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SHORT CUTS

Another delay for Line 5 Tunnel

The permitting process for a new Line 5 utility tunnel from St. Ignace to Mackinaw City will take an additional 18 months, at least.

That's the word from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, which revised the timeline in a March 23 announcement for a potential start to constructing the Enbridge Energy oil and gas pipeline. Corps engineers said they need more time to study the massive amount of public comments on the controversial pipeline tunnel project.

The existing Line 5 is a pair of 70-year-old steel pipelines that sit on the lakebed under the Mackinac Straits. Enbridge's new Line 5 tunnel under the Straits would house a new 30-inch pipeline for delivery of light crude oil and liquid natural gas. Environmentalists want to shut the line down completely.

The Detroit District had originally planned to publish the draft environmental impact statement in late 2023 but is now projecting a Spring 2025 publication.

The original timeline for completing the tunnel project, estimated to cost \$500 million, was 2024, but if it is built, it wouldn't be completed until 2029.

Lead pipe work has monetary gap

Michigan allocated about \$87 million to replace lead water pipes in Flint, a process that was about 95 percent complete at the end of last year. And, nearly all of Benton Harbor's lead water lines were also replaced at the end of 2022.

But with hundreds of communities in our state a century-old or older, there are an estimated 500,000 water service lines in Michigan with lead in them, and their replacement would cost about \$5 billion to completely replace. That's a price tag much more than has been allocated to date.

That's the word from a spokesman for the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Via the news service MIRS, Legislative Liaison Travis Boeskool told the EGLE House Committee on March 20 that the number of known lead service lines (between the main and the house) in Michigan is 300,000. Combined with service lines made of unknown materials, which he said is "based on some assumptions, some math and our experience" adds up to 500,000 lead water pipes that need to be replaced in the state.

Combined with federal Infrastructure Act and American Rescue Act money, and with state matching money, only about \$1.9 billion has been allocated for the work. Boeskool said about 600 communities in the state are seeking funding for pipe replacement work.

Flint's water system in 2014 was catastrophically switched from Detroit's system to a supply from the Flint River, leading to elevated lead levels among residents. The corrosive water from the river wore away a protective coating inside the pipes.

Benton Harbor's pipe replacement project took place after testing revealed their system had unsafe lead levels for three straight years.

Quotable

"In playing ball, and in life, a person occasionally gets the opportunity to do something great. When that time comes, only two things matter: being prepared to seize the moment and having the courage to take your best swing."
—Henry Aaron (1934-2021)

Whitmer signs landmark pro-worker bills

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Done and done. It took a few extra legislative sessions to get the language right, but the Michigan House and Senate on March 21 worked out the final details of repealing the state's right-to-work law, and instituting a new statewide prevailing wage law. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer added her signature on March 24 to make the "Restoring Workers' Rights Bills" official.

"Today, we are coming together to restore workers' rights, protect Michiganders on the job, and grow Michigan's middle class," said Whitmer when she signed the legislation into law. "Michigan workers are the most

talented and hard-working in the world and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. These bills will protect health and safety, ensuring healthcare workers can put patient care ahead of profit, construction workers can speak up when there's a safety issue, and employees can call attention to food safety threats and other problems. Let's continue delivering for working people and ensuring Michigan is open for business."

The bills came together

last month after some back and forth to settle details between the Democrat-led House and Senate, but there was never any doubt that the pro-labor bills would be adopted and signed. Dems, with thin majorities in both the House and Senate, wanted to get the key legislation done before their spring break. Whitmer signed:

•Senate Bill 34, which repeals right-to-work for private sector workers in Michigan. Importantly, the bill appropriates \$1 million to the Department of

State Dems 'took historic action to undo the devastation caused by decades of attacks on workers' freedom'

—Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber

amendment to overturn the law is still possible, albeit with a much higher requirement of petition signatures).

•House Bill 4004, which repeals right to work for public sector workers. The bill is a paper tiger, however, in that the U.S. Supreme Court has imposed a virtual form of right-to-work on all public sector unions, barring them from collecting dues from

(Continued on Page 3)

Killing right-to-work a boon to organized labor. But can we stop its resurrection?

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – So what's next for organized labor as it sheds the yoke of right to work?

Will the repeal of Michigan's decade-old right-to-work law lead to a resurgent labor movement in our state and elsewhere? Or could it galvanize the anti-union resolve of a disorganized state Republican Party with their big-money donors, prompting expensive efforts to overturn the law and pile-drive labor?

Or will this historic RTW repeal just prove to be a minor blip in the course of history, with labor unions continuing their diminishing clout and market share?

While it's fair to be looking ahead for a labor movement that is accustomed to constantly looking over its shoulder for the next threat, the fact is, Michigan being the first state in nearly 60 years to overturn a statewide right-to-

work law is a really big deal for organized labor.

"We're proud to have passed this historic repeal," said Michigan Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton) who sponsored Senate Bill 34, which repealed the state's right-to-work law for private-sector employees. "Workers can finally compete on an even playing field with the knowledge that the State of Michigan has their back. We know that the true power in our state lies with our workers, and this historic legislation will allow Michigan workers to more freely negotiate for the pay, benefits, and protections they deserve."

A right-to-work law allows workers in a bargaining unit to opt out of paying dues, while enjoying contractually gained pay raises, negotiated health care and pension benefits.

The repeal of Michigan's
(Continued on Page 13)



STRUCTURAL STEEL rises last month at the Michigan Sugar Company's \$75 million de-sugarization plant in Bay City. Iron Workers Local 25 members on the job are employed by Dobson Industrial and Monarch Welding.

Photo credits: Michigan Sugar

De-sugarization plant on the rise

BAY CITY – Springtime and warmer temperatures will be most welcome at the Michigan Sugar Company's new \$75 million molasses de-sugarization project.

General contractor Pumford Construction and its building trades workforce have been working on the mostly open-air project, with the steel rising daily, and decking, re-bar and block walls going in. The facility's six evaporators have now been set into place on the west side of the structure.

When the facility is up and running in 2024, Michigan Sugar will have the capacity to produce up to an additional 80 million pounds of pure, all-natural sugar annually from molasses that is a byproduct of the process through which

sugar is extracted from sugarbeets grown on area farms.

Currently, Michigan Sugar Co. has the capacity to extract additional sugar from 60 percent of its molasses. Once completed, Michigan Sugar expects to process as much as 650 tons of

molasses daily, up from the current amount of 325 tons per day.

Michigan Sugar Company's grower-owners will see added annual revenue of \$10 million to \$15 million,
(Continued on Page 2)



SETTING BLOCK at the Michigan Sugar Co. plant in Bay City is Ed Morse of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Pumford.

Michigan, U.S., enjoy good start to building in 2023

The year 2023 is off to a solid start, generally, for Michigan and the rest of the U.S. construction industry.

For the 12 months ending February 2023, total U.S. construction starts were 9 percent higher than the 12 months ending February 2022, according to a March 21 report from the Dodge Construction Network. Nonresidential and non-building starts were 27 percent and 19

percent higher respectively, while the residential industry saw starts drop 9 percent.

"February construction starts were a mixed bag that led to marginal growth," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. "Single family units posted a gain for the first time in 13 months, and manufacturing starts continued to be very robust, showing signs of promise early into 2023. How-

ever, the downturn in commercial and institutional building starts could very well be the beginning of an anticipated slow-down as the construction sector pulls back in the face of higher interest rates and lagging economic growth. While this ebbing should be comparatively mild, some construction verticals could face extreme stress as the year progresses."

The Associated General
(Continued on Page 3)

MBCTC's Mo Homola says farewell after 48 years

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The end of an era took place March 31 at the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, with the retirement of office manager Maurine Homola.

Nicknamed "Mo," she spent 48 years working in the council's Lansing office, taking care of business for eight MBCTC presidents – and really, the rest of the building trades – over the decades. She was no less a fixture for building trades local union business managers and agents – Mo literally worked with generations of union officers statewide since she started in 1975.

"I have loved my job but I'm excited to retire," she said. "I have enjoyed everybody I have worked with over the years, the council presidents, and the business managers and agents. I am so grateful to the membership for making it possible for me to retire with dignity and have an opportunity to do some things that I have never had time to do."

Mo was hired by the council's original president, Stan Arnold,

whose term originated with the MBCTC's founding in 1957. She worked for more than 30 years with another office fixture, Mary Bechtol, who retired in 2007 and passed away last year.

Over the years Mo helped organize union rallies, building trades charity softball tournaments, golf outings, legislative conferences, political rallies, conventions – all while answering phones, and keeping minutes and financial records for the council's Lansing office.

"Mo has been a terrific co-worker and partner in our Lansing office, navigating the things we do on a day-to-day basis," said Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council President Steve Claywell. "Mo has been a staple
(Continued on Page 13)

WHO WORKS AT THE same place for 48 years anymore? Maurine Homola did – the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council was lucky to have her as an employee in our Lansing office for all those years until she retired last week.



Viewpoints



Right-to-work perspectives

“Labor and employment lawyer, Richard Mack, said studies have shown (right-to work) repeal would mean more money in those workers’ pockets.

“They’ve looked at right-to-work states, and those workers in those states, make \$1,600 less per year,” said Mack, a partner at Miller Cohen law firm. He said right-to-work allows people to benefit from union bargaining, union accountants and lawyers, while other workers foot the bill.

“Republicans always say, ‘you shouldn’t get something for nothing.’ They beat up on welfare mothers and everyone else who they feel, wrongly, are getting something for nothing. But yet, they are the main champion of a bill which allows freeloading hypocrites.”

— CBS News Detroit, March 16

“Michigan is also the home of several big-name Republican donors, such as financier Ron Weiser and the DeVos family, who have bankrolled right-to-work and other conservative causes and galvanized opponents.

“When you explain that these initiatives that are backed by Betsy DeVos, or whomever, folks here know that’s probably not a good thing for most working people because that’s not who they’re here for,” said state Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Royal Oak)

— Politico, March 26

“Labor representatives and experts told the *Advance* that these reforms come amid the national and statewide backdrop of increased interest in reviving unions, and will boost Michigan into the spotlight once again as a leader in workers’ rights.

“I think it’s a sign of the times,” said Jennifer Sherer, a senior state policy coordinator for the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). “It is a sign of how stark extreme inequality has become, how aware the majority of workers and voters are of how unequal our economy and unequal our power is distributed in our workplaces right now.

“It’s a sign of the growing interest in reviving unions, and an acknowledgement of their really important role that they play in leveling the playing field and rebalancing that power.”

— Michigan Advance, March 23

“Few if any other states have the same political dynamics and historical union strength as Michigan, making similar (right-to-work) repeal legislation a heavy lift elsewhere.

“Until the legislation takes effect, Michigan is one of 27 states with a ‘right to work’ law, and it’s the only one where Democrats hold a statehouse majority plus the governor’s office.

“When the party briefly held this ‘trifecta’ in Nevada and Virginia earlier this decade, the state legislative leaders and governors opted against or didn’t actively pursue a ‘right-to-work’ repeal, amid stiff opposition from business groups. Although not among those 27, Colorado has a labor peace policy that sets a high bar for unions to be able to mandate contractually that all employees participate.”

— Chris Marr, Bloomberg Law, March 27

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and to shorten them. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.

How to contact us –

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HERE ARE THE six evaporators being installed on the west side of Michigan Sugar Company’s new, \$75 million molasses desugarization facility in Bay City. Michigan Sugar expects the new construction will allow it to process as much as 650 tons of molasses daily, up from the current amount of 325 tons per day.

Photo credit: Michigan Sugar



De-sugarization plant on the rise

(Continued from Page 1) in perpetuity.

“This facility will replace our current desugarization equipment that was installed in the 1990s,” said Adam Herford, a grower-owner from Elkton who serves as the company’s chairman of the board. “This is one of the most substantial investments made in the history of our company and brings Michigan Sugar Co. up to

par with other sugar producers across the United States.”

The work is going on at 2600 S. Euclid Ave. in Bay County’s Monitor Township (commonly known as the company’s Bay City factory).

Michigan Sugar Co. was founded in 1906 when six smaller sugar companies merged their operations. In 2002, Michigan Sugar became a grower-owned

cooperative, and in 2004, it merged with Monitor Sugar Co. to form the company that exists today.

Headquartered in Bay City, the company has sugarbeet processing facilities in Bay City, Caro, Croswell and Sebawaing. Its sugar is sold to industrial, commercial and retail customers under the Pioneer and Big Chief brands.

Just joking

A man called home to his wife and said, “Honey, I have been asked to go fishing up in Canada with my boss and several of his friends. We’ll be gone for a week. I’ll miss you, but this is a good opportunity for me



to get that promotion I’ve been wanting! So could you please pack enough clothes for a week and set out my fishing pole and tackle box; we’re leaving from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up.”

“Oh! And please pack my new blue silk pajamas.”

The wife thinks the whole story sounds a bit fishy, but, being the good wife, did exactly what her husband asked. The following weekend he came home a little tired but otherwise looking good.

The wife welcomed him home and asked if he caught many fish? He said, “Yes! Lots of salmon, a few trout, and some bluegill. But why didn’t you pack my new blue silk pajamas like I asked you to do?”

“I did,” she replied. “They’re in your tackle box.”

The sick system of for-profit health care

By Jim Hightower

No one needs another outrage to worry about, but here’s one that could literally be your last worry. Our hospitals are killing us.

Not that the staffers are going room to room snuffing our patients, of course, but hospital owners and

top executives are nonetheless killing thousands of ill Americans entrusted to their care. They are doing by deliberately short-staffing their facilities and short-changing sick and injured people they’re richly paid to serve.

At the core of this outrage is a

fatal structural flaw in our health-care system, namely that these are no longer “our” hospitals. Instead of being public or non-profit entities for the Common Good, focused squarely on patients, hospitals today tend to be private operations controlled by corporate profiteers. Pitting patients against profits is no way to run a hospital, for it means money will ultimately rule over health (and over life itself). Ask a nurse.

These dedicated professionals are the solid pillars of American health. More than doctors and way more than administrators, nurses make a hospital function, providing the primary care and constant, on-site monitoring that are the essence of an ethical, healthy system. Yet, thousands have already fled the work they

love, another third plan to leave this year – and thousands more are going on strike.

Why? Because the profit system demands massive staff cuts, leaving way too few nurses to meet the basic needs of patients, causing burnout among nurses... and unnecessary deaths of the people they care for.

A damning 2021 study revealed that forcing fewer nurses to tend to an ever-larger caseload effectively killed more than 4,000 New York hospital patients in the previous two years alone.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Yet, the corporate powers insist on treating nurses just as a cost to be cut, arguing that hospitals must have “staffing flexibility.” In other words: Cut nurses/raise profits.



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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Our oldest wooden structure HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



MICHIGAN'S OLDEST wooden building that's still standing is in Monroe. Erected in 1789, "The Navarre-Anderson Trading Post is an outstanding example of late 18th Century French-Canadian folk architecture in form and construction. It is perhaps the most important remnant of the first century of southeastern Michigan's history," said Dennis Au, who wrote an article on the trading post-turned-house. It's use of a mortise and tongue log-fitting technique was a step up from those in common log cabins that were built in the day. "The construction also reveals that this house was built by skilled hands," Au wrote. "Only timber that was cut and hewn and seasoned for at least a year was used. The Roman numerals scratched on each log show that before the building was erected, each section was fitted together and each timber numbered. As was common among Michigan's French pioneers, this house was the product of a carpenter working under a contract. It resembles a modular building--the horizontal logs being standard-length timbers that the carpenter kept in stock."

Photo credit: WKFR

Before Michigan became a state in 1837 – and even well before our state became a territory in 1805 – native people had forged trails in the woods, canoed our waterways and had been hunting and fishing for centuries.

Then came the settlers from Europe and from the eastern part of the continent, who trickled into Michigan seeking to make a living harvesting animal furs, in mineral excavation, or in permanent farming settlements. The first city to be founded in the state, Sault Ste. Marie (by the French in 1663) was strategically located on the Great Lakes and became an early major fur trading post.

While the state's waterways were a superhighway for trade, eventually settlers came from the east in overland routes and via the lower Great Lakes, arriving in what is now Monroe County in the southeast corner of the Mitten. Among the first was Francois Navarre, who around 1780 became the first non-native to settle in Monroe. He moved downriver from Detroit, and a trading post that he built still stands as Michigan's oldest wooden structure.

"He was a so-called dreamer as he traveled by himself to create his own new settlement," says *ArcGIS Living Atlas of the World*. The Potawatomi Tribe ceded a 20-acre plot of land along the Raisin River to a group of settlers, per a treaty initiated by Navarre in 1785.

"A group of (about 100) French Canadians joined him and the settlement of 'Frenchtown' began," says the site's National Register of Historic Places application. "The architecture and layout of this early settlement was indicative of the primitive conditions in the area. The houses were all made of hand-hewn posts and beams joined in a distinct fashion that has little in common with the Lincoln-log type of construction associated with American pioneer log cabins. Sharpened picket fences, or 'punchoons,' were placed around the settlement as a defense against the Indians. Serving to connect the outlying houses and offering access to the interior were two narrow paths paralleling both sides of the river."

Fellow settler John Anderson also has his name on

the oldest of those surviving structures, now known as the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post. The trading post building dates to 1789. It was originally located several miles downstream in the present-day Old Village Historic District, but developments forced it to be moved in 1894 and again in 1971. Currently owned by the Monroe County Historical Museum, it has been restored to what it would have looked like in the 1790s.

"The Trading Post complex was established to represent a French pioneer homestead along the old River Raisin," says *Pure Michigan*. "The main building, built in 1789... is the oldest wooden residence still standing in the state. It is the most complete example of French-Canadian piece-sur-piece construction in the Old Northwest. Other buildings include the Navarre-Morris 1810 cookhouse and a replica 1790's French-Canadian style barn." The historic site's grounds are open year-round with buildings open by appointment.

"Michigan became a territory in 1805 and pioneers began trickling into Monroe County," says the National Register of Historic Places application. "Most settled on the northern bank of the River Raisin. This increase in population organized the Second Regiment, under the leadership of Colonel John Anderson, who had come to Frenchtown in 1800. He in partnership with Francis Navarre established a trading post on present-day Elm Avenue, on the northern bank of the river, providing a commercial focal point for the scattered agrarian community."

The trading post is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "the oldest standing residential wood structure and is one of the very few remaining examples of French colonial log construction in Michigan today," said Raisin River Heritage Trail.

The modest building's use as trading post was short-lived, and with the decline in fur trading it was converted into a private home.

"Originally Navarre used this structure as a depot for his fur trade business, but in 1798 he converted it to his family

residence," writes Craig and Kimberly Hutchinson in *Monroe: The Early Years*.

The trading post-to-residence conversion led to cutting in two windows, two room partitions and plaster being applied to the walls. A family of 11 Navarres lived in the home for five years until it was sold to Colonel John Anderson, who figured prominently in the battles of the River Raisin. They added: "Bullet holes can be seen on the west side of the building. The caliber of the holes is too small for American and British muskets, but it is correct for Indian trade muskets."

The bullet hole reference harkens the Battle of the River Raisin, which enveloped the fledgling Frenchtown community during the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Great Britain. Occurring over the course of several days in January 1813, British regulars supported by Canadian militia and warriors from some 17 tribes, numbering nearly 1,400, soundly defeated about 1,000 American volunteers. Only a few dozen Americans escaped killing or capture. Many of the American wounded died at the hand of the Indian tomahawks. "Remember the Raisin" was later a battle cry in the War of 1812, whose deadliest battle was along the Raisin River.

The Navarre-Anderson house survived the battle, but the new home Anderson had built next door was burned to the ground. Anderson and his wife then moved back to their namesake house in 1816, where they lived until they built a new residence. They then rented out the Navarre-Anderson House.

In 1847 the Ligenfritz family acquired the building and made it their homestead for decades. It then went through a succession of owners. In 1969, a purchaser of the home wanted to turn the property into a parking lot, but the building was saved when the new owner learned of its historic significance. Dennis Au, who authored *Standing for Two Centuries: the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post*, credited then-Monroe County Historical Museum for investigating and revealing the building's architectural and historical heritage.



THE INTERIOR of the Navarre-Anderson House in Frenchtown Twp. is shown. Built in 1789, while George Washington was still president, the wooden structure has served as a residence, a storehouse, and a doctor's office. The Officers' Stone Quarters (1780) in Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island is the oldest surviving building in Michigan. Photo credit: Monroe County Historical Society

Whitmer signs landmark pro-worker legislation

(Continued from Page 1)

workers who refuse to pay. If the Supreme Court ever issues a revised ruling banning freeloading workers from enjoying union benefits, Michigan's law will take effect.

•House Bill 4007: A bill that will reinstate Michigan's prevailing wage law, which Republican lawmakers rescinded in 2018. The legislation includes a key \$75,000 appropriation that acts similarly to the above RTW monetary addition, which shields the law from the possibility of a takedown via a voter petition referendum.

"Today, our pro-worker Democratic majority... took historic action to undo the devastation caused by decades of attacks on workers' freedom," said Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber. "Since 2012, thousands of Michigan workers, labor leaders, and organizers across the state have been mobilizing and laying the groundwork for this moment. We applaud the swift action to undo the damage caused by Betsy DeVos, John Engler, Rick Snyder and their worker suppression agendas. Today, our legislative leaders are delivering on the promises they made and putting power back into the hands of Michigan workers."

Neither of the bills received a single Republican vote and thus were unable to pass with immediate effect; as a result they are expected to go into effect 90 days after the end of the legislative session later this year.

Michigan's right-to-work law was adopted in 2012 by ruling state Republicans and signed by then-Gov. Rick Snyder. The effort was prodded with the backing of the billionaire Devos family of Grand Rapids, and the signing of the RTW law took place behind closed doors in the state Capitol despite 12,000 people protesting outside.

Similarly, in 2018 money from the Devos family and others helped push a pair of petition drives that eventually led to the GOP-led Legislature repealing the state's prevailing wage law.

Passage of both the RTW repeal and implementing a new prevailing wage law were organized labor's top priorities in Michigan after Dems won razor-thin margins in the statewide election last November. Both laws were subsequently adopted along party lines. And the responses from Republican lawmakers and the Chamber of Commerce centered

on their contention that the laws were about "worker freedom" and purportedly make Michigan a less-inviting place to do business.

Leading the charge with that argument was Michigan Chamber of Commerce Vice President Wendy Block, who said "right to work is better for hard-working Michiganders and our job providers, communities, and economy. It's about freedom and personal choice – the ability of employees to decide whether to pay dues or other equivalent fees to labor unions as a condition of employment and in how to spend their wages. It's about our economic competitiveness and retaining current jobs and attracting next generation jobs."

Someone should have asked Block at the Senate Labor subcommittee hearing last month that addressed RTW and prevailing wage whether her organization would allow companies to enjoy Chamber of Commerce membership if they didn't pay dues.

"This is a matter of freeloaders in the system being allowed to take advantage of bargaining for benefits without paying their fair share," said state Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph). "I think

we can all agree that fundamental fairness in bargaining is important."

Said State Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Royal Oak): "You don't have to choose to support business and then choose to screw over workers," she said "You can support business. You can support workers at the same time. And supporting workers also actually helps support investments into our economy."

The new law also precludes local units of government from enacting municipal-level right-to-work laws.

Organized labor has pointed to academic studies that consistently show prevailing wage raises wages while not increasing the costs of building things. Meanwhile workers in right-to-work states make less, have more limited access to health care, and have higher poverty and greater infant mortality rates.

"I don't understand why folks continuously get angry about the fact that we are trying to ensure that people in the state of Michigan can afford to live in the state," said Majority Floor Leader Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck).

Good start in 2023

(Continued from Page 1)

Contractors reported strong state-level growth on March 24, as employment increased in 45 states in February compared to a year earlier.

The AGC also reported that 24 states (including Michigan) added construction jobs from January to February. "Unfavorable weather may have held back construction in many states last month compared to January," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "But construction employment continued to expand almost everywhere in February compared to a year ago, despite a slump in homebuilding."

Construction employment in Michigan is strong – at the end of February federal employment data shows that our state was employing 7,500 more workers than it was 12 months earlier. Michigan was ranked No. 17 among the states with a 4.1 percent increase in employment during that period (for a total of 189,400 working in the industry).

The AGC also reported in a now-familiar refrain that "most construction firms report they are having trouble finding enough workers to hire to keep pace with demand. As a result, many firms are opting not to bid on projects because they do not have enough people to do the work."

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Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 SOUTHFIELD – This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

TIM MULLIGAN

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 5 pm. Meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

ELECTION NOMINATIONS NOTICE: 2023 is a general election year. At the May 23, 2023 general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for the general election. The Election will take place on Tuesday June 27, 2023 at the Local 80 Union Hall. You will be voting on the positions of Business Manager, Business Agents (4), Executive Board President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Executive Board Members (5), Warden, Conductor and Trustees (3). In order to be nominated or elected your dues must be paid prior to the first day of the current month, for example Mays dues must be paid prior to May 1st. Candidates must have a record of continuous good standing for a minimum of 2 years prior to the nomination, election or appointment. Poll hours are 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm. An official election notice shall be mailed to the last known home address of each voting member no less than 15 days prior to the election.

WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year's wage allocation at the April union meeting on April 18, 2023 at 5:30pm.

RESIDENTIAL & SERVICE WAGE ALLOCATION: There will be a wage allocation vote for service and residential on April 20, 2023 at the union hall. The residential vote will be at 4:30pm and the service vote will be at 5 pm.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available for members only until May 12! Please join us on July 15 at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$100 a ticket for members and \$135 a ticket for non-members. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts & danishes, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket! *Payment must be received to lock in your ticket*

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2023 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: April 17, June 19, Aug. 21, Oct. 16, (Holiday Party) and Dec. 18. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

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

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday May 13 at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to RSVP 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

Effective immediately you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw-80subfund@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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Brian Donovan, Ryan Spaulding, Mike Jones, David Yelencich, Scott Thompson, Stephen Guca, Sergiy Bondarchuk, Nicole Broomfield, Tom Ashley, David Sheprak, Michael Anderson, Raul Bueno, Garry Sanchez, Michael Walker, John Mastalinski, Brian McDonald, Timothy Durocher, Clayton Schaffhauser, Joseph Potter, Robert Moore Jr., Khristopher Andrus, Leif Bourbeau, Alexander Friend, William Glidden, Daniel Hedrick, Ryan Wyskiel, Jordan Watts, Antonio Salazar, Colin Poniewierski, Jared Petit, Thomas Grzebyk, Cameron Layne, Theo Coatney, Benjamin Kline, Dale Colton, Matthew Barile, Robert Schell, Johnathan McDowell, Matthew Ward, Kyle Trombley, Randy Casey, Nathan Salley, Corey Burkhard, Todd Gosney, Jason Lemke, Anthony Stocker, John McGow, Martin Freiman & Donald D'Luge.

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.

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 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 days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven 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.

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 (Continued next column)



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 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. Look for the official notification of **Division of Money** in the next article. Division of Money will take place at the May 10, 2023 member meeting.

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** for April is canceled. The regular schedule for **E-Board/Stewards meetings** will resume in May.

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.

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org 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 **4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month.** Payments received after **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. **All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).**

LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE: Check out the online store to purchase Local 292 shirts and jackets. Purchased items will be shipped directly to you. Access through SheetMetal292.com 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: **June 1, August 3rd, October 5, and December 7** The retiree 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 April 15th & 22nd.

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

your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. **Ulliance** is there to help you with your needs. 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.

Save the Date:
Wage Allocation: April 18, 2023
Service & Residential Wage Allocation: April 20, 2023
General Election Nominations: May 23, 2023
General Election Vote: June 27, 2023
Golf Outing: July 15, 2023
Picnic: August 12, 2023



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 May 11th at 6:00 p.m.
 *Zone 2 May 16th at 6:00 p.m.
 *Zone 3 May 10th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)
 *Zone 3 June 15th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
 *Zone 4 May 9th at 6:00 p.m.
 *Zone 5 June 1st at 6:00 p.m.

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.labelitscantireport.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. Brothers and Sisters, please welcome new Business Representative Vance Saunders. Vance will begin his duties as the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo Representative on 3/20/2023 and will have the same phone numbers as the previous Representative. Work has been steady as we are heading into spring and looks to remain this way for the remainder of the year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well).

If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journey persons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

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

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

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

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

In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders

ZONE 2 Info: Work remains steady in Zone 2 and looks good thru the summer. Dues payments are always due prior to the first of every month. Our \$1:40 wage disbursements went as follows: .25 health care, .35 local pension and .80 on the check. Please keep me informed on address and phone number changes. Save the date: Local 7 Picnic is July 22nd at the Double JJ Resort in Rothbury, always a great time. **As Always Work Safe and Thank You, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the Saginaw area remains slow, but should be picking up soon, we do have some nice projects and it will be a busy year once things get moving. Other areas are starting to pick up also especially with the battery plants in Lansing and Holland getting started.

If anyone needs any journeyman upgrade classes, first aid/CPR, OSHA 30, MSHA please contact me or the training center. Just a reminder to please schedule your physical in this calendar year (2023). If you do not get your physical, your deductible will go up next year. Retirees meetings are June 27th and Sept 26th at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City, Michigan, hope to see all the retirees there.

Thank you, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting will be June 15th at 6pm at the Mill Pond Event Center. Work is still steady across the area and will remain strong. We are constantly looking for new members, if you know anyone interested please have them go to our website and fill out an application. If there are any questions on the new yearly physical requirement or the SASMI boot program call me. For those of you who get laid off the battery plants in Kalamazoo and Lansing will be hiring soon.

In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: I hope everything is well with everyone; spring is just around the corner. Work outlook for the upcoming season is very promising. Any member wishing to take continuing education classes through (ITI) please contact Training Coordinator Dan Bryant cell: 810-219-4636 office: 810-785-8111. Just a reminder if any of our Zone 4 members are looking to travel to some of the upcoming projects, get with me, most are requiring either OSHA 10-30 or MUST training. **Your Brother Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the U.P. is very good. We have a few travelers up here and everyone is busy and looking for guys. If you know anyone that would be a good fit for our trade give me a call at 906-250-6045. If you're laid off and want to work let me know. **Thanks. In solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: SASMI benefits for period 2022B – Hours are from July 1, 2022, to December 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/Telephone Changes: Article 8, Section 1 of Local 7 Work Rules: *Address Changes:* All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A noticed mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone number, please contact the union hall to update your records.

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI 48910 – 517-882-4064

Local 7 Officers:
Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064
Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752
Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095
Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552
John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112
Brandon Langenfeld (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288



**BAC Local 2
APRIL 2023 CHAPTER
MEETINGS.**

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087



LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, April 10, 2023 at 3:21 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 19, 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 Bronner** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 29, 2023. Brother Bronner had been a member for 71 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother John Cullen** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 11, 2023. Brother Cullen had been a member for 66 years.

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: Be sure to check out our new website at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a **Finders Referral Bonus** for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY: A speedy recovery is wished to all those who have been sick or injured. Let's keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union DuesAll 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

(Continued next column)



**Local 514
Cement Masons
& Plasterers**

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT – The membership meeting in April is canceled.

"At the core, labor unions (we) are working men and women, unified as one force. Despite any personal differences that may exist between us, we have banded together to protect and improve the lives of workers. We rise up together for the greater good. We defend one another like family."

– Sue Carney

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

April:
David Ellis-25 years
Richard Fountain-25 years
Greg Miller-25 years
Tommy Sanchez-25 years
MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustb-safe.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 REMINDER: 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

BAC 2, con't

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)

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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.

Lawrence Nemeth is the Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.com 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.opcmia.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
The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online access.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524. The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local.

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.



**IBEW
Local 131**

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO - The next General Membership Meeting will be held on May 1, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on May 1, at 5 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on April 17, at 5 p.m.

The local's new CBA increase will be on May 29, 2023. Discussion on how we should disperse the increase of \$1.67 will be happening in the next couple of months. A vote on allocations will occur at the May 1, 2023.

Tigers: Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this this Summer, July 8th. 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 two charter buses for this event. Email Jon for more information at jcurrent@ibew131.com. On the Local website there is a Tab for the Detroit Tigers Tickets.

Food Drive: Thank you to everyone who donated. You are the best.

Local 131 Softball Team is starting soon. If you are interested in playing call Trevor Pryson at 269-615-7409.

Douglas Community Center. We are looking for help on replacing receptacles at the Center. On April 29, beginning at 7:00AM. Journeyman and apprentices are needed. Community Service hours can be earned.

5th-year Class of 2023 Charity GOLF Outing. The GOLF Outing is raising funds for the Homeless Veterans in our Community and is on May 20th at 9AM at Pine View Golf Course. The cost will be \$75.00. The link is on the local website.

Annual Picnic on July 29, 2023. The location is at River Oaks Park in Galesburg. From 11:00 to 3:00, Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 2:00. RSVP Please call the hall and leave your name

The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady. Pfizer shutdown is complete, Moore, Hi-Tech, KEI all have crews working on site. Gurtz is still working on the MAPS Project and plans to be there until the fall. F.E. Moran was hired for fire protection and Flemington Instrumentation has work for 5 months on the MAPS project. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome look like 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 late summer we will have work there.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Nicholas Blaskie, Christopher Conforti, Matthew DeLoach, Easton Lovell, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Mark Melching, Thomas Pickett, Thomas Seeds, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, William Wolgast and Andrew Yezic.

Retiree lunches at the following Locations:

April 19, 2023, Blue Dolphin 502 S. Burdick St. Kalamazoo, MI. @11:00

May 17, 2023, Dig-in Café, 111 West Michigan Ave. Augusta, MI. @ 11:00

June 21, 2021, Godfather's Pizza, 3815 East Cork St. Kalamazoo, MI. @11:00

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

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

Bill Doornhaag will have services on April 29, 2023 beginning at 11:00AM. The services will be held at Yankee Springs Cemetery. Lunch will follow.

Donald Owaiany a 43-year member passed away on March 25, 2023 at the age of 73. Don was a character in our local. Don, you will be missed.

Your apprenticeship committee is addressing your concerns and working to ensure that the training opportunities for our members are timely and of quality content. To achieve this goal, we are actively seeking **APPLICANTS** for all positions. If

you have a skill set that you are willing to share to help train our members or administrative skills to help improve the program, then we want to hear from you. I know that we have a tremendous amount of talent in our local and I encourage your participation. Local 131 is widely respected for the skill of our workforce and with your help we always will. If you would like to help, then please send a letter of interest and a resume' to president@ibew131.com.

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

Check out the Local 131 website. **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 8:00AM and 8:30AM OR leave a message on the recorder, stating they wish to apply for a job call.

In the Members Login section 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. You can also update contact information, check on your dues paid through, or make a payment.

Morris Applebey
Business Manager

"When I knocked a guy down, there was no second part to the story."

–Bob Gibson (1935-2020)

"When I gave up a grand slam to Pete LaCock, I knew it was time to quit."

–Bob Gibson (1935-2020)



IBEW Local 445

First Aid/CPR class The laminated First Aid/CPR completion cards at the Hall available for you to pick-up. The next First Aid/CPR will be held March 2024.

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!

General Membership Meeting is the 2nd Monday of each month and starts at 5 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 at 9am at Lux Café, 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.

IBEW Local 445 Night at the Ballpark is scheduled for June 17 and July 14. Mark your calendars. More info to follow.

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 Jan. 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 Jan. 1, 2023, and \$2.00 per month effective Jan. 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 Jan. 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. **IBEW445.com.** Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting of the Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

Disbursement from the Vacation Fund is anticipated to be transferred to your PNC Bank Stored Value Card or if you elected, direct deposited into your checking or savings accounts, on or around May 23, 2023. Please check the listed contributions from your employers with your pay records for accuracy. A list of contributions may be obtained from the Benefit Office Website, www.ewjbt.org by logging into your personal information and clicking My Benefits then Vacation Benefits. If you require a paper statement, please contact the Benefit Office for a printout. If there is an error, contact the Benefit Office at (586) 575-9200 ext. 212.

ATTENTION - TO UPDATE BANKING INFORMATION THE FUND OFFICE MUST RECEIVE CHANGES BY April 28, 2023. You may check your Stored Value utilization history by logging on to www.pncpaycard.com and by entering your 16-digit card number listed on the front of the card and the last 4 digits of your Social Security No., also referred to as your Account Access Code (or AAC for short). Customer Service can be reached at (866) 453-5071.

Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroit-etc.org/continuing-education/>. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

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

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

Local 58 Dues Department - For those who lapsed – you will need to call and talk to a Business Agent and make an appointment for the Executive Board to be Re-instated. 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. Thank you!

Local 58 Motorcycle 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: Next meeting will be moved to Tuesday April 11, due to a schedule conflict on April 4. We are proud to announce that we are officially a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This will allow for bigger and better things. The winner of the t-shirt quilt which was drawn at our Super Bowl party on Feb. 12 was Angela Panicucci. Congrats sister! Our next event up is the 14th Annual Walleye Tournament on the Detroit River which will be Saturday, May 6, 2023. Fishing is from 7 am to 3 pm with weigh-in from 3:30 to 4 pm, followed by a fish fry back at the union hall. Cost is \$35 per fisherman with up to 4 per boat. Shore fishing is allowed as well.

The 22nd Gaudi Open will be Friday, June 2 at Glennhurst golf course. More info to follow. Registration will start Monday

April 17. Get your foursomes together this event fills up fast.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11 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 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). 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 meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI: The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell no. 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.

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.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 25 at 5 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 10, 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 - 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 - The ARC Scholarship is open and accepting applications! Information is available at the Hall and it's posted in the app. Mother's Day is fast approaching! We are asking that all physical and monetary donations for the Wobbly Kitchen Mother's Day bags be turned in by April 28. These can be turned in at the Hall or in person to Angela or Liz. We will be holding our Decorating Party for the bags on April 30. We're looking for a personal touch so if you have kids or little ones, bring them down and they can help us decorate! We are asking for volunteers to join us at the Hall, after work, on May 4 to pack bags. Our Sister Exchange Closet is also looking for donations! If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, etc...

Local 58 Women's Committee: Information is available at the Hall and it's posted in the app. Mother's Day is fast approaching! We are asking that all physical and monetary donations for the Wobbly Kitchen Mother's Day bags be turned in by April 28. These can be turned in at the Hall or in person to Angela or Liz. We will be holding our Decorating Party for the bags on April 30. We're looking for a personal touch so if you have kids or little ones, bring them down and they can help us decorate! We are asking for volunteers to join us at the Hall, after work, on May 4 to pack bags. Our Sister Exchange Closet is also looking for donations! If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, etc...

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information about receiving your pin. PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Memorial Day holiday, we do not have a luncheon in May. The Gazebo will be the venue for the June luncheon.

Local 58 Retirees' Association Fall Bus trip. The Charleston, S.C. coach trip is Sept. 10-16. There are 32 of 50 seats reserved at this time. A \$75 deposit per person is needed by May 10, 2023 for your reservation. BALANCE IS DUE BY JULY 3. Trip insurance is available if you choose. Information flyers are available at the luncheons or email Rick at rick_dona@hotmail.com.

WIREMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION (WGA) Members: The 2023 WGA Tournament will be hosted by Local 86, Rochester, NY on Aug. 15-18, with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday Aug. 15. The golf courses being utilized for the tournament this year are Morgan's Crossing (Scottsville, NY), Ravenwood Golf Club (Victor, NY), Wildwood Country Club (Rush, NY) and the optional scramble at Caledonia Country Club (Caledonia, NY). The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Holiday Inn Downtown, 70 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614 - : (585) 355.4811. There will be a meeting at the Local 58 Union Hall in the basement classroom on Thursday May 11 at 6 PM regarding the Tournament. Entry fees (\$235 per man for the Tournament and \$65 per man for the optional scramble) will be collected and Tournament information will be available at this time. They are anticipating a large showing in Rochester so it will be imperative to have your entry money for the tournament turned in ASAP. All monies must be turned in/received by June 1.

Any WGA member who is planning on participating in the tournament or anyone looking for information or to join the WGA should plan on attending this very important meeting. Questions? Call Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

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.

As of 03/31/2022, the following members have lapsed membership: Scott Adkins, David Barber, Robert Cox, Brendon Drayton, Eze Ejelonu Jr., Christopher Flowers, Brandon Foss, Erierto Guardado, James Hackney, Bradley Helminen, Alfred Hoskins Jr., Eric Lawson, Kenneth Lazzara, Kevin McDonald, Tracey Meyer, Joshua Milam, Ryan Offutt, Christopher Pye, Jassen Scherr, Kristopher Shipman, James Spitzer, Daniel Springer, Rick Stewart Sr., Aaron Thiel, David Thornton.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Philip Grywalski, Frederick Harbrueger Jr., Ellis Hendrickson, Kevin Hiegel, Lawrence Lacarter, Kevin Makie, Craig Papcun and Chester Sulewski.

Members that have Passed Away: Nida Fabrizio, Widow of the late Pension member Americo Fabrizio, Mother of Pension member Larry Fabrizio, JIW John Fabrizio, and late Pension member Gary Fabrizio; Frank Render, Pension member, 44 year IBEW membership; Shirley Russell, Mother to JIW Michael Russell; and Elizabeth "Liz" Sabbagh, Wife to Pension member Frank Sabbagh, Mother to JIW Bessem Sabbagh. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

"I never had a job. I just always played baseball."
- Satchel Paige (1906-1982)

"There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happened."
- Tommy Lasorda (1927-2021)

"I've come to the conclusion that the two most important things in life are good friends and a good bullpen."
- Bob Lemon (1920-2000)



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 252:

The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on May 10, 2023, beginning at 6 p.m. at the local meeting hall located at 7920 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations, or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to 252electionjudge@gmail.com that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221 that they will accept the nomination.

A member may nominate themselves for office. NO member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager / Financial Secretary, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected). In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations.

Apprentices cannot be nominated or elected to any office EXCEPT if they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect. 14). Pat Ulanowicz, was appointed Election Judge on February 8, 2023 (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11, Amendment 30).

The IBEW Local 252 President will appoint Tellers as required. None of these may be a candidate for any office. All Tellers will be vetted for a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252 by the Local 252 Financial Secretary (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11). The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on June 17, 2023 at the local union meeting hall located at 7920 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted.

A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media (or other appropriate place) by the close of business on the day following the election. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221 or emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election.

Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the post office box after 8 a.m. on June 17, 2023, will not be counted. In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on July 8, 2023. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election.

Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 12, 2023. Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. (The candidate themselves may be the observer.)

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election results. Further, protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the

processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2023 IBEW Local 252 election can be emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com, mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221, or consult by phone 517-918-8948.

SOLAR: The Biden Administration's investment in infrastructure and renewable energy generation is going to result in massive amounts of labor hours for all of the building trades. Please take advantage of the continuing education courses offered at our training center to help secure this work and show our commitment to this scope.

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

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

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

Blood Drive: Red Cross will be at the Union Hall on Wednesday, April 26th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can make an appointment or walk-in. To register, visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code Jeremy.

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: You must be signed up in ERTS before working outside of Local 252's jurisdiction or your benefits will not be transferred back.

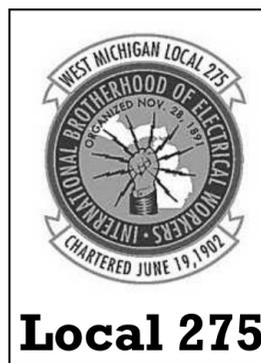
Aflac Insurance: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone (517) 306-0144.

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 contact the Union Hall.

MISSING ITEM: 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 Harold Hite for the passing of his wife, and David Hite for the passing of his mother Judith on February 20, 2023.

(Continued next column)



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.

Newkirk should be putting in calls sometime this Spring for the LG Chem battery plant in Holland. We will keep you updated as info on 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 to be filled elsewhere.

If you are interested in salting, contact Geoff or Walt for more information.

The annual West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for April 20 at the Barclay Place in Muskegon. Please contact Nicole for tickets if you are interested in attending. 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 Tuesday, April 18th, 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 resign 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: **Jon Alviar, Jacob Cleary, Matt Dobb, Scott Fisher, Brian Flanery, Robert Haddad, Jacob Hallatschek, Greg Holmes, Andrew Holmes, Kevin Koon, Scott Martinechek, Joe Rich.** Please make every effort to get caught up.

Local 252, con't

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 3/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 per quarter for 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April thru June) are due now.

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

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IBEW Local 692

IBEW Local 692 BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The May monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, May 1, 2023.**

Executive Board Meeting. The April Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, April 17, 2023.**

Message from the Business Manager. Allocation of wages will occur on May 1, 2023 at our general membership meeting, 6:00 P.M. at 1300 West Thomas. If you are a member in good standing and have an idea as to how you would like to see our raise distributed, please let me or one of your other agents know. This is your union, please be involved.

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

Nelson Electric – GM Powertrain work started on Oct. 3 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. Journeyman Wireman Ethan Rau has been appointed to the Examining Board vacancy by members of the Executive Board.

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 IBEW membership available to all workers in our industry.

We will continue to see multiple calls in the Alpena area as organizing Zone 2 workers remains a priority. It is essential that we are able to supply our contractors with adequate manpower so they feel comfortable bidding all projects in our northern jurisdiction. If you are looking for work and are willing to accept a call in Alpena, please let an agent know. 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.

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.

(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Our April Union Meeting will be held on Monday April 10th, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Our April Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday April 24th, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd, 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.

Local 692, con't

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, April 20 at Red Oak Family Restaurant, 322 W. Saginaw Road in Sanford.

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.

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.

REMINER: 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: 301-556-4300
IO Pension: 202-833-7000

"There are three things you can do in a baseball game. You can win. You can lose. Or it can rain."

Casey Stengel (1890-1975)
"Baseball has better opening days and all star games than the NFL does. Ours stink."
–John Madden (1936-2021)

"Fans don't boo nobodies."
–Reggie Jackson (1946 -)

"After I hit a home run I had a habit of running the bases with my head down. I figured the pitcher already felt bad enough without me showing him up rounding the bases."

–Mickey Mantle (1931-1995)



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.

RTW AND PREVAILING WAGE: The Michigan House and Senate have both passed repealing the so called "Right to Work" and reintroduced Prevailing wage for state jobs. Gov. Whitmer signed both bills. This is a tremendous victory for working men and women across this state. Labor-friendly candidates have introduced a few more bills into the house to erase some of the legislation enacted over the last decade. We will keep you informed the more we know.

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@lejtc.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@lejtc.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

RETIREE DINNER: Save the date for the next retiree dinner scheduled for May 21, 2023! If you have received an invitation please call the hall to RSVP. If you haven't received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact the hall.

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.lejtc.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

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 (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, April 10th, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting – The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, April 10th, 2022.

Solidarity Picnic- We have a volunteer to do the picnics before the meetings! That being said, plan on hamburgers, hot dogs and a side dish for a meal before the next regular meeting. Food will be served at about 6:30 directly in front of the meeting.

Death Notice – Our condolences go out to family and friends of Retired Brother Douglas Higgins who passed away on April 2, 2023. There is no funeral planned at this time. Additional updates will be posted as we find out any information. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Travelers – With work being slow in the Local, if you are considering travel to another local please follow the rules of the road. If you are employed with a local contractor and they send you to a job in another local, always, always, always check into the local BEFORE you go to the host Local. If they intend on porting you in it is a good idea to also ask Dave Fashbaugh at the hall to also contact the hall you would be traveling to. Every local has their own set of rules and you should not assume anything even after you check into the host local.

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 can 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.

Retiree breakfast- Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport rd every Monday morning at 9am. So if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

IBEW 665, con't

5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due by April 1st. We are on death benefit #337. 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. May their memory be eternal.

Donald Reidsma 02/22/23, Lee Benjamin 01/26/23, 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.

Election year- This year will be our year to elect new officers for the local. If you are interested in being involved please call David and he can fill you in on the different positions available and review the election process with you. The regular meeting in May will be Nominations and the election will be at the June regular meeting. As in the past, all ballots will be sent out via USPS to all eligible members and returned to a PO Box for the Election judge and Tellers to take care of. There will be an official election process notification in the next edition of this newspaper.

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.grfc.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 557

SAGINAW – **Union News-** Boy am I excited to announce we are once again a PRE-VAILING WAGE STATE! If you see your Representatives out and about, give 'em a hug. Because they worked very hard to make sure workers' rights were restored! About damn time the working people had majority representation in Lansing. Well done to all who worked on that!

The local's next CBA increase will occur in June. Discussion on how to disperse the increase of \$1.97 will be happening in the coming months. I know ya'll have opinions, but mamma needs some new boots so let's put it on the check! (Haha) There is no doubt some has to go to the health plan again this year. Joy. The Health Plan board continues to meet leading up to the final negotiated number.

Shari Urbany has informed Evan of the celebration of Rich "The King" Urbany's life on July 29. The big man passed away in December and had many who loved and respected him. Let's go out and show our support.

IBEW Michigan will be hosting an inaugural Women's Conference. The event is to be held July 26-28 in Detroit at the Motor City Casino. Registration is available for \$100 per person. If you would like additional details please contact your local.

Registration is ongoing for the Special Olympics/choroideremia Golf Outing. This year's outing will be on June 10 at Valley View Golf Course. Registration information can be found at the Hall of you are interested in sponsoring or putting together a team.

We're still looking for baseball participation! If anyone is interested in going on a Detroit Tigers Game Bus Trip on July 8 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.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- Our next meeting is May 2nd at 5:30pm. We're probably going to be discussing the pay increase over the next few months, so you might want to swing by. Unless you want all the money in the pension or annuity. Then stay home (haha).

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.

WORK OUTLOOK- Pierce Power snagged the Swan Valley school auditorium, some (Continued on Page 13)

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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.

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Local 190

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANNARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, April 10th 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 UP COMING HOLIDAY: For the Easter holiday the office will close at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 7. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 26 and all day Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 1. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, this application will be available April 1 online only www.ua.org.

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

FUSING CLASS: Anyone interested in registering for the fusing class, please contact Business Agent Pat Duffy (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: Each month on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month. Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

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

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays – April 3, July 17, and Oct 2. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

Welding Lab: The welding lab is open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, and Saturday from 7 am-3:30pm until May 20, 2023. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Weld tests will be scheduled by the Training Coordinator 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 10. 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 14. Second course starts Oct 17. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 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 14. Second course starts Aug 22.** 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 18. Second course starts Sept 26.** 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 p.m. and then on Monday, March 27 test starts at 5 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Theodore Cheever passed away on March 15. Theodore initiated on Sept. 22, 1958, retired June 1, 1997 and became a lifetime member Sept. 22, 2008. To all family members and friends, we are deeply saddened by your loss. We send our most sincere condolences.

Our lifetime member Robert Oler passed away on March 19. Robert initiated Feb. 27, 1970, retired May 1, 2006 and became a lifetime member Feb. 1, 2020. To all family members and friends may care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. We are truly sorry for your loss.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 4, 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.

"You can't be afraid to make errors! You can't be afraid to be naked before the crowd, because no one can ever master the game of baseball, or conquer it."

– Lou Brock (1939-2020)



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

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 11 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, 2023 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 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 a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café, 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. for the location: (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 at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at (888) 281-3461. For Medicare Retirees – Contact Labor First at (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com 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.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Brandon Armtz, and family, on the birth of a daughter, Lucy.

Congratulations to Scott Randall, and family, on the birth of a daughter, Kaiya.



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

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 7:00** and has been designated **special-called meeting** for the purpose of **wage allocation.**

Congratulations: Representing Local 370 in the 2023 Michigan Pipe Trades apprentice contest, Scott Byrne (welder), Brandon Ehrmantraut (pipefitter), Joe Ferguson (plumber) and Keaton Dungey (HVAC).

Mental Health 101: We are hosting this introductory course on mental health at our training center/hall on Tuesday May 16th from 4:30-5:30. All members and their families are welcome.

Scholarship Applications: for the 2023-2024 school year are now available on our website at ualocal370.org. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 hall. Applications are due by the end of May.

Memorial: There will be a memorial to celebrate the life of brother Chan Stone on June 10th at the Elks in Lapeer. More details to come.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

BackFlow- March 9th thru April 20th Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30pm. Test Cost \$130. Refresher first test is free.

EPA 608- April 12th & 13th at 5:00pm

Night Welding: April 3rd through May 3rd Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00pm

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

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. Monthly award is \$150.

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work.

This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

Mobile App. Our mobile app. Is now available for download on you cell phone. Go to the app store and search UA Local 370. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Build-

(Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704
DETROIT – MICHIGAN
MOTOR CITY
704

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, April 12, 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 (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

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

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

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

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

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

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Retired Brother Patrick Foley who recently passed away. Brother Foley was a 55-year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

A speedy recovery to all our sick and injured members.

"Baseball is ninety percent mental. The other half is physical."

– Yogi Berra (1925-2015)

"You either get better, or you get worse. Those are the only two options."

– Max Scherzer (1984-)

Local 370, con't

ing 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 \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

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

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

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

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

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

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



UPPER PENINSULA, MI
LOCAL 111
PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS & HVAC

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE - The next Union Meeting will be in **Marquette on April 27, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m.**

This will be a special called meeting for wage allocations.

Condolences: To the family of life member, Robert "Bob" Trehwella who passed away on April 1, 2023.

Anyone interested in one-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 31st, the job posting will go up at UP Michigan Works February 1st. 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 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 an MSHA class please go to Upconstruction.org and go to the **MSHA calendar** to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON
Real Estate Training Inc.
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120
Troy, MI 48068
www.middletontraining.com
248-885-8311

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Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road.

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

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
jpmerville@ualocal85.org
Kristin Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515
jbadour@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.

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 CHECKSTUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 11, at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Admin-



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

UA Local 636 DETROIT – There will be a **Special-Called Union meeting** for the purpose of reviewing our local's 2022 financial report on April 18, 2023, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

CALLING ALL RETIREES!!!! The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next retiree meeting will be held, April 20, 2023.**

Stewards Training. There will be a Stewards training class/meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5 p.m., at the Local 636 Union Hall. Please R.S.V.P. to the Job Office to register.

Allocations. The second year of the current contract provides for \$2.50 to be allocated by the local membership. Please submit to the Business Manager in writing or by email to scadena@pipefitters636.org, any suggestions you may have. The vote on allocations will take place at the May 16, 2023, meeting.

Prior to the May 16, 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.

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 Aug. 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.

50th Annual Pipefitters 636 Golf Outing will be held at Links of Novi on Saturday, June 17, 2023, shotgun start at 8 a.m., registration opens at 6 a.m. Tickets are limited to 216 golfers on a first-come basis, at \$150 each or \$600 for a foursome. Continental breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf, lunch at the turn, complimentary soft drinks/beer, buffet dinner and prizes following completion of play.

Please make reservations made by phone to **248.772.2451** or Pipefitters636Golf@gmail.com, with payments to **P.O. Box 2742, Farmington Hills, MI, 48333**. Transactions will not be made at the hall for this event.

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 Jan. 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. All requests must be filed within 30 days per the S.U.B. Trust Plan agreement.

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

Journeyman Brother Michael Ferrante on the passing of his wife, Janet, mother to Journeyman Brother Michael Ferrante II, daughter of BA Rick Fast, and also sister to Journeyman Brother Bill Fast, who passed away on March 28, 2023, and for Journeyman Brother Robert Baldwin, who passed away on March 4, 2023.

May they Rest in Peace.

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, you can make checks out to 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**.

Local 85, con't

istration Office, 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

CONDOLENCES: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Norward "Joe" Rivette who passed away Feb. 20, 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Kevin Ellis who passed away March 26.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Richard Benner who passed away March 23.

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

Local 85, con't

(Continued next column)



Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333 LANSING – 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.

May's union meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 7:30pm.

Attention: Administrative Assistant, Donita Moye out of the Battle Creek Office has taken another job opportunity. We wish her the best in her future endeavors and are thankful for her service to our Local Union over the years. We are working to replace her and plan to do so as soon as possible. In the immediate future, please call Assistant Business Manager Joe Michilizzi in advance of a trip to the Battle Creek office. We simply want to make the most of your time during this transition. Thank you

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS: Special Call 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 meetings will be held on March 15, 2023, April 19, 2023, and May 17, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Lansing Union Hall.

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 Scholarship: Applications for the 2023-2024 school year will be available at all three halls the first week of April or call Joni at 517-784-1106 ext. 4 and an application will be mailed to you.

Spring Adopt-A-Highway: Battle Creek: Volunteers will

meet at the Quality Inn, 11081 Michigan Ave. Battle Creek at 9am. To sign up please contact Todd Scarbrough at (616) 893-5354.

Jackson: Volunteers will meet at the Jackson Hall, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson at 8am. Please contact Joni Thomas (517) 784-1106 ext. 4 or Brandon Snider (517) 260-4659 to sign up.

Lansing: Cancelled until construction is complete.

WELD CLASSES: Spring weld classes: Please go online to sign up at www.ua333.org. There is no longer a fee for the weld class.

Lansing: Class will start April 4, 2023, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4pm-8pm, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: Class will start April 4, 2023, Tuesday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek: Class will start April 3, 2023, 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 U.A. 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

Diversity Committee: If you are interested in becoming more involved with the committee or just want to network with fellow members we will meet Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 6pm, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Contact the Lansing hall for further information.

Battle Creek Retiree's Breakfast will be held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café, 2587 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI. at 9am. Please spread the word.

Retiree's Breakfast in Jackson: will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 am at the Alpha Coney Island, 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 Sewer & Drains. 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 517-879-5681. 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.

Congratulations to Matt Earneest on the birth of his daughter Lylah May.

To all of our Local 333 family, we wish you a very Happy Easter.



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671 MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on May 4, 2023. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

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

Scholarship Opportunity: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be awarding (2) \$2,000 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 at 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.

Awards Night Banquet: We are excited to announce that we will be holding our 2023 Awards Night Banquet on April 21, 2023. This event will be held in conjunction with the Apprentice Graduation Ceremony. A mailing was sent out with all the information. If you are not a graduating apprentice or receiving a service award, tickets are \$25. **EVERYONE MUST RSVP** to attend this event. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there!

UA Local 671 Softball Team: Local 671 is taking a team down to Cincinnati to compete in the UA National softball tournament. If you are interested in playing, please call the Union Hall to get the details. The date for the tournament is June 23rd – 25th in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

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 6-10 pm. 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.

The next Official UA Weld Test will be April 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Veterans Auxiliary: We an-



North Point Mortgage Advisors

Nicole Jenner
Loan Officer
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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 will be held on Thursday, April 13th 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.

Calling all Retirees. On every 2nd Wednesday of every month from 12 to 2 you can come down to the hall and enjoy some conversation hope to see you on April 12.

Also, for **Retired Golfers:** There are still openings available on Wednesday morning at 8:20 am. at Red Oaks golf course. If interested in learning and playing golf with no pressure please call Dave Schroeder at 248-476-2749. Leave a message and I will call you back. Golf starts May 3rd. 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

Kevin Dulupa Fundraiser. The Fundraiser was a huge success and was very well attended. Thank you to the following people and companies for donating prizes to the fundraiser raffles: Etna, DeMaria, Roncelli, DeCal, Midland Tool, Hodges Supply, Hartsig Supply, R.S. Dale, Macomb Pipe, Woodbridge Pub, The Three Legged Goat, The Greek, The Golden Fleecce, The Blue Collar Folies via Daren Peel, Cools Candle Company, Kim & Dan Willingham, VFW Post 1138 Monroe Michigan, Porcupine Press, Barbarian BBQ Via Mark Sumrall, Mike Kalso, Steve Kri-zanowski, Jimmy Cools, Monroe Local 671, Detroit Local 636, Steve Siecinski, John Linardikis, Jerry Chase. All the officers of 98 Carlo Castiglione, Jon DeRoo, Gary Glaser, Rufus Hamilton, Wade Kovach, Rob Moses & Dan Nixon.

Thank you to the following who helped plan the event or helped that day: Dawn Caforio, Mandy Morrison, John Linardikis, Joe Wisniewski, Erin Garavagli, Dan Nixon, Jim Cools, Cindy Rivington, Dan & Kim Willingham, Terry Fawk, Mark Teets, Zachary Teets, Daren Peel, Mike McDonough, Luke Badke and Zachary Cline. We especially thank everyone who attended and/or donated to the fundraiser.

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 will also play this fall in a league.

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 any 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 whether 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 and 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.

Dues. You can pay your dues online, over the phone, in person or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto payments. Any other dues questions, please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 ext. 3. If you ordered a yearly dues flannel before you come pick it up, please call first to make sure it's in.

"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, David Childress, Mike Hofer, Justin Willard, Adam Atkinson, Ken Stone, Jesse Nowak, Tyler Lee, Scott Percha, Mark Rienhold, Matt Lugg, Matt Maples, Rob McFarlin, Tyler Waldecker, Mitchel Mason, Mike Rakes. 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 Jason Young Initiated 7-13-06, he was a 15 year member.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working nonunion 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. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

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

****STATE OF MICHIGAN PLUMBING LICENSE.** 2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update- 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 cet-source.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 Dec. 21 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
Spring: March 6 to May 8. Deadline to register February 24
Fall: Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register September 1

Hydronic Heating and Cooling – 40 hr. class - \$100 fee
Spring: March 9 to May 11. Deadline to register February 24
Fall: September 18 to November 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174
COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2, 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 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.ua174.org
 We have recently changed our

Local 98, con't

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: 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 January 24 & 25 Deadline is December 16

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):

Spring: March 6 – May 15 Deadline is February 3 -\$200

Fall: Sept. 18 – Nov. 27 Deadline is August 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**

Spring: March 7 to May 9. Deadline is February 3 -\$200

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

6010 Medical Gas Installer Recertification- *All current Med Gas certification holders are required to take this update. **Final class ** Feb. 28 & March 2 - Deadline to register is February 2 - \$200

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Spring: March 8 – May 17 Deadline is February 24 -\$200

Fall: September 20 – November 29 Deadline to register September 1 -\$200

OPEN WELDING – 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 session** will be Saturday, January 7, 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.

2022 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 - December 31, 2022 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

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.

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 3 years. The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language. Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on negotiations and to the members of Local #174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

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.

Wild Game Dinner: It's that time of year again. The Wild Game Dinner will be held on **4-20-2023 at Barclay Event Center, 2330 Barclay St., Muskegon MI 49441.** 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. If you're interested in going, Local 174 has tickets. See Jason Finch to get yours. See you there.

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held on Thursday May 4 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Local #174 Golf League: will start on Wednesday, May 3 at 5pm at Hickory Knoll Club in Whitehall. Sign-ups will take place at that time. Please show up with your partner. If you need a partner, or are interested in being on the sub list, contact Ryan Bennett.

New Contractor Seminar: Once again, they are holding a UA New Contractor Seminar hosted by UA Local 370 **May 2 and 3, 2023 @ 9am.** If you are interested in learning more about becoming a signatory contractor any time in the foreseeable future please call Cami (x10) and she will add your name to the list. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Sign up today and secure your spot. Flyer is also posted on our FB page.

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: I have been continuing to follow up with all the open house attendees from Feb 22. We had some great workers come out, welders, plumbers, HVAC and fitters. Between the office and the training department, we are coming up with the best pathway for the experienced to become members. The work demand is upon us, we as LU 174 have been preparing for this, it's definitely an exciting time to be a

LU 174 member! I have been out of town helping other organizers in their prospective areas (everybody's busy). I completed COMET II recently and I'll be looking to teach COMET at our hall in the near future. 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, **Johnny Ortiz LU 174 Organizer (616) 307-8551**

PAC Cards: 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

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

Dues: Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office. Remember that if you are expelled from the UA 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@ua174.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.

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

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, Blood-borne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you follow our agreement.

Training News: FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5-9 p. The next classes will be held Thursday, April 13 and Thursday, May 11.

CSD-1: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 18. @ 5p-8p. The class dates are as follows: April 18, 19 and 20(Exam).

ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 17, 2023 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: April 17, 19, 24, 26, May 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 (Exam).

ASSE BACKFLOW REPAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 22 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: May 22, 24, June 5, 7, 12 and 14 (Exam).

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.



(Continued from Page 9) nounced at the last Union Meeting that we are starting a Local 671 Veterans Auxiliary Group. Please contact Justin if you are interested in becoming a part of it!

In Closing: We are always looking for ways to improve our Union, and we continue to try and grow our membership. We are always making improvements to our training and training centers. We will continue to make repairs and improve our Union Hall and offices. I am a firm believer that you leave it better than you found it. This is the attitude you should take into work and life every day. If you do, we will be unstoppable as an organization and a Union. God bless organized labor and Local 671.

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

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Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofer

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 2, 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.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother. Brother Roydelle Underwood, he was 72 years old and a 44-year member. Brother Underwood past on 3/19/2023. Rest in Peace Brother Roydelle Underwood.

Detroit Wage Allocation. The proposals to determine what to do with this year's \$1.60 raise will be in the next paper. If needed, voting on the proposals is scheduled for the Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216, from 2:00pm thru 7:00pm.

Detroit Vacation Checks (quarterly). The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, April 21, 2023 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, April 22, 2023 for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. **Those who have their vacation pay Direct Deposited;** will have their money deposited in their bank on April 17, 2023. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

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

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. **Moving?** If you have a new address please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

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

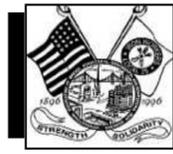
Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular informational 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 midmichroofers149@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 (Continued next column)



Local 25
Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25
NOVI – The Novi Union Hall will close at noon on Friday, April 7th. We would like to wish all our families a Happy Easter!

The April Union meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in-person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open.

Local Union Election of Officers will take place in May. The outcome of proposed By-Law #4 will determine the Election date which will be announced shortly. Once again, 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 Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, April 19, at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, April 24, at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, April 27, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

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 who 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, April 21, 2023 @ 2 pm.**

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 ability 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

Local 149 cont'd

number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 4/3/2023, 1:00p.m.
– In Solidarity, Brian Gregg
Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofer Local No.149

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 Retirees meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday April 18 at 10 am in Novi. The Board of Directors will meet Tuesday May 2 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

The Bay City Chapter: The next quarterly meeting will be 1 pm on April 20 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 at 9 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday May 2 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. 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 jmillerlime50@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.

MDHHS launches the OpiRescue smartphone app to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses. The OpiRescue app is available for Android and iOS platforms/cell phones. It is free to use and anonymous. It can be downloaded at Apple iOS app store or through Google Play. "OpiRescue provides information and a 5-step process for how to respond to an opioid overdose event. The guidelines have been developed by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)".

The OpiRescue App can be used to Find Treatment for substance abuse & mental health, with a quick link to the National Help Line.

Help is available at: Find-Treatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city etc. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (April 3, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

"You know you're pitching well when the batters look as bad as you do at the plate."
– Duke Snider (1926-2011)

"The way to catch a knuckleball is to wait until the ball stops rolling and then to pick it up."
– Bob Uecker (1934 -)

"A man once told me to walk with the Lord. I'd rather walk with the bases loaded."
– Ken Singleton (1947 -)

"When you start the game, they don't say "Work ball!" They say, "Play ball!""
– Willie Stargell (1940-2001)



Michigan Painters
District Council

Painters DC 1M
Dear Members,
DCIM WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DCIM FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m
DC 1M UNION CARDS*

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

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

FTI of the GREAT LAKES INSTRUCTOR POSITION Local 357 and Local 826. FTI of the Great Lakes is looking for a part time Glazing instructor at our Lansing Training Center. Members of Glaziers Local 357 & 826 should apply. Anyone interested should submit their resume to Shawn O'Neill at dot@iupatdc1m.org or (517) 304-4425

FTI of the Great Lakes upcoming upgrade classes:
Supported Scaffold Class-Saturday April 15th at Warren Training Center
First Aid/CPR Class Saturday April 22nd at Warren Training



Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

WARREN – Notice: Monday May 1, 2023 will be a special called meeting. We will be voting on this year's wage, and benefits increase through allocation. Please make every effort to attend.
Union Hall, Monday May 1, 2023. Allocation Vote, 6 PM, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI 48088.

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

"Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games."
–George "Babe" Ruth (1895-1948)

"I became a good pitcher when I stopped trying to make them miss the ball and started trying to make them hit it."
– Sandy Koufax (1935 -)

"Just take the ball and throw it where you want to. Throw strikes. Home plate don't move."
– Satchel Paige (1906-1982)

Center.
Please contact Shawn O'Neill for more information and to preregister for the class. (586)552-4481 , dot@iupatdc1m.org

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store,
For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

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

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

The Warren office number 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.

14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.
When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.
If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.

– Business Rep. Don Stepp



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

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

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Fred Frederickson

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

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

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

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Free-land, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

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

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker

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

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

Local 591
Sign, Pictorial & Display

Council By-laws

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

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

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

"Pitching is the art of instilling fear."
– Sandy Koufax (1935 -)

ATTENTION:

If you worked with Ron Darga from 1958 to 1985 and would be willing to assist his attorneys with an asbestos/mesothelioma case, please call Rebecca at Simmons Hanly Conroy (855) 988-2537.

Ron Darga in a photo taken during the 1970s



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **April 14, 2023**, at The United Trades Building. They are at 119 S. Front Street, Marquette, MI. 49855. **Please note the change of this month's location!**

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 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be April 19, 2023, at Boulevard Lounge, located at 316 South Saginaw Road, Midland, MI 48640.

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.

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

Congratulations to apprentices Kaden Kontranowski, Cody Gledhill, Caleb Barron, & Evan Mahoney for competing in our recent Local 169, Apprentice of the Year competition. All our apprentices did well, with Evan Mahoney taking top honors. Evan will go on to represent Local 169 at the Great Lakes Area Regional Apprenticeship competition in Connecticut. I am certain that Evan will represent our local well.

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.

Due to overwhelming demand, we are awaiting delivery of our smaller size hoodies. Larger sizes are currently available. You will be notified when our next shipment arrives. 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. 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

Laborers' International Union of North America

LIUNA! LOCAL 1191

Feel the Power

Laborers Local 1191

DETROIT – Local Union Operations: Laborers' Local 1191 is making every effort to keep our members and staff safe during this time by limiting person-to-person contact at the Local Union Hall. Thanking you in advance and please follow the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: General Membership meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays). **The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the 7th of April, 2023. May's General Membership meeting will be held on the 5th of May, 2023.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 28th of April, 2023.**

Local 169 cont'd

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.

Member, Robert (Bob) King passed away suddenly on March 28, 2023. A celebration of his life will be at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home on April 8, 2023, from 1-3. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this challenging time.

May's Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 26th of May, 2023.

Union Dues For 2023: Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

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

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

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 to 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. FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

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.

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at www.mltai.org 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. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

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

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare fund documents. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable if/when no beneficiary has been designated. **Each of the above individual benefits needs to have a designated beneficiary.**

Death Certificates: Please always submit to the Local Union a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired members. **FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.**

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

IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension & Vacation)

* Telephone: (877) 645-2267

* Fax: (517) 321-7508

*Website: www.michiganlaborers.org

*Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

*Telephone: (248) 641-4942

*Fax: (248) 813-9898

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)

*Telephone: (800) 228 0048

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' Vacation Funds

WPAS

*Telephone: (833) 389-0025

EXT. 3359

"When you've learned to believe in yourself, there's no telling how good a player you can be. That's because you have the mental edge."

– Rod Carew (1945-)

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SUPPORTERS OF REPEALING right-to-work and bringing back prevailing wage overflow from the Senate chambers in the Michigan Capitol building during legislative hearings on March 14.

Killing right-to-work a boon to organized labor

(Continued from Page 1)

right-to-work law last November was a result of the state's voters (barely) giving the Democrats an advantage in the state House and Senate – and their first unified power in Lansing in four decades. It also comes during an era of a friendly presidential administration – Joe Biden has promised, and delivered – on his pledge to be “the most pro-union president you’ve ever seen.”

And it also comes at a time when labor unions could use some help – union density in the U.S. declined 0.2 percent in 2022, and at 10.1 percent, is the lowest on record. Michigan's unionization rate rose to 14 percent in 2022 from 13.3 percent in 2021, although it was 16.6 percent in 2012.

Politico called the RTW repeal “a particularly significant symbolic victory given the special place Michigan holds in the organized labor movement.” *Bloomberg Law* correspondent Chris Marr called the repeal “a history-making win for labor unions, but it's one that will be tough to replicate in other states” in good part because laws in the 26 right-to-work states have been entrenched for decades, and few states have Michigan's deep union roots, or unified state government control by Dems.

Despite a few procedural hiccups, it's clear that Michigan Dems put state Republicans back on their heels a bit when it came to passing right-to-work repeal last month. Of course, without a majority, the GOP didn't have much say in the matter. Even the group dedicated to preserving right-to-work laws – yes, the Virginia-based National Right-To-Work Legal Defense Foundation has been advocating its cause since 1969 – didn't have much of a plan. Until Michigan came along, no state in that group's history had ever left their club.

“I don't know what our plans will be if they are successful in repealing it,” said Mark Mix on March 13, the day before the state Senate first voted to repeal RTW. Speaking to the Radio Free Hillsdale show, Mix, the president of the RTW foundation and president of the National Right-To-Work Committee, also said “I think we will find out a new way to fight for it and help employees and maybe, just maybe if we hold enough politicians accountable that our legislators will come back in and redo it.”

In November 2026, if Republican lawmakers re-take control of the House and Senate, and there's a GOP governor, another state RTW law could be back in the offing, as Mix indicated. Since Dems applied a \$1 million

appropriation to the right-to-work repeal law, a citizen's referendum petition is not allowed toward a repeal effort. But opponents of RTW could employ a constitutional petition effort, which would require 450,000 petition signatures – double the number needed for a referendum petition.

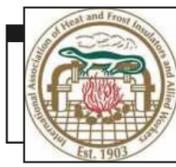
Still, “the timing of a Right-to-Work constitutional amendment could be ripe in Michigan,” said a memo being distributed among Michigan business leaders, obtained by *Bridge Magazine*. “Ironically,” Small Business Association of Michigan President Brian Calley told *Bridge*, “repeal of right-to-work might be the thing that saves the Republican Party” in Michigan. The statewide Republican Party is in disarray – and is even without a headquarters building – after the horrible performance by GOP candidates in the last election. Calley was suggesting that an anti-RTW petition could be the glue that brings the GOP back together.

In addition, the corporate will to keep organized labor down in its place hasn't seemed to change since 2012, when the Devos family of Grand Rapids, according to *Mother Jones* and others, used their billions to coerce GOP lawmakers to support the RTW law or get challenged by a well-funded opponent in the next primary election.

That opposition, of course, is mainly aimed at undermining unions. There is little evidence that RTW laws attract or deter businesses from locating to a state, which along with “worker freedom” is the primary argument for keeping the laws.

But the effects of right-to-work on unions and workers is significant: the National Bureau of Economic Research reported last year that loss of right-to-work laws during 2011-2017 is associated with a drop of about 4 percentage points in unionization rates five years after adoption, as well as a wage drop of about 1 percent. Three sectors: construction, education, and public administration saw average wage drops of 4 percent, and unionization declines of 13 percent.

“I am incredibly proud to stand with working people by restoring workers' freedom and repealing the so-called ‘right to work’ law,” said State Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Royal Oak), sponsor of HB 4004. “‘Right to work’ is a lie that has only hurt workers in our state and allowed some to benefit from union contracts without paying their fair share. With this repeal, we are restoring workers' rights to create a bargaining environment where workers and employers are equal.”



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, April 14, 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.

Local 47's Annual Picnic Invites and Scholarship Drawing forms have been mailed out. Please RSVP by May 5, 2023 so we can be sure to have enough food and beverages for

everyone. This years Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 10.

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

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

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079 Telephone: (517) 321-7502 Fax No.: (517) 321-7508

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, “According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than 10 days from the end of the current work week.”

Maurine Homola says farewell

(Continued from Page 1)

in our organization for a long time, and her work and dedication over the years have resulted in the betterment of the council. Mo deserves a great retirement, and we wish her nothing but the best.”

Now age 67, Mo started employment in an era of hand-written accounting ledgers and typewriters, and ends it in an era where computers, the internet and smartphones are indispensable. The construction industry itself, of course, has also changed in a myriad of ways.

“It seems like yesterday since I started and so much has changed; I mean I was able to work with eight different bosses, and the changes could be a little scary,” she said. “But I look back, and they were all easy to work with. And for me, doing this job ultimately was about giving good service and supporting our membership.”

Mo retired in the same month that the Michigan Legislature adopted two historic pieces of legislation: repeal of right-to-work, and the re-institution of prevailing wage, with the MBCTC taking an active role in pushing for both. “I am going to miss the job,” she said. “It's been such a positive experience.”

Besides publishing this newspaper, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council acts as an umbrella advocacy group for 15 building trades unions in the state, and some 100,000 trades workers.

“Mo has had a remarkable run here at the council, and we're going to miss her knowledge and good work,” said Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin. “I know I speak on behalf of union officers and members around the state in wishing her good health and a very enjoyable retirement.”

New life for prevailing wage

(Continued from Page 1)

is adjourned later this year.

“Promises were made, and promises were kept. House Dems promised we would restore the prevailing wage in Michigan, and we delivered on that promise,” said state Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac), sponsor of HB 4007. “We are showing the nation that Michigan is a worker-friendly state, where workers can be sure they will receive a fair wage for their hard work. By ensuring fair, competitive wages, we will ensure that we attract and retain a highly trained workforce because we do not want to see critical infrastructure projects built by contractors that cut corners.”

Republican Sen. Lana Theis of Brighton on March 23 issued a statement that typified the GOP's anti-prevailing wage sentiment, with her first mistake suggesting that prevailing wage was repealed in Michigan 10 years ago. It actually happened in 2018.

“The wisdom in repealing prevailing wage 10 years ago was that Michigan taxpayers would no longer be overcharged for constructing schools, roads, and other publicly-funded buildings,” said Theis. “Reinstating prevailing wage is bad policy. It will put taxpayers on the hook for much more expensive construction projects with no benefit. If Gov. Whitmer signs the bill (and she did), it is going to have a drastic, negative impact on the state budget and neither she nor my Democratic colleagues seem to have contemplated the massive shortfall. Bids are already being rewritten.”

Begging to differ during March 14 testimony before the Senate Labor Committee was Neil Parish executive director, Michigan Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. He echoed what has been found in numerous academic studies: that the presence of prevailing wage laws have negligible effect on budgets or contracting costs for state or local governments.

The argument, Parish testified, is that prevailing wage “artificially inflates the cost of construction. Since 2000 there have been 20 peer-reviewed studies, 17 found no impact on the costs of construction.” The presence of prevailing wage laws, he added “are a vital protection for workers and small businesses in Michigan.”

Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25 SOUTHFIELD – UNION

MEETING - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

BYLAW READING: The second reading of the proposed Bylaw changes read at the March 9, 2023 will take place at the April 13, 2023 Membership Meeting.

APPRENTICE MEMBERSHIP MEETING ATTENDANCE: There are new apprentice membership meeting attendance procedures being implemented beginning with the May 2023 Membership Meeting. The changes are currently posted in the Training Center. Be sure to read and understand them prior to the May meeting.

SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING: There will be a SPECIAL CALLED Membership Meeting - Strike/Ratification on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. This meeting is MANDATORY for all apprentices.

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.

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. 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.

Local 36 Elevator Constructors



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY May 22, 2023, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI.

The April Meeting is cancelled due to the Business Manager being out of town. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Attention All Members, At the March 27, 2023 meeting we had the third reading and vote on the motion to charge late fees for dues not paid by the end of the quarter, it passed. This will take effect March 28, 2023 and the Local Constitution and Bylaws will be updated soon.

As all of you might know by now, the repeal of right to work and reinstatement of prevailing wage passed and was signed into law March 24, 2023.

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!!

We are still looking for volunteers for the July Picnic, if you would like to volunteer, please call the hall, or contact Jon Bujan, Picnic Committee Chair @ (586) 787-1114. The Picnic is in four months and there is a lot involved in putting it together.

If you are interested in getting involve with the Local Golf Outing, please contact Bill Avery or Ron McKay or call the hall and we will put you in contact with them.

Attention all members who are interested in Code Outreach classes and Code Tabbing classes, We are working with EIWPF to schedule new Code Outreach and Tabbing Classes, when we know the schedule we will send it out to everyone interested in these classes. We are also trying to bring QEI training here but we need at least 10 participants to accomplish this. I've spoke with the Business Managers from around our area and they have a few guys that would like to get certified also. Call the Hall if you are interested.

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

Attention All Apprentices, 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 at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the next morning. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools MUST be taken off the job.

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!

“Bob Gibson is the luckiest pitcher I ever saw. He always pitches when the other team doesn't score any runs.”

– Tim McCarver (1941-2023)

IBEW Local 557

Continued from Page 7

Heritage High School work, and Saginaw High remodel. VanHerweg picked up a project at Hemlock schools. Nelson Picked up Saint Louis schools. HSC work remains... a mystery. Solar projects will start here soon. The Frankenmuth water park work is currently being done by IBEW contractor Weinstein Electric out of Flint.

Saginaw Township Community Schools have announced a bond proposal for the May 2 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. There will be some upcoming opportunities to help out in the township community to spread the word and get voters out there. Absentee ballots will be sent out by months end. The local has been attending school board meetings already so if you want to come show support, every bit counts. We have 36 members in this district. It is VERY important we vote yes. This could mean years of work for our local. Wouldn't it be nice to work at home guys?

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.

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.

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

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Outdoors



Making osprey nesting platforms

By John Pepin
Deputy Public
Information Officer
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

On a frozen and snow-covered marsh in Delta County, electrical workers move a specialized pole into place, firmly in the ground, allowing it to stand.

At the top of the 30-foot pole, a square, metal platform has been fashioned with matching attached arms at the corners that extend nearly 3 feet off the side.

To finish their installation project, the workers decorate the platform with dead sticks in hopes of attracting ospreys in the weeks to come. Ospreys were once one of Michigan's threatened birds of prey.

This nesting site in Masonville Township is situated near a Michigan Department of Natural Resources boating access site in an area where the Rapid, Whitefish and Tacoosh rivers empty into Lake Michigan at Little Bay de Noc.

The location offers great hunting habitat for ospreys, which are the only hawk species in North America that feeds almost exclusively on live fish.

These remarkable birds, which capture fish by plunging into the water feetfirst, are often recognized by the elbow bend in their wings, which gives ospreys an M-shaped appearance in flight.

Additional identification cues for these birds nicknamed "fish hawk," "river hawk" or "sea hawk" include dark patches under the wings and a brown stripe extending across the bird's face. The wingspan of ospreys can measure almost 6 feet.

The recent osprey nest platform installation project, which was completed by wildlife technicians from the DNR and U.S. Department of Agriculture and linemen from the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, replaced a worn and heavily used nesting platform on land owned by the Smith & Sons Lumber Co. of Rapid River.



OSPREYS ARE a widespread bird species, found across the world. During the 1960s and 1970s, ospreys were one of several species affected negatively by now-banned pesticides and other chemicals. Efforts in the Upper Peninsula are creating nesting sites for the big hawks. MDNR photo

Nest site fidelity. Ospreys have been nesting near the mouth of the three rivers in southern Delta County for more than three decades.

The Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association first erected an osprey nesting platform there 30 years ago. At that time, ospreys had been nesting atop an old smokestack set to be torn down due to decay and safety concerns.

The smokestack was part of an old sawmill that once stood just southeast of the Smith & Sons Lumber Co.

From cliff ledges, trees, cactus and various human constructs, including cellphone towers and duck blinds, ospreys select their nest sites.

Advantages. "The new nest put up on March 1 was put up in a slightly different location to avoid nest disturbance from vehicles and equipment," said Colter Lubben, a DNR wildlife technician at Escanaba. "The new location is within 300 yards from where the old nest was located and still offers great viewing from both the access road, as well as the boat launch parking lot."

From online streaming to



AN OSPREY is shown sitting in its nest on the old nesting platform near the mouth of the Rapid River in Delta County. (Photo courtesy of Carol Schiltz)

in-person encounters, osprey wildlife viewing is very popular, especially in association with nesting platforms.

The new location for the nesting platform in Rapid River offers additional benefits.

"This nest is in prime habitat for nesting ospreys," Lubben said. "The nest is in a large opening away from any large buildings or trees to decrease the likelihood of nest predation by other birds."

The male osprey typically selects the nesting site. He collects dead sticks for the nest or breaks

dead limbs off trees. The female does the nest building. Nesting pairs usually produce two to three chicks.

"Alger Delta's mission statement is: 'Working together we provide safe, reliable, efficient energy,'" said Alger Delta office manager Shannon Priebe. "By assisting the DNR with the osprey nest, we are providing a safe place for them to nest away from our powerlines and thus helping maintain our (service) reliability for communities."

Alger Delta linemen Jon

Conger and Justin Gieszer and apprentice lineman Riley Corrigan put up the new platform.

Lubben, DNR wildlife biologist Joe Sage and USDA wildlife technician Kyle McGillviray built the new platform based on plans available from the International Osprey Foundation. The arm extension from the platform provides a perch for the birds.

The cooperative project is one of many across the state, nation and elsewhere to provide suitable nesting locations for ospreys. In some places, human-made nesting platforms provide nearly all osprey nesting sites. Ospreys are found on every continent except Antarctica.

"As more natural tree snags are lost to severe weather events, constructing these platforms has become more important than ever," according to the International Osprey Foundation website.

Trouble and recovery on the home front. In decades past, ospreys were among the many bird species that were adversely affected by widespread use of now-banned pesticides. Birds of prey were especially vulnerable to these impacts and suffered large population declines.

"In the 1960s and 1970s, scientists found the pesticide DDT was biomagnifying, becoming concentrated in ospreys and other fish-eating birds and causing females to lay eggs so fragile that they cracked under the parents' weight," the U.S. Geological Survey said in a 2016 report on an osprey study done on Chesapeake Bay. "The bay's osprey population fell to fewer than 1,500 pairs before DDT was banned in the U.S. in 1972. In 1979 Congress also banned PCBs, which can cause reproductive failure in animals. PBDEs, which were introduced as replacements for PCBs, are being phased out because of concerns about potential toxicity."

Since these pesticides were banned, ospreys, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and many other species have exhibited dramatic recoveries.

A threatened species across the country, ospreys had recovered sufficiently to be removed from threatened species list in Michigan in 2009.

The International Osprey Foundation was founded on



A NEW OSPREY platform is set in Delta County. MDNR photo Sanibel Island, Fla. in 1981 on the founding principle of the protection and preservation of ospreys worldwide.

"To that end, TIOF strives to educate the world community and offer research grants on raptor-related projects internationally. TIOF also recruits and coordinates teams of volunteers who build and maintain osprey nesting platforms and monitor osprey nests locally during breeding season," according to the foundation's website. "The information gathered provides research data to Osprey Watch, a central database for osprey research."

Twenty-three countries from five continents are represented in the membership of the foundation.

The DNR is grateful to its partners in the Delta County nesting platform project in Rapid River that will continue to help ospreys and provide enjoyment to those who love to watch them.

"They give you a round bat, and they throw you a round ball, and then they tell you to hit it square."

—Willie Stargell (1940-2001)

"Catching a fly ball is a pleasure, but knowing what to do with it after you catch it is a business."

—Tommy Henrich (1913-2009)

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