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SHORT CUTS

Here we go, on the roads again

It's a new term in Michigan's Legislature, and a new opportunity to propose a funding package that will permanently fund state road repairs. Raise your hand if you have heard this before.

State road workers and their contractors have been busy fixing the damn roads – but not at the level of funding and activity that is necessary.

The latest salvo on the subject comes from state House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp.) who released a \$3.1 billion plan on Jan. 16 to fund road work without raising taxes. Much of the money would be transferred by canceling “legislative earmarks” and corporate incentives from the state's budget – both of which have been popular with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. “Roads and infrastructure are top priorities, and our budget choices should reflect that,” Hall said.

For her part, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Jan. 15 pledged to “work with anyone to find a solution to road funding” and negotiate a bipartisan plan in 2025. Her office said the governor's bonding plan has spent about \$3.16 billion per year since she has been in office – but that bond ends this year.

Rob Coppersmith, executive vice president of the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association (MITA), which includes union contractors, said “we appreciate Gov. Whitmer's calling for action to fund and fix Michigan's roads and bridges. For decades, Michigan has underfunded critical road and bridge construction. As the governor said, we are facing a funding cliff at the end of 2025.

MITA said if \$3.9 billion more is set aside for Michigan's roads every year, it would put the state on a path toward having its streets in “good” or “fair” condition.

Potash, salt mine get \$1.2B from feds

Michigan Potash on Jan. 14 announced that it had secured conditional commitment for a \$1.26 billion federal loan guarantee to build a mine in Osceola Co. to extract fertilizer potash and table salt.

“If finalized,” said the company, “the loan guarantee will help make Michigan a leader in potash production, creating 1,400 construction jobs and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign countries for critical minerals.”

The loan commitment from the Department of Energy came in the waning days of the Biden Administration. More than a decade in the making, the project would yield 800,000 tons per year of potash – and the Michigan deposit is said to be among the purest in the world. Currently more than 90 percent of U.S. potash is imported.

Michigan Potash said the mining facility, to be located near Ewart Twp., about 25 miles southeast of Cadillac, will be one of the most energy-efficient in the country, by using emission-free electricity sources while perpetually recycling about 90 percent of all water within a closed-loop system.

State environmental permitting rules remain to be addressed for the project.

Quotable

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.”
—Mark Twain (1835-1910)



A “PANT LEG” exhaust fixture that will be placed above a dishwasher in a third-floor kitchen at the culinary school under construction at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak is on the move, hauled by Scott Doyle and Ken Palmeri. The Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 members are employed by Great Lakes Hotel Supply.

What's cooking: new culinary school for Oakland CC

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

ROYAL OAK – The trades are preparing a new culinary school for Oakland Community College.

Barton Malow is managing the \$75 million project, which is located at Main Street and East Seventh Street, and is a three-story addition to the site's existing OCC building.

The new space will house OCC's award-winning Culinary Studies Institute, slated to open for the fall semester this year. We visited the project last summer, and went back for an update last month.

“We have about 70-80

tradespeople on site, down from about 100 at peak last year,” said Barton Malow Project Supt. Adam Czerny. “We're in a great

spot, with a lot of stuff going on behind the scenes, working toward getting ready for

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THE CULINARY SCHOOL at Oakland Community College's Royal Oak Campus encompasses three stories and 78,400 square feet of space.

Photo credit: Barton Malow



SURROUNDED BY STAINLESS STEEL, plumbers Tim Music and Joe Darmafill looked up from what they were doing to have their photo taken in a third-floor kitchen at OCC's culinary school. The Plumbers Local 98 members are employed by Western Mechanical. Truly a full-service kitchen: the green half-orb behind them is a pizza oven.

Year-end lull doesn't tarnish bright 2024

Construction industry employment in Michigan ended 2024 with a bit of a thud.

Hot throughout 2024, the industry dropped 1,100 construction jobs in the month of December. Time will tell if it's the start of a downward trend for Michigan, which has been among the nation's leaders in building

trades employment for well over a year.

But the December numbers, among the worst in the country, didn't take the shine off entirety of 2024. Even with those lost year-end jobs, Michigan gained 13,600 construction jobs from December 2023 to December 2024. Both that number of job

gains and the corresponding 7.2 percent increase ranked Michigan in the top five among the states.

Both the December and entire 2024 numbers were released Jan. 28 by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. It was during this time that the Trump Administration paused all federal loans and grants, then rescinded the pause

two days later. While building industry forecasts have predicted a strong market in 2025, the whiplash from the new administration caused confusion in construction and across other industries, unsure of what the pause meant.

“Many firms are counting on strong public-sector demand this

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Dig this: buried lines are often wrongly marked by utilities

Miss Dig might need glasses. A new survey of utility contractors found that nearly two-thirds of buried line strikes during the past year occurred because the lines were at least 2 feet away from where they were marked by utilities prior to digging.

The information came Jan. 16 in the results of a survey released by the Associated General Contractors of America. AGC officials said the results made it clear that even though contractors are using the 811 system, utility companies need to be timelier

and more accurate in marking the locations of their lines. “Contractors are doing their part to make sure they avoid striking utility lines while they are working,” said Jeffrey Shoaf, the association's CEO. “But it is hard

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Trades' contributions assist Care House

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

MOUNT CLEMENS – A quarter-century of contributions to Care House was marked on Jan. 17, when Macomb County building trades union business representatives continued their annual tradition of supporting the facility that helps women and children who are victims of do-

mestic violence and sexual abuse. This year they contributed \$11,500 – a record amount for the past 25 years – money which has been turned into \$50 Meijer gift cards that can be handed out to women and victimized children for them to use for everything from food to fuel for their vehicles.

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BUILDING TRADES union business representatives who contributed to the good works of Care House in Mount Clemens include (l-r) Chris Speight (Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 357); Jeff Patricia (IBEW Local 58); Kevin Zimmerman (Operating Engineers Local 324); Dorie Nolan (Care House executive director); Tony Parker (Michigan Painters Local 2353); Jeremy Haviland (Painters Local 2352); Brandon Spaulding (Pipefitters Local 636); Juan Hernandez (Plasterers Local 514); Jeff Kavalor (Plumbers Local 98), and Jason Grunenwald (Sheet Metal Workers Local 80).



Trump puts workers' rights in limbo with NLRB dismissals

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Labor Relations Board – the agency tasked with protecting workers' rights in the workplace – has been rendered powerless by President Trump. And the NLRB may remain immobilized for the duration of Trump's term in office.

On Jan. 27 Trump fired two key leaders at the NLRB. He let go General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo, whose position has the vital task of bringing cases before the NLRB. Appointed by President Biden, her term was supposed to end in July.

More alarmingly, Trump fired NLRB member Gwynne Wilcox, another Biden appointee whose term was supposed to end in 2028. NLRB positions are protected by federal law, which states that board members can only be fired “for neglect of duty

or malfeasance in office, but for no other cause.”

The NLRB would be at full strength with five members, which traditionally include a three-member majority from the current administration's party and two from the minority party. But with previous resignations, the firing now leaves the NLRB with only two members, both Republican-appointed, and a lack of a quorum to perform any actions.

“President Trump's firing of NLRB member Gwynne Wilcox, the first Black woman to serve on the board, is illegal and will have immediate consequences for working people,” said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. “By leaving only two board members in their posts, the president has effectively shut down the National Labor Relations Board's operations, leaving the workers it defends on their

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No traction, again, for the nation's unionization rate

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. union membership was essentially flat from 2023 to 2024, as the rate was in keeping with the decades-long, even or lower trend for organized labor.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Jan. 28 that there was “little movement” in the nation's union membership rate, as it fell from 10.0 percent in 2023 to 9.9 percent in 2024. In real numbers, there were about 169,000 fewer union workers from 2023 to 2024, out of the total 16,023,000 unionized workforce last year.

“Despite high public approval ratings and an increase in union representation elections at the National Labor Relations Board, the overall union membership rate in the U.S. has continued to decline, reaching a record low of 9.9 percent in 2024,” said the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The BLS annually breaks down the numbers between private-sector and public union employees. The private sector's union penetration fell by 0.1

U.S. sees flat '24 union membership; Michigan's rate improves a bit

percent (-184,000 workers) to a record low of 5.9 percent, while the share of unionized public sector union numbers fell 0.3 percent (but saw an increase of 15,000 union members, indicating slower growth relative to total public employment).

To raise the prospects for greater union numbers, the AFL-CIO has repeatedly called for passage of the PRO Act in Congress, which would greatly ease the organizing process for unions when it comes to dealing with anti-union employers. But passage is just about impossible without a filibuster-proof 60-vote Democrat majority in the Senate, a Dem majority in the House, and a union-friendly president.

The union news was a bit better for Michigan, where total union membership in 2024 grew to 13.4 percent of the state's workforce, a gain of about 16,000 union workers, or a 0.6 percent increase. That amounts to about 639,000 unionized workers in Michigan.

Michigan's 13.4 percent union penetration in 2024 was No. 11 among the states. Atop that list was Hawaii (26.5 percent), New York (20.6 percent) and Alaska (17.7 percent).

And when it comes to the bottom-feeders of the list for statewide unionization, one's eyes are always drawn to South Carolina, where the Palmetto State is perennially the lowest. But surprisingly, between 2023 and 2024, the virulently anti-union state saw their unionization rate increase from 2.3 percent to 2.8 percent. That upward push

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Viewpoints



Unions stand up for everybody

What is a person's labor worth? What about their skills developed across years of training and life's hard-learned lessons? Is it worth a wage that can support a family or buy a home? Is it worth health care you can rely on or dignity in retirement? Is it worth the basic protections Social Security and Workers Compensation Insurance offer? Does it make a difference when that worker's labor creates wealth, defines communities and creates the foundation for our shared economic strength?

These aren't hard questions to answer, yet many in the construction industry go to remarkable lengths to remain willfully blind to the answers. It isn't a mystery why that is. In a world where a 2x4 costs what it costs (and price increases are readily accepted), short-changing workers is too often seen as the easiest path to undercut fair competition and crush the bottom line to pad corporate profits.

The result is an industry plagued by enterprisers that chase new and creative ways to exploit workers in order to win the game. But construction isn't a game, and exploitation has very real consequences for workers – and all of us.

Imagine taking a job and getting hurt only to learn that because your employer doesn't consider you an employee, you don't have workers' compensation. Imagine working for years only to learn you will never be able to count on even Social Security because you were caught in the various schemes to misclassify employees as independent contractors – never mind that you always reported to the same boss and did what you were told.

The rest of us pay the price when the 39 percent of construction workers who earn too little to support themselves have to rely on public assistance just to get by. Or when they get hurt and have to fend for themselves in emergency rooms, driving up the cost of care for everyone – such as when a teenager fell off a roof in Traverse City and was dumped at a medical center.

That teenager also serves as an example of how the drive to exploit workers fuels illegal immigration and outright labor trafficking as the logical next step in a race to the bottom. Immigrants are easier to exploit and have fewer protections. Some contractors even go so far as to put their trafficked workers in debt for the thousands of dollars owed to the labor brokers who facilitate the journey across the border.

So, what do we do about all of this? In the union building trades, we start by arguing that a person's labor is worth what we call an area standard wage. That is, the wage collectively bargained in good faith between workers and contractors in a geographic area for a defined scope of work. It informs prevailing wage requirements and is one of the best ways to short-circuit exploitation and ensure workers are paid what they are worth without adding to the cost of projects.

But that's not all we do. We work to support apprenticeships that train an efficient, productive workforce. We advocate for policies that protect workers and improve the health of our industry. We shine a light on illegal exploitation wherever we find it. And we stand up for the men and women who build the world around us.

Tom Lutz
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights
(From *The Detroit News' Labor Voices*, Jan. 21)

Make way for union organizing

Today (Jan. 28) the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its annual report on union density, showing that the percentage of workers in a union remained flat in 2024 despite huge organizing wins across the country and across different sectors of the economy.

It's plain as day that more working people want a union now than at any point in our lifetimes. Across our economy and in every part of the country, workers are standing together to demand fair treatment, better wages, and dignity and respect on the job. Our organizing has resulted in remarkable victories in traditional and emerging sectors like manufacturing, health care, clean energy, infrastructure, retail and restaurants, hospitality, and on college campuses, in technology, in public service and much more.

Today's BLS numbers don't begin to tell the real story of the desire workers have to join a union. The number of union elections has doubled since 2021, boosted by efforts from the previous Biden administration to give workers a fair shot at joining a union.

In 2024 alone, there were nearly 1,800 union elections, with workers winning the vast majority. Many of these victories are not reflected in the numbers released today because employers are exploiting a broken system to delay bargaining a first contract. But these wins – including an election for the first-ever Whole Foods union in Philadelphia just last night – are proof positive of working people's incredible desire to join and form unions.

Public approval for unions is at a nearly 70-year high because in an economy that continues to heavily tilt to the wealthy few, and leaves workers behind, the only way to get ahead is by joining together.

The recent successful organizing campaigns at places like Starbucks, Amazon, Volkswagen, and other massive corporations show workers' momentum and hunger to join unions, no matter how many hurdles bosses and anti-union politicians throw our way. There are 60 million workers who would join a union today if given the opportunity, but between broken labor law and corporate bosses like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos engaging in often illegal union-busting every year with little consequence, far too few get that chance. It's time for change.

We call on the Trump administration to live up to its campaign promises to support workers by prioritizing fixing America's broken labor law through the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act. These bills would finally update our archaic, broken laws and give workers what we so desperately want: a free and fair shot at joining a union on the job.

Our focus is simple: organizing and ensuring every worker in America who wants a union has the freedom to join one. Many unions are experiencing an all-time high in membership and continue to grow. The AFL-CIO is now nearly 15 million members strong with the recent affiliation of the Service Employees International Union, the most unified labor movement we've seen in decades. This year, workers will continue to organize vigorously, flex our power through strikes and other workplace actions, and demand that corporate CEOs and politicians give us the respect we deserve.

Liz Shuler
AFL-CIO President

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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"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"Magnificent promises are always to be suspected."

–Theodore Parker (1810 - 1860)

"No one really listens to anyone else, and if you try it for a while you'll see why."

–Mignon McLaughlin



WIRING A PUMP MOTOR in the mechanical penthouse of the new Oakland Community College culinary school in Royal Oak is electrician Davian Johnson. The IBEW Local 58 member is employed by Centerline Electric.

What's cooking: new culinary school for Oakland CC

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inspections. A lot of our tradespeople have been here since the beginning, and they have done very well for us."

Working with Senior Supt. Joe Frincke, Czerny said there is a multitude of tasks being undertaken in what is a complex, and relatively compact 78,400 square-foot of space. Work is proceeding on pulling wire, setting up switchgear, tiling bathrooms, drywall finishing, plumbing, and various sheetmetal installations, among numerous other tasks.

The completed space will have a multitude of kitchens, and the associated water supplies,

drains, sinks, ovens, exhaust, stainless steel fixtures, and complex electrical hookups, wiring and properly placed power outlets.

"The biggest challenge here has been the logistics, the tight space and the complexity of the job," Czerny said. "It's a very dense job, with multiple types of kitchen equipment being installed, and a lot of just-in-time deliveries. There are just so many details in all the spaces."

Ground was broken on the addition in November 2022, adjacent to the existing OCC building at the site. The space will feature three classrooms,

two demonstration kitchens and four teaching kitchens, providing space for collaborative learning among students, and is promised by OCC to be "one of the top culinary learning facilities in Michigan."

OCC says "the new facility will also feature a 2,372 square-foot restaurant on the third floor with a sloping ceiling, large glass windows and 360-degree views of downtown Royal Oak, known for its hospitality, cuisine and vibrant culture. The restaurant will offer the community a new dining option where culinary students will prepare and serve fine-dining recipes as part of their training."

Billionaires do the immigrant worker two-step

By Jim Hightower

One thing you can say about Trump is that he's absolutely

clear on his furious opposition to immigrants taking American jobs.

Except, of course, when the corporate honchos profiting from cheap immigrant labor are billionaire funders of Trump's campaigns – or, hello, when Trump himself is doing the hiring!

A work-permit program called H-1B actually allows corporate giants to import foreigners to take U.S. jobs. Trump loudly denounced this in his first term, but that was pre-Elon. When gabiillionaire Elon Musk became Donald's campaign Sugar Daddy last year, he turned out to be a mass abuser of the H-1B loophole – apparently even firing

workers in his Tesla corporation and replacing them with cheaper foreign imports.

Yet, far from scolding his new Best Buddy, Trump did a full-body flip-flop. Now hailing H-1B as "a great program," he admits that he, too, has long used it, even when he was denouncing it as a shameful rip-off of American workers.

Trump's use of the foreign hire scheme is even chintzier than Musk's for he uses a companion H-2 loophole to import hundreds of low-paid foreigners to take jobs as cooks, waiters, housekeepers, and farmworkers

in his luxury resorts and hotels – including at Mar-a-Lago.

Amazing. These are lordly billionaires reducing themselves to sleaze by exploiting a corporate scheme to shortchange American and foreign workers alike. Moreover, whether trying to import engineers or waiters, the law requires these über-rich applicants to lie. They must swear that there are no American citizens available who can do these jobs.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Welcome to Don and Elon's phantasmagoric wonderland, where nothing is a lie if they say it's true.

Just joking

A woman goes into Cabela's to buy a rod and reel for her son's birthday. She doesn't know which one to get, so she just grabs one and goes over to the counter.

The clerk was standing behind the counter wearing dark glasses. She says to him, "Excuse me, sir. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?"



He says, "Ma'am, I'm completely blind; but if you'll drop it

on the counter, I can tell you everything from the sound it makes." She doesn't believe him but drops it on the counter anyway.

He says, "That's a 6-foot Shakespeare graphite rod with a Zebco 404 reel and 10-pound test line. It's a good all-around combination, and it's on sale this week for only \$40."

She says, "It's amazing that you can tell all that just by the sound of it dropping on the counter! I'll take it!" As she opens her purse, her credit card drops on the floor.

"Oh, that sounds like a MasterCard," the clerk says. She bends down to pick it up and accidentally passes gas. At first, she is embarrassed, but then realizes there is no way the blind clerk could tell it was her who tooted.

The man rings up the sale and says, "That'll be \$54.50 please."

The confused woman responds, "didn't you tell me the rod and reel were on sale for \$40? How did you get \$54.50?"

He replies, "Yes, ma'am. The rod and reel are \$40, but the duck call is \$11, and the catfish bait is \$3.50."

She paid it and left without saying a word.

"An author is a fool who, not content with boring those he lives with, insists on boring future generations."

–Charles de Montesquieu (1689 - 1755)

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BUILDING MICHIGAN! Timberrrr! HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE SAWMILL at the mouth of the Dead River in Marquette, in 1905. Sawmills were usually sited at the mouth of Michigan rivers, allowing logs to be floated in their direction. The timber would then be cut, bundled and moved by railroad or ship to other Great Lakes ports. Mill workers were paid more than forest-based loggers, but had to pay their own room and board. Changes in lumber-cutting technology drove major efficiencies. In the 1860s steam power came into play, and by the end of the 1870s virtually every mill operation had been mechanized to some degree, according to *Lumbering in Michigan*. The first circular saws of the 1860s had wide, wobbly blades, producing miles of sawdust. Thinner blades soon arrived, then bandsaws, which eliminated the poorer quality cuts of their predecessors.

Photo credit: U.S. Library of Congress

Trees were an unavoidable natural resource for settlers as they entered our state's Lower Peninsula in the early 19th Century.

Trees grew in abundance – and unimpeded, except perhaps for the work of beavers – all over both of the state's peninsulas, from when the glaciers receded to when White settlers began to seriously populate Michigan.

"The pioneer settlers of the 1820s found a land covered by dense stands of virgin timber; scarcely 50 years later, Michigan was the leading lumber producer in the nation," says a history provide by Michigan State University's *Project Geo*.

At first, settlers to Michigan cursed their presence. The trees impeded overland transportation, and the effort to cut them down and remove their stumps in order to create farmable land required an extraordinary amount of labor. But the felled trees did provide lumber for building shelters.

"The earliest lumbering in Michigan was done by the French in order to build forts, fur-trading, posts and missions," *Project Geo* said. "The British, and later the Americans, used Michigan's hardwoods to build merchant and war ships. Beginning about 1855, white pine became the most desired tree species by the lumber industry of the Great Lakes states. Navigable rivers and extensive pine forests formed the basis of a flourishing pine industry in Michigan's Lower Peninsula until 1895, and about 10 years longer in the Upper Peninsula."

The first group of people to set up lumbering operations were from New England. The forests there were almost entirely cut, so the owners and experienced crews followed the work. "Timber cruisers" would search for the best available land, and reserve it at the local land office for their employers. The Michigan land was incredibly cheap, selling for as little as \$1.25 per acre.

"By 1840," wrote Maria Quinlan in an article for Michigan Technological University, titled *Lumbering in Michigan*, "it was apparent that the traditional sources of white pine in Maine and New York would be unable to supply a growing demand for lumber. Michigan, the next state west in the northern pine belt, was the logical place to turn for more lumber."

"The first commercial logging ventures in the state utilized eastern techniques,

capital, and labor, but Michigan lumbering soon expanded beyond the scope of anything previously known and established itself as one of the state's most important industries."

Winter was the preferred season to fell trees: they could be cut and slid over snowy or icy ground to rivers, awaiting a springtime trip to be floated to sawmills.

According to the National Parks Service, Michigan's vast Eastern white pine forests were popular with the loggers because logs floated easily, or could be assembled into rafts and transported over the open lakes. Denser hardwoods like maple could not as easily be felled, and rapidly dulled the saws in the mills. Early on, the unmarketable hardwoods were often burned in local kilns to make charcoal for iron production.

"Three Michigan inventions of the 1870s were responsible for increasing the transportation of logs regardless of the weather," said the National Parks Service.

"The first of the innovations called 'big wheels,' was invented by Cyrus Overpack of downstate Manistee. These 10-foot diameter wheels were pulled by a team of oxen or horses and allowed rapid movement of logs without the need for snow cover. The high axle clearance easily allowed the wheels to move over stumps and rough clear-cut ground."

Prior to the big wheels, the logs were normally "skidded out" with oxen or horse teams to the main logging road. There they were loaded onto sleighs and hauled over ice roads to river banks where they were stored until spring.

The ice roads were also primarily a Michigan innovation. The unique roads were made by running a sprinkler over a logging road during frigid nights. By morning, the normally rutted and rough trails were turned into sheets of ice. During the day heavy sleighs loaded with logs could rapidly move over them.

"The migration of loggers, sawyers, rivermen, and investors in timber from Maine to Michigan, then to Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the far West played a vital role in the development of significant portions of the nation," said *Project Geo*. "One writer on the American frontier states that Michigan had nine times as many varieties of trees as Great Britain, but he fails to note that one of them was the white pine, the lumber from which was highly regarded because of its beauty and the ease

with which it could be worked."

"The 'shanty boys and the 'timber (or lumber) barons of the lumbering era were some of the most colorful characters in Michigan's history," *Project Geo* continued. "Tales of the lumberjacks' prodigious strength and of the company owners' opulent houses and manner abound, but the lumbering industry produced more than songs and legends. A vast amount of housing in the Midwest was constructed of Michigan timber..."

Project Geo said by the 1870s there were more than 400 sawmills and 800 logging camps in the Lower Peninsula, mostly in the pine region which extended from the Saginaw valley and the Muskegon area north to the Straits of Mackinac. Many individual sawmills in 1882 were producing between 10 million-20 million board feet of lumber per year. The industry grew rapidly from the 1850s through the 1890s, encouraging the settlement of the state's northern regions and development of a wood products industry.

The Saginaw Valley was the leading lumbering area between 1840 and 1860, when the number of mills in operation throughout the state doubled. The state was also crisscrossed by a network of rivers which provided convenient transportation for logs to the sawmills and lake ports. By 1869 Michigan was producing more lumber than any other state, a distinction it continued to hold for 30 years. At one time, the Muskegon River floated more pine logs than any other stream in the world.

By 1900 most of the pine in the Lower Peninsula was gone.

Pine logging in the Upper Peninsula began to assume importance in the 1880s and the virgin stands lasted until about 1920. Much U.P. hardwood was used to fire iron ore furnaces, and by Henry Ford in Model T body production. His company owned about 500,000 acres in the U.P. The peak of Michigan's great timber harvest was reached in 1889-1890 when mills cut a total of 5.5 billion board feet of lumber, mostly pine.

In an era with few environmental considerations, the intensive logging wrought havoc on the state's landscape. Re-forestation was not yet a thing and massive swaths of land remained fields of stumps. Farmers eventually cleared much of the land and where the soil was appropriate, used it for agriculture.

Trump puts workers' rights in limbo with NLRB dismissals

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own in the face of union-busting and retaliation. Alongside the firing of NLRB General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo, these moves will make it easier for bosses to violate the law and trample on workers' legal rights on the job and fundamental freedom to organize."

Abruzzo's forced departure was not unexpected: Biden, immediately after taking office four years ago, set the precedent by firing Trump's general counsel, who had a strong anti-worker record.

The political football with the NLRB could have been anticipated, and its highly likely to end up as a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. During Biden's term the NLRB was widely seen as shifting toward being pro-worker, frustrating the business community. But in the latter part of 2024 the NLRB came into the crosshairs of Trump crony Elon Musk, who along with other business leaders like Amazon's Jeff Bezos, challenged in court the constitutionality of the agency.

Trump hasn't played his hand on whether he will fully staff the NLRB – but not doing so plays into the wishes of the likes of Musk and Bezos, who have gone to court to make the agency simply go away.

The *OnLabor* blog pointed out that Trump's strategy "as some have speculated," could include "outright refusing to appoint members to the NLRB. Such a move would hamstring labor law enforcement and be extraordinarily tricky to challenge in court."

Said Wilcox after her dismissal: "As the first Black woman board member, I brought a unique perspective that I believe will be lost upon my unprecedented and illegal removal. I

will be pursuing all legal avenues to challenge my removal, which violates long-standing Supreme Court precedent."

But having a 3-2 majority on the NLRB that's from the president's party is a precedent and a tradition – not a law. Trump could theoretically pack it with five Republican appointees, or perhaps not fill them at all.

"A working National Labor Relations Board is a critical forum for workers to bring forward their case when their employers have broken the law or abused their rights," said Laborers International Union General President Brent Booker. "With these firings, the NLRB will not be able to do business until successor members are confirmed – putting an immediate halt to hearing cases that need immediate attention. We urge President Trump to fill these vacancies as

soon as possible with leaders who will put the interests of workers first ahead of big business and protect the rights and safety of our members."

"The simultaneous firing of Abruzzo," writes Harold Meyerson for the left-leaning *American Prospect*, "who's been the most pro-worker federal official since New York Sen. Robert Wagner (who authored both the National Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act in 1935), means that the Board not only can't rule on any employment issues but also that its local attorneys who investigate employee and employer complaints no longer have a senior counsel who sets their priorities and policy."

"In Wilcox's and Abruzzo's stead, we're left with a labor law of the jungle, which enables employers to run as roughshod over their workers as their little pocketbooks desire."

Trades' contributions assist Care House

(Continued from Page 1)

"The cost of living has gone up, so we reached a little deeper this year to help an organization that does some great work," said Jeremy Haviland, a business representative with Michigan Painters District Council 1-M - Local 2352.

Care House has interviewed 11,300 victims since it converted an old house in 1996 into a facility for the purpose of helping domestic violence victims.

"You may not know the magnitude of what these cards mean to us," said Care House Executive Director Dorie Vazquez-Nolan, to the business reps. "We very much appreciate the contributions."

She handed out a flyer which described how the cards are used, including the aid they gave to a child and his new custodian last year.

"A young boy came to Care House for an emergency interview due to allegations of physical abuse by his mother. The boy's adult brother stepped in to take custody of the boy. The brother indicated financial hardship due to taking his brother in. The brother reported that he is in the process of obtaining a birth certificate for his brother to begin the enrollment process for school, buy clothing and school supplies as the child was homeless prior to coming into his care."

"Care House provided gift cards for him to purchase clothing, school supplies and other items to assist him in caring for the child."

U.S. unionization rate flat

(Continued from Page 1)

made South Carolina No. 48 on the list, ahead of South Dakota (2.7 percent) and North Carolina (2.4 percent).

Following are some facts and figures gleaned from the latest BLS numbers:

- The Center for Economic Policy and Research said public sector unions have taken a major hit after Covid. While the overall workforce share of workers who were union members dropped by 0.3 percent from 2019 to 2024, "the losses have been especially dramatic in the public sector," the CEPR said. That sector's union membership dropped 1.4 percent during that five-year period, from 33.6 percent to 32.2 percent, a loss of 41,000 public union workers. While membership was mostly stable in the federal government, declines were greatest at the state and local government levels.

- While union membership density among Black workers dipped slightly between 2023 and 2024, it has increased by 0.8 percentage points (+250,000 union members) between 2019 and 2024.

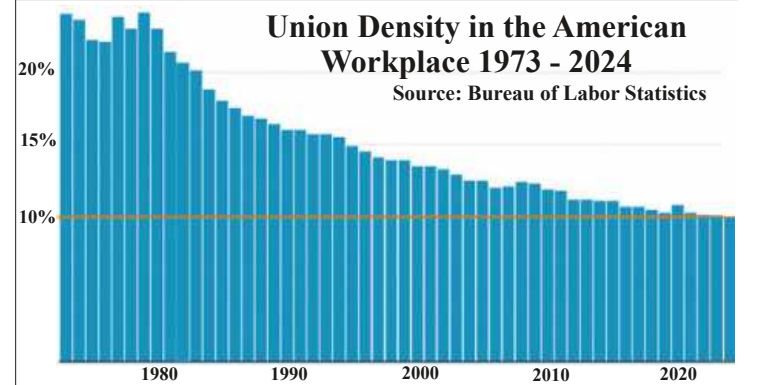
- Men continued to have a higher union membership rate (10.2 percent) than women (9.5 percent).

- Nonunion workers had median weekly earnings that were 85 percent of earnings for workers who were union members (\$1,138 versus \$1,337).

- Among occupational groups, the highest union membership rates in 2024 were in education, training, and library

occupations (32.3 percent), protective service occupations (29.6 percent), and construction and extraction occupations (15.4 percent, down from 16.3 percent

in 2023). Membership rates were lowest in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (1.5 percent) and in sales and related occupations (2.7 percent).



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THIS PHOTO, CIRCA 1890, is labeled "Muskegon River Log Drive." The 216-mile long river flows southwest to Muskegon from Houghton Lake in Roscommon County, a huge tract of timber in Michigan.

Photo credit: University of Michigan

2025 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

Aiello Law Group has just released our 2025 Construction Worker's Daily Logbook in both a print and digital version! We have provided logbooks to Michigan's building trades for over 30 years.

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





Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – February's union meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:30pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 49811.

March's union meeting will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:30pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911

Rigging Re-Certification classes will be at the Lansing Training Center from 5-8 p.m. Bub will be the instructor.

Class dates for 2025 will be: Jan 14; Jan 21; Jan 28; Jan 30; Test Feb 6.

We will start the nighttime rigging class on March 18th and run it two nights a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, for eight weeks, for 45 hours of training.

3/18/25 & 3/20/25; 6 hours of training.

3/25/25 & 3/27/25; 6 hours of training.

4/01/25 & 4/03/25; 6 hours of training.

4/08/25 & 4/10/25; 6 hours of training.

4/15/25 & 4/17/25; 6 hours of training.

4/22/25 & 4/24/25; 6 hours of training.

4/29/25 & 5/01/25; 6 hours of training.

5/06/25; 3 hours of training.

5/08/25 Exam

Practical Exam 5/09/24

Winter Weld Classes:

Lansing: Starting January 6, 2025

Advanced Weld Class: Monday's & Wednesday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Beginners Weld Class: Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Jackson: Starting Jan. 13, 2025

Advanced Weld Class: Monday's & Wednesday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Beginners Weld Class: Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Advanced Pipefitting class Tuesday's & Thursday's 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Battle Creek:

Jan. 13, 2025 Mondays & Thursdays 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

Lansing Orbital Welding MIG CLASS: Must have UA21 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up.

CPR and First Aid: Class will begin when 10 members sign up.

Lansing Orbital Welding: 40 hours. You must have your UA21 and UA41 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center

Dig this: buried lines are often wrongly marked by utilities

(Continued from Page 1)

to avoid hitting a line if the utility company says it is one place, when it is really somewhere else.”

Sixty-four percent of survey respondents reported that the utility lines they inadvertently struck during the past year were at least two feet outside of where they were marked by locators after they called 811 – that's the nationwide number construction firms and anyone else planning to excavate are required to call in advance.

Shoaf noted that construction firms are doing their part to use the 811 system. According to the survey, 99 percent of firms report they are using the 811 system before starting excavation work. And 95 percent report they are aware of local laws governing the use of the 811 system.

“There is no moral precept that does not have something inconvenient about it.”

–Denis Diderot (1713 - 1784)

“There's a whiff of the lynch mob or the lemming migration about any overlarge concentration of like-thinking individuals, no matter how virtuous their cause.”

–P. J. O'Rourke (1947 -)

517-323-0333.

Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

Medical Gas Certification will begin Jan. 13, 2025 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Backflow Recertification will begin February 24, 2025 5:00 – 8:00pm

Medical Gas Recertification will begin February 26, 2025 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Fundamental of Gas Heating & Combustion Class begins January 9, 2025, through March 6, 2025 from 5-8:00pm. Classes will be held at the Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Please sign up on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.

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

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

The Diversity Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 6pm, at Hooked Coffee, 3142 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI. 48912. Discussion topic Workplace Violence, Please RSVP by February 8, 2025, by calling the Lansing Hall.

If you have any life changes, address, phone number, divorce or birth, please contact the Lansing office to receive the essential paperwork and to make the necessary changes.

DUES: Please check your dues receipts to make sure your dues are paid. Dues can be paid with debit, or credit card, a check or money order.

Congratulations Jeff Madden on your retirement. Enjoy all the new journeys your future has waiting for you.

Deepest sympathy to Erin Sills and his family on the loss of his father George Sills who passed away January 21, 2025 at the age of 77. We are so very sorry for your loss.

Heartfelt condolences to Mark Maksymowski on the loss of his wife Jennifer, who passed away January 25, 2025. Our hearts go out to you during this difficult time.

UA Local 333 Awards Banquet will be held for our members who are receiving their 30-year to 65-year pins and certificates on May 10, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West. Invitations will be mailed to our members who will be receiving an award. Please, please, please RSVP for this event once you receive your invitation and plan on attending.

“The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and their families. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall.”

Year-end lull doesn't tarnish all of 2024

(Continued from Page 1)

year and plan to hire as a result,” said Jeffrey Shoaf, the Associated General Contractors' CEO. “But possible federal funding pauses and efforts to curtail lawful work authorizations could impact future hiring plans for many firms.”

The Dodge Construction Network reported that total construction project starts decreased 2 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.2 trillion.

But for the 12 months ending December 2024, total construction starts were up 6 percent from the preceding 12 months. Residential starts were up 7 percent, nonresidential starts were up 4 percent and nonbuilding starts (usually infrastructure) rose 7 percent over the same period.

Interest rate cuts “prior to December supported some momentum in multifamily and commercial starts over the month,” said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. “Sustained labor shortages and elevated materials prices will continue to add risk to the sector, in addition to the concern over tariffs and more strict immigration enforcement. Overall, the strength in the value of projects in planning and further Fed rate cuts should encourage growth in construction in 2025.”



Local 190

UA Local 190

ANNARBOR – AMONTHLY UNION MEETING: will be held on Monday, Feb. 10 and will start 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.

ATTENTION MIGAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A “Special Called Meeting” for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 5** 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.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING & HELPER TRAINING: Will begin Jan. 6 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.** Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK: 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 contractor 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.

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

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

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

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY!!! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. 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.”

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 2024 HEALTH COSTS: Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2024 health costs personally, you must submit information to the Union Hall 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to the attention of Bernadette by Feb. 15, 2025. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bernadette at 734-424-0962 EXT 3

Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

(Please Note: Bernadette's office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked “Bernadette Maus – Benefits Manager”) **Please use this entrance door for Bernadette**

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5pm. Friday 8am. to 4pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only.

We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email: kristyn@190jtc.com or mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 Schedule – Mondays – Feb. 17, April 21, July 21, and Sept. 29, 2025. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 Schedule – Mondays – Feb. 24, April 28, July 28, and Oct. 6, 2025. Each class will start at 5 pm.

Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs): This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the basic fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety. Participants will receive training on the Lincoln Virtual welding machine (VR), before heading into the welding lab. **Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.**

Welding Lab: Currently open welding lab is Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. The open welding lab will run Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 9**. Courses run on **Wednesday and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **Feb 11**. The second course starts **May 6**. The third course starts **Oct 14**. 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 or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Signal Brazer Certification: 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. **2025 Schedule: (Continued next column)**



Local 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 11** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.uaocal357.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 MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The location phone no: (269) 337-9800.

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

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

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of Retired Member, John Basinger, on his recent passing.

Local 190, con't

First course starts **March 11**. The second course starts **Sept. 2**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **April 22**. Second course starts **Oct. 7**. 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 or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. **2025 schedule:** course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Personal 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 **Winter/Spring 2025**. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Personal Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal personal certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Frederick Busch passed away Jan. 25. Frederick initiated Aug. 22, 1966, retired June 1, 1998 and became a lifetime member Aug. 1, 2016. To all family members and friends, we would like to extend to all of you our deepest sympathies.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, February 6th at the Union Hall. Join us for card games, pastries, and coffee.

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



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 p.m.

The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Grayling Eagles.

Contact Information:

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@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.uaocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No. If you should have difficulties logging in, call Kristin, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

JATC News: Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects. If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB FUND:

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

Website Address: Please visit www.uaocal85.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 Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass. **Fraternaly,** Justin M. Pomerville Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local Union 85



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671

MONROE – The Local 671 Membership Meetings have now been moved to the 3rd Thursday of the month in accordance with our By-Laws and a subsequent vote at the January Meeting. The next meeting is now scheduled for February 20, 2025 at 7pm.

The Executive Board meetings will now also be held at 5pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month (next meeting February 20, 2025). If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

Local Pension Elective Deferral: We are pleased to announce that after meeting with our contractor's association, you can now add up to an additional \$10 per hour to your local pension. This is in addition to the default of \$5.65 per hour. The prior maximum elective deferral was capped at \$6 per hour. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity if you can; all the additional money added will be in increments of \$1.00.

Local 671 App: To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Vinnie at the Union Hall.

All upcoming courses and certifications have now also been added to the App under the Training tab. Please contact Justin to register for any training opportunities.

Condolences: We are sorry to report that Retiree Gus Laroy passed away on January 30 at the age of 65. He was a 42-year member of Local 671 who will be missed dearly by family and friends.

Open Weld Shop Nights: The Open Weld Shop nights are now **Thursday nights** from 6pm-10pm. A booth will need to be reserved by noon on Friday 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.

Congratulations: We would like to congratulate Apprentice Tyler Rigel and his wife Cameron on the birth of their Daughter Sawyer Lucille Rigel was born January 9th at 4:08 am. Enjoy your new bundle of joy!

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We continue to hold 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

In Closing: The UA has created a Mental Health and Suicide prevention program called UA Pipe Pals. If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, please reach out and get help. One of the leading causes for death in our industry is mental illness and suicide. You are not alone. Don't wait, if you are struggling with depression, mental anxiety or just need advice on helping someone you know, call 988 and be connected to a crisis counselor at a local crisis center who will provide confidential, compassionate support. We all need help sometimes.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com

"Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble."

—Frank Tyger

"As I grow older, I regret to say that a detestable habit of thinking seems to be getting a hold of me."

—H. Rider Haggard (1856 - 1925)

"To do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in, and scramble through as well as we can."

—Sydney Smith (1771 - 1845)



Plumbers Local 98



DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98,

The officers and staff at Local 98 regretfully inform you that we are heartbroken to report that five of our Brothers were among the victims of the American Airlines Flight 5342 tragedy on 1/29/2025:

Jesse Pitcher, 30 years old-8 years of service - UA Local 5; Charles "Charlie" McDaniel, 44 years old-22 years of service - UA Local 602; Jonathan D. Boyd, 40 years old-20 years of service - UA Local 602; Michael "Mikey" Stovall, 40 years old-19 years of service - UA Local 602; and Alexander "Alex" Huffman, 34 years old-9 years of service - UA Local 602.

May God bless each of our fallen Brothers, and all those who knew and loved them as well as all of the other victims of this horrible tragedy. The UA General Office is coordinating relief efforts for their families. Any funds can be made online at UA Charitable Fund Trust or mailed to the UA General Office to the attention of General Secretary-Treasurer Derrick Kualapai.

Please note in the memo if you would like to earmark these funds for the families of the victims of the AA5342 disaster. Please reach out to the General Office if you have any questions. **Payable to: UA Charitable Fund Trust, United Association, Attn: GST Derrick Kualapai, 3 Park Place, Annapolis, MD 21401.** Let's please remember to keep them in our prayers and may they forever rest in peace.

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our website. Go to UALocal98tc.org

Meetings & Union Hall. Our regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Retiree Luncheon meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025 from 12-2:00pm.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings. The next board meeting is Feb. 6, 2025.

Attention 98 Hockey Players: Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon.

Attention 98 Softball players: Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the Local 98 Softball Team, please contact Jeremy Pitts (586) 405-9425.

Apprentice Council Chili Cook-Off: The Apprentice Council is hosting a Chili Cook-Off before our next meeting on Feb. 13 from 4:30-7. If you have any questions or would like to enter your chili call John Linardakis 989 324-8551.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98tc.org/apprenticeship.

Expelled Members: We currently have three expelled members this month; Ken J. Johnson, Kevin F. Martin and Aram T. Ormanian. Please contact Business Manager, Gary Glaser or Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Nixon for further information to stay active and catch up on your dues.

Dues: Please keep your email and contact information up to date at the hall. We have several options to pay your dues; in person, online, automatic deduction from an account and pension deduction for retirees. Contact the hall for more information.

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. We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments.

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 Rufus Hamilton.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call our Organizer Rob Moses.

Benefits. We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union

Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2. If they are on the other line, please leave them a message and they will get back to you promptly.

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and lead by our health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org

Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org

Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org

Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org

Jeff Kavalari, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalari@ualocal98.org

Rob Moses, Organizer (248)763-2187 rmoses98@ualocal98.org

In solidarity, Gary Glaser, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98! Protecting the health of Metro Detroit since 1893.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435 Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 18, 2025. 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. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division has instituted the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. Books are available for order through the ICC. The Training Center has a limited number of 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code books available for sale.

PLUMBING CODE UPDATE (required to renew the State of Michigan Journey or Master License) Must have update completed by March 31st, 2025. Classes are available at the Training Center. Call the Training Center to get signed up for the next available class.

THE TRAINING CENTER IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULING MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER UPDATES. Please call the Training Center to get in the next available class. This is an update to the new NFPA 99 2024 standard.

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

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for May 6, 2025, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 30. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings. 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.

2024 brazing and welding

sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be March 1, 2025. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2025. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.

ASSE Backflow Tester Certification: Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now re-quired that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. \$100

4 hour recert class April 15 & 16 Deadline is March 14

4 hour recert class July 29 & 30 Deadline is June 27

4 hour recert class Oct. 21 & 22 Deadline is Sept. 26

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

Spring: March 3 – May 12 Deadline is Feb. 14 - \$200

Fall: Sept. 8 – Nov. 17 Deadline is Aug. 22 - \$200

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

Spring: March 5 – April 9, Deadline is Feb. 14 - \$100

Fall: Sept. 10 - Oct. 15, Deadline is Aug. 22 - \$100

BIM I - 40 hour class

Spring: March 5 – May 14 Deadline is February 14 - \$100

Fall: Sept. 10 – Nov. 17 Deadline to register Aug. 22 - \$100

ICRA and Water Quality: Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30 - \$200

Spring: Week of March 3 to week of May 12. Deadline to register Feb. 14

Fall: Week of Sept. 8 to week of Nov. 17. Deadline to register Aug. 22. Day of week to be determined

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Spring: March 5 – May 14 Deadline is February 14 - \$200

Fall: Sept. 10 – Nov. 17 Deadline to register Aug. 22 - \$200

6010 Medical Gas Installer Recertification- *All current Med Gas certification

MUST CONTACT the Training Center for the next available class.

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

Spring: Week of March 3 to week of May 12. Deadline to register February 14

Fall: Week of Sept. 8 to week of Nov. 17. Deadline to register Aug. 22

Day of week to be determined

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

Spring: Week of March 3 to week of May 12. Deadline to register Feb. 14

Fall: Week of Sept. 8 to week of Nov. 17. Deadline to register Aug. 22. Day of week to be determined

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.

"Sometimes I get the feeling the whole world is against me, but deep down I know that's not true. Some smaller countries are neutral."

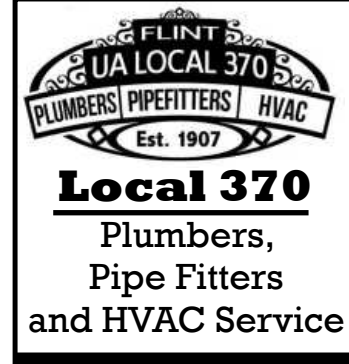
—Robert Orben

"One of the most sublime experiences we can ever have is to wake up feeling healthy after we have been sick."

— Rabbi Harold Kushner

"The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards."

— Arthur Koestler (1905 - 1983)



UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, at 7pm.**

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, Feb. 10 at 9:00 am.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

2021 Michigan Plumbing Code Update Class Tuesday, Feb. 18, 4:30 – 7:30. Call the Training Center with your plumbing license number to sign up

A2L Safe Handling of Mildly Flammable Refrigerant March 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th 5:00 – 7:00pm. The test will be March 7th.

Night Welding Feb. 3rd thru the 27th Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:30

March 3rd thru the 27th Mondays and Thursdays 4:30 – 7:30

Medical Gas Installer Jan. 6th thru Feb. 26th – Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:30

The refresher test will be on March 4th. Book fee \$140

Backflow Mar. 3rd thru Apr. 2nd – Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:30

The testing will be on April 7th and 9th.

First Aid & CPR March 19, 2025, and Sept. 17th, 2025

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available. Cost is \$85. Check or money order only.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 ext 15 or at training@ualocal370.org

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, Feb. 11, 2025 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 2025 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.
Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.
Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is \$150.

Attention All Active Members in good standing. The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 who 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

(Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Nomination of Officers will be held at the February 19th meeting. Position due for election is Sergeant at Arms.

Notice of Special Election: There will be a special election for the position of Sergeant at Arms on March 19, 2025. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. at the Local Union Hall. In case of a tie, there will be a run-off that same evening with the voting members present.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month.

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

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

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

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

Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-540-2091 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

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

Condolences go out to the family and friends of retired brother Thomas Moon. Brother Moon was a 51-year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of retired brother James Spodeck. Brother Spodeck was a 54 year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 370, con't

member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

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

Our web site is up and running: 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.

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, Zach Desrochers for application and testing dates.

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

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

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Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters
& Service Trades

UA Local 174
COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, March 6, 2025** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Volunteers Needed: Operation United is held on Friday, April 25th and is an annual United Way event in West MI that mobilizes volunteers to honor veterans and active military families, especially seniors and those with disabilities in West Michigan. We are hoping to have enough volunteers from 174 to sponsor our own home/project. The projects are outdoors like yard work, landscaping, and minor repairs to make homes safer and more accessible. For more information or to sign up, please contact Nate.

St. Patrick's Day Parade: The West MI Area Labor Council will be walking in this year's St. Patty's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15th in Grand Rapids. We are still waiting for the final details and will post them as soon as they are available. If you are interested in walking at this event, please contact Nate.

Plumbing Law Changes: Starting March 20, 2025, anyone performing plumbing work in Michigan must either be registered and in good standing with the State as a plumbing apprentice or hold a current journeyman or master plumbing license. The new legislation also establishes a ratio of one journeyman for every two apprentices, with significant penalties, including steep fines and the suspension or revocation of a plumbing contractor's license for non-compliance.

This is excellent news for our industry and presents a great opportunity to expand our market share in West Michigan. Make sure that your license or apprentice registration is up to date with the State. If your license has expired or you need to register as an apprentice, you must contact the State Licensing Division at 517-241-9316.

Wage Allocation: The 2024 wage allocation was voted on at the June 4, 2024 membership meeting. Results were \$1.27 increase on the check, \$0.05 increase to the Retiree Bonus Program, \$0.60 increase to the Pension fund, and \$0.30 increase to the Training Fund.

Organizing Update: We are having an open house on Feb 20th from 8am-7pm at the training center. Reach out to your previous co-workers or friends in the trade and have them attend. You may have come from a non-union company where they have plumbers still working there, reach out to them.

Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension- the message is clear, all workers deserve a UNION! Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (855) 878-4101
EAP: (888) 238-6232
Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Medicare Retirees. Retiree First: (616) 345-0788

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33
Non-working Pre-Medicare

Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63
Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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

Autopay for Window Dues: As a result of the rising postage expenses and the significant number of members who have opted for autopay, we have made a change in the way receipts are delivered. Going forward, members will receive their proof of payment via email instead of traditional mail. If you are currently enrolled in autopay but do not have an email address on record and would like a receipt, please contact our office to update your information.

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

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Do not rely on anyone else to call in for you.

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

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

Lakeshore - 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

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

Training News:
ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to Lucas Pinks on fulfilling his apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174's most recent Journeyman!

PLUMBING CODE UPDATE: **February 15th @ 8am.** This will be your last opportunity offered by Training Center. Call to sign up.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month), from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, February 13th and March 13th

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, February 11th, and the test to follow Thursday, February 13th at 5pm

OPENWELD: Wednesdays of every week watch Facebook for any updates

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certs and have turned in a continuity, the welder certification status cards are now being emailed, rather than sent via USPS mail. If you have turned in continuity and have NOT received an updated status card, please contact the Training office to verify we have your current email.

Please contact Chris Phillips or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Nicole (231)206-4213.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111
UPPER PENINSULA – ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

The next Union Meeting will be held in Marquette on **Feb. 27, 2025, at 7:30 PM.** Please make plans to attend.

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

Call Escanaba or Marquette for 111's Lay Off Line; Extension #7 and Job Line; Extension #8.

MRA FUND - *IMPORTANT* This is a reminder that you are required by the IRS to provide proper substantiation for your MRA debit card usage. Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 111 Benefit Fund office, Zenith American Solutions.

As per IRS regulations, the use of the MRA card must be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. These IRS requirements are mandatory, and the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that all requested documentation is submitted to the Fund office in a timely manner. To check whether receipts are required for any transactions, please log in to the Zenith American Solutions Portal website or app.

Failure to respond to these Substantiation Request letters will result in suspension of your MRA card until all requested documentation has been received. Additionally, claims submitted prior to Jan. 1, 2025, may result in a 1099 form and be subject to income tax per IRS regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1 or the Union Hall. **Thank you for your attention to this matter.**

New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

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 Rose to have your information updated.

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

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

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

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

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site lu111.com and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note that 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.



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

UA Local 636
DETROIT – Our next regular Union meeting is **February 18, 2025** at **St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075**
Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

For any member that couldn't make the Annual Awards & Christmas Banquet, the Years of Service Awards and pins are available to pick up at the Union Hall until **March 1, 2025.** The remaining will then be mailed.

Special Announcement: as of 1/1/2025 all active, retired, and opt-out members are being enrolled in vision coverage through Delta/VSP Vision for details contact the Union Hall 248-538-6636 or BeneSys at 888-646-8920.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held February 20, 2025.

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 on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

PLDF For those still owing on PLDF we are only able to take checks or money orders for payment.

REMINDER: Please open all correspondence with the Local Union, BeneSys, and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Raymond Johnsick January 10, 2025; Lifetime Member Douglas Huff January 10, 2025; Lifetime Member William W. Kurtzhals father of William Kurtzhals Jr. and nephew Rusty Kurtzhals, January 9, 2025; Lifetime Member Peter Nowakowski December 30, 2024 father of member David Nowakowski; Lifetime Member Billy J. Towle December 24, 2024 Father of member John Towle; 28-year member Steven Usher December 4, 2024; 28-year member William Bricks December 3, 2024.

Get Well Wishes to; Lawrence A. Krisniski, Don Bagozzi, Terry Gilligan, Chris Fye, David Hochstein, Thomas L. Williams Jr, Justin Morgan, Ron Sarata, Ramy Abubaker, Joshua Allen, Alex Black, Theresa Danko, Michael Downey, Brian Dyer, Ryan Girard, Jamey Guthrie, Tanya Holland, Jason Howe, Michael Kovak III, Earl Marshall Jr., Jason McNamara, Robert Miller, Nasser Mubarak, John Nemecek, Brandon Rodzik, Ryan Seitz, Jeff Selph, Joseph Siniarski, John Taylor, Buddy Woods, Aaron Wright, and David Yuhn.

Following is a list of recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. **Congratulations on your retirement!**

January 2025; Greg Curlee, Jeffrey Gillies, Mark Hammons, Leonard Koskodan, Richard Mortz, James Taylor.

DUES – 1st Quarter Dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. 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.

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

S.U.B. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY.

Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request. The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the

SUB System by 10 am Wednesday.

After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

Direct Deposit is now available, members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website or you can call the Local for one.

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.**

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a **new contact number 248-540-2091** or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984.** Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution **corrected** website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys.

Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 248-641-4936 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60-90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.**

Training Center News.

Regular night welding runs through the Winter: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8pm

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8

Night classes starting Feb 17th: UA-Water Quality Program ASSE 12000 class: Monday nights from 5-8 with Jason for 5 weeks

Basic HVAC class with Jason: Thurs. night from 5-8 for 5 weeks

A2L class with Kevin: Thurs. nights from 4-8 for 5 weeks.

Hydronic piping design and size with Kevin: Thurs. from 5-8 for 5 weeks

Chiller Service class with Dan: starting Wed nights from 5-8 for 5 weeks.

Power Burners class with Todd Wed. from 5-8 for 5 weeks

Cert. Rigging and Signalperson class with Doug: Mon and Thurs nights from 5-8

Trimble 2 class: Thus nights for 10 weeks from 5-8.

Revit class 2: Thurs. nights for 10 weeks from 5-8.

120-hour MES 1 class continues: Mon. and Thurs. nights from 5-8

Please call Kim at the 636 Training Center to sign up.



Local 169
Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **March 14, 2025.** This meeting will be at Boilermakers Local 169, 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, Mi. 48101

In an effort to assist our Brotherhood, the Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has voted to waive the increase in

monthly dues for the second year in a row. Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 and will remain \$55.85 for the 2025 calendar year in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Hall and by phone.

Apprentice Advancements are scheduled for the following dates. All homework and apprentice reports must be turned in **prior** to advancement dates!

Area 1 and Area 3 are Feb. 11, 2025 at 5PM at the union hall.

Area 2 is scheduled for **Feb. 12,** at 5PM at The Holiday Inn Grand Haven at 940 W. Savidge Street, Spring Lake, MI. 48456

Area 4 is scheduled for **Feb. 13** at 5PM at the Operating Engineers Hall at 802 Clark Drive, Gladstone, Michigan 49837.

We are scheduling an MSHA class for the upcoming Tilden Mine work. Any member that requires this training should contact Area 4 Business Agent Jim Calouette or contact the Union Hall to be added to the list. You will be informed of the time and location of the training once the class is filled.

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva please contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons

Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at White Rhino Sports Bar, 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be February 19 at 11AM. The location is The Silver Palace, 1500 Woodside Avenue, Essexville, MI. 48732. Everyone from all areas is welcome. **Please note, to avoid tolls to Bay City, please take the Veterans Bridge.**

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.org 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 current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – The next Union Meeting will be Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Novi Union Hall. All outstate offices will be open for in-person and Zoom will be available. February's Union meeting will be the second Reading of any proposed by law(s). The third Reading will be during March's Union meeting Monday, March 31, 2025, with the Vote date TBD.

We are accepting Resumes for the Apprentice Coordinator position. The full details of the job description & qualifications can be found on the member-only section of our website. (www.ironworkers25.org). Please contact the Training Center to set up a time to submit your resume and set a time to test at the school. APRIL 1, 2025 is the deadline to turn in resumes.

We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails**. You can download our APP for Android on Google play or for iPhone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. Or sign up via our website (www.ironworkers25.org).

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, February 19th at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, February 24th at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be February 27th at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday March 5, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or just have questions give us a call 248-344-9494.

The 2025 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available. All requests must be made by Friday, March 7th and all completed applications are due by **March 14, 2025**. Call the Novi Union Hall 248-344-9494 to get one mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible. The application is also on the Member-only section of our website where you still must print it out.

The 2025-2026 JOHN H. LYONS SR. SCHOLARSHIP electronic application and complete rules; as offered by the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers is available on their website: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/johnscholarship> Deadline is May 30, 2025.

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. 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.

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com (where you can create a login)

Check your online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three (3) years.

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

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

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship

School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org) to view the 2025 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the Trade-School Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

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).

REMINDER: The IRONWORKER Magazine is published by the International & is issued every other month (6 times per year). The Directory issue is published in December. To subscribe to the digital edition of the Ironworker, please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luceon will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday March 4, 2025 at 8:30 am in Novi. All are welcome.

Thoughts & Prayers for James Clement #485069 as you face your health challenges!

Local 25 Retirees' Club 2025 Scholarship is available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. 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 TO: (734) 812-8036.** All requests must be made by March 11, 2025. Completed applications due by 5pm April 30, 2025.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd. NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be in April 17, 2025; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9:00 am on April 18, 2025 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. **MentalHealth.gov** provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call or text 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish).

Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT: <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure

(Continued next column)



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **February 24, 2025, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street, Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email. **There was a motion made and accepted at the January membership meeting to have a picnic in 2025. The motion was tabled for discussion and vote until the February meeting according to Article XIV Section 2.11. of Local 36 Constitution and Bylaws.**

There was also a motion to move the May membership meeting to May 19, 2025, due to Memorial Day holiday, it passed. The May meeting is also an election of officers meeting, April's meeting will be nominations of officers. So put both dates on your calendar.

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

You should have received the new 2025 wage rate and zone sheets in the mail, if not, you can stop in the hall or request them via email. Also, the IRS mileage rate increased to \$.70 per mile.

We have newly designed window and hard hat stickers available in the hall. We also are having a contest to come up with a new design for hardhat and window stickers. There will be two categories, kids 12 and under and an adult category, age 13 and up. The winner will be chosen by the officers who will judge all entries and pick a winner in each category. The prizes will be a \$150 visa gift card for the kids' group and \$250 visa gift card for the adult group. Please submit all entries via email (local36@iuec36.org) with your name, age, phone number, email address and relationship to member (if it's a family member entering) by March 1, 2025. Winners will be announced at the March meeting and in the paper.

With the addition of the IUEC's Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, Local 36 has chosen to discontinue our agreement with American Income Life and their accidental death and disability coverage. Please contact the hall if you have any questions.

If you haven't enrolled in the

Local 25 cont'd

online platform. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

In Memory: Lifetime IW Francis "Frank" Soumis passed away Nov. 14, 2024 at the age of 73. He was a 50-year member of Local 25. David Irion #1210062 passed away on Dec. 30, 2024 at the age of 69. He was a member from 1981-1999. IW Ronald Pye #875903 passed away Nov. 24, 2024 at the age of 73. He was a former member serving from 1972 to 2002. Lifetime IW William Jordan #712935 passed away January 30, 2025 at the age of 81. He was a 60-year member of Local 25. **Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Feb. 3, 2025 1 pm E.S.T.).

IUEC's new National Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, we've entered the fourth enrollment window for guaranteed approved disability and life insurance coverage. To learn more or enroll, go to <https://iuecvip.com> or call the IUEC Service Center at 224-487-5030.

These tax-free benefits can help you continue to get paid when you're unable to work due to illness, injury, surgery, mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment, or death. The benefits are paid in addition to other benefits you may receive, providing a financial safety net when you need it most.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison has volunteered to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one week waiting period.

The IUEC would like all active members and Probationary Apprentices to sign up for Safety alerts. The only thing you will receive are safety alerts, nothing political, just safety alerts. **Text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.**

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.

When starting a new job please email the hall @ local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic's phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours. This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting January 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.

NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.** (Continued next column)

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., March 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025 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 Brothers.

Brother David L. Hughes, Sr. was 64 years old and a 24-year member. Brother Hughes passed away on 10/21/2024.

Brother Philip Dial was 66 years old and a 47-year member. Brother Dial passed away on 1/7/2025.

Rest in Peace Brothers, thank you for your years of service.

Mid-Michigan negotiating committee. Are you a strong advocate for yourself and your fellow Mid-Michigan 149 members? Have you ever considered being a part of your Union's collective-bargaining negotiating committee? The search for a collective-bargaining negotiating committee is coming. Nominations are being taken Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

In order to stand for election, you need to be a Journeyworker in good standing and you must be nominated by another member

Local 36 cont'd

Attention All Apprentices, NEIEP classes will start the week of January 20th, your instructor should have reached out to you via email or text with class times and days. Contact the hall if you have any questions. We are planning on having a Mechanic's review class in February, Jeff Patti will contact you with details of when dates are available.

If you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

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

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list. We would like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

in good standing at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, or in writing via a nomination acceptance letter addressed to the Recording Secretary Tom Jaranowski by Monday, March 10, at 5 pm.

For the collective-bargaining negotiating committee description, please contact Business Manager Brian Gregg at 313.961.6093.

Out-Of-Work. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. 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.

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.

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.

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. Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. The next term for all Mid-Michigan Apprentices will be as follows:

Every Thursday from 6 pm – 8 pm until further notice

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 to make arrangements.

Are you 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.

The publication above is as 2/3/2025, 1:00 p.m.

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



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IBEW
Local 131
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IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership** Meeting will be held on March 3, at 6 p.m.

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

Woman in the Trades Meeting will be held on Feb. 18, at 6 p.m.

The EWMC meeting will be held on Feb. 25, at Union Hall, at 5 p.m.

The **Veterans Group** will be meeting on March 6, at 5:00 p.m.

Retiree's Group meeting will be held on April 8, at Union Hall, at **2:30 p.m.**

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. Starting on Feb. 11, we will be meeting at RJ's Sports Bar, 8118 Portage Rd. Portage, MI. 49002.

Member Orientation on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2024, at 8 a.m. Includes breakfast.

Pension Education class is scheduled for May 8, at the Union Hall, at 6:00p.m.

The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady but slowing down. Holtec and Champion have agreed to pay \$15.00 an hour over scale. There will be requirements for proof of knowledge in control wires termination, fiber optics termination and LAN terminations. Watch the website for job calls (IBEW131.com).

Apprenticeship Applications: We often get calls on how to apply to Kalamazoo Apprenticeship Program. To apply, go to www.kalamazoojatic.com and navigate to the application page on the website.

If you know of any electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Ryan at (269) 366-0322 or rlewis@ibew131.com.

With a heavy heart, I am sad to report Brother Paul J. Cerbin, a 47-year-old member, passed away on Jan. 8, 2025, at the age of 72. Paul was a smart, hard-working journeyman. Paul will be missed.

Lunches at the following locations:

Feb. 19, Red Lobster, 6535 South Westnedge Ave., Portage, @11.

March 19, Julianna's, 2105 Lake St., Kalamazoo, 49001 @ 11.

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

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

Retirees: A new group is forming the "IBEW 131 Retirees Group". We plan to meet on April 8 at **2:30PM**.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications 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. Important numbers for you to write down: NEBF 301-556-4300 * IO Pension 202-833-7000.

Life Events: Marriage, Divorce, Birth of children, Adoption and Deaths all require documentation to be submitted to our benefits office. If you need help call the hall for guidance.
Wilson-McShane, our new benefits administrator, has the website: michiganelectrical.org. up and running. Please log in and click on the "Member Portal" (on the left side of the screen) to begin the steps to register your account. Phone: **855-633-4584**.

Check out the **Local 131 website**. There is a new tab called "Retirees". You can find the Retirees calendar of Events. There is a list of those who have retired. If you think of something you believe we should post, please let me know. All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the "Memorials" Tab. If you hear of anyone's passing, please notify the Hall.

(Continued next column)



IBEW
Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – 2025 due's structure: The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9-13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

Accordingly, effective Jan. 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only, and \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. Effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita.

As of **Jan. 1, 2025, thru June 30, 2025**, the following due's structure:

JTW's: Monthly \$60.00 • Quarterly \$180.00

Apprentices: Monthly \$49.00 • Quarterly \$147.00

As of **July 1, 2025**, the following due's structure:

JTW's: Monthly \$61.00 • Quarterly \$183.00

Apprentices: Monthly \$50.00 • Quarterly \$150.00

Death Benefit Assessments Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due's payment

Code Update Classes, Online Courses are available. Contact BCEJATC, (269) 300-8002 to get signed up for the online course.

IBEW Local 445 App/Website are now live. Local 445 members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

Organizing If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis, (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states "The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry."

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

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

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com. Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

2025 Personal information Please keep your address, phone no. and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

Executive Board E-Board meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Secrest
Recording Secretary

IBEW 131, con't

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.

Three Months or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Ruben Dunbar, Jason Fairfield, Kyle Maxwell, Luke Rose, Spencer Sears, Gary Yerden, and Joseph Zirkelbach.
Morris Applebey
Business Manager



Local 665

IBEW Local 665

LANSING – HALL RENOVATIONS: Local 665 will be renovating the union hall spaces and referral window over the next couple of months. Progress is coming along well. Local 665's referral office is finished, and we are up and running. Currently the meeting hall and bathrooms are being finished. We are looking forward to a completion date by the end of March.

RETIREE DINNER: IBEW Local 665 Retiree dinner will be held Sunday, May, 18th 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Lansing, 925 S Creyts Rd. Lansing, MI 48917. Please RSVP to the hall by phone: 517-393-5530 or by email: contactus@ibew665.org. We look forward to seeing you there.

WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters. Call the hall for the most up to date information. 665 will be experiencing unfilled calls for all of 2024.

CODE UPDATE: Code update classes have passed. If you still require code update class to renew your state license. Feel free to contact flint JATC (810) 720-0583 or fsejtc.com. Flint has an online version of the code update class.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just surpassed 800 members in the local. Of which 180 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

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: has been adopted as part of our 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.

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.

FIRST AID/CPR: If you require First Aid/CPR. Contact the JATC for the next available date to sign up.

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: Are on the third Monday of each month and start at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are held the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #354. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., 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.
Ronald Oberlin 12/16/24, Dale Battley 11/14/24, Stephen Bair 09/16/24, Jackie "Jack" Heart 04/21/24, Stanley McLellan 04/17/24, Arthur "Dave" Benzinger 03/28/24, James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23, Howard Shooltz 08/14/23, Gerald Loughlin 08/19/23, Walter Keith Sr. 07/12/23.



Local 557

IBEW Local 557

SAGINAW – UNION NEWS- Moving forward, **Union meetings will begin at 6:00pm** due to many members working overtime at Project Phoenix and other jobs as well.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION- This year's new member orientation will be held on Feb. 12, at 6:00pm. If you are new member from this year, please plan on attending. Each year in February, Local 557 holds a new member orientation for anyone that has come into the Local in the past year. This year there will be many people in attendance as the Local has grown quite a bit in the last year.

RETURN OF POKER NIGHT- Local 557 Poker nights for Winter 2025 have returned. The next planned game is Feb. 20 at 6pm. All are welcome to play some friendly games of poker and have fun with other members of the local.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task in the IBEW and in the trades in general. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

PROJECT PHOENIX'S dynamic has changed recently. To get manpower moving onto the job site a new incentive package had been put in place. This has instantly been a big help towards manning the project and we can expect calls to continue for the Mega Project in Hemlock. Thank you to all who helped man this project and look for more calls in the future. More calls for all 3 contractors on the Mega Project will continue as the job progresses forward. Most calls have all gone to Book 2 lately and some members have only been on the Book for a week or so.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next meeting is March 4 and will start at **6 pm. Please note the change to a 6 pm start time** due to Overtime being worked in the area.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.** Please make a note of this as this change has recently gone into effect to better serve the members due to the surge in manpower running through the Local.

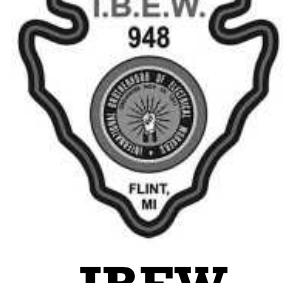
BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 referral, you must come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit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

WORKOUTLOOK-Members of other locals can sign Book 2 by contacting their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. At the time of this writing most calls have been filled at Project Phoenix but more calls are expected for J. Ranck, Conti and Nooter in the near future. There are approximately 115 IBEW members working on Project Phoenix at the time of this writing and all contractors on the project will continue to add more workers.

Van Ert Electric from Wisconsin continues to work on the Wheeler Dairy Farms. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 continues work on the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Overtime is available for all three of these big projects. Master Electric has begun a job at SVSU. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, some auto plants, and other various jobs. More solar projects are slated to begin in early 2025.

HEALTH CARE- Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended.

(Continued next column)



IBEW
LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meetings.

Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be February 10th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be April 1st, 2025 at 9:00am.

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

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

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

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

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

New Membership - Welcome to our latest member, David Hodge. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Gus Almsy & Blair Armstrong on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Henry Snyder. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

IBEW 557, con't


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

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

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.** Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone.

STAY CURRENT ON DUES -Please check to see if you are current. The Hall can accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service. You can pay for these purchases over the phone if you wish.

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



Local 275

IBEW Local 275

COOPERSVILLE – Work in the jurisdiction remains steady with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275.

The annual Wild Game Dinner is approaching fast, and the Local will be making a request to sponsor and buy tickets for this year's event at the February membership meeting. If you would like to attend, please make sure to save the date and reach out to the Hall to reserve tickets! This year's dinner will be held at the Sherman Banquet Center in Muskegon on Thursday, April 17th. The LPC committee is still looking for and accepting donations of wild game.

Code update will only be available online going forward. Please go to the JATC website at www.wmejtc.org and click the Code Update Course link to sign up. The cost for members is \$40 for the online course.

If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.

We have a list of over 100 members who have vacation fund money that has yet to be deposited because of lack of account info. If you have not set up your account info for vacation fund deposits, please call Nicole to get that taken care of.

As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

Monthly dues will be increasing by \$2 in January of 2025. Please adjust any automatic payments to reflect the new monthly dues amount of \$49.90.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Scott Erb, Kenneth Krawczak, Michael Nielsen, and Santino Winfrey. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

"Be not afraid of greatness: some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them."
-William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

"The capacity of human beings to bore one another seems to be vastly greater than that of any other animal."
- H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

"A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read."
-Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"There are two modes of establishing our reputation: to be praised by honest men, and to be abused by rogues. It is best, however, to secure the former, because it will invariably be accompanied by the latter."
-Charles Caleb Colton (1780 - 1832)

"Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses."
-Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

"I seek constantly to improve my manners and graces, for they are the sugar to which all are attracted."
-Og Mandino (1923 - 1996)

"Time has a wonderful way of showing us what really matters."
-Margaret Peters

"I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings."
-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)



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<p>McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mcnicholsscrap.com (313) 365-6100</p>	<p>Detroit Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100</p>
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IBEW 692
BAY CITY – **Union Meeting** The March monthly membership meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, March 3, 2025.**

Executive Board Meeting. The February Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Feb. 17, 2025.**

Message from the Business Manager. 2025 is off to a great start. Man-hours continue to be up with lots of work continuing within the jurisdiction. Many calls have been quite difficult to fill. With the open calls both Brian and Brendon have continued to organize new members. Our local has seen unprecedented growth which has also contributed to provide financial security. Our Health and Pension plans continue to operate at record highs.

I will not sugarcoat things, on the work front we may have never seen things so good. It is my hope that life is good for all of you as well. I also hope 2025 continues to be very prosperous for all of you. We will do everything in our power at the Local Union level to make sure that occurs. Lastly, thank you all for your continued support!

Saturday, Feb. 22 will be our 4th annual Battle on the Bay Ice Fishing Tournament. This is probably my favorite event our local has, and we owe it all to our RENEW Committee. Thanks to all of them for their hard work on this event.

Surrounding locals will be attempting to get their name on the trophy. If you are someone that gets into Ice Fishing please come out and support our RENEW committee and most importantly keep our trophy at home where it belongs. All IBEW 692 members in good standing or any other local are invited to participate in this great day! I will be there and hope to see all of you there as well!

2025 IBEW International Annual Golf Tournament is being held in Elmira, NY, Akron Ohio in 2026 and Columbus Ohio in 2027. This year's 3-day tournament will be held July 30 – Aug. 1. Included is 3 rounds of golf and a banquet on the last day with awards and prizes. Additionally, open bar daily with food and snacks, all for \$275. Interested members can contact Terry Brandenburg (586-854-3447). **Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 15.**

Work Report. Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction continues to be very, very strong. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include:

J. Ranck Electric is continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility, thanks in part to \$560M which was allocated by the Biden administration as part of the Chips & Science Act. J. Ranck has also secured both phases 4 and 5 on this project and calls are coming in. Ranck is continuing work on their Mission Street Solar project through the winter. This is a 250-mw site which will require a substantial number of JIWs from our hall to complete.

Master Electric is completing projects at the Midland Armory and Midland ESA. Master has recently secured Phase 2 and began work at Bangor Schools.

Countyline Power has ongoing work at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility and Harrisville Pumpstations.

Clements Electric has work at Mersen USA. Work on the Midland Center for the Arts, Delta College Chillers, Bay City lift stations and HL Mechatronics in Midland continues. Clements Electric also has an apartment complex in Auburn they are working on.

Conti Electric has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and also has work at the Karn Generation Facility.

Escon continues work on a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end and is slowing down some within the I-Park.

Superior Electric has a new line out to Bay City Powertrain along with a cooling tower project. An open Job call remains for this project.

Zone 2 contractors have been bidding and securing a fair amount of work, doing a great job of keeping their crews busy.

John's Electric has secured nice projects in Luzerne, Rogers, and a considerable amount of work in Alpena schools. Work on the CMU Tower building in Atlanta will begin later this month.

Hardie's Electric has ongoing work in Cheboygan and Towers. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant. **Pierce Powerline** has secured work in the Oscoda schools.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership.

All locals in the State of Michigan are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Saginaw has kicked off work at Project Phoenix in Hemlock. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

Please remember when calling the job line to use extension #1.

In Solidarity,
Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. Organizers continue to visit non-union job sites to speak with unrepresented electricians. If any current members know non-union electricians who may be interested in joining our Local, please do not hesitate to reach out. Immediate onboarding opportunities are currently available around the state, in addition to expected open calls in 692 and nearby 557 in early 2025.

The organizers' involvement in school presentations and apprenticeship recruitment events has ramped up considerably over the past two months. JATC personnel are also helping with this effort. Apprenticeship classes have grown nearly 300% over the past few years to keep up with demands from local contractors. JATC has also indentured at record levels to combat attrition due to so many of our existing JIWs reaching retirement age. Apprenticeship application information is available by calling or emailing either organizers or the Bay City Electrical JATC.

Brian Klele bklee@ibew692.org 989.252.9225

Brendon Baranek bbaranek@ibew692.org 989.327.4131

Ice Fishing Tournament. 692 Renew Committee is hosting their fourth annual Battle on the Bay ice fishing tournament on Saturday, Feb. 22. All IBEW members are welcome to participate. A trophy will be awarded to the Local Union whose anglers catch the heaviest three fish. Individual prizes awarded for heaviest perch and walleye. The fishing must take place anywhere on the Saginaw Bay watershed. Cost is \$15 to preregister, \$20 day of tournament, fee includes a walleye dinner to follow tournament at the Union Hall. Walleye dinner is also available to non-fishing members for \$10. For more information or to pre-register, contact Garrett at 989.600.5555.

Union Dues .
Effective Jan. 1, 2025, dues increased to \$48.20 per month. This \$2 Pension Fund increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

Additionally, effective July 1, 2025, dues will increase to \$49.20 per month.

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

Dues can be paid via phone, online, 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.*

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

Retirees Lunch. The February retiree lunch is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Thursday, Feb. 20 at The Wil-Lew Lounge, at 3005 E. Midland Road in Bay City.

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

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

Important links & numbers

Health Plan & Pension Fund 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW 252

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

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM
Journeyman Prep- (Monday) Feb. 10
Masters Prep- (Mondays) March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7
Conduit Bending- (Wednesdays) Feb. 5, 19 & 26
EPRI Part B- (Tuesdays) February 11, 18, 25 March 4, 11, 18 & 25
OHS 30- (Tuesday and Thursdays) May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29

CPR- (Tuesdays) March 4 & 11, June 3 & 10, Sept. 2 & 9, Dec. 2 & 9

All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.

If there's interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there's enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.

2025 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2025 USA Union Sportsman Calendar and enter the USA's 2025 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2025! Beginning Jan. 6, 2025, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! These calendars make great Christmas gifts for the hunters/gun enthusiasts in your life or just treat yourself for a chance to win! Online calendar registration is available until April 15, 2025. Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after that date. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifefairty.com.

IBEW 252 APP FOR ANDROID: If you use an android phone, you must redownload the IBEW 252 app, which is now available in the app store.

SUPER BOWL PARTY: The Local's 4th Annual Super Bowl Party presented by EWMC will be on Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Union Hall. Bring your friends and family. There will be games for kids, 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a TV. Food and refreshments will be provided. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Geoff Morning (734) 209-4542.

RENEW BENEVOLENT EUCHRE & CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT: Stop by the Union Hall 4-9 p.m. on Feb. 22 to play card games to raise donations for the Benevolent Fund. Prizes will be given to tournament winners. If you'd like to volunteer or make donations, please contact Dan Beck (810) 858-0033, Johnathan Gilbert (517) 920-1422, or Dennis Locks (734) 646-0425. This event takes place at the same time as the Chili Cook Off.

EWMC CHILI COOK OFF: Please bring your best cooked chili to EWMC's Chili Cook Off on Feb. 22 from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. There will be multiple judges and the winner will receive a gift. Please provide an ingredient list for allergy purposes. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Yohance Jennings (313) 283-3294, or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: American Red Cross will be at the Union Hall on Feb. 25 from 12-6 p.m. For an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code "Jeremy", or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Walk-in donations are also accepted. Please take time to honor Jeremy Loy's memory with your donation.

WINTER GATHERING: This year's Winter Gathering will be on Monday, March 10th at 11:30 a.m. We meet at Golden Coral, 4705 US Highway 98 North in Lakeland, FL. Hope to see you there. We really do have a good time and lots of laughs.

UNION 4 LIFE INDOOR GOLF OUTING: Join us 10 a.m. on March 29th at X Golf Ann Arbor, 333 N. Maple Rd., Ann Arbor for the first event of this kind. This will be a 4-person scramble playing the best ball, 9 holes. We have the simulators for 3 hours. The top 3 teams will receive prizes. X Golf has a full-service bar and kitchen that will be open and ready to serve. The cost is \$80 per participant and includes a Union 4 Life t-shirt and goodie bag. A deposit of \$20 per player, or \$80 per team is due by Monday, Feb. 24 to reserve your spot. Checks payable to Union 4 Life or Joe Jarecki, or cash can be dropped off at the JATC or Union Hall, or you can pay by Venmo. Contact Joe Jarecki for more information, (734) 770-5114 or joejarecki4@gmail.com.

RETIRES 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 join the fun.

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

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

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

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for several issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

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

AT&T DISCOUNT: Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT with discount code 4924966.

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

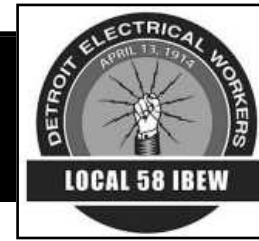
NOTICE TO RETIREES: If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the hall.

GET WELL WISHES: Get well wishes to John Betz, who is home recovering from surgery. Get well wishes to Rich Carrier, who is home recovering from surgery.

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Local 252 Brother Jerry Gould, who passed away on January 11, 2025.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2024, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for "A" members are \$140.25 by cash or check, or \$144.46 by credit card for first quarter 2025. Dues for "BA" members are \$70.80 by cash or check, or \$72.92 by credit card for first quarter for 2025. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Monday, March 31, 2025.**

Future Dues Increases – Effective July 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$143.25/cash or check, \$147.55/credit card. BA members will pay \$73.80/cash or check, \$76.01/credit card.



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW 58

DETROIT – Detroit- The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroitetc.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.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

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, \$100.00 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – We would like to welcome Robin Piette to the Dues Department. She will be replacing Marsha Green who retired Feb. 1, 2025. Congratulations to both Marsha Green on her retirement and Robin Piette on her next career adventure with Local 58.

Look at your Dues Receipt – if you are paid through date shows 6-30-2024 you have lapsed and will need to make an Executive Board appointment to be reinstated. If your paid date shows 9-30-2024 you will have the \$30.00 reinstatement fee. It is Your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement and 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.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next Benevolent Fund meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025. The 22nd Ken Fitzhenry Party on Super Bowl Sunday will be Sunday, Feb. 9. Raffle tickets are \$20 and available at the Hall or you can Contact Michael Bellhorn 586-612-5964 for electronic payment options, Jim Mackey or Kelly Lynch at the Hall 313-963-2130. Party will start at 4pm and will be a \$10 fee for food and drink. Grand prize is a 75 inch TV with Home Theater Recliner as well as over 15 other prizes.

All electrical apprentices, applications are now being accepted for the 2nd annual John Mayernik Memorial Scholarship. Information is available on the website and app or you can contact Michael Bellhorn or Kelly Lynch at the Union Hall. **Application deadline is March 2, 2025.**

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8:00a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 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, February 17, 2025 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here **(Continued on Page 10)**

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 experienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com





TILING A RESTROOM ENTRANCE at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak are Eric Gardner and Alex Gardiner of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. They're employed by Eldorado Tile and Marble.



CUTTING PIPE INSULATION in a first floor hallway at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak is Dan Sommers of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25. He's employed by Bondy Insulation.



BAC Local 2
WARREN – The SEMI-ANNUAL UNION MEETING will be held on Saturday, February 08, 2025 at 10:00 am at BAC Local #2, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.



PAUL DUNFORD ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE

CANCELLED (EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER & HOUGHTON MEETINGS LISTED BELOW) FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025 DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

HOUGHTON: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

MARQUETTE: Monday, February 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

DEATHS REPORTED. Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Delbert Johnson** (Bricklayer) who passed away on January 08, 2025. Brother Johnson had been a member for 72 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Robert Lemay** (Bricklayer) who passed away on January 07, 2025. Brother Lemay had been a member for 73 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother John Wotka** (Bricklayer) who passed away on January 03, 2025. Brother Wotka had been a member for 46 years.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

TEXTING PROGRAM: 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 text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI to 50607**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

WEBSITE UPDATES: Be sure to check out our 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.

(Continued next column)

Local 514, con't

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.



Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

SOUTHFIELD – The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Attendance at this month's membership meeting is strongly encouraged for all members. An important financial update will be discussed and a review of financials will be presented as usual.

SUB FUND BENEFIT: 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.

PER CAPITA: Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a monthly basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments monthly to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within 48 hours. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information.

BAC Local 1, con't

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.

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 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: 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 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday – Friday 8 am – 7 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."

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION.

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
 CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (baconline.org)
 Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244
 Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000



Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the J.A.T.C. Training Center, located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

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

If you are Non-Active retiree or Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving *The Building Tradesman* please contact the Union Office to let us know.

Per the Rules and Procedures:

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds

6525 Centurion Drive
 Lansing, MI 48917-9275
 Toll Free: (800) 323-8079
 Telephone: (517) 321-7502
 Fax: (517) 321-7508

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

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

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616) 466-8736

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

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

Good and Welfare:

Congratulations to Ollie and Brandy Hull on the birth of their daughter Millie!

Local 47 would like to send our condolences to the Family and Friends of Doug Shoffner. Doug passed away on Friday, December 13, 2024.



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday Feb. 18, at 7:00 pm. There will also, be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

The Patrick Finley Scholarship applications are now available.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!
 February 2025

Anthony Marrocco-25 Years

Gary Toffoli-30Years
 Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: abest@opciami.org Please send your updated information in a timely manner.
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 your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

It is important for all members to keep the Local updated on addresses, email and phone numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the Local at (248) 548-0800.

Attention All Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplastertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice"

If you are a Military Veteran, please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.

Please refer to website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more an Apprentice must be on the crew. Help out! Call the Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org 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 phone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:
 Go online: Principal.com

If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 58

(Continued from Page 9)

at the Hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. We are always looking for volunteers.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee - will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

Local 58's Women's Committee - The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 27 at 5:30p.m.at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

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 registrar1@ibew58.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.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the main conference room at the local union hall. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, Feb. 26 at The Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Road, Warren. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30 pm. Lunch is \$25 per person, send your reservations and checks (payable to the Retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit 48232-0756. Questions and/or reservations call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

The 2025 Annual Florida Luncheon is happening on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at noon at Applebee's Grill and Bar in Venice, FL. Contact Syl Ludwic 352-250-1178 to make a reservation or for questions.

The September Bus Trip is heading to Washington DC this fall. The trip takes place Friday, Sept. 12 through Tuesday, Sept. 16. Total cost for the trip per person, \$710, based on double occupancy. Call Dave Riley with questions, 586 206-8075.

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

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates! New auto as low as 5.25%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Lee Davis, Paul Desana, Brian Doyle, Adam Holzhaus, Wayne Kemple, John Lanczki, David Mammo, Brian Mulligan, Donald Northrop Jr., Jeffrey Sharrard, William Sheahan, and Allen Williams Jr.

Members who have Passed Away: Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

Diane Hausmann, wife to Pension member Mark Hausmann, 36 year IBEW membership; Jody Lockman, Son to Richard Lockman, Pension member, 56 year IBEW membership; Brother to William Lockman, JIW; Grandson to the late Pension member Alfred Lockman; and Brother-in-Law to Daniel Diamond, Pension member, 62 year IBEW membership; Richard Tackelson, Pension member, 60 year IBEW membership; Robert Thill, Pension member, 63 year IBEW membership.



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: **NEW LOCATION:** Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083; 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance. Due to a scheduling conflict, the next 2 general membership meetings will be held on Wednesday, **March 5, 2025, & April 2, 2025, at 6:00 pm.** The regular meeting schedule will resume in May. Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on **February 25, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist 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 members and their dependents.

SMOHT HELPLINE: Call 877-884-6227/ Available 24/7. For SMART 292 Members and their families experiencing an immediate crisis or who need a helpful ear.

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 through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Applications are being accepted for the

Sheet Metal Scholarship program. Eligibility requires that an applicant be an active member, a covered employee, or a dependent spouse or child under the age of 25 of a member or covered employee. The applicant must also be a full-time student or be accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college or university.

Obtain an "Application Request Form" by visiting <https://smart-union.org/why-join-smart/scholarships/sheet-metal-scholarship-programs/> click on the "Sheet Metal Scholarships" tab to download the form or call 202-662-0858 to request the application form by mail.

SMART 292 APP: Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292. There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please get in touch with the Union Hall and we will make the change.

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

TRUHEARING: This benefit of premium hearing aids 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).

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please get in touch with the union hall to update your address.

RETIREES NOTICE: Thanks to all the retirees who came out to the meetings in 2024. It's always nice getting together and staying connected. The 1st meeting for 2025 will be held on 4/3/25.

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 new Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd 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 have hard copies in the near future for members interested in having one.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have received 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. The IRS requires this validation, the Fund cannot make exceptions.

It is the members' responsibility to ensure all requested documentation is returned to the Fund office promptly. 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.

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

Attention All Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on, February 15th, & February 22nd, March 8th, March 22nd, & March 29th.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone who 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 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for February 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS: Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2025 through January 2028. The following members were elected at the January General Membership Meeting:

Health & Welfare: Eric McPherson (unopposed)
S.U.B.: Scott Lewis (unopposed)

J.A.T.C.: Sean T. Mulligan

Pension: Tony Stocker

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2025 Retiree Meetings: February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20 (Holiday Party), December 15th. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. 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.

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: Lashone will be in Monday to Thursday from 9-4pm. To schedule an appointment, please 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

YEARS OF SERVICE: Congratulations to the following members who received a pin for their continued years of service.

40 Years of Service: Andrew Dunbar, Charles Haughton, Perry Hopkins, Nick Koppinger, Ronald Lau, Daniel Newton, Martin Tibbs, James Vanicelli & David Wolfe.

50 Years of Service: Mark Brabeau, Stephen Gardiner, Allan Hobert, Ralph MacFarland, Stephen Murzen & James Peters.

60 Years of Service: Thomas Ashley, Thomas Donahue, Attilio Lucci, Richard Manzo, William Mozurkewich & Daniel Stoyka.

70 Years of Service: Duane Cashdollar

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Robert Jablonski, Sean Stenzel, Richard Davidson III, Michael Wilson, Christopher Santowski, Brendon Barnum, Kenneth Behrens, Robert Moore, Jason Lonsbury, Robert Rinna, Patrick Butler, Chet Lewandowski, Zachariah Lane, Kevin Koslowski, Justin Tuthill, Steven Stefan, James Walker, Dale Dunlap, Mark Monette, Mark Vella, Matt Trelfa, Donald, Downie, Phillip Karl, James Mann, James Collings, Billy Puckett, Javen Borgula, Richard Basile, Michael Poole, Chris Salter, Michael Sobczak, Stephen Korbak, Lawrence Schattmaier, Brian Guerrero, Mark Okray, Steve Frohling, Dennis Nelson, Brian Proctor, Gerry Hammons, Anthony Russell, Karl Williams, Matthew Rushlow, Daniel Schemanski, Jozsef Salamon, David B. Morris, Mikel Ogden, William Marsh, Dale Colton, Matthew O'Rourke, Joshua Webb, Ryan Wyskiel, Caleb Kaminski, Ryan Abke, Jason Franks, Khristopher Andrus, Matthew Mielnicki, Frank Prestigiacomo, Ryan Stolber, Matthew Shaffer, Hayden Harper, Gary Lulek, Shaun Keeny, Matthew Theriault, Keith Tate, David Clay, Charles Hemple, Robert Kelly-McFarland, Benjamin Rudisill, Michael Seccombe, Greg Nastwold, Patrick Quinn, Kevin Marinkovich, Patrick Sementkowski, Darwin Brotherton, John Cieszynski, Ronald Stark, Matthew Theisen, Johnnie Phillips, Tanner Markusic, Michael Burzynski, Garrett Mitchell & Johnathan Smelser.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Ryan Abke and wife on the birth of their 7lb 14oz daughter Vera Evangeline on Oct. 31, 2024.

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday May 3, 2025 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.

DUES PAYMENTS: are due prior to the 1st of the month. Books close at the end of business day on the last day of the month. Payments made on the 1st will be considered late. No exceptions - once the books are closed, they cannot be reopened. To help you stay on track, you will receive a text reminder before the end of the month. If you're not receiving these reminders, please contact the hall.

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please ensure that you have designated or updated your beneficiary choices for all Local 80 and International Association benefits.

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall, which includes the tradesman paper. You will also need to call BeneSys at 800-400-7710 to update for insurance and pension documents.

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

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: must be reported by the steward by 3pm on Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to staff@smw80.org

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off. You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. or SASMI benefits. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue a termination slip in accordance with our contract.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements: Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff to avoid forfeiting benefits.

Layoff slips must accompany your application to qualify for SUB benefits.

Proof of UIA benefit payments due within 21 days of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. To ensure payment by Friday, proof due by **2:00 PM on Tuesdays.**

Important: Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office. For questions, call the hall at 248-557-7575.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply: Complete the SUB application at the hall; Provide a pay stub for the week; The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you're facing challenges in your family, relationships, or dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, grief, or substance use, please reach out to our Assistance Program **Ulliance** at 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

SAVE THE DATES:

Golf Outing – July 12 • Picnic- August 9



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 February 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 March 13th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 March 18th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 March 12th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

*Zone 3 March 20th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 March 11th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 April 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. 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.labeliscanireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

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

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

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, (Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like) - **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same, if your employment status changes please let me know. Also keep me informed of any phone number and address changes. Zone 2's next scheduled meeting is March 18th. I hope to see you there. If you are venturing out on the ice be safe, tight lines and limits of fish. Last but not least dues are always due prior to the first of the month. **In Solidarity, Your Brother, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area is slow except for the Phoenix project in Hemlock which is keeping us at full employment. Remember to schedule your physicals for this calendar year. Remember to call the Lansing office if you have a change of address or you change your phone number. Next union meeting is 3-12-2025 at the Freeland Hall, hope to see everyone there. Next retiree meeting is 3- 25- 2025 at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Road. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our picnic will be on July 19th at Timber Ridge. Call (231) 947-2770 for reservations. Make sure to tell them you are from Local # 7. Work is holding steady in our area and will be busy throughout the year. Please go to ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/benefits to view your pension and H & W status. The SASMI benefit for June/Dec is under 750 hrs. Please contact me if you would like to receive the benefit.

SASMI's new boot program is going to be tied into getting your physicals this year so make sure to get those scheduled. We are always looking for new apprentices, please have them contact me. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 continues to stay strong, we currently have no one on the bench, and that is fantastic for this time of year. I am really proud of all our members in Local 7. Don't forget to get with Cody Clark and Susan Light at the training center for any upgrade classes that you are interested in. We are hearing some good talk about some big projects that potentially could be coming to Genesee County. Keep your fingers crossed!!! **In Solidarity, Scott Brotherton,**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the U.P. remains steady. There is a lot of work around the state and Midwest. Also there is mine work coming up in the next several years so if you don't have your mine safety training make sure you get signed up for that at upconstruction.org. Please remember if you have a change of address please let me know or update it with the hall in Lansing. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

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

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:
Samuel 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 (Agent-Saginaw) 989-225-0095

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

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

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

"Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

–Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

"Drive thy business or it will drive thee."

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

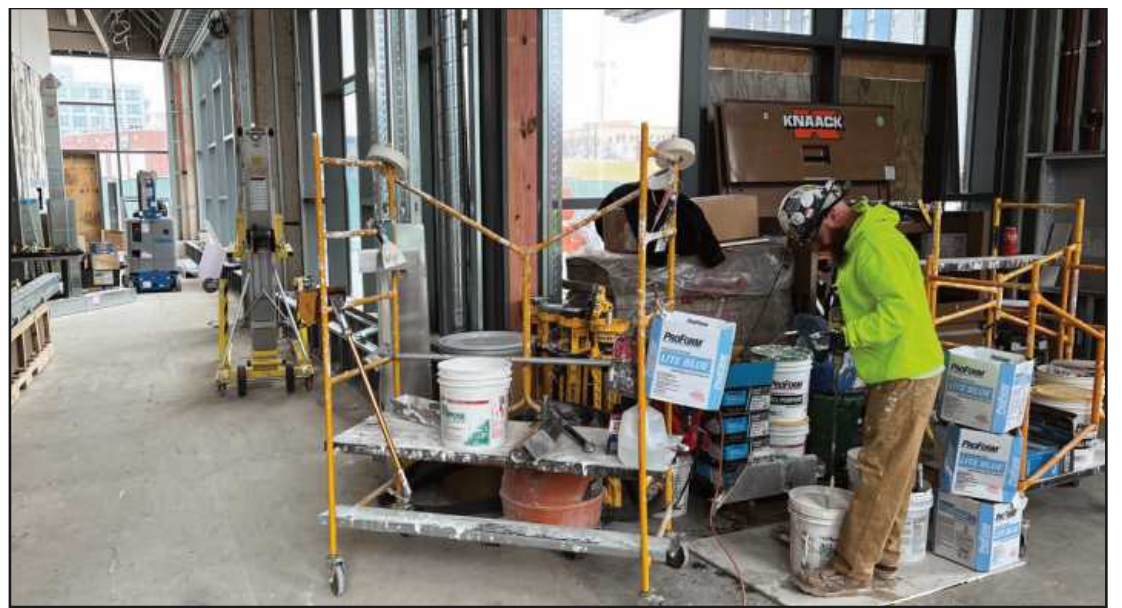
"Deeds, not stones, are the true monuments of the great."

–John L. Motley (1814 - 1877)





INSTALLING A "STOREFRONT" hallway window that looks into kitchen space at the Oakland Community College Culinary School project in Royal Oak is Devon Stepp of Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 357. He's employed by Universal Glass.



MIXING MUD in a first floor hallway at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak is Shane Smith of Painters District Council 1-M Local 2353. He's employed by ACP.



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 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 Ovale
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352
Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland
Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353
Business Rep: Tony Parker
Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

"Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life."
 –Sophia Loren (1934 -)

"Man is a credulous animal, and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones."
 –Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)



Painters DC 1M
 WARREN – Dear Members, **DC1M WEBSITE:** www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*

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



ROBERT GONZALEZ

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

UPGRADE CLASSES AT THE DC 1M FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES

There will be a Confined Space class held Saturday February 8th at the Warren Training Facility.

There will be a Confined Space class held Saturday February 15th at the Owosso Training Center.

Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up. (517)304-4425 or email 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.

To sign up or for more information contact FTI Director Shawn Oneill at dot@iupatdc1m.org or 517-304-4425.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION! OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK:

To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

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



Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
 WARREN – Our next union meeting will be held on Monday February 3, 2025, at 5 p.m.

This meeting will be a "Special Called Meeting." At this meeting we will be holding Local 357 officer nominations. Please make every effort to attend.

The March meeting will be March 3, at 5 p.m. This meeting will be a "Special Called Meeting" where we will be voting, and electing Local 357 officers.

We had a terrific turnout at our holiday parties. Thank you for attending, and making these events a success once again.

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 also has a digital copy of your union card.

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

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

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

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

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

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
 WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 5:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:00 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting
 Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws
 Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.
 Questions pertaining to

Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.
OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

BRICKLAYERS WANTED
\$38.45 HR PLUS HEALTH & PENSION
BRICKLAYERS.ORG

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members:
Journeyman Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$38.45 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions.
Our Contractors have immediate opening for Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.
 For more information go to: bricklayers.org

You and your health ...
 sponsored by **aepc**
Who Do You Trust To Tell You What You Don't Want To Hear?
One union leader described the value he gets from AEPC as "being in the room with the most knowledgeable professionals in healthcare."

IT'S EASY TO FIND PEOPLE and sources to tell you what you want to hear. And sometimes opinions masquerade as facts so well that we don't recognize them for what they are: opinions, not facts. We're not espousing conspiracy theories, but rather that old saying, "consider the source."
 AEPC was formed as a purchasing coalition some 30 years ago by labor unions seeking to provide better value in healthcare benefits for working families. AEPC leverages the power of union trust funds to drive better pricing and quality for all of its members.
 With this clout, our prescription drug program will save our member organizations over \$138 million during its current 2-year contract with CVS Caremark.

Emphasis On Trust
 But what we've firmly established among our member organizations is that AEPC is an organization they trust. Trust makes it possible to tell others what they don't want to hear because there isn't suspicion about whose interests are being served. Instead, there's mutual respect and a recognition of a shared responsibility to do the best for each other.
 As a trusted organization, AEPC works to find solutions, offers education, expertise, and analysis so our members have relevant information to make informed choices. One union leader involved in our purchasing coalition describes the value he gets from AEPC as "being in the room with the most knowledgeable professionals in healthcare."

Navigating Healthcare
 The system of healthcare in the U.S. is exceptionally complicated. Insurance companies, medical providers, and pharmacies are some of the major

What's Your Responsibility?
 This is the part that isn't rocket science, but still remains extremely difficult. Stay well. Eat right. Exercise. Don't smoke. Get annual health screenings and stay connected with friends and family. But as is often the case, the devil is in the details. What, exactly, does it mean to "stay well?"
 To some, a fundamental distrust of traditional medicine distorts ideas of wellness, from opposing vaccines, to touting the benefits of raw milk, to claims that even young children should take dubious supplements to improve health. While science has not answered every question or foreseen all consequences of medical breakthroughs, leaning into scientifically unproven answers, especially those that emphasize fear and scathing accusations, holds potential for harm.
 Going forward, we will be challenged to change systems affecting our lives, and especially our healthcare. You may not always hear the answers you want, but real trust withstands that. Those we trust won't always be 100 percent right, but they are 100 percent in your corner and constantly in search of a better way forward. Seek out trustworthy voices and do your part to thoughtfully engage with the information you get through any source.
 AEPC is a labor-management purchasing coalition with a proven track record of delivering the best price, service and expertise for benefits. For more info about our programs and health and wellness information, visit our website: www.aepc.us or on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.

Who Do You Trust?
 It's often said that trust is earned, but even that truism has had trouble standing against the tide of so much media offering different versions of "truth." Essentially, the emphasis is on sowing doubt rather than building something better.
 Being a skeptic isn't a bad thing, in fact raising doubt has often paved the way for finding solutions. But focusing on doubt makes it nearly impossible to trust anything – even when facts are available.
 Rejection of vaccinations, for example, has created the foundation of a sicker society. Polio, which was essentially eradicated for decades, has resurfaced, with a case in the U.S. in 2022, and 190 cases worldwide in 2024. An increase in measles cases tracks with lower rates of childhood immunizations. Complications from measles can be dangerous, including brain damage, blindness, and may weaken the immune system against other infections.

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NETA ACCREDITED COMPANY
NECA NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

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

DETROIT - LABORERS RISING: Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am - 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

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: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The next General Membership Meeting will be held on March 7, 2025. April's General Membership Meeting will be held on April 4, 2025.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next monthly meetings will be held on Feb. 28 and March 28.**

Union Dues For 2024: 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 1-4 p.m. 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-safe.com to see how many modules you have.

IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

- Telephone: (877) 645-2267
- Fax: (517) 689-6016
- Website: www.michiganlaborers.org
- Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149
- Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)
- Telephone: (248) 641-4942



TIDYING UP a room at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak is Jim Stone of Laborers Local 1191. He's employed by Barton Malow, which is managing the project.



SETTING HVAC controls at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak are electricians Charles Cole (on the ladder) and Justin Savine. The IBEW Local 58 members are employed by Compass Technologies.



SETTING A HEAT SHIELD for a third floor fin tube radiator at the Oakland Community College Culinary School in Royal Oak are (l-r) sheet metal workers Craig Murdock (Local 80) and Bill Brooks (Local 7). They're employed by S & G Sheet Metal.

"The world is wide, and I will not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum."
—Frances Willard (1839 - 1898)

"I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end."
—Margaret Thatcher (1925 - 2013)

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."
—Dr. Seuss (1904 - 1991)

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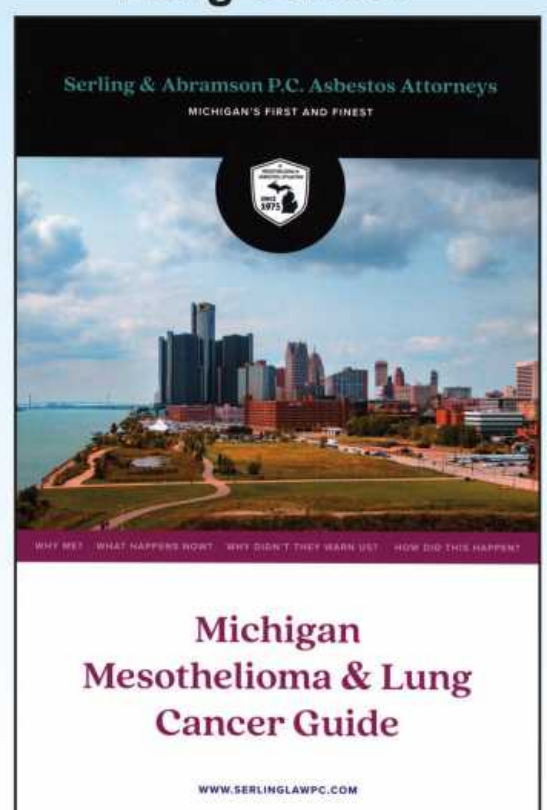
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Outdoors Great Lakes fisheries survey



(Article and photo from the Michigan DNR, released Jan. 22)

Every year from April to November, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is on the Great Lakes, surveying the important and diverse Great Lakes fisheries. Crews from research stations in Marquette, Charlevoix, Alpena and Harrison Township gather data on fish populations, fish health and the presence and effects of invasive species.

It's vital information that directly informs fisheries management decisions – such as stocking levels or regulated catch limits – and provides data to help gauge the success of past actions.

With surveying for 2024 wrapped up, DNR fisheries biologists are now synthesizing the findings and preparing for next year's surveys. Check out highlights from each research station's survey efforts.

Lake Superior and northern Lake Michigan. The crew of the research vessel (RV) Lake Char began work on Lake Superior as soon as the ice melted and continued through early November. The Marquette Fisheries Research Station's work focuses on lake trout, though species studied this year also included lake whitefish and burbot.

Data from the spring 2024 Lake Superior surveys showed a slight increase in adult lake trout populations in nearly all areas. The summer juvenile lake trout survey indicated slight increases in recruitment (reproduction and survival) on the west side of the Keweenaw and Munising areas and a slight decline in all other locations, with stable populations overall. During the field season, 257,100 feet (48.7 miles) of assessment gill net was deployed for these surveys at 123 sampling stations across the lake.

The RV *Lake Char* surveyed waters around Isle Royale in spring to assess the status of lake trout populations around the island. The crew also conducted surveys in the deepest waters of Lake Superior (and all the Great Lakes) – about 1,320 feet



RESEARCH TECH Lydia Doerr with a large lake trout caught during survey at Isle Royale, June 2024.

– to survey siscowet lake trout populations. The RV *Lake Char* crew finished the survey season with lake trout survey work at Klondike Reef, a remote location 40 miles from shore, in October and then surveyed nearshore lake trout spawning reefs near Munising in early November.

Nearshore Great Lakes fisheries assessment work from Upper Peninsula ports involved 10 miles of trawling in Lake Michigan's Little Bay de Noc and Big Bay de Noc. In addition, over 25,000 feet of survey gill net was used in four locations in northern Lake Michigan and two locations in southern Lake Superior. Catch data from these fall surveys provide useful metrics for assessing fish community change and populations of species including walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, northern pike, lake sturgeon and invasive Eurasian ruffe.

Lake Michigan. Three surveys accounted for the majority of the Great Lakes survey work for the Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station staff and the survey vessel (SV) *Steelhead* in 2024.

Since 1997, the DNR has participated in a spring gill net survey, in collaboration with other Lake Michigan agencies. The objective is to assess recreationally,

commercially and ecologically important fish populations, with a focus on lake trout, burbot, lake whitefish and yellow perch in Michigan waters. The information collected is used to inform ongoing research and management efforts for multiple species in Lake Michigan.

Due to the broad area covered and multispecies focus, this survey provides the most comprehensive information on the status of adult Lake Michigan fish populations.

The spring gill net survey was conducted at eight ports this year. Across all ports, more than 100,000 feet of experimental bottom gill net was deployed and provided data on more than 5,000 fish.

From late August to early September, the SV *Steelhead* and crew conducted the prey fish survey, a multi-agency effort measuring the abundance of alewife, rainbow smelt, bloaters and other prey fish throughout Lake Michigan. This survey uses hydroacoustic (high-precision, recordable fish finder) gear. Results inform research and inter-jurisdictional trout and salmon management around predator/prey balance and lower food web changes in Lake Michigan, including the lakewide "predator-prey ratio" analysis to ensure prey

fish can support the lake's salmon and trout populations.

The hydroacoustic survey comprised 25 sections spanning nearshore and offshore regions around the basin. Despite challenges, preliminary results suggest relatively similar densities of age-1 (1+ years old) alewife and higher abundances of bloaters compared to previous years. However, young-of-year alewife abundance was estimated to be very low in 2024.

The SV *Steelhead* crew completed the annual bottom trawl survey in September and October at three of the ports sampled during the spring gill net survey (Saugatuck, South Haven and Grand Haven), as well as at the port of Pentwater. Ten trawl samples were collected at each port. This survey provides information on the overall status of the nearshore fish community, including the presence, range expansion and effects of invasive species, and the status of yellow perch recruitment.

Charlevoix Fisheries Research Station staff also used small vessels for targeted surveys in 2024. Staff assisted Central Michigan University researchers with scuba surveys of mussel populations in large rivers and continued a multiyear assessment

of spawning reefs in northern Lake Michigan.

Lake Huron. The 2024 field season for the Alpena Fisheries Research Station and research vessel (RV) *Tanner* began in April with the annual spring lake trout assessment. The crew surveyed 14 locations in U.S. waters of Lake Huron from Drummond Island to Port Sanilac to determine the abundance and distribution of both young and adult lake trout. The catch rate of adult lake trout was similar to that of recent years, and most young lake trout (both hatchery-reared and wild-born) continue to be collected in northern Lake Huron.

Following the conclusion of the lake trout survey in late May, commercial fishery sampling in June, and tending Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System, or GLATOS, receivers for fish movement studies in July, the RV *Tanner* completed a sonar and trawl survey of outer Saginaw Bay that targeted cisco. Cisco are important Great Lakes species that help maintain healthy predator species and provide fishing opportunities, as well as serve as an indicator of ecosystem health. Because of this, cisco are a focus of ongoing restoration efforts by multiple natural resource agencies around Lake Huron.

In the fall, the RV *Tanner* crew completed the annual Saginaw Bay fish community survey. This survey is done each September and survey catches showed a high abundance of young-of-year walleye in the bay (the second highest on record!), and adult walleye gill net catch rates that were similar to recent years' numbers. However, both gill net and trawl catch rates of adult yellow perch in Saginaw Bay remained very low. A highlight of the survey was an encounter with two juvenile lake sturgeon, confirming their survival from ongoing stocking efforts in the Saginaw River system.

Soon after departing Saginaw Bay, the RV *Tanner* once again made its way to the eastern Upper Peninsula for an annual fish community survey in the Les Cheneaux Islands, where the gill net catch rate of yellow perch increased, and other indicators of perch population health were within sustainable ranges.

St. Clair-Detroit River System. The field season in Great Lakes waters of southeast Michi-

gan kicked off with northern pike, mooneye and smallmouth bass tagging in Lake St. Clair and tributaries during March, April and May. The tags, which are surgically implanted into fish and send a signal to receivers in GLATOS, allow scientists to track movement of fish throughout the region and the Great Lakes as a whole.

While data from northern pike and mooneye tagging is still coming in, the results from smallmouth bass tagging suggest that Lake St. Clair smallmouth bass exist in multiple, smaller subpopulations rather than one large lakewide population. These subpopulations occupy well-known areas of the lake such as Anchor Bay and the Mile Roads and appear to mix very little with smallmouth bass from other locations.

The annual lake sturgeon assessment in the North Channel of the St. Clair River showed continued recruitment of young lake sturgeon into the adult population – which means that young lake sturgeon are surviving into adulthood. The North Channel sampling location is considered a "hot spot" for young lake sturgeon, and this is supported by DNR survey data.

In 2024, the DNR tagged 24 juvenile lake sturgeon in the North Channel with tags that are detected by GLATOS (like the northern pike, mooneye and smallmouth bass mentioned above) and more will be learned about the specific movements and habitat use by these fish in the coming years.

The 56-year-old RV *Channel Cat* made a weeklong trip to Lake Erie in early August to conduct a bottom trawl survey that documented walleye and yellow perch reproduction and an abundance of 8-inch and larger yellow perch.

The RV *Channel Cat* and crew then returned to Lake St. Clair to collect lake sturgeon using 35 individual trawl tows. The individual sturgeon captured in this survey, which sometimes exceed 100 pounds, are rarely encountered in the North Channel survey efforts. The RV *Channel Cat* closed out the year with a trip to Lake Erie in early October for the annual walleye assessment. Catch rates in the survey gill nets were the third highest observed since 1992, and the catch included many year classes (ages) of fish, which represents strong walleye reproduction in Lake Erie since 2015.

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