic, and immigrant, working in kitchen, janitorial, and room-cleaning jobs, to ascend to better-paid "front of the house" jobs such as desk clerk and waiter, which had typically been mostly white.

Thanks to UNITE HERE, unionized hotel workers have predictable schedules, so that they can plan the rest of their lives. But nonunion retail and fast-food workers find their schedules are set at the whim of the boss, who can demand that an employee serve as a "clopeners," closing a store at midnight and then coming to open it at 6 a.m.

One of the epitomes of unions representing worker voice is the Association of Flight Attendants. The AFA, whose predecessors date to 1945, is a prime case of women's consciousness-raising and women's voice. The AFA fought and defeated one humiliating job condition after another, from weight, height, and age limits to the requirement that stewardesses be unmarried. Every union officer is a working flight attendant.

Unions also represent internal democracy in a second, complementary sense. Their leadership is democratically elected. The UAW and the Teamsters are militant unions today because rank-and-file workers organized to elect reform leadership – Shawn Fain at the UAW and Sean O'Brien at the Teamsters. Attend a union convention and you will see more genuine racial and ethnic diversity than in any other American institution.

And unions represent democratic voice in yet another sense. The same skills that make for effective union organizing – knocking on doors, engaging in sympathetic active listening about people's frustrations and needs – are key to effective political campaigns. During COVID, when too much political campaigning was done via text, phone, and social media, UNITE HERE workers went door-to-door in many states, most notably the swing states of Nevada and Pennsylvania, and made a real difference.

So by all means, let's celebrate unions for what they contribute to wages, hours, and working conditions. But at a time when democracy is under assault, let's also remember unions as a key element of a democratic society.

Robert Kuttner  
The American Prospect



## Detroit Labor Day Parade, 2023

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW of the building trades line up just before the start of the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4. Turnout was good for the event, which hadn't been held since 2019. The route of the parade was different this year: for the first time ever, it headed west on Michigan Avenue, from its start here at Sixth Street. Many thanks to IBEW Local 58, whose union hall is four blocks south of this location, for its oversized role in organizing the parade and serving food and drink afterward. Special thanks to 58 union officers Byron Osbern, Jeanette Bradshaw and Paul Van Oss for their efforts.

Photo credit: Chris Ahern

## Pact bolsters workers' rights

(Continued from Page 1)

Michigan IBEW Local 275. "This partnership with Washtenaw builds on our efforts to help working people exercise their rights and protections to the fullest extent of the law."

The MOU will allow the county prosecutor and LEO to coordinate on investigations, and jointly determine whether to bring local or state enforcement actions on issues like wage theft and workplace conditions. The agencies also agreed to cross-train investigators and other staff at least once a year. Beyond the state agreement, the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office also maintains a separate MOU with the federal Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division – allowing for joint investigations and information-sharing where a workers' rights issue may violate federal law.

"The Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to pursuing justice when people are harmed, and I am excited that we have made further progress in fighting for worker protection," said Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit. "With both state and federal partnerships in place, Washtenaw County now has a 'no wrong door' approach to workers' rights. We are grateful to our governmental partners and look forward to collaborative work toward shared goals."

## Just joking

A shy guy goes into a bar and sees a beautiful woman sitting at the bar. After an hour of gathering up his courage, he finally goes over to her and asks tentatively, "Would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?"



To which she responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs: "No, I won't sleep with you tonight!"

Everyone in the bar is now staring at them. Naturally, the guy is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table.

After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says: "I'm sorry if I embarrassed you. You see, I'm a psychologist and I'm doing a study to see how people respond to embarrassing situations."

To which he responds, at the top of his lungs: "What do you mean \$200?"

## Make the drug price gougers negotiate

By Jim Hightower

We human beings sometimes do some terrible things in pursuit of the almighty dollar. But to our credit, one moral line most humans don't cross is to gouge sick people on the price of medicines their lives depend on.

Unless, of course, you count executives of giant pharmaceutical corporations as human beings.

Gouging patients is their preferred business model.

It's a scream, then, to watch Big Pharma fall into a sky-is-falling fit over our government's long-overdue move to give patients some bargaining power over this monopolistic industry. Under President Joe Biden's anti-inflation policy passed last year, our Medicare program can now negotiate drug prices on our behalf.

This will drastically lower what you and I are now forced to pay to the profiteers for certain drugs.

For decades, Congress has coddled the corporate gougers

who maintain by far the biggest lobbying army in Washington, allowing them to manipulate patent laws and rig the system. As a result, we Americans pay two-to-three times more than people in other countries for the exact same medicines.

"Oh," wail drug executives, "bloated profits give us the incentive to keep developing innovative new cures." Hold it right there, Slick – most basic drug development is done by tax-funded medical researchers, not brand-name market hucksters.

Mega-drug outfits like Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and

Bristol Myers spend more on advertising, exorbitant executive salaries, lobbying, and big stockholder payouts than on research. Still, these same greedhounds are suing Biden, howling that making them negotiate is an unconstitutional "taking" of their income.

But hello – these scoundrels have been taking our income, health, and lives for years.

I'm with Biden on this – as is 80 percent of the public (including 77 percent of Republicans) who favor making the gougers negotiate. To stay informed and involved, connect with Public Citizen at citizen.org.

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN: The Detroit Opera House HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



WITH ITS INTERIOR PLASTER and paint ruined by a leaky roof and the elements, and scrapers having taken much of its ornamental hardware, the Capitol Theater in Detroit was a mess in the 1990s when the Michigan Opera Theater decided to make it their new home. A \$20 million project led Walbridge-Aldinger using union trades magnificently restored the Detroit Opera House.

Photo credit: Detroit Opera

The 101-year-old Detroit Opera House has likely experienced more ups and downs, name changes and usage incarnations than any historic theater in Michigan. But it seems to have settled into a groove after building trades union workers – many of whom today will fondly remember the project – took part in a glorious three-year restoration of the decrepit venue that wrapped up in 1996.

The original opening night for the theater was on Jan. 12, 1922, with the showing of the silent film “The Lotus Eaters,” starring John Barrymore. With a seating capacity of 3,500, it was the largest theater in Michigan and the fifth largest in the world. Incredibly opulent, it was built during the golden era of theater construction.

The first name on the building’s marquee was the “Capitol Theater,” but over the ensuing decades it became the Paramount Theater (1929), the Broadway-Capitol (1934) the Grand Circus Theater (1960), Grand Circus Live! (1981) and finally the Detroit Opera House (1996). It was originally envisioned as a vaudeville house, but that form of entertainment was dying, and the house showed movies, stage shows, rock acts and now, operas. Over the years it also shed several hundred seats.

“C. Howard Crane, architect for the Capitol, designed many of Detroit’s finest theater venues and was one of the most active theater architects in the country,” says the *American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture*. “The interior was rendered in a ‘European Opera House style,’ mixing elements of Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo. The 2,700-seat hall was proportioned after European models, and its restoration has proven to be acoustically flawless.”

“It began its existence in the early 1920s as Detroit’s first true movie palace, the Capitol Theatre,” wrote Scott Bragg for *Historic Detroit*. “It was one of many grand monuments built in a time when the city of Detroit was reaching the zenith of its importance and wealth, and like many of those monuments, its grandeur began to fade as the city’s wealth and prestige diminished. It is the site of many Detroit firsts, including the city’s first rock ‘n’ roll show, and its first international film festival. But dark times would see the theater close and become ravaged by time, vandals and the elements.”

In the early 1920s theater magnate John Kunsky envisioned moving Detroit’s theater district from Monroe Street to the bustling Grand Circus Park neighborhood, already the home of the Adams and Madison theaters. He located the Capitol Theater at 1526 Broadway, and followed a common trend: he combined it with office and retail space. “The Capitol Theater was wrapped with two narrow and seemingly independent ‘veneers’ of office building,” says *AIA Detroit*. “Just in the case the theater went bust. The office floors would be joined and the theater eliminated.”

The Capitol cost \$2 million to build – about \$35 million in today’s dollars.

Photo credits: Detroit Public Library

Architect Crane, said *Cinema Treasures*, “designed the Capitol Theatre in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and its facade, with its soaring Corinthian columns, loomed over Broadway like a royal palace. Its interior was even more ornate, with several kinds of marble, Tiffany mosaics, sculpture and gilt decorating its lobby and other areas.”

Crane also designed Detroit’s Fox Theater, The Fillmore (formerly the State Theater), and Orchestra Hall. “The Capitol Theater,” says a history prepared by the Detroit Opera House, “was splendidly decorated... with lavish crystal chandeliers, frescoes, brass fixtures, marble stairways and drinking fountains. Rich rose-red Italian damask was used for the mainstage curtain and draperies throughout the house. Most of these features are still present today in the Detroit Opera House.”

The theater went through a dizzying range of use and disuse over the years. An in-house orchestra accompanied silent movies until sound equipment was installed for “Talkie” movies in 1929. In the 1950s, the popular theater was sometimes showing movies 24 hours a day. In 1960, the theater was modernized and configured for showing Cinema wide-screen movies.

By the late 1960s and into the 1970s, movie-goers were increasingly seeing movies in the suburbs. Now called the Grand Circus Theater, the venue started to offer “Blaxploitation,” porn, and kung-fu movies to stay relevant – and they at least

kept the place open. That is, until 1978, when a triple billing including “Jailbait Babysitter” were the last movies shown before the building was closed.

In 1981, the Grand Circus Live! was reopened and it became a venue for rock concerts by the B-52s, REM and U2, and other artists like Ray Charles and Roy Orbison.

A small fire in 1985 caused the closure of the theater, but not for good. “The adaptive reuse of the movie palace as a sumptuous opera house speaks of the power of one person dedicated to reviving arts and culture in Detroit,” said the *Society of Architectural Historians*. “(The late) David DiChiera, founder and general director of Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT), led the establishment of the MOT in 1971. MOT acquired the run-down Grand Circus Theatre in 1989 and converted it into an opera hall, adding new space for rehearsal, administrative, and educational needs.”

Another project in 2006, the Architectural Historians said, included “the renovation and transformation of the opera house’s six-story Broadway Street office tower into the Ford Center for Arts and Learning (and) brought a dance studio, black-box theater, classrooms, costume shop, library, and other amenities to the opera house and lifted the surrounding area from blight. Today MOT is among the nation’s ten largest opera companies. Ford Motor Co. Fund and Kresge Foundation gifts aided completion of the addition.”



THE PALATIAL LOBBY of the Capitol Theater, in 1929.

DETROIT’S CAPITOL THEATER in 1923, a year after it opened. In ruins and left for dead in the 1980s, the theater’s revival is credited to the late David DiChiera of the Michigan Opera Theater. He related that the late famed tenor Luciano Pavarotti visited the ruined theater and was asked to belt out a few notes from the stage as a sound check. “Yeah, you know, David, I like this sound,” Pavarotti told him. “This acoustic. You finish it, I’ll come and open it for you.” And Pavarotti sang the night when the theater reopened in 1996.



# Upswing in worker activism gives hope to labor movement

(Continued from Page 1)

69 percent of Independents, and 91 percent of Democrats. And the poll found that 88 percent of people under 30 support unions.

And at the end of a summer of heightened worker activism, Americans are strongly supportive of working people walking off the job for better wages and working conditions. The poll found that 75 percent of respondents support workers going on strike, and that backing is strong regardless of party affiliation.

“Every day, more and more working people are finding out that the labor movement is the solution to low wages and unsafe workplaces, to inequality and discrimination. That the labor movement is the only institution in America that has the infrastructure and reach to address and vanquish oppression in all its forms,” said Redmond. “That working people – standing together and standing up for one another – are an incredible force for progress at work, in our unions, in our economy and in our democracy.”

Worker strikes, while comparatively rare today compared to the 1970s and before, are strongly supported by the American public, the GBAO poll said. Three-quarters of all respondents support “workers going on strike to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions.” And again, clear majorities of Democrats (93 percent), independents (73 percent), and Republicans (58 percent) support strikes.

To be sure, worker activism on picket lines and job actions are nowhere near the peak level they were in 1937, when 1.8 million workers walked off the job. But this year there have been more than 200 strikes involving 320,000 workers – that number is 10 times the number of striking workers just two years ago. And the job actions are happening at a diverse group of industries.

Shuler pointed out that at Starbucks stores all over this country, there were zero unions two years ago. Today, there are more than 300. The Teamsters this summer won a historic contract with UPS – including a clause putting air conditioning in their trucks. In the UAW’s talks with the Big Three Detroit automakers, 97 percent of members said they were willing to walk off the job in order to earn a better contract. Picket lines held by entertainment industry workers in SAG-AFTRA and the WGA are getting tremendous public support.

Shuler said the American public is taking note that 70 years ago, the average CEO made about 20 times what the average worker in this country did. This year, an American CEO makes 272 times what the average worker makes, and it’s nothing new – it’s a gap that has widened over the past few decades.

“But I’ll tell you what is

new,” Shuler said. “What’s different about this Labor Day. It’s the awakening happening in this country. It’s been a long time since this country has seen workers united like this. A long time.”



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 through a no-reason absentee ballot.

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

- Allen Park City Council: Gary Schlack
- Dearborn Heights City Council: Mo Baydoun
- Farmington Hills Mayor: Theresa Rich
- Ferndale Mayor: Raylon Leaks-May
- 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
- Madison Heights Mayor: Roslyn Grafstein
- City Council: Sean Fleming, Quinn Wright
- Melvindale Mayor: Weeler Marsee
- Mount Clemens City Council: Spencer Calhoun
- Novi Mayor: Aaron Martinez
- City Council: Sujata Raman
- Rochester Hills Mayor: Ariane Paviani
- Royal Oak Mayor: Michael Fournier
- Commissioner: Rebecca Cheezum, Amanda Herzog, Monica Hunt
- Southfield City Council: Michael Mandelbaum
- 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
- Westland City Council: Michael McDermott, Melissa Sampey

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# UAW initiates strike vs. Big Three automakers

By Mark Gruenberg, Press Associates Staff Writer  
DETROIT (PAI) – The United Auto Workers started their strike against Detroit's Big Three car companies – Ford, GM and Stellantis/FiatChrysler – when their contracts expired at a minute before midnight on September 14.

In the union's new "Stand Up" strike strategy, UAW opened the strike with members of three selected locals, one per company, taking to the picket lines: GM Local 2250 in the St. Louis suburb of Wentzville, Mo., Stellantis Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio, and Local 900 at the Ford Final Assembly and Paint Plant in Wayne, Mich.

If the companies don't take the workers seriously, more and more locals would walk in ensuing days, union President Shawn Fain said. Striking all car company plants all at once "is still an option."

(At press time, the effect of the strike on unionized building trades workers toiling at the Wayne plant was minimal).

"The world is watching. The UAW is ready to stand up," Fain declared in a brief video message 10 pm Eastern Time, two hours before the deadline.

Before then, there was round-the-clock bargaining during the final day involving the union and negotiators from all three firms at UAW's Solidarity House. Fain did not discuss in the late-night video how close or how far apart the union and the Detroit car companies still are. Fain again alerted members of other locals to be ready to join the three at a moment's notice.

UAW is using that strategy, which Fain previously announced in an evening video, to keep the three car companies off balance and guessing which plants will shut down and when. Answering texts in the video's chat box, Fain noted hundreds of people demanded a complete strike against all three car companies everywhere when the contracts ran out.

UAW's bargainers as a group decided on this "Stand Up" local-by-local strategy instead. The uncertainty of who will be summoned to picket lines next will keep the pressure on, he explained.

Meantime, all other Auto Workers will toil under the old expired contract, without an extension. But Fain assured them they're safe under labor law. "You are not an employee at will," he said. The union's website explains how they're safe, he said. The firms employ a total of 150,000 Auto Workers.

"The companies, our members and the public know what we're fighting for. No matter what we do we need to keep organizing. We need to show the companies we are ready to stand up."

Besides dollars, the strike's a class struggle, Fain said in a preparatory video the day before. "I want us to stand up against corporate greed," he declared in that prior video. "It's the working class versus the billionaire class."

"This is a stand-up strike against massive inequality," just like the historic and successful sit-down strikes of the 1930s, he added.

The union demands the three firms, flush with profits – a quarter of a trillion dollars over the last several years and another \$21.5 billion combined in the first six months of this year – come to their senses and agree on new contracts covering the 150,000 Auto Workers they employ. The pacts would make up for 15 years of wage stagnation, two-tier pay systems and cuts in health and pension benefits.

Dollars – a fair share of them – are the top issue and the two sides are still far apart. But as one young UAW Local 600 worker said later, workers suffer from conditions inside plants, too.

To make up for the past losses, UAW wants across-the-board raises of at least 41 percent over four years, restoration of cost-of-living increases, pension increases for retirees who haven't had a raise in a decade, and improved health care, among other goals. New hires are virtually left on their own for pensions and health care.

## Worker shortages, lousy candidates top contractor concerns, survey says

(Continued from Page 1)

who have no skills expect to be compensated as if they did. In short, the survey paints a picture of a candidate pool that neither knows how to work nor appreciates how unqualified it is." Yikes.

The survey said those poor-quality candidates are one of the main reasons labor shortages are so severe. Simonson said a "shocking" 68 percent of firms report applicants lack the skills needed to work in construction. Right off the bat, one-third of firms report encountering candidates for employment who cannot pass a drug test. Another 26 percent report potential employees cite difficulty acquiring reliable transportation to and from a jobsite. One in four contractor-respondents encountered candidates reporting they need flexible work schedules.

All types of firms are experiencing these challenges. Similar results were reported by both union and open shop contractors: by firms with \$50 million or less in annual revenue and ones with more than \$500 million in revenue; by companies in all four regions of the country; and by contractors doing building construction, highway and transportation projects, federal and heavy work, or utility infrastructure.

Many construction firms are taking steps to cope with and try to overcome workforce shortages. The survey found that 81 percent of firms have raised base pay rates for their workers during the past year. In addition to raising pay, 44 percent are providing incentives and bonuses and 26 percent have also improved their benefits packages. Firms are also getting more creative when it comes to recruiting workers. Sixty-three percent of survey respondents – up from 39 percent in the 2022 survey – report they added online strategies, like using social media or targeted digital advertising, to connect better with younger applicants.

Contractors are also increasing investments in their internal training programs in an effort to address the fact many candidates lack the basic hard and soft skills needed to be successful. Forty-one percent of firms are boosting spending on training and professional development programs, 25 percent are enhancing their online and video training capabilities and 14 percent are using augmented and virtual reality technology to better train workers.

The AGC said too few schools offer classes in construction or even expose students to the opportunities that exist in the field. They added that public officials need to significantly boost investments in programs that expose students to the opportunities and skills needed for careers in construction.

The AGC and Autodesk conducted the Workforce Survey in late July and early August. More than 1,400 firms completed the survey from a broad cross-section of the U.S. construction industry, including union and open shop firms of all sizes.

Some other highlights from the survey:

- Nearly all craft positions are hard to fill. The survey asked about difficulty in filling 21 specific crafts. For every craft, more than 60 percent of respondents whose firms employ that craft report it is difficult to fill.

- Firms are getting more creative when it comes to recruiting workers. Sixty-three percent of survey respondents – up from 39 percent in the 2022 survey – report they added online strategies, like using social media or targeted digital advertising, to connect better with younger applicants.

- Despite labor shortages, most firms expect to expand in the next 12 months, getting workers from...somewhere. Sixty-nine percent of firms expect to add employees in the next 12 months, while 27 percent expect no net change.

- Supply chain problems and labor shortages are making construction more expensive, undermining demand for certain types of projects," the AGC said. Half the respondents report owners canceled, postponed or scaled back projects due to increasing costs. Meanwhile, 22 percent of firms report projects were impacted due to lengthening or uncertain completion times.



**Elevator Constructors Local 36**  
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY Sept. 25, 2023, at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. 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 wanted to remind everyone, third quarter dues are due at the end of the month.

**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.**

With opening day of bow season approaching, I want to wish all hunters good luck and be safe out there.

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!

I want to thank the members who have recently called in close calls and near misses. No matter how small the incident is, make sure you report it to your company safety representative and the hall. What seems like a minor injury could turn into something major down the road.

If any member or a member of your immediate family are currently serving in the military, please submit the following information to the local union business manager via email, to be published in the November journal, Roll call of Honor: Name, Military Rank and Division (branch) of the military. **Deadline for submission will be September 25th, 2023.** If you have any pictures, please send them with the information above. I will try to get them in the journal.

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 at 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 Jan. 1, 2024. **I highly recommend if you fall in this category and haven't done so, take the course and keep up on it.** We have grandfathered mechanics that have completed this course more so than mechanics that are required to complete this course.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you MUST call those jobs into the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD,

(Continued next column)



OPERATING ENGINEERS Local 324 members walk in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**  
LANSING – Business Manager: Patrick Welch (517-708-0665)

Local 47 Lansing Office: 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, MI 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665

The next regular Union Meeting will be held Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at JATC 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.

**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 (Continued next column)

## Local 36, con't

it MUST be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.

**Attention All Apprentices,** Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!**

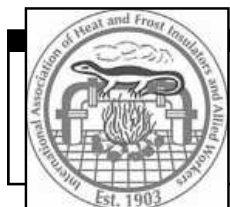
Anyone interested in getting certified in Welding, you can sign up with NEIEP@Local 85 or call Mike Janca.

**Attention All Temporary Mechanics,** your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement MUST be signed by the end of each month at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the NEXT MORNING. If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive Board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools MUST be taken off the job and notify the hall.

**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!



**Heat & Frost Insulators 25**  
SOUTHFIELD – The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.



CURT MCGLONE

CONDOLENCES to the family of retired member John Graham on his September 13, 2023 passing. A celebration of life will be held October 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The service will take place at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 31530 Beechwood Ave, Garden City, MI 48135 (North of Ford Rd. West of Merriman). A Luncheon will follow at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd, Westland, MI 48185 (between Wayne Rd and Newburgh Rd). Please keep Brother Graham's family in your thoughts and prayers.

**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. 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

**Local 47, con't**  
Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275  
Toll Free: (800) 323-8079  
Telephone: (517) 321-7502  
Fax: (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:

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 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.

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org:

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**Local 25**  
Heat and Frost Insulators

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 that 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 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. Please forward your payments monthly to Local 25, 21353 Bridge St., 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 changes – hire, layoff, 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.

**LAYOFF/HIRE:** Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 48 hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

**SUB FUND:** Please be reminded, in order to receive a SUB Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office by 2 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.





## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers Local 25

**NOVI – Steward meeting(s):** The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday September 21, at 6 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm (NEW Time). All are welcome!

**The September Union meeting will be Monday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023** at 7 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open.

Alerts & E-mails 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.

**Awards Night** – anyone who was not able to attend, your pin award will be mailed out, we predict within the next 60 days.

**New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to 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 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.

**To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School,** please go to the [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). **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

*“We are generally the better persuaded by the reasons we discover ourselves than by those given to us by others.”*

–Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)

*“It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.”*

–James Thurber (1894 - 1961)

*“All men profess honesty as long as they can. To believe all men honest would be folly. To believe none so is something worse.”*

–John Quincy Adams (1767 - 1848)

*“It is easier to fight for one’s principles than to live up to them.”*

–Alfred Adler (1870 - 1937)

*“I appreciate people who are civil, whether they mean it or not. I think: Be civil. Do not cherish your opinion over my feelings. There’s a vanity to candor that isn’t really worth it. Be kind.”*

–Richard Greenberg

*The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.”*

–Charles DuBois

800-482-8915.

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a new born 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).**

**The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Retirees’ Club:** The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday October 3, 2023 at 8:30 am. The Retirees’ meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday October 17, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

**The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast** will meet Tuesday October 3, 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 in many locations throughout the state.

**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.**

**Check out 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.

**IF YOU NEED HELP IT IS AVAILABLE: FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city etc. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).**

**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). **Celebration of Life for Charlie Dodson #893129** on Saturday September 30, 2023 from 1–4 PM at UA Local 333 Union Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King, Lansing MI 48911.

**In Memory:** Harry Crawford passed away September 3, 2023 at the age of 84. He is survived by his son Danny Crawford #990725. Harry was retired from the Operators Local 324 and was friends to many ironworkers that he worked with through the years.

**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 (Sept 18, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.).



IRON WORKERS Local 25 members march in the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4.



WALKING BEHIND their banner on Labor Day in Detroit are members of Laborers Local 1191.

# LIUNA!

Laborers International Union of North America

**Local 1191**  
Feel the Power

**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!**

**New Projects:** Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

**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. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI’s online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types

of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.must-safe.com](http://www.must-safe.com) to see how many modules you have.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare fund documents. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be

taxable if/when no beneficiary has been designated. **Each of the above individual benefits needs to have a designated beneficiary.**

**FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.**

**Available Scholarships:** LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical trainings through Union Plus. **Learn more information about Union Plus scholarships at [www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships](http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships).**

**IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFO:** Michigan Laborers’ Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension)

Telephone: (877) 645-2267  
Website: [www.michiganlaborers.org](http://www.michiganlaborers.org)

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers’ (Healthcare)

\*Telephone: (800) 228 0048  
Metropolitan Detroit Laborers’ AND Michigan Laborers’ Vacation Funds (833) 389-0025 EXT. 3359



MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN Regional Carpenters Council march in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.

*“Unprovided with original learning, unformed in the habits of thinking, unskilled in the arts of composition, I resolved to write a book.”*

— Edward Gibbon (1737 - 1794)



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	

[www.benesys.com](http://www.benesys.com) | (877) 923-6379 | [info@benesys.com](mailto:info@benesys.com)





**Local 190**

Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

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.

**MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN:** If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at our 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 of each month.** 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

*What you cannot enforce, do not command.*

–Sophocles (496 BC - 406 BC)

*Work while you have the light. You are responsible for the talent that has been entrusted to you.*

–Henri-Frédéric Amiel

*Love has no place in a lawyer's office.*

–Elizabeth Aston

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, MD-HHS, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://ua190.org)

**Med Gas Installer and Brazing 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](http://ua190.org)

**Med Gas Installer Update (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](http://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](http://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](http://ua190.org)

**RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS:** John Weis initiated on February 14, 2001 and retired August 1<sup>st</sup>. Wishing you good health, good luck and best wishes for a happy retirement.

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</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.



**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, September 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

**Rigging Certification Class:** September 11<sup>th</sup> thru October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30

**Gas Heating Prep & Combustion Basics:** September 20, 21, 27 & 28. 5-8pm. (15 spots available)

**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)

**First Aid/CPR:** September 20<sup>th</sup>

**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. Members 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 your 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, MasterCard, Discover and American Express for window (Continued next column)



**Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

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.

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.

## 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.

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



**Plumbers Local 98**

Plumbers 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 him at [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 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Union Hall.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm – 2 pm. At Local 98!

**2023 Awards night** letters go out this week 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 October 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

**The LABOR DAY Parade** was back on this year. 130 years of supporting worker's rights and protecting Americas health. Great job by our Officers, Members & Families, please post any pictures you took on our FB page.

East side road clean up, Brother Gary Glaser is requesting help on the next road side cleanup September 30<sup>th</sup> at 8am, please meet at the Roseville Bob Evans. Please leave a message at the hall or call his cell so we know how many can help.

**Expelled members: There are no expelled members this month. 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: Our deepest condolences to the families and friends of deceased members: Brother Robert Allard passed 08/16/2023 he was initiated 04/24/1952 a 71-year member, Brother Raymond Seewald passed 08/22/2023 he was initiated 09/24/1953 a 69-year member.**

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**

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435**

Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2023. All classes are register and pre-pay by credit card, check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class. The 2024 class list will be out late October or early November, please keep an eye out for the class you need or you find interesting!**

**Monthly Code Class –** Next class is PENDING at 4:30 pm. This is not a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.**

**ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification:** Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. \$100 **4 hour recert class** October 24 & 25 Deadline is September 22

**OPEN WELDING – Fall is getting closer. This is a great time to get into a booth and get some welding in!** Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

**2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be Oct. 7, 2023. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

**2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are available at the Training Center. You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10,** available as an online class for \$59 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://www.careersafeonline.com) This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org). \*\*Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

**It is each member's individual responsibility to keep all their Certifications current.**

If the person you are trying to reach at the Training Center is unavailable, please leave a message to ensure we can return your call. We attempt to return all messages by the end of the business day.





**Local 85**  
Plumbers &  
Steam Fitters

UA Local 85  
SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023 at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay RD. starting at 7 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Grayling Eagles, 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  
jbador@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514  
tdanielak@ualocal85.org  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330  
csteele@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512  
bjanderson@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. Please check out [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 Number. If you should have any 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. On this page, we will have important messages and reminders specific to our membership. Please like both and let us know what you think.

**JATC News:** Congratulations to our newest Journeymen, John Vincent, Jerry Landskroener, Chase Saunders and Marcus Linn!

**GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!**

**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 Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: [SUB@ualocal85.org](mailto: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.

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: 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.

**Website Address:** Please visit [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org).

**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. ALWAYS SAVE YOUR

(Continued next column)

"The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it."  
—Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)



**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.

**Congratulations** to Erik Dickerson, Luke Johnson and Dustin Reinhart who achieved Journeyman status on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

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](http://Upconstruction.org) and go to the MSHA calendar to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.

**Local 85, con't**

**CHECK STUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys 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.

**Fraternaly,**  
Justin M. Pomerville  
Business Manager/Financial



**Local 671**

UA Local 671  
MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on October 5, 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.unitedassociationlocal671.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.

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** The open weld shop nights will change to Tuesday nights from 6pm-10pm for the Summer. 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.

**Congratulations:** We would like to congratulate Brother Joe Simms on the birth of Daughter Isla Marie Simms on September 11<sup>th</sup>! Enjoy this wonderful time!

**Attention:** We are always looking for unrepresented workers who are performing the work of the UA. If you know of anyone, have them contact Vinnie for more details!

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

**In Closing:** We are in the final days of the summer of 2023. I hope it was filled with great memories and people who love you. Because in the end, that is the only thing that matters.

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


**You Are the Missing Piece.**



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**

"Usually when people are sad, they don't do anything. They just cry over their condition. But when they get angry, they bring about a change."  
—Malcolm X (1925 - 1965),

"Even the great get greater by doing more of it."  
—Colleen Wainwright,



**Local 174**  
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174  
COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm 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, Oct. 5 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Condolences:** It is with deep sadness that our brothers, Charles Shier (9/8/23) and Alexander Christopher (9/13/23) have passed away. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

**2023 Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing:** Congratulations Austin LaVigne, John Burnell, Ian Stankus, and Tony Varela as the winners of this year's outing with a score of -13.

**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:** I have been busy with the duties of an organizer. With the hiccup we had at the LG plant, we are once again getting extremely busy! I am continuing to speak to the unrepresented worker, creating relationships, and building our market share. It's a great time to be in the skilled trades!

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*

**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  
EAP: (888) 238-6232  
Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

**Medicare Retirees**  
Labor First: (616) 345-0788

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

**Solxsys, Aetna, Labor First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at [rbennett@ua174.org](mailto: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.

**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 / 5pm / Contact Nathan for location Lakeshore - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details. \*The Kent Ionia Labor Council has recently moved from the building on Benjamin and will be rotating meeting locations monthly.

**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, Oct. 12, 2023, and Thursday, Nov. 9.

**WCP:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, Oct. 14, @8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 5:00p – 9p. 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.

**\$\$\$ Top Prices Paid \$\$\$**

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**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 maintains 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

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**Local 357**  
Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters &  
HVAC Service

UA Local 357  
**KALAMZOO – 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.  
**GOLF OUTING:** Thanks to Nathan Scharrer and all his volunteers for making the golf outing a huge success!!!  
**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).

*“We cannot control the evil tongues of others; but a good life enables us to disregard them.”*

–Cato the Elder (234 BC - 149 BC)

*“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”*

–Colin Powell (1937 - 2021)

*“If all the year were playing holidays; To sport would be as tedious as to work.”*

–William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616),



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

**SPRINKLER FITTERS Local 704 members walk along Michigan Avenue in Detroit during the Labor Day Parade.**

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.

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

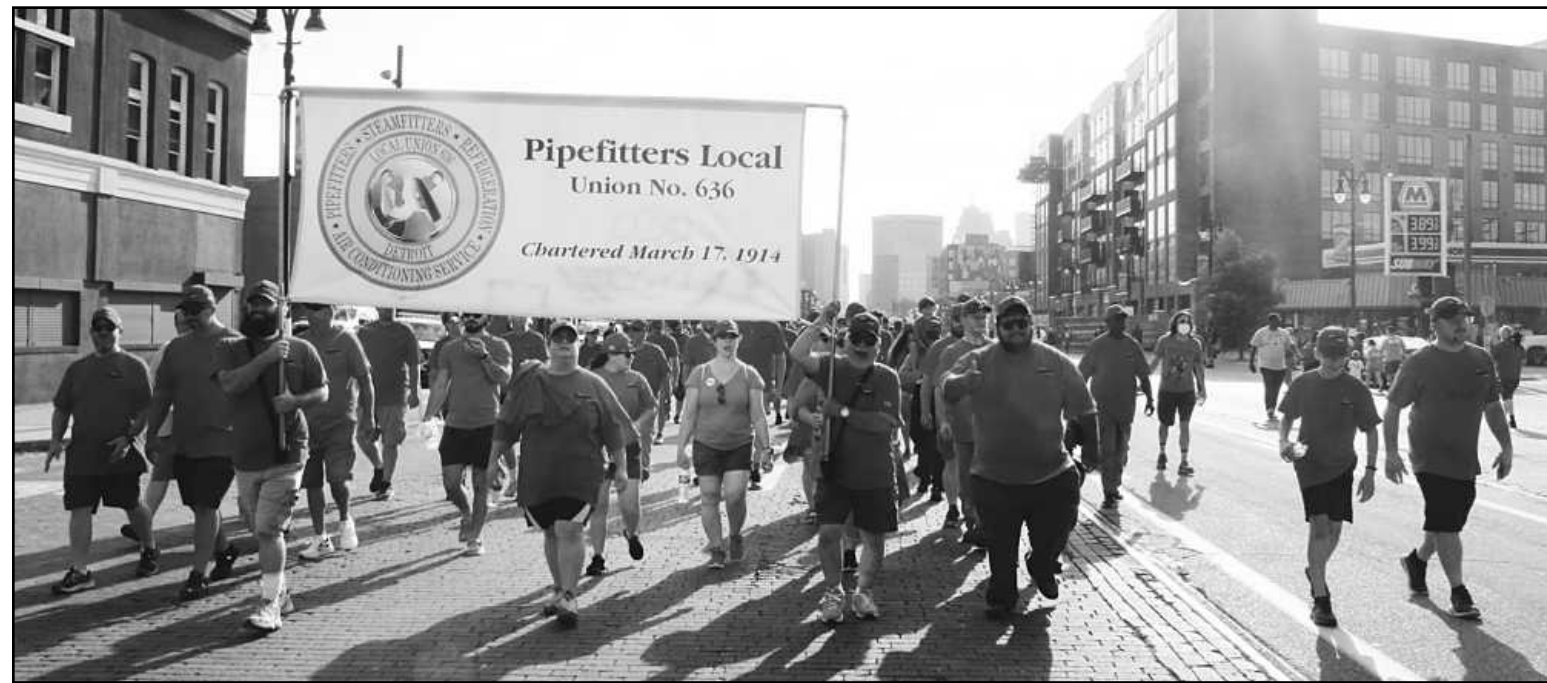
Welfare or Pension fund questions.

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.



**PIPE FITTERS Local 636 members march in the Sept. 4 Labor Day Parade in Detroit.**



**Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service**  
**Local 636**

UA 636

DETROIT – The next Union Meeting will take place on **October 17, 2023**, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

**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:

Retired Journeyman Brother Robert E. Abfalter on his passing, September 11, 2023, who was the father of Journeyman Brother Robert Abfalter. Also, for Retired Journeyman Brother Ron Smith on the passing of his sister, Alicia Ingram, on August 8, 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 profes-

sionals. 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.**

**Training Center News.**

Regular night welding running through the Fall/Winter will be Monday and Thursday night from 4pm till 8pm

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8 Starting Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, Monday, and Thursday Nights at 5PM: MES-1

Starting Mondays Oct.2<sup>nd</sup>: at 5PM: Basic HVAC, and Ammonia safety.

Starting Wed. Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM: CSD-1, and Chillers-1 Starting Thursday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM: Boilers-1, and VFD, Revit, new Trimble layout class.

Starting Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday, and Thursday Nights at 5PM: Certified Rigging and Signalperson class.

Running Saturdays Oct. through April: Orbital/cleanroom, and HDPE Fusion class, RMD/GMAW, Downhill

All classes are \$50 per 5 weeks. Call Kim at the Training Center to sign up.

*“Change is the process by which the future invades our lives.”*

–Alvin Toffler

*“Praise youth and it will prosper.”*

–Irish Proverb



**CALL, TEXT OR CHAT**  
**988**  
**FOR THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
**CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**  
[ConstructionSuicidePrevention.com](http://ConstructionSuicidePrevention.com)

## State DOL, AGC host construction suicide prevention event

LANSING – With September designated National Suicide Prevention Month, the construction industry adopted the week of Sept. 4-8 to highlight the industry’s unfortunate high rate of suicides.

This year the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), construction companies and labor leaders hosted an event Sept. 8 to raise awareness and combat the rate of construction worker suicide. It was held at the construction site of the Michigan State University Student Recreation and Wellness Center, highlighting the high number of suicides in the industry and providing resources to employers and employees.

“With mental health struggles, especially suicides, drastically higher among blue-collar occupations like the construction industry, it’s critical that we protect the hardworking people who build our communities – the places we’re proud to call home – by putting mental health at the center of workplace policies,” said LEO Deputy Director Sean Egan, a member of IBEW Local 275, who leads the state’s workplace mental health workgroup. “We encourage employers and employees alike to confront this critical issue impacting the construction industry by implementing the necessary tools to create happier, stronger workplaces.”

There are about 191,000 construction workers in Michigan. During Construction Suicide Prevention Week, MIOSHA encouraged contractors at jobsites across the state to promote the importance of mental health in the workplace. The construction industry has one of the highest rates of suicides among all occupations – four times higher than the general population. In Michigan, the construction and extraction occupation suicide rate was 75.4 per 100,000 people in 2019, according to state health statistics.

“It felt very fitting with the ethos of this project to choose this location as the site for our safety event, and I really appreciate how much support the University has provided to help make this event available for local tradespeople,” said Dennis Carignan, Granger Construction president, speaking of the Health and Wellness Center project.

Construction leaders say the COVID-19 pandemic and economy have added even more pressures on workers and resulted in higher rates of substance abuse, adding a level of urgency to address the problem. John Coleman, an organizer for Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, saw both his father and brother die from COVID-19

“Duct-tape and band aids are used to cover up cuts and bruises, but mental health can’t be covered up with band aids,” Coleman said. “It’s a different kind of cut, a kind of scar that construction and blue-collar workers aren’t used to.”

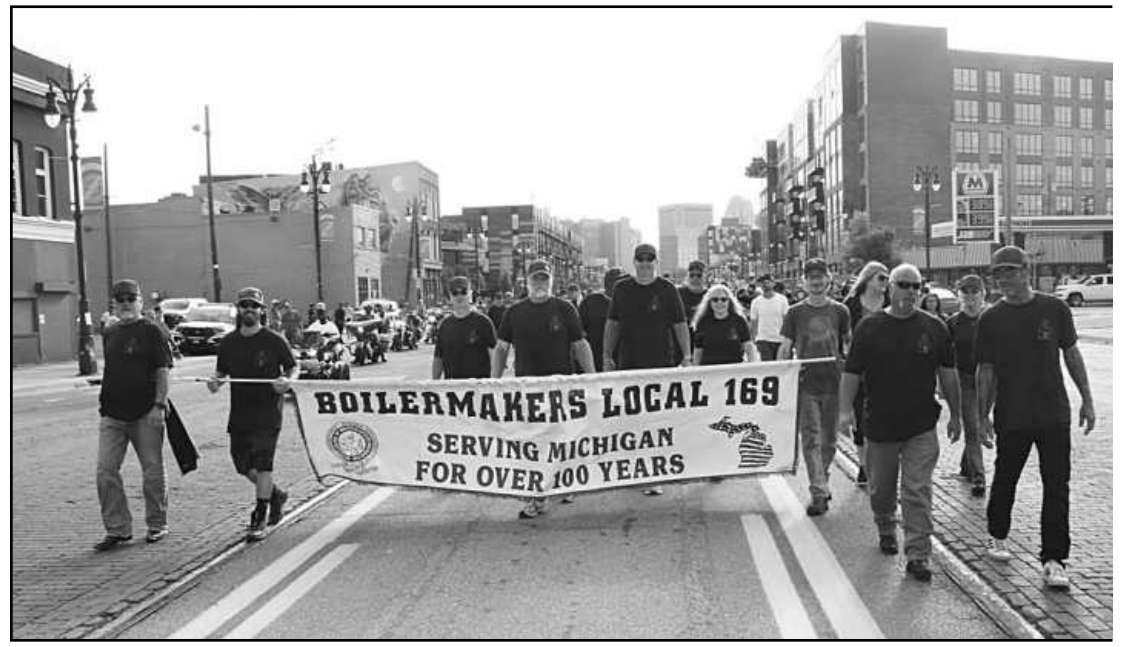
“The AGC of Michigan recognizes the importance of total worker health,” said Damian Hill, president of Associated General Contractors of Michigan. Events like this will help the industry overcome some of the stigma related to mental health issues. Open and transparent conversations about mental health are needed to advance a strong safety culture in the construction industry.”

*“Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are.”*  
–Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755 - 1826)





MEMBERS OF ROOFERS Local 149 walk along Michigan Avenue in Detroit during the Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4.



BOILERMAKERS Local 169 members walk behind their banner in the Labor Day Parade in Detroit on Sept. 4.



**Michigan Painters District Council**

**Painters DC 1M**  
WARREN – Dear Members:  
**DCIM WEBSITE:**  
[www.iupatdc1michigan.org](http://www.iupatdc1michigan.org)  
**DCIM FACEBOOK:**  
[www.facebook.com/iupat1m](http://www.facebook.com/iupat1m)

DC 1M UNION CARDS: Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:



**ROBERT GONZALEZ**  
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

**LABOR DAY PARADE 2023\*** The Labor Day Parade in Detroit was a huge success with a great turnout. Thank you to all those who showed up and participated.

**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 we announce the following: Local 1052 Member Al Giraud passed away. Please keep the Family of our fallen brother 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.



**District Council 1M**

**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

**Meeting date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.

**Place:** 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

**Local Union 312**

**Business Rep:** Tim Schwerin

**Meeting date:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

**Local Union 514**

**Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen

**Meeting dates:** 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Web site:** [www.iupat-local514.org](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

**Local Union 826**

**Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman

**Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

**Local Union 845**

**Business Rep –** Fred Frederickson

**Meeting date:** 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

**Place:** 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

**Local Union 1052**

**Business Rep –** Jake Fluty

**Meeting date:** The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m

**Place:** 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

**Local Union 1803**

**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle

**Meeting date:** 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

**Local Union 2352**

**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland

**Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

**Local Union 2353**

**Business Rep:** Tony Parker

**Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

*"The most important work you and I will ever do will be within the walls of our own homes."*

–Harold B. Lee (1899 - 1973)

*"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."*

–Edith Wharton (1862 - 1937)

*"When you cannot get a compliment any other way pay yourself one."*

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

*"All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income."*

–Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902)

*"The ancient Greek definition of happiness was the full use of your powers along lines of excellence."*

– John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1961)

*"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies."*

–Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

*"Many a man who falls in love with a dimple make the mistake of marrying the whole girl."*

–Evan Esar (1899 - 1995)



**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.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) – for more information.

Your local needs volunteers for an informational line in areas 1 & 2. All members including retirees are encouraged to participate. Please contact the union hall for details. You will be informed of the times and locations once details are finalized. Stand up for your work! Stand up for your local!

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva please contact Area 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 November 1st, 2023. Good Luck!

**Retirees:** Retiree luncheons **Area 1** Retiree luncheon is 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 11am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI. 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 September 20th at 11AM at The Auburn Hotel. It's located at 101 W. Midland Road, Auburn, MI. 48611. 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

**(Continued next column)**



**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., Oct. 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 3, 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.** We wanted to keep our members informed about a situation that could affect our Local. The United Auto Workers (U.A.W.) Union is currently in negotiations with all the Big 3 Automakers, and they are striking three plants (as of 9/18/23 at 12pm).

As residents and workers in this community, we understand the importance of fair labor practices and the impact they have on our families and friends. We hope that both parties can come to an agreement that benefits everyone involved. However, in the event of a strike Local 149 and its members will stand in solidarity with the United Auto Workers Union.

As a lot of you remember in 2019 when the General Motors and the U.A.W. members were on strike, our Local was sucker punched by ways of an extremely large fine that was handed down to us from the N.M.A.P.C. for refusing to cross a hostile picket line. Our small local simply cannot sustain these fines. So, as much as it pains me to type this, there will be some projects that we will have to man, assuming a "neutral gate" is provided, and not one U.A.W. member is pick-

eting the neutral gate.

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 potential strike.

**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.

**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 9/18/2023, 12:00p.m.

– In Solidarity, **Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149**

**SMRCA announces scholarship winners**

Shelby Township, MI – The Governors for the Southeast Michigan Roofing Contractors Association (SMRCA) Scholarship Grant Committee awarded a Scholarship Grant to college-bound students in June 2023.

Commercial Roofing Contractors of Southeastern Michigan, through SMRCA, along with the Roofers Union Local #149 annually award college scholarships to dependents of employees of member roofing contractors. This year's winners are:

Madison Hipshire – Riverview, MI;

Haley Owens – Melvin, MI;

Neve Owens – Melvin; MI

Itzel Galvan Ramirez – Detroit, MI.

Applicants were asked to submit an essay by selecting one or more of the following topics: Roofing Technology, Roofing Safety, Roofing Impact or Roofing Ethics to the Joint Union/ Contractor Scholarship Committee.

Winners receive scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00 contributed by the SMRCA, Roofers Union Local #149 and the Contractor Employer.

Initiated over 20 years ago, this program is an example of the SMRCA/Roofers Union Local #149 and SMRCA Member Contractors working to promote continued education and to encourage industry dependents to attend college.

Brian Gavigan spent some time in the hospital, he's been released and wanted to tell everyone that has called and kept in touch with him thank you. All the well wishes and thoughts are greatly appreciated.

**Local 169 cont'd**

XXXL. The cost is \$40.00. 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.

Brian Gavigan spent some time in the hospital, he's been released and wanted to tell everyone that has called and kept in touch with him thank you. All the well wishes and thoughts are greatly appreciated.



**Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers**

**Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357**

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 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 download 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 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display**

**Sign Pictorial & Display 591**

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

**OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK:** procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474.

*"It is best to do things systematically, since we are only human, and disorder is our worst enemy."*

–Hesiod (~800 BC)

*"To predict the behavior of ordinary people in advance, you only have to assume that they will always try to escape a disagreeable situation with the smallest possible expenditure of intelligence."*

–Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

*"I always remember an epitaph which is in the cemetery at Tombstone, Arizona. It says: 'Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damndest.' I think that is the greatest epitaph a man can have - When he gives everything that is in him to do the job he has before him. That is all you can ask of him and that is what I have tried to do."*

–Harry S Truman (1884 - 1972)

**North Point Mortgage Advisors**

Nicole Jenner  
Loan Officer  
NMLS# 2236230  
Licensed in Michigan  
**(586) 362-4689**

*Proud Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 family member*





**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. 3, 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.

*"He who is not very strong in memory should not meddle with lying."*  
–Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592)

*"The person who knows one thing and does it better than anyone else, even if it only be the art of raising lentils, receives the crown he merits. If he raises all his energy to that end, he is a benefactor of mankind and its rewarded as such."*  
–Og Mandino (1923 - 1996)



**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 who 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.

**BICSITE350:** dates TBD if enough interest.

**BICSI Installer Copper 2 (INSTC):** Mondays, November 6 thru February 19, 2024. Required text BICSI ITSIMM 8.0 (7.0 will work) \$240.00. Required BICSI INSTC 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.

**5th 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 Retirees' 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.

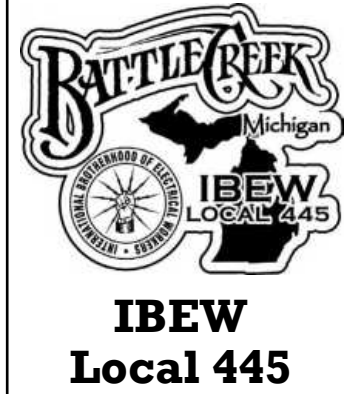
**ERTS:** Please make sure that you are signed up in the Electronic Reciprocity Transfer System. You must be signed up in ERTS before working outside of Local 252's jurisdiction or your benefits will not be transferred back.

**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 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 (Continued next column)



**IBEW Local 445**

IBEW Local 445  
BATTLE CREEK – **Deceased Member:** It is with a heavy heart Local 445 announces the passing of 73 year member Ira Beach.

**New Officer Training** is scheduled for September 25, 2023. ALL Officers are expected to attend.

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

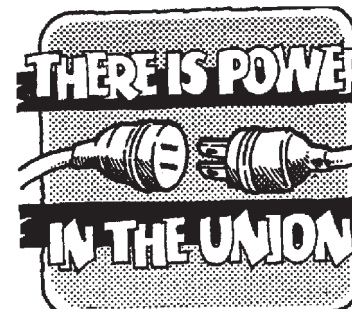
**Personal information** Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall if you need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



**IBEW 252, con't**

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 David Brockett, who passed away on August 29, 2023. The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Philip Borkowski, who passed away on September 10, 2023.

**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 6/2023, 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 second quarter dues (April thru June) are due now. **Payments for third quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, September 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.

**JOB CALLS-** Please stay (Continued next column)



**IBEW Local 557**

SAGINAW – **Union News-** Work remains steady in Local 557. Calls will be coming in soon for solar work and could be difficult to fill. 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. Could mean some added bonuses for you AND them. The Hall and our organizer Gus are always willing to talk with anyone at anytime about all we have to offer at 557.

**IMPORTANT-** Wilson-McShane switch over for benefits administration is still continuing. Visit [www.michiganlectrical.org](http://www.michiganlectrical.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 have contacted WMC have had positive experiences. New cards for members special funds have been sent out. Hang tight if you're having issues. Patience is still needed through this process.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** Our next meeting is October 3rd 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 are expected this month. 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 CROSSAPP-** 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 EOBs, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOBs 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 (Continued next column)



**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



**IBEW Local 131**

*Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916*

IBEW Local 131  
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Oct. 2, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on Oct. 2, at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

**Retiree Lunches** at the following Locations:

Oct. 18, Heroes Food & Spirits, 121 S. Grove St. Delton. @11:00.

Nov. 15, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 East Main St. Kalamazoo. @11:00.

Dec. 20, Martell's, 3501 Greenleaf Blvd, Kalamazoo. @11:30. Call the hall to RSVP!

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage Street, 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 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

**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.

**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 [jcurrent@ibew131.com](mailto:jcurrent@ibew131.com).

**K - Wings Hockey** game on Jan. 26, 202, against Fort Wayne Komets. The local website has a link to purchase the tickets.

At the time of this writing

**IBEW 557, con't**

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 and also E-checks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished over the phone to ensure you are current.

**CONTACT NUMBERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: [www.michiganlectrical.org](http://www.michiganlectrical.org)  
*In Solidarity,*  
*Evan Allardyce,*  
*Business Manager*

grilling food after the meetings. We are still looking for more members to sign up for Foreman and Stewards training. If you are interested in any of these classes, please reach out to the Union Hall offices to RSVP.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: David Daum, Timothy Davis, Damien Keglovitz, Jesse King, Michael Demond, Brian Kelly, Kevin Koon, and Eric McCoy. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

The following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Robert Chopp III, Jonathan Kowalczyk, Marcus Mays, Russell McBride, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Richard Peebles, Justin Sowash and Andrew Yezic.

**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: [michiganlectrical.org](http://michiganlectrical.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 number, it's 855-633-4584.

**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 will receive member an additional \$500 bounty.

**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.

**American Income Life - Accidental Death Benefit.** Recently you may have received a letter in the mail regarding the \$3000 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 to qualify and name your beneficiary. Please note you are **NOT REQUIRED** to return this card to name your beneficiary; the beneficiaries you have on file at the hall are sufficient. The \$3000 benefit would be paid to your named beneficiary, not to your estate.

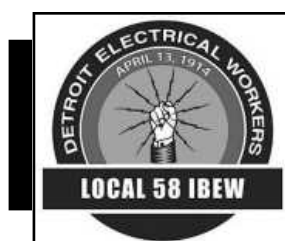
American Income Life does offer other policies and services. If you are interested in having a representative contact you to discuss available options, you may return the yellow card in the paid envelope provided. If you have questions, please contact the hall at 269-382-1762.  
*Morris Appleby*  
*Business Manager*

**CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL**

Aluminum - Copper - Brass  
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide  
Radiators - Lead - Batteries

<p><b>McNichols</b> Scrap Iron &amp; Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) <a href="http://mchnicholsscrap.com">mchnicholsscrap.com</a> <b>(313) 365-6100</b></p>	<p><b>Detroit</b> Iron &amp; Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) <a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a> <b>(313) 841-5100</b></p>
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## IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

**DETROIT – The Next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, October 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 are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind) and you are going to lapse the end of September. It is YOUR responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement or death benefit.

Statements for 4th quarter have been mailed. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. \*\*\*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. Please this is important. Thank you!!!

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund:** The next meeting is Tuesday, October 3, 2023. The 3rd Annual Brad Ballard Memorial Eastside Golf Outing is September 22, 2023. Please contact Kelly Lynch at the Union Hall to register and submit payment. This event is in high demand and will sell out quickly.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 5:30 pm. 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 8:00 am 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: The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 10, 2023 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30PM. Trunk-or-Treat and Brew & View will take place on Saturday October 21, 2023 starting at 12:00 pm.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** - The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023 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. 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,

September 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee - will now be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, 2023 starting at 5:30 pm.

**The Political Action Committee (PAC)**- If you have any 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- Our Sister Exchange Closet is looking for donations. If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, please consider making the contribution. Also, if you are or know of a sister in need, please reach out. We may have something for you. Our next meeting will take place on September 28, 2023 at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Angela Panicucci (586)291-8014 or Liz Gorski (586)921-3087 or 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 page 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:** The October Board meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the union hall. Our September luncheon is September 27th at The Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Road, in Warren. Doors open at 11 and lunch is served at 12:30.

JUST A REMINDER that construction issues at Mound and 13 Mile have been ongoing. Perhaps give yourself a bit of extra time to negotiate traffic issues. Fingers crossed that this work is winding down, and soon won't be an issue for our eastside luncheons. The luncheon is \$20 per person. 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 at 313 408-5885. The next Senior Golf Outing is Thursday, October 5, 2023, Tanglewood Golf Course, 22805 Country Club Dr, South Lyon, MI 48178, tee time 9:30 am. Call Art DeCoste at 248-887-3396 for information and to make reservations which are appreciated two weeks in advance, for the course deposit. All IBEW #58 members are welcome to participate.

**Local 58 IBEW Senior Golf Outings 2023:** are as follows: Thursday, October 5, 2023, Tanglewood Golf Course, 22805 Country Club Dr, South Lyon, MI 48178, tee time 9:30 am. Call Art DeCoste at 248-887-3396, two weeks in advance for a headcount due to the security deposit at most of the golf courses. Come on and join the golf outings! This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends, to make new friends, and to get out and enjoy the camaraderie!! Remember, All IBEW Local 58 members are welcome to participate!! Call Art for questions or concerns

**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 online at <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)



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

**BAY CITY – Union Meeting.** The October monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, October 2, 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.

**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 has finishing up at Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay). 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. Karn Power Plant.

-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 con-

## 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.

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and email.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Mark Combe, Richard Kraepel Jr., Joseph Pfaff, and Curtis Weatherly.

Members who have Passed Away: Gerald Kellenberger, Pension member, 66 year IBEW membership, Son of the late pension member John Kellenberger, Brother to the late pension member John (Jack) Kell and the late Thomas Kellenberger, Uncle to JIW's Jack and MJ Kell; Barbara Weathers, Widow of the late Pension member Ralph Weathers, Mother to JIW Russell Weathers, Grand-mother to Apprentice Inside Wireman Michael Weathers.

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

tacted 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. The campaign is ongoing, but seems to already be successful and will provide signatory contractors with more valuable manpower to utilize in upcoming projects. 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 in late August / early September.

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.**

**Death Benefits.** We regret to inform you of the death of active Brother Randy Spiridigliozzi, Card Number 7145142, who passed away on September 8, 2023. Brother Spiridigliozzi was born on October 15, 1964 (58 years old). He was initiated on June 3, 2013. Randy resided in Midland. **Please note effective January 1, 2023, death benefits have increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00 #344**

Local death fund assessment **\$10.00 each** (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 692, Bay City, MI 48706

**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 any questions, please contact the hall at 989.684.4510. **RENEW.** It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase (Continued next column)



## IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.**

**Regular E Board-**The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, October 9, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting-**The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, October 9, 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 have a volunteer to do the picnics before the meetings! That being said, plan on Hamburgers, Hot dogs and a side dish for a meal before the next regular meeting. Food will be served at about 6:30 directly in front of the meeting.

**TCJATC/PLC Class** - The Traverse City Electrical JATC is sponsoring a Basic PLC Class in partnership with Medler Electric. This will be a 2 day class at the Training Center/Hall. Lunch will be provided each day. Thursday, October 5 & Friday, October 6, 2023 8:00am to 4:00pm The class is limited to 10 Journeyman at a cost of \$100.00 (Our cost is \$650). Your space will be reserved upon receipt of the \$100.00 check payable to "TCJATC" or cash at the TCJATC office on a first come first serve basis. If you have any questions, please call the TCJATC office at 231-943-4193. The \$100 will be refunded upon completion.

**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.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Local Union 498** - Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is one year away. The Chapter for the Local was signed on September 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 at-

## Local 692, con't

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 invite all IBEW members and their families to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Bags for Brotherhood** cornhole tournament on **Saturday, September 23**. The event takes place at Bastow Woods park in Midland. Registration opens at 1:00 PM, cornhole tournament begins at 2:00 PM. Cost is \$20 per player with random teams to be assigned. Dinner will be provided. Bags for Brotherhood is a family-friendly event. For more information or to pre-register, please contact Cody (989.600.4643). All proceeds to benefit Local 692 RENEW.

**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.

**REMINDER:** 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

tend the next meeting to help with planning and implementation.

**Wilson McShane transition update** - Everything is proceeding with implementation. There will be some adjustments as we go, so if you are on the website and have some ideas, please call the hall and let us know. We have also had some discrepancies with health plan contributions for retirees, you will be getting another letter to address the issue. Please keep the calls coming to the hall, I relay them directly to Wilson McShane to get resolved, so the more questions we get, the sooner we get them resolved.

**Resale Items** - We still have some Local 498 Challenge Coins left at the hall for your purchase. They are \$10.00 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. So if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

**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.

**Scholarship** - Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to [www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/](http://www.gtrcf.org/scholarships/). Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

**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!

**Made in America Websites** - [www.theunionbootpro.com](http://www.theunionbootpro.com) - 100% American made/union made. Union member discounts 27% off. Use this code when ordering. Be0498mD or order toll free 1-800-723-5384.

**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.

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.

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

**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON**  
Real Estate Training Inc.  
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**





MEMBERS OF BRICKLAYERS and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 walk on Michigan Avenue in Detroit during the Labor Day Parade.



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

### BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING - OCTOBER 2023 CHAPTER MEETINGS

**METRO DETROIT CHAPTER:** Tuesday, October 03, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

**ANN ARBOR CHAPTER:** Tuesday, October 03, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

**FLINT CHAPTER:** Wednesday, October 04, 2023 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

**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

**DEATHS REPORTED:** Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Curtis Chillison** (Bricklayer) who passed away on August 21, 2023. Brother Chillison had been a member for 54 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Scott Steudle** (Bricklayer & PCC) who passed away on August 21, 2023. Brother Steudle had been a member for 40 years.

**\*\*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 **2MI to 50607**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member no. (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 ALL 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))



CEMENT MASONS Local 514 members walk behind their banner on Michigan Avenue in Detroit during the Labor Day Parade.



SHEET METAL WORKERS Local 80 members march in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



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.**

*"It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label."*  
-Barack Obama

**Membership gold cards- Congratulations!**

October 2023:  
Julian Rodriguez-25 Years  
Felice Zonzini-30 Years  
Jimmy Duverneay-50 Years  
Henry Lewis-50 Years

**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/](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 OPCMA 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.micementplastertraining.com](http://www.micementplastertraining.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 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 your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you.

Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address.

Select and answer three security questions to use if you

need to call us.

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.



BATTERIES are powering cars - why not cranes?

## World's first battery-operated crawler crane unveiled in Florida

TAMPA — Batteries are powering everything from lawn-mowers to cars. Why not cranes?

Sims Crane & Equipment Co., the largest private crane rental and rigging service company in Florida, showcased the world's first battery powered crawler crane on Sept. 11 here at their corporate headquarters. Sims hosted the crawler crane's U.S. debut event in conjunction with the crawler crane's designer, multi-national equipment manufacturer Liebherr.

The crawler crane's battery powered engine cuts local carbon emissions completely, and is capable of operating for eight hours unplugged, or for an unlimited amount of time when connected to a power source. Liebherr and Sims say there is no compromise in performance between the electric version of the crawler crane and its diesel-powered counterpart.

"We are honored to partner with Liebherr and be on the forefront to serve a vastly growing need for alternative energy," said Jackson Sims, vice president of Sims Crane & Equipment.

The crawler crane is also significantly quieter than its diesel counterpart, making it ideal for construction jobs in residential areas, at hospitals and in other locations where noise pollution may be a concern.

*"The major difference between a thing that might go wrong and a thing that cannot possibly go wrong is that when a thing that cannot possibly go wrong goes wrong it usually turns out to be impossible to get at or repair."*

-Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001)

*"It is an interesting question how far men would retain their relative rank if they were divested of their clothes."*

-Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

*"Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear."*

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807 - 1882)





## 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 September 26, 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 October 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd 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:** Corey Devers, Benjamin Hebron, Chazz Castelluzzo, Ronald Ingalls, Aron Roche, Lance Bally and Nicholas Witt.

**CONDOLENCES:** We are deeply saddened by the passing of retiree Alan Morris. Allan joined Local 80 in 1973 and was a member for over 50 years. Alan is survived by his brothers Larry Morris & David B. Morris, nephews David J. Morris, Michael Morris & John Schumaker and Brother-in-Law Mark Billings who are all members of Local 80. Alan is also survived by his daughters Natalie and Raquel. Our hearts go out to the family in this difficult time.

**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. **REMINDER:** 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. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

**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. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven (7) days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

**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 September 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 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 2nd 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 **September 26, 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 Dec. 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.



PAUL  
GUALDONI

**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](http://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/sale>. 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: **October 5 and December 7;** 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 2nd 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 has 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 September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

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, **October 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 October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Thank you all that attended and sponsored this year's Annual "DAD's" Day Golf Outing (Saturday September 9, 2023) event was held at The Emerald Golf course in St. Johns, it was a beautiful day for a good cause.

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.labelscantireport.com](http://www.labelscantireport.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.** Work in the Zone 1 area is busy and will remain this way for the remainder of the 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 thru the end of the year. I cannot express enough of the importance of having proper phone numbers and addresses for all the members, if any one of those changes please contact me. Dues are always due prior to the first of every month. With hunting season fast approaching, good luck to all the deer hunters and be safe out there in the woods. **Shoot Straight and Thank You, Mike Adams**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** --Work in the Saginaw area remains very busy as are the other of the zones in Local 7. If you are working in other areas and would like to come back and work in Zone 3 most of are contractors need help.

At our next scheduled meetings (Freeland Hall) 9-13-23 or (Traverse City) 9-21-23 there will be people from your Health Care Consultant, Plan Benefit Administrator and a representative from Ulliance to answer any questions you many have about your health care.

Just a reminder to make sure you are scheduling your physicals for this calendar year.

Retirees next meeting is at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd on September 26th hope to see you there. **Thank you, Joe Dotson**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City).** Our next meeting is on September 21 at the Mill Pond Event Center in Kalkaska. Please attend as there will be a Rep from our H & W Fund and an Ulliance Rep. Work is still strong and we are looking for new apprentices and anyone else wanting to get into the trade. Underemployment SASMI eligibility is under 650 hours from Jan.1 to June 30. Everyone that is eligible should have received the application to fill out and to mail back to SASMI by October 1. If there is anyone needing any assistance, please contact me. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

**ZONE 4 Info:** Work is still strong in our area and we are looking for new apprentices and anyone else wanting to get into the trade. Underemployment SASMI eligibility is under 650 hours from Jan.1 to June 30. Everyone that is eligible should have received the application to fill out and to mail back to SASMI by October 1. If there is anyone needing any assistance on SASMI or anything from our last meeting, please contact me. **In Solidarity, Scott Brotherton**

**ZONE 5 Info:** Work in the U.P. is very good and our area has a lot of work coming up. We have a few travelers in the area and with work 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 Drive, Lansing, MI 48910 – **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**

*"Live each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each."*

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



# IBEW sisters gather at first Michigan conference

(Continued from Page 1) information on workers' rights on the job, mental health issues, how membership meetings are run, political advocacy, while highlighting the different groups within organized labor, including veterans and minorities. Self-introductions provided participants an opportunity to do some public speaking.

And oftentimes, speakers pointed out, being a union member involves more than just working on the job. "It was a big deal," Bradshaw said. "Not all women electricians know about other women in the industry, and it's important to know that we often have the same concerns and that we're not alone."

Participating IBEW local unions included 17, 58, 131, 153, 252, 275, 352, 445, 665, 692, 876, and 948.

Following is an account of how the Michigan IBEW Women's Conference came into being, from West Michigan IBEW Local 275 Business Manager Jonas Talbott:

A couple years ago, I realized that not all IBEW locals (including mine) could afford to send all our local Sisters to the International's Women's Conference. While we have been growing our female membership in Local 275, it had become harder to send all of our sisters to these events, including the Sixth District conferences. Which brought me to the idea of having a statewide women's conference that would take the burden off smaller locals with limited funds but still be able to accommodate all their members who would like to attend an event such as this.

I then talked to my wife, sister Carrie Talbott, who is a member of (Lansing) IBEW Local 665 who thought it was a good idea and that I should try and pursue it. I then contacted sister Jeannette Bradshaw of

**'It's important to know that we often have the same concerns and that we're not alone.'**

IBEW Local 58 who agreed that this was something that would be a benefit for our Michigan IBEW sisters. She offered to help with all aspects of putting on a conference of this magnitude.

As president of the IBEW Michigan State Conference, I talked to my fellow business managers concerning what I envisioned the conference would look like, and was met with positive feedback. Once I realized that this was an idea that had the support of all I had discussed it with, the work then began!

Sister Bradshaw and I met on several occasions to discuss logistics, content, guest speakers, dates and locations. I wanted to make it clear that I did not feel it would be appropriate to decide on what the conference would look like, that it should be from our sisters' perspective. Jeannette proposed an idea of forming a planning committee comprised of one sister from each Michigan local to make those decisions in which they could meet monthly via Zoom and a couple times in person. This idea was invaluable as the content of the conference would be shaped by those who know exactly what they felt would be important to present.

Then things really began to progress! Within a few months we had decided on the dates for the conference, begun to book speakers, secured the venue and sent sponsorship requests. My fellow Michigan business managers could not have been more supportive in our efforts. One of

the asks I had to the State Conference was for each local to donate 300 of a single item unique to their local for the "swag bag." We had many locals provide challenge coins, bottle openers, boot charms, stickers, buffs, etc., all donning their Local's identifiers.

As the date was fast approaching, Jeannette was getting confirmations from guest speakers, and then cancellations. She must have been ready to pull her hair out! But it all worked out in the end as we received a video message from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, our Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson arrived in person and spoke, as well as taking time for photos.

Sixth District International Vice President Mike Clemmons addressed the conference stating, "Michigan is the first state to have a statewide women's conference in the Sixth District, maybe in the country. So, congratulations!"

Guests included Michigan State House Rep. Laurie Pothutsky, International Rep. Joe Davis, IBEW lobbyist Todd Tennis, and deputy director of Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (IBEW's own) Sean Egan, to name a few.

International Reps Joe Davis and Lisa Page presented IBEW S.T.R.O.N.G. to all the delegates in the morning session at IBEW Local 58. There was also the option of either NARCAN training or meditation in the afternoon session.

The conference was a great success and one in which the delegates hope will become an annual event.

I have to sincerely thank Sister Jeannette Bradshaw, the planning committee (Sarah Anderson - Local 275; Jeannette Bradshaw - Local 58; Kari Collison - Local 131; Angela Cripps - Local 692; Breanna DePottey - Local 557; Sara Routheaux - Local 17, and

Carrie Talbott - Local 665. As well as IBEW Sixth District IVP Mike Clemmons, our Michigan & Sixth District International reps, the Michigan State Con-

ference of the IBEW, Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss, Local 58, our guest speakers, all of our sponsors and everyone else who helped make this conference

a success.

*Fraternally,  
Jonas Talbott  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 275*



ATTENDEES at the IBEW Women's Conference in Detroit included (l-r) Breanna DePottey (IBEW Local 557), Kari Collison (Local 131), Sara Routheaux (Local 17), Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Carrie Talbott (Local 665), Sarah Anderson (Local 275) and Angela Cripps (Local 692). "The first-ever IBEW Women's conference was a huge success!" DePottey said. "So many wonderful bonding moments and classes that words fail to describe how amazing it was."



A SESSION at the IBEW Women's Conference in Detroit. There were 150 attendees from across Michigan.



IBEW SIXTH DISTRICT International Vice President Mike Clemmons addresses the women's conference.



ATTENDEES AT the IBEW Michigan Women's Conference.

"Let no man pull you low enough to hate him."  
-Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

"You cannot acquire experience by making experiments. You cannot create experience. You must undergo it."  
-Albert Camus (1913 - 1960)

"A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way."  
-John Tudor

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## High prescription drug costs could become worse with some of the "solutions" being proposed

WHILE THERE IS GENERAL agreement that rising prescription drug costs are a troublesome problem for people and institutions — from individual consumers, to collectively bargained health plans, to government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid — there isn't wide agreement about the solutions to address this issue.

AEPC was formed as a labor-management purchasing coalition to help groups get the best value for their prescription drug plans. We've been successful — members of our coalition have saved over \$100 million over the course of our 2019-2022 contract with CVS/Caremark.

CVS/Caremark is what's called a Pharmacy Benefit Manager — or PBM. PBMs work to control costs through a complex system that can include terms such as "spread pricing"; rebates; and formularies, just to name a few.

Recent political attention on PBMs has cast them as the "bad guys" regarding drug costs, but placing blame and regulation on them may be ignoring the elephant in the room: the high costs of drugs are set by manufacturers, not the PBMs trying to carve out an affordable path for people to get the medications they need.

### Eliminating Choice for Plans

After the 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the *Rutledge* case, state regulations may now preempt ERISA standards, making it much more difficult for national employers and retiree plans to design a common nationwide plan.

Now, at both the state and federal level, legislative efforts have honed in on eliminating some of the tools that PBMs offer plan sponsors to rein in costs.

One target has been the practice of using mail order and retail pharmacies to provide a 90-day supply of medication.

The high costs of drugs are set by manufacturers, not the PBMs trying to carve out an affordable path for people to get the medications they need.

Plan sponsors achieve savings with fewer or no dispensing fees and more aggressive discounts under the 90-day supply system. Consumers benefit too with lower copays, generally saving one-third or more of the retail copay cost.

And just as many health plans use a network of preferred providers, PBMs create significant cost savings by negotiating favorable pricing terms with a network of pharmacies. Some legislation would ban these cost-saving networks. The problem is that without favorable network pricing, consumers may have higher copays or co-insurance, and plan sponsors pay more for the drugs their members need.

### Spread Pricing

In the complicated landscape of drug plan pricing, the practice of "spread pricing" has increasingly been portrayed as an evil that should be banned. Spread pricing, also referred to as traditional pricing, is when a PBM may invoice the plan sponsor more for a prescription drug than what it pays the pharmacy.

For example, a PBM may pay a pharmacy \$90 for a drug, but charges \$100 to the plan sponsor. The \$10 difference may be offset by rebate dollars paid to the plan sponsor, or deeper discounts on other drugs as well as to cover the PBM's cost of administering the plan.

The plan sponsors contract with PBMs to meet rebate and pricing/discount guarantees at

an aggregate level across categories of drugs, such as generic, brand or specialty — not on a drug-by-drug basis.

Banning spread pricing, as has been proposed at both the state and federal levels, may sound like a good idea, but in reality, it takes away a strategic tool that groups use to provide savings and quality for their prescription drug plans.

### What's next?

Limiting the tools a PBM can offer plan sponsors to save on prescription drug costs just doesn't add up for groups or consumers. Legislators are facing pressure to do something about rising drug costs, and unfortunately lobbyists for drug manufacturers are putting a spotlight on PBMs rather than their own practices that include exorbitant price increases, patent protection and anti-competitive practices, such as limited price negotiations with Medicare.

The best policy regarding PBMs would include:

- Plan sponsors should have the option of choosing a pricing model — eliminating spread pricing will make matters worse;
- Plan sponsors should continue to have the ability to set plan design including pharmacy networks and mandatory mail order/retail 90;
- Increased PBM transparency is important — reporting to plan sponsors and state regulators on rebates and pricing.

AEPC is a labor-management purchasing coalition with a proven track record of delivering the best price, service and expertise for benefits. For more info about our programs and health and wellness information, visit our website: [www.aepc.us](http://www.aepc.us) or on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.



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## A special thank you to our volunteers for making our golf outing successful!

Jon DeRoo (*event chair*), Carlo Castiglione, Jeff Chene, Jim Cools, Erik Demmin, Cari DeRoo, Kaitlyn DeRoo, Lauren DeRoo, Molly DeRoo, Ron DeRoo, Erin Garavaglia, Gary Glaser, Rufus Hamilton, Hunter Kovach, Bill Jester, Wade Kovach, Dawn Melancon, Mandy Morrison, John Moses, Rob Moses, Dan Nixon, Asher Pitts, Jeremy Pitts, Madeline Rose, Alex Schroeder, Bill Schroeder, Dominique Schroeder, Paul Smith, Duane Tesch, and Chris Wright



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## Outdoors

# It's not just about the trees



By Iris Paul

Forest Resources Division  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

Steve Simms wanted to give his students at St. John Vianney Catholic School in Flint lessons that would last them a lifetime.

By expanding his classroom outdoors, Simms created a legacy that will impact his students and future generations alike. Over the course of his 45-year-long career, Simms and his students planted thousands of trees across Genesee County.

Simms knew the value of trees from his own childhood. He and his brothers spent many summers planting pine seedlings on their family property.

"My dad loved being surrounded by trees for the beautiful views, the privacy and for the wildlife," Simms said.

Planting trees had been a way of life for Simms, who grew up experiencing the benefits and joys of forests.

For many Flint kids, that setting is unfamiliar. Studies show children from urban areas have fewer nature experiences.

Simms, who often incorporated experiential learning into his classes, saw tree planting as a natural fit for his students. "I like to come up with things they wouldn't normally have a chance to do," he said.

Simms taught social studies, reading and religion to middle schoolers and saw being good stewards of the earth as relevant to all his courses.

"In religion class, teaching lessons on caring for one another, caring for nature and appreciating God's gifts were very important to me. In social studies and reading, there were many lessons on the importance of a clean and healthy environment," he said.

Simms taught during the Flint water crisis that began in 2014, where many residents were exposed to dangerous levels of lead in their drinking water. At



SEVENTH GRADE students from Steve Simms' class at St. John Vianney Catholic School work together to plant trees in Genesee County in 2010. *M.D.N.R. photo*

the time, the connection between the environment and human well-being felt especially pressing.

In 1996, Simms's seventh grade classes participated in a program sponsored by the City of Flint that provided tree seedlings and shovels for volunteer groups to plant trees in areas of need.

They only had the opportunity to participate for a couple of years before the program ended, but it was such a positive experience that Simms was committed to finding a way to continue the assignment.

He started a collection of shovels and gardening gloves, keeping his eye out for sales at the local Menards store.

If a school family had trees that needed planting, Simms's seventh graders would take a field trip to volunteer for the task. They even planted trees at the principal's house on a couple of occasions.

St. John Principal Kathleen Slattery said the hands-on lesson was a powerful tool in helping students learn about valuing the land. For Slattery's own property, which had been cleared of trees

for farmland in the past, she says the trees are an asset to the community.

The students beautified the once-bare land, which now has mature, 30-foot trees offering habitat for wildlife and contributing to a healthier environment.

"Thousands of trees planted by hundreds of students over the past three decades has been a legacy inspired by and implemented by Steve Simms," Slattery said. "Learning how to properly plant and value the land, as well as understanding that each of us can do a part to enhance and preserve our environment, were seeds planted in the students."

What gave the assignment staying power was when Simms' brother, Jim Simms, offered to have the students come out to a lot he owned in a rural area of Genesee County. The Simms brothers provided the trees, purchasing bulk seedlings from Vans Pines Nursery of West Olive and Needlefast Evergreens of Ludington.

The students planted mostly

white pine, Michigan's state tree, along with an assortment of other conifers. There was a lot of work behind the scenes before the students arrived.

Besides Simms watching for affordable shovels and ordering the seedlings, the land needed to be prepared. Simms' brother cleared the planting area with a brush hog and tilled the soil for easier planting.

"We learned the hard way that having seventh graders try to dig through dry, hard soil to plant 500 trees was not the best experience," Simms recalled.

Over the course of 25 years, the planting outing developed into a festive, full-day experience. Held in late spring, the field trip helped keep restless students engaged as the school year drew to a close.

The seventh graders would start the day by visiting a local Catholic church for Mass, where the priest would incorporate scripture about the importance of being good stewards to the land.

At Simms' brother's lot, the students were instructed in good

tree-planting techniques. Simms would center the experience with a prayer thanking God for this opportunity to be good stewards and to bless their efforts.

Jim Simms gave students baseball caps donated by his family's car dealership. The kids got a kick out of choosing hats sporting Spartan green or Wolverine maize and blue.

Then they distributed shovels, gardening gloves, 25 seedlings per student and plenty of bug spray.

As students spent time outdoors, they made discoveries about nature beyond the trees they were planting. Simms said they had a lot of fun observing the wildlife around them, the insects they found crawling through the freshly turned soil or a busy ant hill.

Sometimes, a deer or a pheasant would make an appearance. Once, it started to rain during the planting, and Simms was sure the students would want to go home. He was pleasantly surprised when they said they found the warm shower refreshing.

After the seedlings were planted, the students were ready to have lunch at a nearby McDonald's. The assignment was popular and well-known within the school community.

That inspired a parent who'd opened a nearby fieldhouse to invite the class to use the space. Students enjoyed a relaxing afternoon after a morning of hard work, bonding with one another while playing basketball and volleyball.

The 68-year-old teacher has since retired but enjoys volunteering as a teacher aide and supporting the next generation of educators. When he looks back on his legacy, Simms said planting the trees with the students was a wonderful experience – but it wasn't just about the trees.

He fondly recalls hearing about a student who was able to confidently organize a service project with university classmates because of similar opportunities in Mr. Simms' class.

For his past students, Simms hopes getting their hands in the dirt left a lasting impression about their abilities to care for the land around them, and that having done it before, they'll have the skills to plant trees for a lifetime.

## Invasive silver carp eDNA detected on St. Joseph River – but no silver carp

Silver carp eDNA detected in one location on the St. Joseph River in Michigan

Routine environmental DNA (eDNA) surveillance for invasive bighead and silver carp, conducted annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, turned up a single positive sample in the St. Joseph River near the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor area, according to data provided to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on Aug. 28.

Of 220 water samples collected in June 2023 from stretches of the river between Lake Michigan and Berrien Springs, only one, taken near Marina Island, showed evidence of genetic material from silver carp.

"A positive eDNA sample does not necessarily indicate the presence of live fish," said Seth Herbst, DNR Fisheries Research Program manager. "It is possible for genetic material to be introduced from other sources, such as boats or fishing equipment used in another state where invasive carp are present, then transported and used in Michigan waters."

"We use eDNA results as one piece of information to determine the best response to the potential threat of an invasive species," said Herbst. "In this case, we have requested assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct another round of eDNA sampling in the St. Joseph River."

Michigan is committed to preventing the entry of invasive bighead, silver or black carp into the Great Lakes. Since 2022, the USFWS has been conducting monthly electrofishing and netting in the St. Joseph River each summer to capture and remove grass carp. No silver carp have been observed or captured in these efforts, which will continue through October. Actions are warranted.

In 2018, with an \$8 million commitment, Michigan joined Illinois to support U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' effort to plan, engineer and design a series of invasive carp deterrents at a pinch point in the Illinois waterway, the Brandon Road Lock, which connects to the Great Lakes.

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