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SHORT CUTS



Construction costs moderating; but rise

Price trends for key construction materials in the United States were all over the place in January, with steep increases for fuel, concrete, and gypsum products offsetting sharp declines in lumber and steel prices.

That's according to an analysis released Feb. 16 by the Associated General Contractors of America, which said that "a lack of clarity" from the federal government as to what materials may be used on federally backed projects is "adding to price disparities." The vast majority of the \$1.2 trillion set up by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed by Congress in 2021 has still not been allocated.

"Producer price indexes for construction inputs moderated over the past year but many items increased again in January," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "With demand shifting among project types, prices for many inputs are likely to diverge further in 2023."

The producer price index for inputs to new nonresidential construction – the prices charged by goods producers and service providers such as distributors and transportation firms – jumped 0.9 percent in January but rose by a relatively modest 4.3 percent from January 2022. Falling demand for new homes drove the index for new single-family construction down to a year-over-year increase of just 0.2 percent.

The increase in January was driven by several inputs. The producer price index for diesel fuel soared 7.1 percent for the month and 22.8 percent over 12 months. The index for cement leaped 7.7 percent in January and 17.8 percent compared to a year earlier.

That, in turn, fueled an increase in the index for concrete products of 1.8 percent for the month and 14.8 percent year-over-year. The indexes for architectural coatings, such as paint, gypsum building materials, such as wallboard, were flat for the month but climbed 15.8 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively over the year.

And those increases more than offset several declining prices. The producer price index for steel mill products slid 2.3 percent for the month and 30.1 percent over 12 months.

The index for lumber and plywood was unchanged in January but fell 30.8 percent from a year earlier.

"Unfortunately, more than 15 months after enactment of the infrastructure law, the administration's guidance about materials is still confusing, contradictory, and incomplete," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGC's chief executive officer. "Uncertainty about eligible materials threatens to delay needed infrastructure projects and make them much more expensive."

Quotable

"Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness, and its power of endurance. The cheerful man will do more in the same time, will do it better, will preserve it longer than the sad or the sullen."

—Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)



THE 16-STORY EXCHANGE BUILDING near Greektown in Detroit is shown with much of its exterior nearly complete last month, as the final, lowest floorplate awaits a lift into place. In a project managed by Barton Malow and LIFTbuild, this was the first building in North America to be erected floor by floor from the top down along two central spines. Then on Feb. 10 Iron Workers Local 25 members employed by Barton Malow photo completed the placement of the building's structural steel at the bottom of the building. Photo credit: Barton Malow/LIFTbuild



The building's pair of structural concrete spines.

New milestones set for top-down Exchange Building

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – The Exchange Building is up. Or rather, down.

On Feb. 10, iron workers and Barton Malow and its subsidiary Liftbuild celebrated the placement of the last section of structural iron at the base of the 16-story building on the edge of Greektown. That iron work came nearly a month after another notable milestone in the construction of the building: the raising and placement of the last floorplate of the structure, which happens to be the building's first floor.

"The tradespeople have done very well, there was a great deal of collaborative interaction between the trades, and we worked off a lot of CAD (computer-aided design) modeling to make everything come together," said Ryan Ramirez, project manager for Barton Malow/Liftbuild. "Our subcontractors have also been really good, they've coordinated well and shown themselves to be very adaptable in working together."

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The building's 11th story was lifted in September.



WIRING A SIXTH-floor apartment at the Exchange Building in Detroit is Tony Steel of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Streamline Electric.

Another report cites the value in reviving prevailing wage law

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Building trades workers, both union and nonunion, have good reason to cheer the potential reinstatement of Michigan's Prevailing Wage Act under the newly elected Democrat majorities in the state House and Senate.

And a newly released study illustrates why a state having a prevailing wage law on its books is a good thing, and repealing such a law – like Michigan's GOP Legislature did in June 2018 – is a bad thing. The study, "The Economic Impact of Prevailing Wage Law Repeals on Construction Market Outcomes," was released Jan. 17 by the labor-backed Illinois Economic Policy Institute and confirmed what numerous other studies have reported over the years.

"The data show that repeals of state prevailing wage laws have negative consequences for construction workers, businesses, and communities," researchers said. "Construction worker wages, benefits, and productivity fall behind, on-the-job fatalities increase, reliance on government assistance programs worsens, and fewer projects are completed by local contractors – all without saving taxpayers any money."

The study said that as of 2023, a total of 28 states plus the District of Columbia have

Prevailing wage repeal hasn't done a bit of good in Michigan, or elsewhere, study says

prevailing wage laws. Between 2015 and 2018, however, six states – Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Michigan – repealed their prevailing wage laws. They said their report utilizes federal census and Bureau of Labor Statistics data to compare construction market outcomes in states that repealed their prevailing wage laws to those that maintained their prevailing wage laws.

Citing that data, the study found that in states that repealed their prevailing wage laws:

- Construction worker wage growth was between 4 and 13 percent slower.
- Construction worker benefits growth was between 7 and 10 percent slower.
- Construction worker health insurance coverage rates decreased by 2 percent.
- Construction worker reliance on food stamps increased by 2 percent.
- Construction worker employment growth was between 11 and 14 percent slower.

(Continued on Page 2)

Millwright O'Neil wins U.P.'s 'Apprentice of the Year' award

HARRIS – Congratulations to Kale O'Neil, who was named the Upper Peninsula's "Apprentice of the Year" at a banquet and program held Feb. 4 at the Island Resort and Casino.

O'Neil, of Millwrights Local 1510, began his apprenticeship in May of 2018 and completed in June of 2022. He is known as a leader among his peers who shows up early to work and ensures everyone works safely utilizing OSHA principals, said

the Upper Peninsula Construction Council.

Finalists for the award included Jesse McGovern of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 111 and Reghan Lakomowski of Ironworkers Local 8

The banquet was hosted by the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, in an effort to recognize apprentices for outstanding achievement. Twenty-two apprentices were nominated for the title. The winner received \$1,000, and the two finalists each received \$500.

And UPCC Executive Director Michael Smith used the event to announce a new venture.

"We are celebrating our apprentice of the year for 2022," said Smith. "Then we are announcing our Construction Connect UP program which is a senior year high school program where we place one of our students with one of our signatory contractors and trades."

Once in the program, students will spend a couple of hours a day getting hands-on experience in various trades. One of the UPCC's partners, U.P. Michigan Works! said they are making sure these students have what they need.

"These young people have some tremendous skills whether it's as electrician or welder or a

(Continued on Page 14)

Some optimism in worker fatality trend

By Nick Fox
Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

The newest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (through December 2021) shows that fatal workplace injuries increased almost nine percent from 2020 to 2021. All told, 5,190 workers lost their lives on the job, creating profound losses for those work-

ers' families, friends, coworkers and communities.

However, as we look to identify workplace safety trends, we should keep in mind that in 2020, millions of workers were out of a job or working remotely because of the pandemic. In 2021, many of those people went back to work. If we compare 2021 fatality data to the pre-pandemic year of

2019 – when 5,333 workers died on the job – we see a three percent decline in overall workplace fatalities.

Looking specifically at the construction industry, on-the-job deaths declined for the third year in a row, dropping to their lowest level in five years. Construction industry deaths are down 11 percent since 2019. The fatality rate for

construction workers also dropped, from 13.5 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2020 to 12.3 in 2021.

"There will always be more we can do to protect the lives of LIUNA members and raise the bar for all workers on the job," said Laborers International Union of North America General President Terry O'Sullivan. "Yet in the

(Continued on Page 4)

Ford opts for site near Marshall to build \$3.5B Battery Park

Ford Motor Co. announced Feb. 13 that it would invest \$3.5 billion in the country's first automaker-backed LFP battery plant.

The plant – called BlueOval Battery Park Michigan – initially will employ 2,500 people when production of LFP batteries begins in 2026. Ford will also have

the option to further grow its battery capacity at the plant, which will be part of a wholly owned Ford subsidiary.

"We are committed to leading the electric vehicle revolution in America, and that means investing in the technology and jobs that will keep us on the cutting edge of this global transformation in our

industry," said Bill Ford, Ford's executive chair. "I am also proud that we chose our home state of Michigan for this critical battery production hub."

The 1,900-acre Marshall site (near the intersection of I-94 and I-69) was announced after Gov Glenn Youngkin (R-Virginia)

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101-year-old coppersmith reflects on a remarkable life

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

It speaks volumes that celebrating his milestone 70-year-anniversary as a sheet metal workers union member here in the United States in December 2022 only scratches the surface of Gerard Verschuere's life story.

And the 101-year-old Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 retiree did indeed speak volumes with us about his life experiences, a few weeks after he was recognized by local union officers in January. The union officers gave Verschuere a plaque and medal honoring his seven decades of service to what is now the SMART Union – the International Asso-

'I have to thank the unions for the very good life,' Local 80 retiree says

ciation of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.

Verschuere said his legacy in the trade should probably focus on his work as a coppersmith, part of the combination of trade skills he learned in his native Holland and then brought

with him when he immigrated to Michigan in 1950. After a couple of years working out of Plumbers Local 98, Verschuere joined the predecessor union to Local 80 in 1952, with much of his career performing ornamental work. But

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IN HIS KITCHEN with a copper milk can and floral arrangement that he created, Gerard Verschuere also shows off his 70-year member recognition hardware from Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. Gerard acquired his metal-working skills in his native Holland before World War II, then actively served in the Dutch Underground against German occupiers during World War II before emigrating Michigan.



Viewpoints



Unions make Michigan better

Skilled trades labor unions and business owners are often cast as fierce opponents – one as the hero and the other as the villain, depending on your politics or personal financial interests. It's a dynamic that makes for compelling stories and one often wielded by those looking for where to place blame when our economy fails us. But the truth is, more often than not, unions and the businesses who employ our members work together to benefit us all.

Our first responsibility as a union is – and always should be – to our members. We exist to make sure hard-working men and women have a seat at the table. We will always fight for the dignity of work and so that those who work can safely earn a decent living. At times, that means holding an employer accountable. As with any functional partnership, it sometimes requires difficult conversations and tough negotiations.

But to characterize unions as purely adversarial to employers is too narrow a view that misses the bigger picture. For those of us in the skilled trades, everything begins with recruitment and training. Unfortunately, Michigan faces a persistent skilled-trades gap that must be filled if we are going to build all the infrastructure and facilities needed to support our state's continued economic growth. That is why skilled trades unions and their contractor partners work hand-in-hand to recruit and train the next generation of our workforce.

Together we hold career fairs, support high school vocational learning programs and invest in apprenticeship training. For my trade, supporting apprenticeships takes the form of a joint apprenticeship fund supported by negotiated training dollars and directed by a committee of representatives from the union and contractors. This is how we can provide tuition-free training without relying on public funding. Working with our contractors can have a far larger impact than we would make by working separately.

Shifting to the job site, successful construction projects come down to three main elements: safety, productivity and quality. I list safety first because construction is inherently dangerous, and it takes the commitment of everyone on a site, including workers and contractors, to keep everyone safe. That is why Michigan's unions collaborate with contractor associations to uphold rigorous safety standards through jointly developed programs like MUST Safety.

With safety prioritized and addressed, we can next turn to productivity and quality. For a successful contractor, both elements drive profitability and market competitiveness. Fortunately, the same two elements are prized by our dedicated, skilled union members.

At the end of the day, it's very simple: When we work together, we all win. I believe in the power and the value of unions because they bring workers to the table as equals, creating the conditions for a true partnership that allows us to reach for something greater and share the rewards.

I am thankful for our contractor partners and look forward to working with them to build a better Michigan in 2023 and beyond.

Tom Lutz, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights

To the Editor,

Have the building trades gone woke too? (Referring to the Feb. 10 article headlined, "Beyond White guys: Trades seeking greater diversity.")

I was a pipe fitter/ refrigeration mechanic for 43 years and worked with all races of people. The opportunities for anyone was always there and not limited to any. Not a necessary article in my opinion, it only creates more division in people.

Jack Berry
Grand Rapids

Report cites value in prevailing wage

(Continued from Page 1)

• The growth in total construction worker hours was between 6 and 9 percent slower.

• The growth in construction worker productivity per hour was 1 percent slower.

Conversely, one of the few arguments for eliminating prevailing wage – saving taxpayer dollars – isn't borne out by the numbers.

"There is also no evidence that the repeals reduced public construction costs or benefited taxpayers," the study said, if only because labor is a relatively low overall cost point for contractors. "Labor costs only account for 23 percent of total construction costs, so minor changes in productivity and in materials and fuels usage can offset any effect of paying prevailing wages," the study said.

The Illinois Economic Policy Institute's study is just the latest among a long line of academically backed studies – both labor-backed and independent – that question the value of eliminating prevailing wage laws.

Prevailing wage laws assure that on projects involving public tax dollars, workers are paid a fair "prevailing" rate of pay, and out-of-area contractors aren't able to win bids based on low-cost labor. This study said that 85 percent of peer-reviewed studies conducted since 2000 find that prevailing wage laws have had "no effect on the cost of traditional public works projects, such as schools and highways."

There have been two candid, public observations about repealing prevailing wage. West Virginia's Legislature eliminated prevailing wage in May 2016.

Republican Gov. Jim Justice said in February 2021 that "we got rid of prevailing wage...and we've run to the windows – and they haven't come," lamenting the failure of repeal to attract businesses or create jobs, as promised by those in favor of repeal. And the assistant Republican Leader in the Indiana House of Representatives commented in May 2017 that after the Hoosier State repealed their law in 2015, "we

got rid of prevailing wage and, so far, it hasn't saved us a penny."

Building trades unions are pushing hard for majority Democrats in the state Legislature to reinstate Michigan's prevailing wage law.

"At a time when the United States is making historic investments in the nation's infrastructure and contractors are having difficulty finding qualified workers, prevailing wage

laws can attract, develop, and retain experienced construction workers," the Illinois Economic Policy Institute said. "To ensure that American infrastructure is built locally by skilled construction workers, state lawmakers should consider strengthening or expanding their prevailing wage laws, implementing new prevailing wage laws, and reversing recent repeals of prevailing wage laws."



WITH A SMILE AND A FRIENDLY WORD for his passengers, Ed Barkume of Elevator Constructors Local 36, works an elevator at the Exchange Building project in Detroit. The 36-year union member is employed by Kone.

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.

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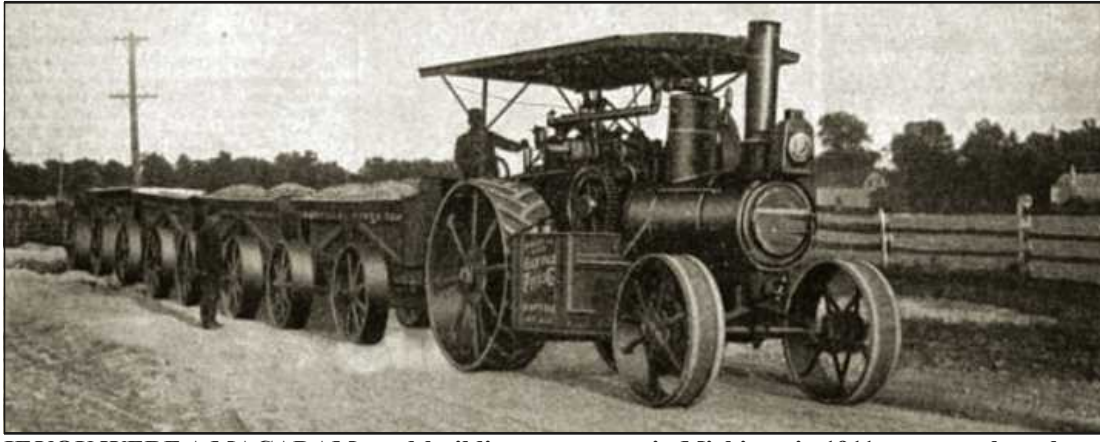
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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Macadam Roads HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



IF YOU WERE A MACADAM road-building contractor in Michigan in 1911, you may have been in the market to buy this “Buffalo Pitts Road Building Outfit” made by the Banting Machine Co. of Toledo. The tractor could tug cars hauling 40 tons of gravel, and spread the rock in thicknesses up to 30 inches. A September 1911 advertisement placed in *Michigan Roads and Forests* magazine said this 22 horsepower, 2-cylinder rig could save a contractor 60 percent, presumably instead of hiring a bunch of guys spreading the gravel with shovels, or using horses (see below).

Credit: Michigan Roads and Forests, 1911

Concrete. Asphalt. Brick. Cobblestones. Wood. Gravel. Dirt.

We know not what the next generations of road-building material will be made of, but for centuries, one or all of those materials have provided the transportation surfaces for our feet, our horse-drawn wagons, our cars and our 18-wheelers.

But here we give a little love to one of the long-forgotten road-building methods that proved to be somewhat of a bridge from dirt roads, to our modern concrete and asphalt highways.

It comes from the gravel family: we refer to “macadam,” a road building system that eased travel and transportation for decades in Michigan and around the nation, until concrete and asphalt took its place.

When Michigan achieved statehood in 1837, its interior was mainly swampland, with “roads” little more than paths created by Native Americans. Plank roads were among the first methods of road-building in Michigan, but the future of transportation was looking more toward nascent canal-building and railroads.

“In the United States,” says the Federal Highway Administration, “macadam was first used in 1823 on a Maryland turnpike between Hagerstown

and Boonsboro. But most rural roads remained little more than dirt paths, known as earth roads.”

The fact is, road building around the world had changed little since the Romans lost their empire in the Fourth Century – even though they left behind miles of excellent roads that provided a largely unused template for future construction.

John Loudon McAdam, a Scotsman, in 1798 began experiments with a “new” method for road-building. McAdam would eventually be appointed Surveyor General of Metropolitan Roads in Great Britain in 1827. In the years prior to that, he put into practice his road-building theories.

“He recommended that roads should be raised above the adjacent ground for good drainage and covered, first with large rocks, and then with smaller stones, the whole mass to be bound with fine gravel or slag,” says the Encyclopedia Britannica. “Macadamization of roads did much to facilitate travel and communication. The process was quickly adopted



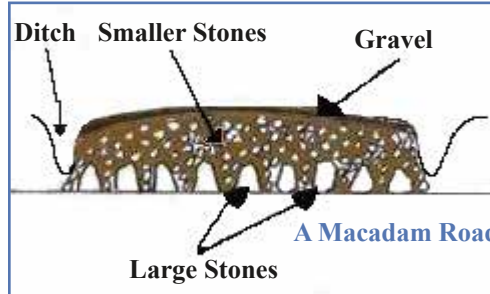
CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY for a macadam road in Saginaw County, 1905-06

Credit: The Henry Ford

in other countries, notably the United States.”

In the U.S., McAdam’s process was employed in a painfully slow manner. State governments and territories had zero money allocated for building or maintaining roads. The concept of spending money on roads would have dumfounded town fathers, anyway, since farmers and townfolk rarely traveled 10 or 20 miles from their homes.

“During the Civil War, almost all roads were of dirt that became quagmires of mud after heavy rains,” says Civil War Era Road Construction and Engineering. “Only a few hard-surface all-weather roads existed. These were called “macadamized” roads after their inventor, Scottish civil engineer John Loudon McAdam, who in turn was indebted to the road builders



Macadam roads were generally comprised of a compacted subgrade of larger pieces of granite or greenstone designed to support the load, covered by a surface of light stone to absorb wear and tear and shed water to the drainage ditches. In modern macadam construction crushed stone or gravel is placed on the compacted base course and bound together with asphalt cement or hot tar. A third layer to fill the interstices is then added and rolled. Cement-sand slurry is sometimes used as the binder.

of the ancient Roman empire.” The popularization of bicycles, of all things, began to swing public sentiment toward better roads.

“The first group to agitate for better roads, the League of American Wheelmen, grew out of the 1890s bicycle craze, and the second group evolved with railroad company support,” wrote Harvard University’s John Stilgoe in his paper, *Roads, Highways and Ecosystems*. “Bicyclists adored paved roads, but away from cities found none. By 1900 the LAW had become the nation’s largest special-interest group, and it advocated paving roads with crushed stones.”

Stilgoe wrote that “the macadamized road... had a multilayered surface of crushed stone: the largest stones, about the size of an adult human skull, at the bottom, then another layer about the size of an adult fist, then a top layer of stones no larger than can go into an adult mouth. Macadamizing a country road meant backbreaking work in the days of horses, wagons, and picks and shovels, and until the development of steam-powered stone crushers, many states set convicts to work smashing stones with sledgehammers.”

Macadam roads enjoyed a surprisingly long life. No, not the roads themselves – the nature of a gravel road – even an engineered road – made maintenance a constant factor. But as a major road building material, Macadam existed for about a century, and was in use well after the first mile of concrete road in the world was placed in Detroit in 1909.

Well before that concrete surface was placed, Michigan was an early leader in the good roads movement. Horatio “Good Roads” Earle was Michigan’s first highway commissioner, serving from 1905 to 1919. As chief consul

of the Michigan Division of the League of American Wheelmen, he brought the first International Road Congress to Port Huron in 1900, an event that drew hundreds of good-roads advocates from around the country. For the main event, Earle hitched together the first good-roads train of construction equipment ever assembled, touring Michigan’s Thumb. Delegates from around the country rode with the “Good Roads Train” that included a traction engine, road roller, sprinkler, dump wagons and farm wagons.

They carried the delegates to a newly laid, one-mile stretch of macadam road built of layers of crushed stone. It was built as an “object lesson” to show what ought to be done nationwide.

The league earlier played a major role in persuading the Michigan Legislature to establish a State Highway Commission in 1892 to make recommendations on road improvements and to pass a bill in 1893 to give voters of any county the right to establish a county road system.

The makeup of macadam roads varied from state to state, and even county to county. In Michigan, from 1905 to 1907, the state offered counties and townships “rewards” based on the perceived quality of materials used in the construction of local roads.

“These rewards varied from \$250 to \$1,000 per mile depending on the type of road constructed: clay base with gravel surface, all gravel, stone base with gravel surface, gravel base with stone surface and macadam,” wrote Dorothy Pohl and Norman Brown in *The History of Roads*.

According to Michigan Highways.org, there were 68,000 miles of road in Michigan in 1905. Of this total, about 30,000 miles were clay, more than 26,000 miles were sand, and nearly 3,000 miles were

swamp roads. Less than 8,000 miles of roads were “improved” – 7,700 with gravel and 245 miles with stone or macadam.

With mixes getting perfected and costs coming down, concrete began to be the preferred road building material after World War I. And with automobile registrations growing in cities – and large-wheeled tractors in greater use on farms – the drawbacks of macadam roads were evident in cities and on the farm.

“With the end of the war (in 1918), the greatest roadbuilding effort in history began in Michigan and across the country,” Stilgoe wrote. “Demobilization brought a surge in the demand for autos, led by veterans returning from Europe with a desire to see more of the country and the world about them. Registrations rose from 262,000 in 1918 to 325,000 the following year.

“Michigan’s state reward system had paid for improvements on 4,800 miles of roads, including 2,115 on the state highway system, but huge gaps remained in the state system. Motorists traveled through one county on a concrete road, traversed the next on macadam or asphalt and ended up in the third on gravel.”

That patchwork of major state road surfaces existed, incredibly, well into the 1950s. In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation funding the construction of the U.S. Interstate Highway System.

Macadam roads are rarely in use today, but can still be found in countryside and developing nations.

“The first automobiles with their low speeds did little damage to the macadam surfaces, but when speed increased and motors became more powerful the rear wheels of the cars with their heavily weighted rubber tires ground the brittle macadam like an emery wheel,” said the July 1911 edition of *Michigan Roads and Forests*.



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Local 826- Dave Komegay's father passed away.

Local 2352- Retiree Harold Helzer passed away.

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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.

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN -The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 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

An older gentleman had 50-yard-line tickets for the Super Bowl. As he sat down, he noticed that the seat next to him was empty. He asked the man on the other side of the empty seat whether anyone was sitting there.

"No," the man replied -



Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN - Our next scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, March 6th, 2023 at 6pm. Please attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. 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 all 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 48098-066; 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



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

membership and who 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

Just joking
"The seat is empty."
"This is incredible," said the first man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the Super Bowl, the biggest sporting event in the world, and not use it?"
The second man replied: "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife; but she passed away recently. This will be the first Super Bowl we haven't been together since we got married in 1967."
"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that - that's terrible!" said the first man. "But couldn't you find someone else - a friend or relative, or even a neighbor to take the seat?"
The second man shook his head. "No, they're all at the funeral."

Some cause for optimism in worker fatality trend

(Continued from Page 1)

struction industry, the tireless efforts of the entire LIUNA family are paying off in safer jobsites and healthier LIUNA members."

Key takeaways across hazard categories:

•**Transportation:** Across all industries, fatal transportation incidents rose 11.5 percent and now make up 38 percent of all work-related deaths. In construction, fatal transportation incidents decreased by 15 percent.

•**Workplace violence:** Workplace homicides increased and now make up 9.3 percent of all on-the-job deaths. Gun violence was responsible for 80 percent of these deaths, and women and Black workers were disproportionately the victims. In construction, workplace violence fatalities decreased from 55 in 2020 to 40 in 2021.

•**Suicide prevention:** On-the-job suicides declined 8.9 percent across all industries, suggesting the increased focus on mental health and employers' role in supporting workers is having a positive effect.

Hazard area to watch: harmful substances and environments. Of the five major categories tracked by the BLS, construction industry deaths dropped in three of them. The two exceptions were falls and exposure to harmful substances and environments. In construction, deaths from exposure to harmful substances and environments rose 15 percent, from 174 to 204.

One major factor is that this category includes unintentional overdoses from drug use. For general industry, the number of deaths in this category hit an all-time high, and almost 60 percent of worker deaths were caused by unintentional overdose. It's likely the majority of these overdose deaths were caused by fentanyl, which is showing up much more often in illegal drugs.

However, the spike in this category can't be attributed to fentanyl alone. The share of unintentional overdose deaths was also just below 60 percent in 2020, which means other causes - such as overexposure to toxic fumes and gasses, contact with solvents or lack of oxygen in confined spaces - were also responsible.

Both unintentional overdoses and contact with other harmful substances should be of special concern to construction employers. Construction workers are more likely to be prescribed opioids and to develop a dependence on them, and many toxic substances are common on construction sites.

Black and Hispanic workers remain at higher risk across industries. Of all the trends in the 2021 general industry data, one came up again and again. Black and Hispanic workers experienced disproportionately higher fatality rates than their peers. The fatality rate for Black workers was 10 percent higher than average; the fatality rate for Hispanic workers was 20 percent higher.

"This report makes devastatingly clear that workers of color are disproportionately losing their lives on the job, and it is the mission of the labor movement to fight for equity and ensure that safety is a guaranteed right," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler.

Some of this safety gap is likely due to Black and Hispanic workers being more likely to hold riskier jobs. We saw this trend during the pandemic, when Black and Hispanic populations were hit hard by COVID-19 - in part because they are disproportionately in frontline jobs. In other cases, workers may not feel comfortable speaking up about unsafe conditions or haven't received sufficient safety training in a language they understand.

Many racial and ethnic minority groups also experience health disparities around conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. The safety disparities faced by Black and Hispanic workers in the U.S., like these health disparities, are longstanding and persist across many different hazards.

All in all, the latest report from the BLS points to progress being made in the construction industry when it comes to worker safety and health. By paying attention to trends and taking steps to ensure all workers experience a safe workplace, we can do even better.



A RECOGNITION PLAQUE and medal for 70 years of membership in Sheetmetal Workers Local 80 is presented to Gerard Verschuereen by Local 80 Business Manager Tim Mulligan.

101-year-old coppersmith reflects on remarkable life

(Continued from Page 1)

there is much more to his story. "I have lived a very good life," he said, "but I have to thank the unions for the very good life."

With a mind and memory that are still sharp, Verschuereen has some knee pain but is otherwise healthy and content, living where he has resided for decades at his home in Rochester. A pensioner since 1981, he became a widower three years ago with the death of his wife Maria. Together they had three children, and six grandchildren.

Gerard was born on Jan. 4, 1922, in the ancient town of Venlo, Holland, near the German border, the second of three sons to Mathieu and Marie Verschuereen. Gerard's father had a thriving business, where they made and sold a variety of goods like bicycles, water heaters and milk cans, and his sons practiced bicycle repair, copper-smithing, roofing and plumbing, and other aspects of construction.

Gerard had an advanced education, and learned seven languages and dialects, some of which he taught himself. Prior to World War II, he was working as a union craftsman on projects in France, then returned to the Netherlands in 1940 at age 18, the mandatory age to perform a stint in the Holland's military. His ultimate dream was to go to America to be a lawyer. "This was nullified because Holland was invaded by Germany (in May 1940) and now another chapter in my life was about to begin," Gerard wrote in a personal history.

With their country occupied by Germany, both of Gerard's brothers were forced to work at German plants to serve the war effort. The Germans "know you're Catholic, you have to go to mass on Sunday. So they parked a truck outside the church with a machine gun on it, and all the boys that came out, they picked them up and brought them back to Germany to work," Verschuereen said. "So that's how my two brothers got picked up. You just didn't come home, that was it. Mama was crying for weeks and weeks until she got a letter from her kids in Germany. They never caught me - well they caught me a couple of times but I had my ways to get away. I was pretty lucky too."

Verschuereen said he basically hid in plain sight around his town, working for his dad. But he also worked in the Dutch Underground, risking death to do what he could to undermine the German war machine and help the Allies. For example, he said there were six telephone lines between Holland and Great Britain before the war, and five were shut down by the occupying Germans, who didn't know about the sixth line. Verschuereen, who could speak English, used the line for the Dutch Underground to converse with the British and spy on the Germans.

"You lead a regular life but if you know they are looking for you, you take extra measures so they can't find you," he said. "My father would go where I was working and say 'don't come home, the Gestapo, they want you again.' But you could run into any house and they would shelter you."

A dance instructor (when teaching dance was strictly forbidden by the Germans), Verschuereen said he was caught once and given a date in court along with six others at the local Gestapo headquarters. The German officer told them they were headed for a concentration camp, and then left the room for 15 minutes. When he returned the officer said if he was paid 350 francs apiece for the German war cause, the men would be released in honor of Adolph Hitler's birthday. Verschuereen happened to have enough money on him, having just sold a radio on the black market. He was released, but he didn't know what happened to the others.

Verschuereen said another time his girlfriend and future wife Maria begged him not to accompany a downed American flyer on a risky trip to escort him to meet with the French Underground, and his heeding her advice likely saved his life because the airman and Dutch resistance were caught by Germans in a Paris subway.

Also working in the Dutch Underground, Verschuereen told of grabbing and stealing German officers' coats and weapons from hangers at bars and restaurants. He helped blow up a high-voltage electrical tower. And he gave directions to General George Patton himself, who had come into his town as it was close to being liberated. One of the few English speakers around, Verschuereen told Patton - only learning later who Patton was - that he could get a good vantage point to see the position where the Germans were shelling their city that night by placing spotters atop a tall building in the city. The U.S. army then found and neutralized the German position.

When the war ended, Verschuereen found out the extent of the Dutch Underground - he didn't even know his dad and future wife were members. He owned a company in his homeland that specialized in the repair and restoration of historic buildings, some damaged during the war. He was certified as a coppersmith in Holland, and held a master's plumbing license.

Verschuereen and his wife immigrated to the U.S. in 1950. During his time in the sheet metal trade he worked for companies like Milbrand, LaDuke and Rewold. He performed all manner of architectural work with the tools, working as a journeyman and foreman at church and synagogue projects, office buildings and storefronts. "I really liked the architectural and detail work, I enjoyed the craftsmanship," he said.

Realizing his dream to move to the United States, he and his wife settled in Hazel Park, where he got involved in a number of civic activities and boards. He worked on the city's Zoning Board of Appeals for 21 years, for many years as its chair. Moving to Rochester, he similarly worked on that city's Zoning Board of Appeals for decades, on a Water and Sewer Advisory Board and chairman of the local Development Finance Committee. He worked as an historical building advisor and consultant for the states of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Most of his time spent on public boards was done with donated time.

In recent years he has slowed down quite a bit with metal working projects that kept him occupied, but keeps busy reading and keeping up with world events and while keeping house and performing home repairs. "Here I am age 101, I am very abnormal," he said, smiling, referring to his relatively good health.

He said he considered his working career with the tools first as opportunity to make a living, but then as an opportunity to pass along knowledge and skills to younger people. "I carry my union card from the Netherlands from 1950, that tells you something," he said. "While I was working with the tools I still liked to teach people about the sheet metal business. Wherever I could I also wanted to teach people about the copper-smithing. I love the union. I could never work without a union."



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **March 10, 2023, at 8 pm.** It will be in area 1 at The Boilermaker Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101.

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 for more information.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons have resumed.

Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, MI.

Area 2 Retirees are holding 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 lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This month it will be March 15, 2023, at the Auburn Hotel and Tavern, 101 W. Midland Road, Auburn, MI 48611

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.

Summer will be here soon along with our annual activities. Any member interested in volunteering to help with an area picnic or parade should contact their local agent. As members retire, we are in constant need of assistance with these events. I encourage you to get involved and participate.

Hoodies have been restocked and are available in sizes ranging from medium through 3XL. 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.com 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 beginning January 1st, 2023. 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.

"The chief lesson I have learned in a long life is that the only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust."

—Henry L. Stimson (1867 - 1950)

"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)

"Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict."

—William Ellery Channing (1780 - 1842)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is **Tuesday, March 21 at 7 pm.** Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

"Our economy is out of balance. Growing labor unions, rather than decimating them, is one way to bring a measure of economic stability to our nation."

— JOHN PATRICK

We are happy and proud to announce the **14th Annual Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund.** The Scholarship application form that needs to be submitted applicants can be picked up at the local. The official Scholarship Application Form can be found on the OPCMIA website www.opcmia.org for qualified applicants to apply. The completed form should be returned to the International Headquarters no later than April 1, 2023

Our deepest condolences go out to Bro. Hunter Thorner family. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations! February, Craig Woodley-25 Years

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.mustsafe.com to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full social security number and your password is the first four of your social security number.

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/register and select register now.

BENEFICIARY RE-MINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your OPCMIA 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 Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.micement-plasterertraining.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.

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.muston-line.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 or by telephone, 800-547-7754. Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: 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 identity), 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 you send your 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 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. **Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at 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 Toll Free 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.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN – MARCH 2023 CHAPTER MEETINGS. METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 07, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 01 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

HOUGH-TON CHAPTER: Thursday, March 16 at 7 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, March 09 at 6 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, March 13 at 6 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, March 20 at 7 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 28 at 7 PM, 1300 W Thomas St., Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City, MI 49685

DEATHS REPORTED. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Ronald Lambrecht** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Jan. 19, 2023. Brother Lambrecht had been a member for 72 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Abraham Parker** (Bricklayer) who passed away on Feb. 13, 2023. Brother Parker had been a member for 60 years.

2023 – BAC LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 Michigan is proud to announce the 2023 BAC Local 2 Scholarship. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades.

Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing ACTIVE member. The member must have their dues paid up to date. They may also be a dependent of a recently deceased, formally working member, who has passed away after Jan. 1, 2021. A dependent will be defined according to the guidelines of that member's insurance fund summary plan description.

Applicant must be attending an institute of higher education: college or university. High school students are not eligible for this scholarship.

Applicant must be a full-time student, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the Winter 2023 Semester. A copy of the Class Schedule showing full time status must be submitted. **NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will not be considered as a class schedule.** A class schedule lists the classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule.

Applicant must submit an Official Transcript, showing their grades from the Fall 2022 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a sealed envelope. Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 17, 2023. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

Applicant must submit a typed information sheet which will include: Applicant's name, applicants address, applicants email address and telephone number, college/university attending, course of study – major & minor and anticipated graduation date of applicant. They must also include the name of the member, members I.U. number, relationship to member, address and telephone number of member and members branch of trade.

All information must be submitted by **12 pm Friday, March 17, 2023** to the **BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.** Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12 pm Friday, March 17, 2023. Winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2023 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. BAC Local 2 and Motor City Cruise have partnered up to offer a discount on their upcoming games. Tickets are \$5 each but the first is free. Members can purchase up to 4 tickets total. Use the link below and be sure to use BAC as the discount code.

<https://fevo.me/bac2>

WEBSITE UPDATES. Check out our new website at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores. Search 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.

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding 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 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.

BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by texting **2MI** to **877877**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#) Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

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)



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 | (877) 923-6379 | info@benesys.com



SETTING UP WATER HEATER piping in a 16th floor condominium unit at the Exchange Building in Detroit is Plumbers Local 98 member Jerry Wilson. Employed on this project by Western Mechanical, Jerry insisted that his photo caption include "proud 34-year member of Local 98." Consider it done.

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 there. Go to UALocal98.COM.

Meetings & Union Hall. The Union Meeting is a Special called meeting for our yearly State of the Union, it will be held on Thursday, March 9th 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, March 8 from 12 pm – 2 pm.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

It's time for renewal of your State of MI Plumbing License for Journeymen and apprentices, for detailed instructions visit www.michigan.gov/bcc

Please join us on Saturday March 25th for a spaghetti dinner for Brother Kevin Dulapa. He has major treatments related to health issues, it will be from 1-5 pm. We have 50/50 raffles a silent -auctions and more. A \$20 donation is at the door, Kids 12-4 are \$5.00, 3 and under are free.

Attention Hockey Players, any 98 member who is interested in playing hockey please contact Dan Nixon @ 248-752-3702. We will be sending a team to the UA tournament in Hamilton Ontario May 5-7, we are an open age B team and the team has started practices. You must have a valid passport or enhanced driver's License to cross the border. The team has regular schedule of games this fall as well.

FOOD DRIVE. President Jim Cools has set up a Food Drive Committee. As we all know, there are way too many people, and way too many families that go hungry every day. Local 98 is going to be hosting food drives at the Union Hall to help out those in need. We will be collecting non-perishable food and bottled water throughout the year and we will also be hosting a food drive in the spring and another in the fall. If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact BA Dan Nixon or Jim Cools at the hall.

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. *Change for "Golden Dental," they are now DENCAP, no change in your plan. The good news is there are more locations added to their preferred list. More information can be obtained at 313-972-1400 or info@dencap.com.

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. His name is Andrew Hill and he is the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Andrew will be 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 Andrew. If Andrew is on the other line, please leave him a message and he 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.

Congratulations to those who have hung up their bibs:

Dues. You can pay your dues online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto payments. If you have questions or want to pay your dues by phone, please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 ext. 3.

The following members are delinquent on dues and are working for our contractors. If you are working with these **EXPELLED MEMBERS**, please push them to get with the hall and get caught up. Thomas Mann, Steven Hawes, Thomas McGowan, Shane McCleary, Ian McCullough, Nicholas McCambell, Derek Hardoin, Mike Hofer, Justin Willard, Adam Atkinson, Ken Stone, Jesse Nowak. If you know they have left 98 please let us know. Thank you.

Good/Welfare. In Memoriam: Our sympathies to family and friends of Brother Clifford Smith, 55-year member Initiated 3-23-1967.

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 28th, 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 questions.

****STATE OF MICHIGAN PLUMBING LICENSE**** 2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update- **Deadline for taking the update is March 31st, 2023.** There are several classes offered online. To find the online classes, go to cebroker.com and select "Find CE/CME," then choose Michigan and Plumbing Journey to see a list of approved courses. There is also an online course put together by UA Local 370 that can be found at cetsource.com.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2023. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. **Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.**

Monthly Code Class – Next class is March 15, 2023 at 4:30 pm. 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.

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber- 40 hour class- \$100 fee

Fall: Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

Hydronic Heating and Cooling – 40 hour class - \$100 fee

Fall: Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

ASSE Backflow Tester 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 April 18 & 19 Deadline is March 17

4 hour recert class July 25 & 26 Deadline is June 23

4 hour recert class October 24 & 25 Deadline is Sept. 22

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

Fall: Sept. 18 – Nov. 27. Deadline is Aug. 11-\$200

ASSE Repairer: Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification

Fall: September 21 - October 26, Deadline is August 11 - \$100

ICRA and Water Quality: * Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30**

Fall: Sept. 19 to Oct. 28, Deadline is August 11 - \$200

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Fall: Sept. 20 – Nov. 29. Deadline to register Sept. 1 - \$200

OPEN WELDING – WINTER is here, it is a great time to get into a booth and upgrade some welding skills! 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 1st 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 Saturday, March 4 and April 1, 2023. You must call to schedule your 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 January 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement. Deadline to submit 2022 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2023.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as an online class for \$59 at 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. **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 357
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357
KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 14** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30.

GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a Union Outing Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on **Saturday, June 3** at 6:35 pm. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before **Friday, June 2**, to reserve your tickets.

TAX PREP INFORMATION: Dollar amounts are available for 2022 withholdings & dues paid. If you sign up for the e-mail on the website, you do not need to call the Hall for your deductions because you can view and print out your own information. The information that we have is what the contractors have reported on the fringes. If you think there is a discrepancy, then you should check your own pay stubs.

NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE IS PAID BY THE CONTRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is now 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. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying this 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: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café located at 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 775-1775.

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 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, (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ 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 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).

Local 190
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on **Monday, March 13th** at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UPCOMING HOLIDAY: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7th. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

ATTENTION MI GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 1st from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING SCHOOL & HELPER SCHOOL: Will begin Tuesday, Jan. 3 and run for 2 months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this school as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding school.** Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

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. 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 of 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 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 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.

any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. 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/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 3rd, July 17th, and Oct 2nd. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 17th, July 24th, and Oct 16th. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

Welding Lab: The welding lab is open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, until Thursday, December 15, 2022. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Weld tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110).

2023 Schedule: First course starts on Jan 10th. Second course starts Sept 12th. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot.

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: First course starts Feb 14th. Second course starts Oct 17th. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5:00 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry.

2023 Schedule: First course starts March 14th. Second course starts Aug 22nd. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for the course.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course.

2023 Schedule: First course starts April 18th. Second course starts Sept 26th. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class.

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 spring. Class size is limited to 8.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes scheduled for the following dates. Monday, March 20th refresher starts at 5:00 p.m. and then on Monday, March 27th test starts at 5:00 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, March 2nd, 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.

"What we call 'Progress' is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance."

–Havelock Ellis (1859 -

"I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her."

–Rodney Dangerfield (1921 -2004)

"Shallow men believe in luck. Strong men believe in cause and effect."

–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 -1882)



SETTING THE BACKING for plumbing fixtures in an apartment of the seventh floor of the Exchange Building in Detroit is Nathan Kopy of Plumbers 98. He's employed by Western Mechanical.



Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

Local 636

Pipe Fitters 636

DETROIT – The next **Union meeting** will take place on March 21, 2023, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

Prior to the March 21, 2023 union meeting, there will be a presentation and discussion at 6 p.m., concerning the new BlueCross Blue Shield insurance plan for Active Participants.

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 3rd Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall.

The next retiree meeting will be held, March 16, 2023. A special thank you goes out to Brother Al Smolarek for donating the attendance drawing money he won to the Brother Brian Mierendorf recovery fund.

PLDF update- For the members who have not paid their PLDF see the information below. Remember, dues cannot be accepted until the ten week assessment beginning the week of June 20 through August 28, 2022, is paid.

\$140 for Journeymen/\$70 apprentice, Service Graduates and MES members.

For those claiming vacation, it is necessary to send the week before and after paystubs for verification. There is a separate email address for the PLDF, pldf@pipefitters636.org to send a copy of your paystubs.

If you wish to send in a check or money order made out to **Pipefitters Local 636 PLDF** directly to the hall- Please send to: Pipefitters Local 636, 30100 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills, MI 48334

You may contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall if you wish to pay the PLDF assessment by phone, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit card or bank account.

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO OUR LOCAL 636 INSURANCE POLICIES ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF January 1, 2023:

Active Participants: We are pleased to announce that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) will be your preferred provider network for medical claims and your prescription drugs will be processed through BCBSM. This means BCBSM will be replacing Health Alliance Plan (HAP) as the in-network provider for your medical claims, and BCBSM (in partnership with Optum) will also be replacing Express Scripts (ESI) for prescription drug processing. We believe this change will provide our participants greater access to in-network providers locally and throughout the United States, as well as reduce costs.

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after Jan. 1, 2023. If you have not received your new ID cards, please contact the fund office at 248-641-4936. You can also download the BCBSM app on your smart phone and access your ID card information from there. You may also register your account on the BCBSM website to help manage your costs and care.

We believe the vast majority of your providers are in the BCBSM network. A list of in-network providers can be found at www.bcbsm.com. Instructions to navigate the site are:

1. Select "Find a Doctor" on the left hand side of the page,
2. Click "Search Without Logging In",
3. Enter ZIP CODE and

select "PPO".

From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty.

Please contact the fund office with any questions.

NON-Medicare Retirees: Medical and prescription drug coverage for NON-Medicare retirees will be provided through a fully insured policy issued by HUMANA. This means HUMANA will be replacing Health Alliance Plan (HAP) as the in-network provider for your medical claims, and HUMANA will also be replacing Express Scripts (ESI) for prescription drug processing.

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after January 1, 2023. Due to a coding error, some members and dependents may have received a second ID card from HUMANA. Please use this ID card and destroy the one received previously. Please contact the fund office with any questions regarding eligibility or ID cards at 248-641-4936.

We believe the majority of your providers are in the HUMANA network. A list of in-network providers can be found at www.humana.com. Instructions to navigate the site are:

1. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Find a Doctor",
2. Enter ZIP CODE and select "Insurance Through Your Employer",
3. Select network "HUMANA/Choice Care Network PPO". From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty. Any questions you have in regards to the provider network, pharmacy Rx or claims, you can call HUMANA Customer Service at 800-448-6262.

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 to be processed.

Our deepest condolences go out to the families and friends of the following members who have passed from our ranks: Journeyman Brother Joseph Viney, who passed away on Jan. 14, 2023, and Journeyman Brother John "Jack" D. Laird, who passed away on Feb. 4, 2023. There will be a memorial gathering for Brother Laird at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at the L.J. Griffith Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Rd., Westland, MI, with military honors following at 3 p.m. May they Rest in Peace.

Labor Day March. We are looking for anyone wishing to help design the shirts and caps for the annual Labor Day March. Please submit designs to the hall C/O Business Agent Rick Fast.

Members continue to ask about the status and recovery of Brother Brian Mierendorf, Brian is doing therapy 5 days a week. He will be undergoing several more surgeries on each hand in the future He still has a long road ahead of him. If anyone wishes to send donations to the hall for Brian or Heather Mierendorf and we will make sure that they receive your donations. They are very grateful for all the support that they have been receiving.

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. Please allow a 7-10 day notice when you call her 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.

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

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.

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

It's a new year, are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.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.
Construction
 GMAW Welding, Saturday, Mike Wall
 Downhill Welding, Saturday, Kurt Moran
 HDPE/Fusion Welding, Saturday, Feb. 11th, Doug Leslie
 Orbital Welding, Saturday, John Verran

Service Night classes begin the week of Feb. 20th for 5 weeks (*).

*CSD, CSD2 (adv.), Wednesday, Kevin Burns (limit 12)

*MET/MES 1, Monday/Thursday, Derek Commins/Alex Boyd, 120 hours

*VFD programming and wiring, Monday, Jason Blouin

*VRF basics, Thursday, Jason Blouin

*Ammonia Safety, Thursday, Ryan Lietaert
 ADV. Burner, Feb. 23
 Chiller Teardown, Feb. 22
 Tube Bending, Feb. 20
 HDPE, Feb. 11

CWI, March 4, call Jim Wilson
 Contact Kim at the Training Center 248-585-0636 to sign up for all classes. All classes are \$50 for Journeymen.

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333
 LANSING – March's union meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. at 7:30pm.

April's union meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 7:30pm.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: A mailing is going out to each member for three Special Called Meetings to read and vote on a proposed By-Law Change. The change does NOT involve a change in the dues or any other with holdings. The letter lays out the details. I hope you take the time to participate. The meetings will be held on March 15, 2023, April 19, 2023, and May 17, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Lansing Union Hall.

Dues: As of January 1, 2023 dues will not increase. Active Members will pay \$28.00 a month, Retired Members will continue to pay \$10.00. Members will be receiving their new membership card in the mail.

WELD CLASSES: Weld classes are currently being held in all three regions. Please go online to sign up at www.ua333.org. There is a \$25.00 fee; please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

Lansing: Tuesday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: Tuesday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek: Monday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, (KCC) RMTCC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Weld Tests are the second Tuesday of each month at the Lansing Training Center.

If you are interested in signing up for classes please go to our website at www.ua333.org or 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. 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's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

Retiree's Breakfast in Jackson: The next breakfast will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 10 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. If you have any questions or need directions just contact Joni at 517-784-1106 ext#4. Please pass the word to fellow retired members.

Attention: Local 333 has signed a new drain cleaning company. The owner is Matt Ellis who is a UA Local 333 member. Matt owns Ellis Services, LLC. The company is able to do drain cleaning, camera work, locating and will very soon have a new jet on board. If you, a friend or family member need drain cleaning work, please call Matt at 517-974-3458. If you are working for a UA signatory contractor and have a non-union sub-contractor on your site doing this work, please call your Regional Business Agent immediately.

The new GM plant work is requiring MUST MODs completed and a current drug test. Make sure you are current.

New merchandise has arrived. ¼ zip jackets, Full zip jackets, Hoodies, Long sleeve tees and Baseball caps.

"I have failed many times, and that's why I am a success."
 – Michael Jordan (1963 -)

"I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask them where they're going and hook up with them later."
 Mitch Hedberg (1968 - 2005)

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service
Local 111

UA Local 111
 UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE – The next Union Meeting will be in Escanaba March 30, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

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

Plumber/Pipefitter Apprentice application period is currently closed. We will be accepting applications from March 6-March 31, the job posting went up at UP Michigan Works Feb. 1. Applications are being accepted for HVAC/R Apprentices.

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 with 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.

Training news: Open welding class with David Pedersen is occurring on Tuesdays at 5 pm, on a week to week basis pending interest. To be added to the notification list or to register, contact John Antoncew. A spot in the class is not confirmed until you receive a response.

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 (Continued next column)

SPRINKLER FITTERS
MOTOR CITY
 LA 704 LA

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704
 DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 8, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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 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 its local union office.

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

Phone numbers to remember: NASHI 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.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Brother Robert Proch who passed away February 16th. Robert was a 68 year member of Local 704. Robert was the father of Retired Brother Brett and father-in-law to Retired Brother Sam Cusumano. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

A speedy recovery to all our sick and injured members.

Local 111, con't

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 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 a MSHA class please go to Upconstruction.org and go to the MSHA calendar to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.

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

www.ssdfighter.com





Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

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

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

CHANGE OF THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS): The Boards of Trustees of the West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union No. 174 Pension Plan, Health and Welfare Plan, and 401(K) Retirement Savings Plan (collectively, "Plans") are pleased to announce that Solxsys Administrative Solutions is now the Plans' NEW Third Party Administrator effective Nov. 1, 2022.

WEX DEBIT CARD: If you have not received your new Wex card please contact SOLXSYS at 855-407-5862.

Website: www.ual174.org We have recently changed our website vendor and will no longer be utilizing the Member Info section of our website. If you are unable to find what you are looking for please call Cami @ ext. 10 and she will help you. You are still able to pay dues online.

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting in July the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/ 2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 \$7.20 over 3years. 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.

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.

Local 174 Condolences: Local 174 would like to offer condolences to the family of Larry Bronsink (2/13/2023).

Wild Game Dinner: It's that time of year again. The Wild Game Dinner will be held on 4-20-2023 this year. Donations of wild game are needed. If you donate any game there are specific raffles you will be entered into, based on lbs donated and type of game. The more you donate = the more chances you have to win. The more varieties of game you donate the more raffles you will be put into. For those volunteering at the dinner, you will be put into a separate raffle as well. Please help out with some wild game donations and/or volunteer work and have a chance to win some great prizes and have some really good food. See you there.

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

Nonunion Worker Open House: We hosted an Open House on February 22nd from 5pm-7pm at the Union Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped in spreading the word on this event to all Non-Union Workers in the Plumbing, Pipefitting, HVACR and Welding Industry. Every worker deserves the right to join and form a UNION where they work!

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

Organizing Update: The LU 174 Open House Blitz in full effect! Other organizers from across the state arrived the week of 2/13, we've been scouring our jurisdiction spreading the word about the advantages of becoming a union member. We're having great responses speaking with the non-union workers, a lot have committed to come to our open house Wednesday Feb 22nd. Brother Ryan Bennett had me do a commercial which aired last week and this week promoting the open house and we've had great response with that also. If you have workers in the non-union sector please give them my number, I'd love to speak with them. "Were all doing the same work but we're NOT all getting the same wages and benefits." Our biggest voice is our workers in the field. Work safe, Brother Johnny Ortiz LU 174 Organizer (616) 307-8551

PAC Cards: Since the elimination of prevailing wage, the race to the bottom on wages and benefits for publicly funded projects has begun. Our political focus over the years to come will be electing people who support prevailing wage and wage standards in general. To do that we need to raise our PAC card participation. We currently have less than half of the local contributing to our PAC. Your PAC contribution DOES NOT COME OFF YOUR CHECK. When you sign the PAC card it allows us to move money from your working dues over to our PAC. Please call Cami today and find out if you have current PAC card on file.

Health Insurance Contact Info:Active and NON Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (888)290-7241; Save-Rx:(800)228-3108

Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

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

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

Solxsys, Aetna, Labor First: If you have issues with any of our fund service providers please contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ual174.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 that you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events, such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

Dispatch: We will be splitting 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: dispatch@ual174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location

Lakeshore - 3rd 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.

(Continued next column)



Local 370 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 14, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

BackFlow- March 9th thru April 20th Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30pm

Test Cost \$130. Refresher first test is free

CPR/First Aid- Wednesday March 8th at 4:30pm

STAR Prep- Test day Thursday March 2nd at 5:00pm

EPA 608- March 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th at 5:00pm

Dates are subject to change.

Night Welding: February 20th thru March 22nd Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30pm

All classes can be signed up with Kaytlin at 810-720-5243 ext 15

Local 174 cont'd

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

BENEFITS WEBSITE:

Soon after the transition to SOLXSYS is complete, we will be rolling out a Participant Portal. The easy to use portal will allow you to see your personal benefits information, access Plan information and forms, view all contributions made to Plans on your behalf, and contact the Benefits Office after hours, and much more. Members will be notified when access to Participant Portal is available.

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, March 9, 2023 and Thursday, April 13, 2023.

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-PAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: March 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22(Exam).

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

CSD-1: Class dates will be posted soon. If you're interested in taking a CSD-1 class please call/text to be placed on the list. Once dates are scheduled, you'll be notified of them via text.

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 Accounting Manager ext.11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Schumaker ext. 30.

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, March 14, 2023, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday March 14, 2023, at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. 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

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1 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 each.

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

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

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com.

T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free no. is 1-888-797-5862.

Be modest! It is the kind of pride least likely to offend.
– Jules Renard (1864 - 1910)



Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be A Special Order of Business on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at the Union Hall located at 3535 Bay Road starting at 7:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on allocations for the upcoming wage increase.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

The Meeting of the Whole will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at UA Local 85 Administration Building located at 3535 Bay Road at 5:00 PM.

Please note: Our new mailing address for all correspondences 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

rjanderson@ualocal85.org

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511

ktuthill@ualocal85.org

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

The new website is up and running. Please check out 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.

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

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.

(Continued next column)



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on March 16th, 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.

Health & Welfare: The Board of Trustees have recently made some changes to our Health plan. You should have received a notice in the mail with the list of changes. If you have any questions please contact Carly at the union hall.

Retiree Luncheon: The January retiree luncheon was canceled due to inclement weather, but we will continue to hold the luncheons on the last Thursday of every month weather permitting. If you have any questions about the luncheon, please give Carly a call. Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

Scholarship Opportunities: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be awarding (2) \$2000 scholarships through the Local 671 Scholarship Fund this year. (1) each will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2023 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student of a college or a qualified post-secondary school. Please contact the Hall for an application; the deadline to complete and return it is April 30, 2023.

The Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (CLC) will be awarding (2) \$1000 scholarships through the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Memorial Scholarship Program again this year. (1) each will be awarded to a qualified 2023 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school. Please contact the Hall for an application; the deadline to complete and return it is April 1, 2023.

New Contractor Seminar: If you are planning on, or maybe just thinking about opening your

(Continued on Page 9)

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.

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 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: All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up-to-date information.

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

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Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

Roofers 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, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan membership informational meeting is scheduled for Tue., April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas. To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standings. You can pay dues at the Hall with a cash, money order, credit, or debit card.

Union dues can be paid over the phone with a credit or debit card. Monthly dues can be taken out of your vacation check by filling out a form at the Hall (active Members only). The mailbox is only to be used for checks and money orders do not put cash in the mailbox. To be eligible for the International Union Burial Benefit, a member must be in continuous good standing. If you have questions, please call the Hall, 313-961-6093

Thank you to the members

who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money. To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone who's dues are paid up to 12/31/2023 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2023 dues in full by Jan. 31, 2023. Shirts are available for pickup at the Union Hall

Moving. If you have a new address, please make sure to let the Union Hall know.

Reminder. Members, please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information for recruitment purposes, and hopefully to get a picture of our members for Facebook.

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.

Detroit Training Center Information. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, January 16, 2023

Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, January 17, 2023

BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday January 18, 2023

BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, January 19, 2023

Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, January 19, 2023

All classes begin at 6:30pm. Journeyworkers upgrade

classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Tom Jaranowski, or Dean Kucharski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368, or midmichroofer149@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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.

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



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665

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.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

OSHA 10: Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course, please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

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.

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

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

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

Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079

Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502

Fax Number: (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.



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: In order to be eligible for the safety module stipend, you must contact the Union Office PRIOR to taking the safety modules.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop

change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

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

S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION: Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 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



Abatement Workers Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for Late

winter so be prepared for work during a time when traditionally work is slowing down. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in

place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement.

Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

Work in other areas of the region will be picking up in Ohio, Tennessee well as Kentucky. Winter/Spring outages in all areas in the region are on the horizon so make sure if you can travel that you make sure to get licensed as soon as possible.

With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell.

If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application on our website WWW.local207.ORG We have our next Initial asbestos class slated for early April.

UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES: Asbestos Supervisor Refresher Saturday March 18th 2023

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

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

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

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

---Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently in place.

BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

– Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882)

2022 labor statistics demonstrate need for organizing, pro-labor legislation

(From SMART, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers)

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics released its annual report in January 2023, revealing a growth in domestic union membership and illustrating the urgency with which unions like SMART must organize nonunion workers and lobby for new labor laws.

American union membership grew by 273,000 workers in 2022 – matching the surge in organizing witnessed last year, as evidenced by a 53 percent increase in National Labor Relations Board union election filings.

"Despite the antiquated state of the United States' labor laws, and despite the anti-worker at-

tacks of CEOs like Jeff Bezos, Howard Schultz and others across industries, workers kept organizing in 2022," said SMART General President Joseph Sellers. "In our own union, we saw victories everywhere from Philadelphia to Ketchikan, Alaska. The fact that workers continue to persevere in the face of powerful, well-funded opposition serves as a reminder that we must keep up the fight to organize working people in every state."

Unfortunately, despite high-profile victories at anti-labor corporations like Amazon and Starbucks, nonunion jobs were added to the U.S. economy at a faster rate, lowering American union density to 10.1 percent of the total workforce. That includes the construction industry,

where the percentage of unionized workers dropped from 13.6 percent to 12.4 percent, and the transportation and warehousing sectors, where the number of workers represented by a union grew by 46,000, but union density dropped from 16.1 percent to 15.5 percent.

Even with those decreases, though, the Economic Policy Institute calculates that more than 60 million workers wanted to join a union in 2022 but couldn't, often due to illegal union-busting by employers. Additionally, a Gallup poll found that 71 percent of Americans approve of labor unions – the highest number in almost 60 years.

"These statistics tell us two things," explained SMART Director of Organizing Darrell Roberts. "First, U.S. labor law needs drastic overhaul, which Congress can take a first step towards by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. Second, every member of this union – from international leadership to rank-and-file members across the country – needs to commit to bringing workers into our union at a mass scale."

SMART members know first-hand the better pay, working conditions and family-sustaining benefits that unions achieve through collective bargaining and solidarity, Roberts added. That power can only be strengthened if we focus on bringing more workers into our ranks.

"The open shop is adding jobs at a rate that aims to threaten our market share, but we know that workers want what we can provide: good, middle-class jobs," he said. "We will persevere in our organizing across the U.S. and Canada to make sure more workers can achieve that goal."

"All of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon - instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."

–Dale Carnegie

"A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies."

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"Nothing fixes a thing so intensely in the memory as the wish to forget it."

–Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592)

"There is scarcely anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse, and sell a little more cheaply. The person who buys on price alone is this man's lawful prey."

–John Ruskin (1819 - 1900)

"Every mile is two in winter."

–George Herbert (1833 - 1833)



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

(Continued from Page 8)

own business, Local 370 Flint is hosting a New Contractor Seminar. This seminar is for current UA members that have interest in becoming signatory contractors in the foreseeable future. The event will be held May 2nd & 3rd at UA Local 370. If anyone has interest in attending, please notify me and I will register you. Let us not only grow our union but our contractor base as well.

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is just your book number.

Congratulations: We would like to congratulate Brother Jed Bunge and his Wife Aimee Bunge on the birth of their new Son Jake Asiel Bunge 02/09/2023. Enjoy this wonderful time!

2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update: If you were unable to attend a plumbing code update class, we do have information available for an online update. Contact the Hall for details. **In order to maintain your plumbing license, you must do a code update by March 31, 2023.**

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: We will be holding open weld shop nights on Thursday nights from 6pm- 10pm. Weld Shop nights would not be held on Union meeting nights or when we hold a UA weld test session. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Wednesday 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.

In Closing: Since 2018 when I started this position, my first priority has been training and improving our training centers. With the help of Justin and Vinnie, we have completed our new HVAC and Plumbing Service Training Center and remodeled our Pipefitter/Welder Training Center with a new weld lab, classroom and bathroom facilities. That being said, I want to remind our membership that we have invested a lot of money into our bright future and now is the time to take advantage of it. Contact Justin or myself about training and certifications opportunities for Apprentices and Journeymen. God bless Local 671 and its members.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: vinnie@ualocal671.com

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

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

Insulators Local 47, continued

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: www.heatfrostoplocal47benefits.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

Local 47 would like to Congratulate Mitchell and Macy Carpenter on the birth of their baby girl Lily Ann Carpenter born January 24, 2023!

"It is certainly desirable to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."

–Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD), 'Morals,' 100 A.D.

"A problem is a chance for you to do your best."

–Duke Ellington (1899 - 1974)



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 – Our March Union Meeting will be held on Monday March 13th, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Our February Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday February 27th, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, March 7th, at 9:00am.

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.com.

You can pay over the phone with debit or credit card. You can also stop by the Hall during business hours (7am-noon/ 1-4pm) and pay by cash, check, debit or credit card. **Do not wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

2023 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$47.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$44.70 a month

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure, please refer to our website @ http://local948.org/job_referrals/

**Gregory Remington
Business Manager**

E-mail and Re-signs: If the Hall does not have your e-mail address it would be a good idea to send us an e-mail to jwallace@local948.org so we can add you to the e-mail list. This is a great way to keep up with the latest information on job calls and other information sent from the Hall.



IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

SAGINAW – **Union News**- Hello brothers and sisters! We had our Retirement meeting last Thursday and had a great turn out. Thanks to the members who participated and were able to get their questions answered. We look forward to having more of these meetings in the future.

The local's new CBA increase will occur in June. Discussion on how we should disperse the increase of \$1.97 will be happening in the next few months. We all know we're more than likely going to have to throw some at the Health Plan again this year. Health Care costs and rising prescription costs are the reason for the increase. The Health Plan Board continues to meet leading up to the final negotiated number.

We're still looking for baseball participation! If anyone is interested in going on a Detroit Tigers Game Bus Trip on July 8th in Detroit, please contact the Hall to be put on the list. Family members are welcome! Cost is \$57.50 which includes the ticket and buffet. The bus fare is an additional cost based on participation.

The United Way is looking for volunteers to help with their meal packing event on March 16th at Local 85 after work. Our local has donated to this cause on several occasions and it would be great to see the support from our members and the community. Josh is doing great work, come check it out!

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- Our next meeting is March 7th at 5:30pm. Stop in and see everyone!

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

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- We're back to our regularly scheduled program. If you have any questions or issues, our Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

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.

WORKOUTLOOK- We've got some Apprentices off currently. Pierce Power has the Swan Valley Schools Auditorium, some Heritage High School Work, Saginaw High Remodel. VanHerweg picked up a project at Hemlock Schools. Nelson picked up St. Louis Schools. HSC work remains a dream on the horizon. Solar projects-we'll see. The Frankenthuth Water Park bids later this month. Let's hope for some union work over there!

Saginaw Township Community Schools have announced a bond proposal for the May 2nd election. Currently, the local has 36 members who live in that voting district. If you all could please spread the word about voting "Yes", we could all benefit from a great deal or construction work in that area. A Citizens Campaign has kicked off to support the passage. If you would like to help with get-out-the-vote-events please contact Evan at the Hall.

HEALTH CARE- The completion of the Optum pharmacy services transition is now taking place. Members who did not receive a new Blue Cross card last year will get one this year. Keep an eye out for these new cards in the mail don't throw them away. If you used Express-scripts for your RX needs, BCBS has opted to use Optum Rx in its place. The main changes apply to members who have their Rx delivered to their homes. Action is necessary to not see a break in your service.

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. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

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

WEX APP- Search for the "TIC HRA" app in Google or Apple and download it today. Utilization of this app will give you access to account balances, receipt reviews and submittals, barcode scanning for covered items, other helpful services. This is a great tool to accompany your Health Care benefits.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. 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 (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectricalhealth.org

**In Solidarity,
Breanna DePottey, Press Secretary/Registrar**

"Be brief, for no discourse can please when too long."
– Miguel de Cervantes (1547 - 1616)

"You do ill if you praise, but worse if you censure, what you do not understand."

Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)



IBEW Local 665

IBEW 665

LANSING – **WE HAVE MOVED!!!!** Local 665 has moved locations. We are currently located at 5710 Ivan Dr. Lansing, MI 48917. Google maps had been updated. Google search IBEW local 665 if you are looking for directions.

WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 is expecting good employment for our local members and needing help from our traveling brothers. The GM Ultium 3 battery Plant will be adding additional manpower this spring.

Work is looking steady for 2023.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT: IBEW Local 665 will be hosting a Euchre Tournament on February 25th 2023. Please contact the hall for more information. Or email ken@ibew665.org

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejatc.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our new contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to the JATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatc.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

RETIREE DINNER: Save the date for the next retiree dinner scheduled for May 21st, 2023! More details to follow.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatc.org and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

FIRST AID/CPR: The next First Aid CPR class is to be held on Thursday, February 23rd 2023 at 5:00pm here at the hall. Contact the JATC for information and to sign up.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your MUST mods/ OSHA 30 and your MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due in April. We are on death benefit #336. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of Local 665 members who have passed away this year. May their memory be eternal.

Garth Smith 6/21/2022, Thomas Jones 1/02/2023, James Love 12/11/2022, Larry Wisner 11/09/2022, John Freshwater 7/26/2022, Dale Cole 09/07/2021, Keith Reimel 05/04/2022, Elden Rockafellow 02/11/2022, Victor St Clair 03/09/2022

"Have regard for your name, since it will remain for you longer than a great store of gold."
–Ecclesiasticus

"Wit makes its own welcome, and levels all distinctions. No dignity, no learning, no force of character, can make any stand against good wit."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)



WIRING A SIXTH-FLOOR panel at the Exchange Building in Detroit is Seth Ratkowiak of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Shaw Electric.



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW 58

DETROIT – **The next General Membership Meeting.** The Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 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-eitc.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.

Local 58 Dues Department! Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt – if your paid through date shows 12/2022 or earlier, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind). It is Your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email and phone number.

Local 58 Motorcycle Group: Group meetings have moved to Sundays at different restaurants before a ride. 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 Anthony Anderanin @ 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.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund Meeting will be on March 7, 2023, at 5:30pm at the Union Hall. Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Event was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who helped on making this a great event! All prizes from the Super Bowl event are provided by ABC Warehouse in Canton. The names of the winners will be listed in the next article. For a discounted price call Ryan Heinrich at (734) 981-7780.

All Tradesmen and families are welcome to receive this Building Trade discount. The Local 58 Commemorative Quilt Raffle tickets are now available at the Hall, \$10 each or 3 for \$20, please contact Kelly Lynch to purchase. Hope to see you all there!

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 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 com-

mittee meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 PM.

EWMC of Southeastern MI- The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm. 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. We will be creating more tie-dye t-shirts in the coming weeks. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with this fundraiser and the Lottery Raffle. Stay tuned for more information. Solidarity Forever

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee will now be meeting monthly immediately after the Safety committee meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month.

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. 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 next meeting is on Feb 23rd at 5:30 pm in person at the hall and on Zoom. We are in the process of reviewing and updating our ARC Scholarship, look for more information as to when it will be open for submissions.

Mother's Day is fast approaching and this year it falls on a Wobbly Kitchen Sunday. We are putting together Mother's Day bags to hand out during the event, and we need help getting donations! Small, like or similar items are the idea (small scented hand lotion, ChapStick, hair brush, scrunchies, manicure set...) as we would like to get 75 bags to pass out on the day of the event.

Think Mother's Day, the more we have the more ladies we can cover! We will be having a decorating party for the bags on April 29th (date??) so bring the kids, and come help us decorate some stuff for Mom. We're asking that any and all donations be turned in by May 5th, so we can pack our bags on May 6th and 7th. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is March 8, 2023, at the local union hall in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the building. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. Our March Luncheon is taking place at Corsi's Banquet Center, 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia 48152 on March 22, 2023. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at noon. To reserve your spot for the luncheon, send your checks, made payable to the "Retirees Association", \$20 per person to IBEW local 58, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit, MI 448232-0756. For reservation questions call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885. Mark

this on your calendar and make plans to join us. This is always a wonderful time with lots of good food and good company.

In April we will be hosting the Annual Pin Party, on Saturday April 29, 2023 at the union hall. This gathering will honor 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 year pin recipients. This celebration takes place in lieu of a luncheon in April. Mark your calendar now. Invitations will be sent out next month to those who will be honored. More details to follow in this column and in the newsletter. If you have not received your 30, 35, 40 or 45 year pin, call the hall at 313 963-2130 for information about receiving your pin.

Local 58 Retiree's Association Fall Bus trip. The destination will be Charleston, S.C. Dates for the trip will be Sunday, Sept. 10 to Sat. Sept. 16, 2023. An informational flyer can be obtained by request via email; rick_dona@hotmail.com They will also be at the monthly luncheons, or if need be call me at 248-421-2636 and leave a message. If anyone is interested in becoming the future Group Leader, call me and I will discuss the position. Respectfully, Rick Koerber.

Electrical Workers Credit Union - Not A Member? Stop by Monday-Friday 9am-4pm or give us a call at (313) 963-6060 and we can mail you an application to join packet. You can also check us out at WWW.EWCU.NET. We are located right across the street from the union hall.

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

Members who have Passed Away: Randolph Crandall, pension member, 25 year IBEW membership, Father to JIW Chris Crandall; James France, Pension member, 58 year IBEW membership, Son of the late pension member Jerry France, Brother to Pension members Donald & Robert "Bob" France, and the brother to the late pension member Kenneth France; Lawrence Koebbe Jr, Pension member, 66 year IBEW membership; Frederick J Rupersburg, Pension member, 39 year IBEW membership; George Varvouzos, pension member, 48 year IBEW membership.

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

"Management is nothing more than motivating other people."

–Lee Iacocca (1924 - 2019)

"We seem to believe it is possible to ward off death by following rules of good grooming."

–Don Delillo

"He harms himself who does harm to another, and the evil plan is most harmful to the planner."

–Hesiod (~800 BC)

"It is necessary to try to surpass oneself always; this occupation ought to last as long as life."

–Queen Christina (1626 - 1689), of Sweden

"Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience."

– Hyman Rickover (1900 - 1986)

"Truth sits upon the lips of dying men."

–Matthew Arnold (1822 - 1888)

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IBEW LOCAL 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

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

Executive Board Meeting. The February Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 20, 2023.**

Message from the Business Manager. On Friday, January 13th, 2023 GM announced investing \$216 million dollars into our GM plant right here in Bay City. What we know at this time is this investment will keep our GM plant viable for the next 10 years. What we do not know is the manpower that will be needed to complete this project.

St. Patrick's Day Parade. IBEW Local 692 will be participating in the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 19 at 2PM. An email will be sent out with specific details as the date approaches. Please join us in celebrating this annual event, all members are encouraged to bring their families. Hot Dogs and refreshments will be provided.

Work Report. Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:

Nelson Electric – GM Powertrain work started on October 3rd and will run through the first quarter of 2023. Swan Electric – Multiple DTE natural gas pumping stations throughout Zones 1 and 2. This project just as many others have seen delays due to supply issues. J.Ranck Electric – continuing work on phase 2 of the SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility. Ranck Electric has also secured the Balance of System work on a Solar Farm in Gladwin County.

Newkirk Electric also has a solar project near Mio. More calls for this project are expected as the weather breaks.

Master Electric has the new Isabella County Jail.

Robinson Industries in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in their recent fire. Countyline Power has secured this work. Clements Electric is on site at Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay) and has begun work.

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 may soon have calls getting into Book II if you are looking to travel. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity,

Ryan Charney

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. 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 build a higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations. If you know any unrepresented workers in our industry, please reach out to them and share your experiences as an IBEW member. There is a pathway to the IBEW available to all workers in our industry.

Organizers have recently been involved in multiple career days and similar events across our jurisdiction, including Cheboygan, West Branch, Mio, Tawas, and the Greater Bay region. For the second consecutive event, IBEW Local 692 was voted *Most Engaging Exhibitor* by area high school students attending MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan's talent pipeline exhibit held at SVSU's Ryder Center. We'd like to thank our apprentices who volunteered to work our booth, offering students a unique and memorable hands-on experience learning about our trade.

If you'd like to register on any other IBEW Local out-of-work lists, please reach out to the hall for details on which locals accept fax or email registration. There are currently 95 open calls throughout the Sixth District (Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin) and an additional 650 unfilled calls for manpower elsewhere nationwide.

Agents are always available via cell if you have any questions or concerns.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. PLEASE NOTE: The Delegates of the 40th 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.

Retirees Lunch. The next retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 16 at Coonan's Irish Hub, located at 1004 N. Johnson Street in Bay City.

RENEW. It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their local union. If you are a member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in 692's RENEW committee, please contact Cody (989.600.4643) for more information. RENEW meetings are held once a month following our general membership meeting.

The Renew committee will be holding their second annual Brotherhood on the Bay fishing tournament on Saturday, February 25th. The cost of the event is a \$20 entry fee which includes a fish dinner at the hall that evening. Registration is 5:30am to 6:30am at the hall the morning of, or you can pre-register by contacting Cody Raymond. Fried walleye dinner at 5:30pm final weigh in at 6:30pm. Cash prizes for heaviest perch and walleye along with pull tabs and door prizes. All IBEW members are welcome, guests can pay to eat. We hope to see as many folks as possible show up to support the next generation of electrical workers.

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.

Important links & numbers

IBEW Local 692 989-684-4510 www.ibew692.org
Health Plan 517-321-7502 www.mielectricalhealth.org
Michigan Pension Fund 517-321-7502 www.michiganelectrical.org

First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"

NEBF/ NEAP: 301-556-4300IO
Pension: 202-833-7000


"Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own."
Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC)

"To find yourself jilted is a blow to your pride. Do your best to forget it and if you don't succeed, at least pretend to."

—Moliere (1622 - 1673)

"Nothing is worse than active ignorance."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on March 6, at 6 p.m.

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

The next **Apprentice Stewards** meeting will be held March 13, at 5 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held March 20, at 5 p.m.

Tigers: Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this this Summer, July 8. Tickets will be available for purchase (\$24.00 + Purchase Fee) to the first 100 members. Be on the lookout for a purchase link. Each member will be able to purchase their own tickets by following the link to the official Tigers Ticket Pay site. All Tickets for Local 131 will be grouped together in the same section. There will be 2 charter buses for this event.

The Work Outlook continues to be steady. Pfizer has been adding men Moore, Hitech, KEI all have crews working on site. Recently F.E. Moran has hired along with Flemington Instrumentation for the MAPS project at Pfizer. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome looks to be a summer project. Moore Electric is working on the New Justice Facility. Abbott labs in Sturgis is in the planning stage for an expansion, hopefully by summer we will have work there. Nitro Electric has work coming at the Vicksburg High School.

Food Drive: Please help the local collect food for the local food pantry Twelve Baskets. Cans, boxes of nonperishable food can be brought to the Hall. We will even take monetary donations. Please come and help. Collection will be done during February.

Retiree Lunches at the following Locations: March 15, Red Lobster, 6535 S. Westledge, Portage, MI. @11 :Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 a.m.; On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees meet at Brewsters, 5135 Portage Rd., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Doyal Northrup, a 57-year member, passed away Feb. 16, 2023. Doyal you will be missed. Thank you for your many years of service.

RETIREMENT: NEBF, IBEW PBF and Local Pension 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 social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications.


At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Nicholas Blaskie, Christopher Conforti, Brian Ellis, Stephen Gay, Taylor Grose-Thompson, Easton Lovell, Marty Maher, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Thomas Pickett, Thomas Seeds, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, and William Wolgast

Check out the Local 131 **website.** Christine has done a fantastic job organizing it. Job listings can be tracked. A recorded message of calls for employment will be available after 5:00PM by calling (269) 382-1762 and posted on the website under **Job Listings.** The job call will list the name of the employer and the number of employees needed. The Union business office will offer all the work calls available at the time of the job offer. Any registrants that are interested in a call may either apply in person at the union business office between 8-8:30 a.m. OR leave a message on the recorder, stating they wish to apply for a job call.

In the Members Login section, you can pay dues, under the Information Center you can find the Contract, Bylaws, wage sheet and access to Journeyman classes. There is a tab called Benefits Information. You can find health plan and retirement information and useful links.

All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab. If you hear of anyone's passing, please notify the Hall.

—Morris Applebey, Business Manager



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, March 13th, 2023 @ 6pm.

Regular Meeting – The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, March 13th, 2022.

Resale Items – Local 498 Challenge Coins are in 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.

Work outlook- work looks to be slow for this year in Local 498. There is a lot of work planned to start in 692, 275, 665, 58, 906, almost every other local in the state. We get you on the out of work list from the hall for most locals in the state of MI. If you are looking to travel to out of state locals and want us to sign you from the hall, please contact that local union before you ask Caroline or myself to do it. It saves us a lot of time, thanks in advance from Dave and Caroline.

Organizer – Dylan O'Dwyer is the new Organizer/Membership Development Coordinator starting in February 2023 for Local 498. He can be contacted at 231-649-9157 for any questions you may have.

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.gtcrf.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 - 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 Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book: MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-517-321-7502

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917
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.

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#

IBEW Locals 275 & 445 See Page 12



PROUD UNION ELECTRICAL WORKERS
IBEW LOCAL 252
Since 1916

IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – ELECTRICAL VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING PROGRAM (EVITP). The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment Act passed last year will provide millions of labor hours for the IBEW! We need to be ready for the installation of upcoming electric vehicle charging stations. This training is critical to securing this work. Please call the JATC and get on the list to get the EVITP training.

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

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

1. CPR/FIRST AID- Tuesdays: March 7th & 14th, June 6th & 13th, September 5th & 12th, December 5th & 12th.

2. BISCO IN225- TBD. We need 6 people to start this class! Please sign up at the school if you are interested.

3. EVITP Electric Vehicle- Mondays January 23rd, February 6th & 20th.

4. Solar- TBD

5. Master License Prep- Tuesdays: January 24th & 31st, February 7th, 21st, & 28th.

6. Conduit Bending- Thursdays: January 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & March 2nd.

7. Instrumentation Part B- Tuesdays: February 14th, 21st, 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th, 11th, 18th.

8. OSHA 30- Wednesdays: March 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th, 19th, 26th, May 3rd, 17th & 24th.

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. Masks must be worn at all times in school.

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 a.m. at Leo's Conney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

Pheasant for Life Hunt: There will be a Pheasant Hunt on March 11, 2023 at Ringneck Ranch, 14904 Hanover Rd., Hanover, MI 49241 beginning between 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$150 per person. If a dog is needed the cost is \$80 plus guide tip. Bird cleaning is \$3 per bird if desired. Deposit of \$50 is due by February 15th. Deposits can be accepted via cash, check (made out to Joseph Jarecki), or Venmo (@Joseph-Jarecki-2). Cash and checks can be dropped off at the Union Hall or JATC. Food, pop, and water will be provided, along with one raffle ticket for each hunter. BYOB, no alcohol can be consumed or out until all firearms are put away. Equipment needed is orange vest, proper clothing for the weather, and boots. Steel shot is preferred, but lead is allowed. Contact Joe Jarecki for more information at (734) 770-5114 or joejarecki4@gmail.com.

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 your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

MISSING ITEMS: A lantern that was on the window sill went missing after the Christmas Party. The person was seen walking out with it. Please return it to the hall.

Condolences: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Robert Peters, who passed away on February 13, 2023. The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Roy George, who passed away on February 18, 2023.

ANNUAL RETIREES GATHERING: Annual Florida Winter Gathering will meet Monday March 13th at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral, 4705 US Highway 98 N. Any questions call Ed Allen 734-883-9429.

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

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 12/2022, 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 first quarter dues (January thru March) are due now.

Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 31, 2023.

CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

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

<p>McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mcnicholsscrap.com (313) 365-6100</p>	<p>Detroit Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100</p>
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IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.
Executive Board E-Board meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.
Retiree Breakfast: The Retiree monthly breakfast is at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend.

IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for July 15, 2023, with shotgun start at 8am. Mark your calendars.

Local 445 Officer Elections 2023. If you have wanted to be more involved in Your Local, becoming an Officer of the Local is a good start. Please consider running for an Officer position. The Nominations will be at the May 2023 meeting and the Voting will be in June 2023. You will be getting a letter in the mail giving specifics. Now is the time for you to put your name in the hat!

First Aid/CPR class There is a class scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023, after the Union Meeting. We will be providing food at the meeting. Please add this to your phone's calendar. We plan on having an annual class in March of each year, so if your card is going to expire after March 2023, you will want to plan on attending this class.

Dues Increases. Over the next four and a half years, the dues increase voted on at the International Convention in 2022 are as follows, "A" and "BA" membership dues will increase \$2.00 per month effective January 1, 2023, \$1.00 per month effective July 1, 2024, and \$1.00 per month effective July 1, 2025.

Also "A" Member Pension Benefit Fund dues will increase \$2.00 per month effective January 1, 2023, and \$2.00 per month effective January 1, 2025. The PBF increases are to ensure the I.O. retirement remains strong for our members and our members of the future and to assist in a larger premium at retirement for our Members.

Effective January 1, 2023, JIW rate is \$57.00/month and \$171.00/quarter, AP rate is \$46.00/month and \$138.00/quarter. If you have already paid dues past January 2023, you will be able to make up your Difference in Dues when you make your next payment in 2023.

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com.
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Seerest
Recording Secretary

"Mistrust the man who finds everything good, the man who finds everything evil and still more the man who is indifferent to everything."
 –Johann K. Lavater

"Health is not valued till sickness comes."
 –Dr. Thomas Fuller (1654 - 1734)

"Jealousy is the tribute mediocrity pays to genius."
 –Fulton J. Sheen



IBEW 275
COOPERSVILLE – Dear Brothers and Sisters,
 The work outlook remains the same as it has over most of the winter with some calls starting to come in for work.

There should be more calls for GM in the coming weeks as we have contractors on site and 2 of the jobs have kicked off. LG Chem should also be putting in calls soon for the battery plant in Holland. We will keep you updated as other projects become available. If you are interested in traveling for work in the meantime, please call the hall for up to date information on available calls that need filled elsewhere. If you are interested in salting, contact Geoff or Walt for more information.

The annual St. Patrick's Day parade will be on Saturday, March 11. We are planning on staging @ 9:30am near the Grand Rapids Public Library with the parade starting @ 11am. We are hoping for a large Labor turnout again this year and make sure to wear your union apparel. This is a great time to show solidarity in Grand Rapids and would count for community service for anyone who needs them.

The annual **West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner** has been scheduled for April 20 at the Barclay Place in Muskegon. Please get that on your calendar if you plan to make it this year. If you have any venison, fish, or other wild game meat you would like to donate, let Walter know. There will be separate raffles for all who donate.

The next regular scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 6pm at the union hall. We will have the new solidarity shirts available at the meeting if you have not gotten yours yet. As a reminder these shirts cannot be bought but are given for attending a union meeting or giving your time for one of the many volunteer opportunities that present themselves throughout the year.

Please remember that re-sign is the 10th-16th of each month. If your re-sign is not in before the 16th you will be rolled off the book and will need to do an initial sign once again. Re-signs and initial signs may be sent to Geoff at gyonkers@ibew275.org. If you are in need of assistance to re-sign other books, please be aware of that Local's re-sign policy. We are not aware of every Local's re-sign policy outside of Michigan and this may lead to you rolling off books if that Local's re-sign policy is not followed.

Dues for 2023 have increased to \$46.90 per month. Please adjust when making payments through the mail and automatic bank payments.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in dues: **Brian Kelly.** Please make every effort to get caught up.



Laborers 1191
DETROIT – Monthly Membership Meetings: Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), next membership meeting will on the March, 3 2023.
Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.
Condolences: It is with much sadness we inform you of the passing of retired member Mr. William Little on February 3, 2023. Local 1191 sends our sincere condolences to the families and friends of brother, William Little.

Union Dues For 2023: Effective **January 1, 2023** regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 for active members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.00.**
Reminder: Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions... Please also check out our website and "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

NOTICE: 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 shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

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. Members who sign up for Vacation monthly dues deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.

Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction Authorization: Members may revoke vacation monthly dues authorization at any time by signing a vacation deduction cancellation form. This cancellation form must be sent to the Local Union 1191 office, however understand that Local 1191 needs to have this form on file at least 60 days before the next vacation checks are distributed for the months of May or November.

Vacation Check Direct Deposit: If your mail delivery is slow or your mail is getting lost, then it is highly recommended to get your vacation check direct deposited into your bank checking or savings account. A Payee Deposit Agreement must be completed and signed, and the member must return the payee deposit agreement at least 60 days before the following vacation distribution for the month of May, or November.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.must-safe.com to see how many modules you have.

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 visit the training school website www.mltai.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeyman and apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include: Asbestos Awareness-Silica Awareness-Infectious Disease Awareness-



SNIPPING A SECTION of corner bead while finishing drywall in an 8th floor apartment at the Exchange Building project in Detroit is Rick Wetmore of Michigan Painters District Council 1M, Local 2353. He's employed by Barton Malow.

New milestones set for top-down Exchange Building in Detroit

(Continued from Page 1)

Beyond being another mid-rise structure to enhance Detroit's skyline, the Exchange Building is unique in that it is being erected in a completely unique way: with individual floors being built at ground level and then jacked into place along two concrete structural spines to meet the floor above. The LIFTbuild system that's being used by Barton Malow is the first application of its type in North America, and is getting attention from all manner of publications and curious building architects, engineers, developers and trade groups.

The 166,700-square-foot building being erected on a former parking lot at Macomb and Brush streets will contain 165 residential units of various-size condominiums and apartments. Approximately 60-70 tradespeople have been working on site in recent weeks.

After the structure's concrete spines were erected, the half-million-pound roof was strand-jacked into place on April 30 after a 10-hour process. Then work commenced on the top 16th floor, in a process where the floorplates are constructed on a concrete pad at the base of the structure. When

ready, that floor was jacked into place, and then every two weeks or so, another floor would be constructed and similarly lifted.

LIFTbuild says building at ground level offers numerous ergonomic, quality and efficiency advantages and potentially cost savings, although Ramirez said they're still analyzing those numbers. He said each steel-framed floorplate has been built 20-30 percent more efficiently than conventional construction.

"We got progressively better as we moved along, there was a major learning curve for us, the trades, and everyone involved," said Kathryn Nelson, branding and communications manager for LIFTbuild. "Even the city inspectors had to learn along with us."

A significant amount of interior finish work remains even after each floor is placed. Drywall, carpentry, painting, and mechanical/electrical/plumbing trades have work to do on each floor. Higher floors, as would be expected, are farther along. The interior of the concrete spines allow for the easy placement of elevators and vertical placement of utilities. The design allows for the elimination of vertical structural columns from floor to floor,

resulting in uninterrupted views, flexible space design, additional square footage and more easily configured floor plans. Eight steel connections lock each floor into place with the one above.

The building will include ground-floor commercial space, a fitness room, a club lounge, and an outdoor deck. And greater residential density in that area will be most welcome!

Working throughout this winter, one significant advantage to the LIFTbuild method is to have the walls, floors and windows in place at the ground floor, allowing for a temperature-controlled interior once the floorplates are lifted. "We have power and heat and a nice working environment inside," Ramirez said. "That's a big deal for helping keep workers safe and happy."

Nelson said the LIFTbuild system has been employed on two buildings in India several years ago prior to using it on this project. Barton Malow acquired LIFTbuild in 2017. "We're excited to bring this system here, and we're looking forward to using it more in the future," Nelson said.

The Exchange Building is expected to be complete in mid-summer of 2023.

Laborers Local 1191, continued

Respirator Awareness-Hazard Communication-Blood borne Pathogens Awareness-Covid-19 Awareness-Lead Awareness.

NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, ASBESTOS & LEAD AWARENESS, HOISTING & RIGGING, PIPELINE SAFETY, CLASS A CDL LICENSE, ASBESTOS REMOVAL SUPERVISORS LICENCE, CONFINED SPACE PERMIT REQUIRED, GRADE CHECKING BLUEPRINT READING & MEASURING TOOLS, GPS LOCATION.

The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

FYI: 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.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first five days of the following months March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. *Example: If your name is on the list in April and or May and you don't re-register by June 5th your name will be removed from the list.

Members are urged to report new project starts 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.

Vacation Fund. WPAS 7525 SE 24TH Street, Suite 200,

Mercer Island, WA 98040
 Telephone: (833) 389-0025
 Extension 3359 -Direct Number
 Fax: (206) 505 9727
 Website: www.wpas-inc.com

CONTACT NUMBERS
 Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Healthcare & Pension)
 Telephone: (877) 645-2267
 Fax: (517) 321-7508
 Website: www.michigan-laborers.org
 Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Detroit and Vicinity Pension Fund
 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)
 Telephone: (248) 641-4942
 Fax: (248) 813-9898
 Website: www.ourbenefit-office.com

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)
 Telephone: (877) 645 2267

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, 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.

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.

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. www.mi-laborers.org

Download the scholarship application and instructions here: [MLDC Scholarship Application Packet](http://MLDC_Scholarship_Application_Packet)
MICHIGAN LABORERS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Michigan Laborers' Scholarship Fund is pleased

to announce the 2023-2024 Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for the continued and further education of eligible individuals who have been admitted or are already enrolled as a student in an accredited post-secondary institution. **Applications must be received by the fund office on or before May 1st, 2023 to receive full consideration.**

In general, eligible individuals who may apply for a scholarship under the Scholarship Program are members in good standing of a Local Union affiliated with the Michigan Laborers' District Council, their biological children, adopted children, stepchildren, a person for whom the member or spouse is or was named full legal guardian (other than a limited or temporary guardian), or survivors of deceased members who were members in good standing of a Local Union affiliated with the Michigan Laborers' District Council at the time of their death.

Survivors include all persons listed above. Eligible individuals must also have been admitted or be already enrolled in an accredited vocational school, technical school, or a two or four-year degree granting college or university accredited by the Board of Education.

"You can't just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they'll want something new."
 –Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."
 –Anaïs Nin (1903 - 1977)

"Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking."
 –H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

"Have patience awhile; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; erelong she shall appear to vindicate thee."
 –Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

Ford to build \$3.5 billion Battery Park in Marshall

(Continued from Page 1)

took his state out of the running for hosting the plant, claiming it is a front for the Chinese Communist Party, which he said would arouse national security concerns.

Chinese battery manufacturer CATL will operate the Marshall plant, while Ford will own the land and the factory itself.

Ford is working to deliver an annual run rate of 600,000 electric vehicles globally by the end of this year and 2 million globally by the end of 2026. As part of its Ford+ plan. As the company rapidly scales up EV production, introducing LFP batteries allows Ford to produce more electric vehicles and offer more choices to new EV customers.

LFP batteries are very durable and tolerate more frequent and faster charging while using fewer high-demand, high-cost materials. This lower-cost battery, at scale, said Ford, will help the company contain or even further reduce EV prices for customers.

"This is a big deal," said Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "It'll make sure that production lines aren't stalled by global shocks or shipping delays. We're going to make electric vehicles top to bottom right here in the state of Michigan. I am grateful to Ford, an American icon, for believing in Michigan."

These LFP batteries will power a variety of next-generation Ford EV passenger vehicles and trucks under development, most of which will be assembled in the U.S.



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, April 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 March 9th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 March 21st at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 March 8th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

*Zone 3 March 16th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

2023 There will be a Special called meeting for the purpose of nominating the newly vacant positions of SMART Local Union No. 7-SM Business Representative Zone 1 and Business Representative Zone 5 and any other positions that become vacant with this procedure for SMART Local Union No. 7-SM. Nominations will take place on Monday, March 6, 2023.

Nominations will begin at 6:00 p.m. located at the Lansing Union Hall (4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI). The official Election mailing has been sent out to your last known address on file along with posted on the website www.sheetmetal7@smw7.org.

NEWS: Local No. 7 – Union Hoodies available through the Lansing office for \$44.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Red with White logo. Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.

Please register on our website at 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.labelitscanireport.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 has been steady as we head into winter and looks to remain this way as we go into spring. If you become unemployed, please update your status with James or Eric (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well).

If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or James 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 am at Bob Evans, 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202:

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

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

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

– In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains steady, and looks good thru the spring. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is March 21st at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Rd, Norton Shores, MI. Always remember dues payments are due prior to the first of the month.

Thank You, Mike Adams

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area still remains slow but other areas are starting to have calls for manpower, please be ready to go when called. If anyone needs journeyman upgrading classes please contact the training center.

Everyone should be receiving a post card from Samsi about work boot reimbursement up to \$275.00, please read or go to Samsi website for more information.

Also don't forget about getting your physicals this year. RETIREES' Next retiree meeting is March 28 at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. Hope to see all retirees there.

– Thank you, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting will be March 16 at 6pm at the Mill Pond Event Center. Work is still steady across the area, and it is looking to be a busy summer.

We are looking for a lot of new people to join our trade in the coming years, if you know anyone interested, please have them call me. Go to www.ourbenefitoffice/smw7-3.com or SASMI.org and sign up if you haven't done so.

The SASMI benefit for July 1 – December 31, 2022 is under 750 hours. If there are any questions on the new yearly physical requirement contact me.

– In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 area is staying pretty steady. Anyone interested in travel don't hesitate to call me. Your Brother, Scott Brotherton

ZONE 5 Info: Work around the U.P. is steady with more work opening up in the near future. The next Retirees meeting will be held May 2023 time and place to be announced at a later date. Thank you SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: SASMI benefits for period 2022B – Hours are from July 1, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2022. You must have worked under 750 hours in that time and have been a member in good standing to qualify. Please contact your Business Agent to apply.

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/Phone 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 noticed mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone no., 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

James Callahan (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

Upper Peninsula: 906-372-9288

“If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down but the staying down.”

–Mary Pickford (1893 - 1979)



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 February 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

SUB FUND TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: At the February 28, 2023 union meeting we will be taking nominations for a Sub Fund Trustee. The vote will happen at March's Meeting on March 28, 2023.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is set for March 21, 2023 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday-Friday 7:30-4, unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours.

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2023 retiree meetings are as follows: April 17, 2023, June 19, 2023, Aug. 21, 2023, Oct. 16, 2023 (Holiday Party) and Dec. 18, 2023. 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.

WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year's wage allocation at the April union meeting.

MARCH RE-REGISTRATION IS COMING! If you are laid off prior to March 1st you need to re-register to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may re-register at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions. Re-registration does not start until March 1st

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 from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

CONGRATULATIONS to member Justin Dupont on the birth of his second daughter, Elaina Rose. Elaina was born on February 1, 2023 measuring 8.5 pounds and 20 inches long.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Jonathon Holland, Eric Ketelhut, Patrick Karl, Robert Hall, Richard Davidson III, Chris Cosgrove, Jason Higgs, Ron Handley, Andrew Bennett, Jerry Roland, Scott Cuny, Steven Czebatol & Tanner Markusic.

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 1st 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.

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

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

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list 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 Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

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

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there

(Continued next column)



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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 for the location and date.

The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on February 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

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.

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the “links” tab at 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 p.m. 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).

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Applications are being accepted for the Sheet Metal Scholarship program. Eligibility requires that an applicant be an active member, a covered employee, or a dependent spouse or child under the age of 25 of a member or covered employee. The applicant must also be a full-time student or be accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college or university. Obtain an “Application Request Form” by visiting <https://smart-union.org/why-join-smart/scholarship/sheet-metal-scholarship-programs/> click on the “Sheet Metal Scholarships” tab to download the form or call 202-662-0858 to request the application form by mail.

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 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: April 6, June 1, August 3rd, 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, 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 story telling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

Please contact the union hall via our website 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, 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 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; 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 certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with 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 March 4, 11, and 25th. 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 80 continued

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.

NOTARY: We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge. Please call to confirm availability.

Save the Date: General Election Nominations: May 23, 2023

General Election Vote: June 27, 2023

Gift Outing: July 15, 2023

Picnic: August 12, 2023



Elevator Constructors

Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular **MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY February 27, 2023, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI.**
The second reading on the motion for accessing late fees on union dues will be read at this meeting. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Attention All Members, your Dues statements have been sent out, please bring in or send a copy of your W-2 with the dues statement to the Hall by March 31, 2023. You do not have to wait till the end of March to bring in your W-2s.

If you are going to be working in another local, you and your Apprentice **MUST** call their hall to make sure it is ok to work, don't take your supervisor's word for it.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** call those jobs into the hall!!

I sent out an email about mandatory continuing education (ARTICLE XIX Par.6) for Mechanics passing the Mechanics exam on or after July 9, 2022,

anyone who passed before July 9, 2022, this is optional. If you have any questions about this, you can contact the hall.

The picnic was approved on January 23, 2023, at the membership meeting with a cap of \$80 per member. We need volunteers for a picnic committee to ensure we have a great picnic this year. We will meet every month before the Executive board meeting. If you would like to volunteer, please call the hall, or contact Jon Bujan Picnic Committee Chair @ (586) 787-114.

If you are not getting 40 hours a week, call the Hall and let us know. We want to make sure our members are getting their hours before travelers come in to do the work.

Once again, I can't stress enough how important it is to get your licenses when you are eligible to take the test. Michigan is one of very few states that have licensing to be able to work on elevators and without that any Joe Blow could do our jobs. Getting your licenses, following the codes, and doing it the right way helps preserve our work.

Attention all members who are interested in Code Out-

reach classes and Code Tabbing classes. Brother Scott Hultstrom has decided to continue Code Outreach and tabbing classes.

There will be code classes once a month on Mondays and tabbing class when we have enough participation to hold a class. If you are interested in taking part in these classes, please contact the hall and we will put you in touch with Scott, please be patient as he will be doing this after work and it might take some time getting back to you.

If anyone is interested in QEI training, please call the Hall so we can build a potential class list, we need a few more guys to host it locally. Call the hall if you need more information.

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

ATTENTION ALL RETIREES, if you requested an Honorary Card in the past year, please contact the Hall. We have multiple cards at the Hall, but we don't have updated numbers or emails to be able to contact you. We can make arrangements to get it to you if you can't make it to a meeting.

Attention All Apprentices,

Millwright O'Neil wins U.P. 'Apprentice of the Year'

(Continued next column)

construction student, but sometimes you don't have great skills in terms of resume writing or interview skills," a spokesperson said. "So that's one of the first things that Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! did – provide workshops for resume and interview skills."

The UPCC collaborated with signatory contractors and UP building trades unions, as well as U.P. Michigan Works, Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, Dickinson-Iron ISD and Marquette-Alger Regional Education Services Agency to develop a program that is skill-based, labor- and industry-approved and directly linked to real workplace situations. Students attend school in the mornings, then spend the afternoons working, learning – and earning – on job sites.

Construction Connect UP is operating as a pilot program for the second semester of this school year, with three students from Escanaba and one student from Kingsford. In May, students who successfully complete the program may be "drafted" into building trades apprenticeships. A full program will follow for the 2023-24 school year.

"The demand for skilled

construction workers is growing in the U.P., with exciting projects like Billerud in Escanaba and Soo Locks, and the renewable energy and electrification efforts coming in the future," Smith said. "We are creating pathways for high school students to consider a wider variety of career options. In the union trades, you earn while you learn, and graduate debt free with a skill that can take you anywhere."

THE TOP 2022 APPRENTICE in the Upper Peninsula, Kale O'Neil, shows his plaque and proclamation surrounded by well-wishers. Kale is a Millwrights Local 1510 member.



Classes have started, and we are working on updating and organizing classrooms so please be patient as we make these rooms what they should be. We would like to thank all Apprentices for their hard work and turning in your OJTs in a timely manner, attendance in class and doing make up classes, this has NOT gone unrecognized. Check your

NEIEP emails frequently for any additional information. 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!!!**

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month.

If you can't make the union meeting to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the next morning.

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!



GOING UP: Operating one of the elevators at the Exchange Building project in Detroit is Michael Wallace. The Elevator Constructors Local 36 member is employed by Kone.

2023 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

Aiello Law Group has just released our 2023 Construction Worker's Daily Logbook in both a print and digital version! We have provided logbooks to Michigan's building trades for over 30 years.

The traditional paper version can be picked up in our office, your union hall, the Building Trades office at 1640 Porter in Detroit, or can be mailed directly to you by giving us a call at (313) 964-4900. The digital version can be found in the App Store for Apple or Google Play for Android. Simply search for "Aiello Daily Logbook."



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IRON WORKERS are shown on a lofty perch on lunch break while building the Rockefeller Center, in an iconic photo taken in New York City in 1932. Photo credit: Unknown, via Wikipedia Commons



DURING LUNCHTIME at the Exchange Building in Detroit, a group of Local 25 iron workers employed by Barton Malow agreed to take part in a re-creation of the well-known photo of 1932-era iron workers in New York, at left. Show (l-r) are iron workers Nick Walczyk, Jeff Jaskiewicz, Max Francisco, Conan Thomlison, Conner Stanley, Jace Clark, Shaun Moore, Tony Bretolino, Kevin Aquino, Scott O'Kelley, Joe Grzegorzewski. With the nature of the building's design, they had a much safer seat than did their brethren in 1932. "Lunch at Exchange" photo by Kat Ruff Nelson



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – February's Union meeting will be Monday February 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open. This will be the 2nd Reading of the BY-LAW Proposals submitted 1/30/2023. The third (3rd) Reading will be during March's Union meeting Monday March 27, 2023, with the Vote date on April 5, 2023.

HRA UPDATE: Your welcome letter has been mailed along with your HRA card. After an intense programming start-up; the HRA Program is effective February 1, 2023. During the Union Meeting of February 27th, 2023 Benesys will be on hand to present important information on the HRA program. Any Questions please call your Business Agent or the Novi Hall.

Local Union Elections: Nominations for the Election of Officers will take place starting at 7:00 am March 27, 2023 through March 31, 2023 closing at 4:00 pm. Nominations will be conducted through The Members Only Section of our Website (www.Ironworkers25.org). A member can nominate himself/herself; or a member can nominate a fellow member. Considering this is an Officer Election year, please be sure we have your current address on file at the Novi Hall. If you have moved recently and/or are unsure of the address we have, please call the Hall to double check (248-344-9494).

Steward meeting(s): The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 6:30 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, March 23, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

DEADLINE SOON: The 2023 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available. All COMPLETED applications must be turned in by March 15, 2023. Call the Novi Union Hall 248-344-9494 to get one mailed or E-mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

The Ironworkers Local 25 Training Center is now accepting resumes for the full-time position of JIW Instructor for the Hudsonville, MI Training Center location primarily and some weeks at the Wixom, MI Training Center. Members that are interested can call the Wixom Training Center at (248)960-2130 to schedule a time to submit their resume, also all candidates will take the ACT Work Keys "Talent" Assessment here at the Wixom Training Center. This test is approximately an hour in length. Please read the Ironworker Instructor Job Description for qualifications and requirements located in the members section on the ironworkers25.org website. **The deadline to turn in resumes will be FRIDAY March 17th, 2023 @ 2pm.**

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, print the application, gather documentation then phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130

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 abil-

ity to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find "Evaluation Form," Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email for your pay raise slips.**

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule. The 2022 Raising Gang Training schedule is one the website. Please call the school to make up days **Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.**

The Ironworkers Local 25 APP & Website: Members are able to access the log-in section and can sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website 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 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 Novi Chapter Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 8:30 am. The Retirees meeting/ luncheon will be Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Future meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

The Bay City Chapter: The next quarterly meeting will be 1:00 pm on April 20, 2023 at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter: The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be April 21, 2023 at 9:00 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club Scholarship available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school. Retiree must have a minimum of

five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their annual club dues to be eligible and apply. Contact John Miller: text/call (734) 812-8036 or email jlmillertime50@yahoo.com.

(NEW) Dial 988 for help in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 988 connects cell phones & land lines to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7. **Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.** Alternately 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

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.

In Memory: Thomas Needham #893176 passed away January 30, 2023 at the age of 70. He was a former member for 37 years prior to 2010. Charles Medley Jr. #403198 passed away February 8, 2023 at the age of 94. He had proud roots in ironwork and just marked 75 years membership on February 1. Survived by his daughter & L-25 former Secretary Linda Rhodes, his sons Gary Medley #864771 and Terry Medley #980972 and many friends in the industry. He was predeceased by his dad IW Charles Medley Sr. and in-law IW Oscar Monroe Barton.

(Continued next column)

On behalf of the Iron Workers Local 25 Union and with a heavy heart we regret to inform you that we have just experienced the loss of our **Business Agent Anthony A. Ramos #1253607** who passed away at the age of 51. He was a 24-year member & served as Rodman Business Agent since July 2015. He is survived by his Apprentice sons Anthony Ramos Jr. #1595187, and Austyn Ramos #1588297; also survived by his wife Lisa, son Aric and many friends in the ironworking industry.

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 (Feb 20, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.)-

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Outdoors

Catching natural resource rustlers



By Katie Gervasi
Law Enforcement Division
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

George Berkeley, an Anglo-Irish philosopher, originally posed the question: "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"

Considering there are about 20 million acres of forest land in Michigan, a lot of tree falls go unheard.

What else happens in the depths of the forest? How are forests and other remote locations – home to Michigan's finest natural resources – monitored? What happens when someone steals those valuable resources?

A highly trained group of career officers is responsible for patrolling and protecting Michigan's natural resources.

In addition to policing hunting and fishing violations and performing a wide range of other duties, Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers investigate crimes of natural resource theft that occur in these remote locations, where many people believe they will leave no trace.

Forest resources. "You don't know something is missing until it's gone," said Doug Heym, DNR Forest Resources Division unit manager for timber sales and utilization. "If you have forested property of any kind – keep your eye on it because timber rustling (theft) does occur."

Michigan's traditional forest industry generated an estimated \$22 billion in 2019. That's a significant source of income and jobs to local economies, especially in the northern two-thirds of the state, where most of the forest land is located.

The DNR manages about 4 million acres of Michigan's forests – about 20 percent of the market. The remaining 16 million acres are owned and managed by the federal government, private industries, agriculture subsidiaries and private landowners.

Michigan has an array of forest species that serve many



A PILE OF TIMBER R&J Logging illegally harvested from state land in Menominee County.

different purposes and industries – structural lumber for houses and fencing, paper, cabinets, furniture, just to name a few.

The southern third of the state has seen a recent uptick in black walnut theft – which is an ideal material for furniture due to its high-quality grain and color.

However, it was mostly sugar maple that landed an Upper Peninsula logger in court for one of Michigan's largest known timber theft cases.

Stiff competition. "Many people don't realize the value of some of these trees," said Dustin Salter, DNR forester. "One tree might have four logs, and the value of those logs might get up to \$300-\$500 each; some are more."

On state-managed land, foresters and conservation officers are familiar with where timber harvest is occurring and what trees are being harvested. If an officer notices a random tree stump on state land, they're likely to investigate.

"Natural resource crimes are unique and are often solved over an extended period of time as evidence is pieced together," said Dave Shaw, chief of the DNR Law Enforcement Division. "Urban and people-versus-people crime comes to fruition sooner because people talk and it's easier to piece together evidence."

In late 2015, the DNR sent out a standard timber harvest proposal for bid on a section of state-managed forest land in Menominee County. Most bids come back ranging within \$2,000-\$3,000 of each other.

However, one bid really stuck out. R&J Logging, based out of Stephenson, won the bid by \$40,000 – steep competition for what other honest bidders told the DNR was a "break-even job."

Suspicious circumstances. Conservation officers met with local foresters, who mark thousands of trees at a time that need to come down. Prior to R&J beginning the harvest, foresters noticed newly marked trees. "A forester's mark is like their signature," said Lt. Reid Roeske, supervising conservation officer of the investigation.

Conservation officers walked the 92 acres of land, becoming acquainted with what would become their "office." Together, officers and foresters physically and electronically documented high-dollar trees that were not included in the original bid.

Officers then worked one of their best skills – they patiently patrolled the land and waited.

Investigation. After about 12-18 months, R&J Logging finally started its harvest. Under close surveillance, the DNR confirmed new trees were being

marked and cut down. Observing from a distance, officers let R&J Logging owner Raymond Vetort drop the trees. Meanwhile, officers conducted many interviews and collected paint chemical samples from the trees they knew Vetort was not supposed to harvest.

When the Michigan State Police lab confirmed the chemicals on the newly marked trees matched chemicals Vetort was in possession of, Vetort confessed he marked additional trees to increase his profit margin.

"Vetort cut about half of the 92 acres," said Eric Thompson, DNR Escanaba unit manager with the forest resources division. It was determined that more than \$100,000 in timber value was involved in the theft. With every harvested tree documented, in 2016 the DNR reclaimed the timber sale.

The DNR followed up with mill operators who purchased the timber to determine the volume that was sold in comparison to what was harvested.

The DNR requested assistance from Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel to shed light on the severity of stealing natural resources.

"Without the AG's office, I don't know if we would have gotten results this good," Roeske said.

In 2021, Vetort was charged

with trespassing or damages to state land, larceny, and malicious destruction of property. He pleaded guilty. He was ordered to pay more than \$119,000 in reimbursement to the state and serve three years of probation, with six months in jail suspended pending his successful completion of his probation term. The Michigan Department of Corrections currently lists the 59-year-old as on probation status.

Mineral resources. The heyday of the copper industry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula lasted for more than 40 years, from 1845 to 1887. During much of that time, Michigan produced more than three-quarters of the country's copper. Now, nearly 140 years later, copper is still a sought-after commodity.

Due to the high price of copper and growing demand, there is renewed interest in some known reserves of copper in Michigan, a return to past prospects and in exploring for new metal ore deposits that may contain copper, as well as other metals or critical minerals. "Currently, the main demand that is driving up the price of copper is for electronics and in lithium-ion batteries," said Kirk Lapham, DNR Minerals Management Section manager.

Copper crime. Despite copper being more difficult to find these days, conservation officers nabbed three copper thieves in 2020. Sentencing in the case concluded last month in Keweenaw County with fines for all three and 30-day jail sentences for two.

Officers received a tip about activity at a copper mine located in Central, part of the "Copper Country" in Keweenaw County.

The Central mine produced about 52 million pounds of copper over 40 years. Roughly 1,200 people established a town revolving around the mine, which became a "ghost town" when the mine was abandoned in 1898.

Conservation officers, the county mine inspector and the local sheriff set out to investigate, confirming the mine had indeed been broken into.

"The subjects were accessing a shaft of the Central Mine complex through a man-made mine cap," said Sgt. Marc Pomroy, DNR conservation officer. "The cap allows bats to use the mine shaft for hibernation. The top of the cap has a locked access door."

Within a day of surveillance, conservation officers and a Keweenaw County Sheriff's deputy went back to the mine on snowmobiles and waited until three people were caught leaving the mine. The three individuals were in possession of hundreds of pounds of copper.

"The copper ore that was taken from the mine was in rough form, and still needed to be treated and cleaned, but was still valuable," Pomroy said. "These folks make a living off of breaking into old mines and stealing the copper product to later sell in the clean polished form."

When conservation officers investigate natural resource crimes, it's usually based on a tip or complaint, often reported to the DNR Report All Poaching hotline, or directly to a conservation officer. When officers receive a tip or complaint, they visit the original location to look for anything out of the ordinary. But sometimes, while they're patrolling, something just seems off and is worth investigating.

If you suspect or witness a natural resource crime, including, fish, game, recreational trespassing, environmental crimes or commodity vandalizing or theft, contact the Report All Poaching hotline. Call or text 1-800-292-7800 as soon as possible; the line is available 24/7.

Tipsters may remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward for information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

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