



## SHORT CUTS

### Road work zone cameras coming?

LANSING – Smile. There's a good chance that automated cameras to catch speeding motorists will be placed in Michigan's construction zones.

In a vote with bipartisan support, the House Reform Committee on April 11 unanimously passed House Bills 4132 and 4133, legislation that "automatically detects a vehicle exceeding the posted speed limit" and would "produce a recorded image of the vehicle," including the license plate. The bill now goes to the full House for consideration.

The bill's sponsors, state representatives Will Snyder (D-Muskegon) and Mike Mueller (R-Linden), said it's all about worker safety. "I visited a highway construction site last year and cars are flying by at more than 70 mph," Snyder told *Bridge Magazine*. "I think if more people experienced that they would understand what the intent is."

Said Mueller: "This is really just about giving our road workers and construction workers the ability to live and work in a safer environment."

MITA, the union-involved Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, said the camera enforcement has worked in other states.

"We support this common-sense bipartisan legislation that would keep our construction workers safe while they're hard at work fixing Michigan's roads," said MITA Executive Vice President Rob Copper-Smith. "Construction sites are dangerous places, and when you mix that with distracted driving and high speeds, you're left with families who lose their loved ones far too soon. This legislation would protect people on both sides of the orange barrel by placing speed cameras in work zones to better enforce speed limits."

### Be Work Zone Aware now and always

The work zone camera legislation mentioned above moves to the state House in time for the 2023 National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17-21, an annual spring campaign that encourages safe driving through work zones.

This year's theme, "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us!" emphasizes the importance of motorists driving safely to ensure that we all work together to save lives in work zones.

In 2022, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation, preliminary work-zone crash information shows that there were 16 fatalities, 54 serious injuries, and 4,393 total crashes.

Most years, the vast number of injuries and fatalities involve the motorists themselves.

"Every hard hat, every high-visibility vest, the thousands of motorists; we're all on the same team," said MDOT's Work Zone Technical Specialist, Chuck Bergmann. "Driving safely and workers making safety a priority between the cones will help get everyone home."

The work zone awareness week has been observed for more than 20 years and was launched as a public awareness campaign to help everyone understand they play a key role in keeping motorists and road

### Quotable

"You never know what is enough until you know what is more than enough."  
—William Blake (1757-1827)



UNION CARPENTERS employed by Spence Brothers worked outside during the frigid offseason to renovate the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. *Image credits: Spence Brothers*

## Winter facelift improves Grand Hotel

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

MACKINAC ISLAND – Standing atop a bluff facing the Straits of Mackinac, the historic, Grand Hotel is assaulted by wind, rain, snow, temperature changes and whatever else Mother Nature wants to throw at it.

Completed in 1887, the 332,500-square-foot, wood-framed national historic landmark requires frequent maintenance. And the hotel's iconic

past, Spence Brothers employed union carpenters to improve the hotel. On the to-do list for the crew of about 25: façade and porch restoration, including work on the porch, balconies and façade. According to Spence Brothers, the work included new siding, window restoration, replacement of lobby and parlor level awnings, as well as reconstruction of the historic porte cochere.

"The Grand Hotel has a south-facing porch, so it really takes a beating from the wind

and the elements," said Spence Brothers Project Manager Chris Touhey. "There is so much wood in the structure, so you're not always going to know its condition and what needs to be repaired or replaced until you get a close look at it."

This year's work, he said, began about Nov. 1 after the hotel closed to guests for the season. Work will be complete by the time guests start

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UNION CARPENTERS employed by Spence Brothers replace fascia above the porch this month on the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. The hotel's 660-foot-long front porch is the longest in the world.



## Tab for U.S. union avoidance: \$400 million+

(From the Economic Policy Institute)

While federal law requires employers and consultants to disclose their union-avoidance agreements, it provides an important exception when the consultant is merely providing the employer with "advice."

High-profile union organizing campaigns and attacks on those campaigns at companies such as Amazon, Starbucks, and Google have shined a spotlight on workers seeking better pay and working conditions. However, attempts to derail those efforts by corporations are on the rise, costing more than \$400 million a year.

But that number is only the tip of the union-busting iceberg.

Here's what we know about "union avoidance" today:

•When workers seek to form unions, employers often hire "union-avoidance" consultants to dissuade and weaken workers' unionization efforts. These consultants work to prevent a union

election from taking place – and if that fails, to ensure that workers vote against the union.

•Employers spend a lot of money trying to derail union organizing campaigns. The Economic Policy Institute estimates employers spend \$433 million per year on union-avoidance consultants. This work is well

compensated – consultants report being paid \$350-plus hourly rates or \$2,500-plus daily rates for their work to defeat union organizing efforts. This estimate is just a drop in the bucket because there is not enough data to reveal the true scope of what employers spend.

•Employers are required to report certain union-avoidance

## Meet the nation's union-buster in chief

*Editor's note: There are almost 300 unionized company-run Starbucks in the United States, and the company has yet to reach a contract with a single one, despite a legal requirement to bargain in good faith.*

By Sonali Kolhatkar

Otherwords.org

Outgoing Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, in a recent interview with CNN, proudly showed off his newest invention: a tablespoon of olive oil added to a cup of coffee to bring out rich, complex flavors.

Starbucks CEO's legacy: brand destruction with a double shot of worker repression

ment to Starbucks coffee as he prepared to step down as CEO of the company for the third time. But it took place in Italy, prompting his interviewer to ask: Why wasn't Schultz sitting down with unionizing workers back home?

Indeed, Schultz – who is worth some \$3.7 billion – has been operating as union-buster-in-chief of the iconic corporation. Since the first group of Starbucks workers unionized a café

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the conversation was meant to showcase Schultz's commit-

## Money landed for Bay City bridge rehab

BAY CITY – A \$73 million federal U.S. Department of Transportation grant will push forward the replacement of the Lafayette Bridge over the Saginaw River.

Announced April 11 by U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow as well as U.S. Rep.

Dan Kildee (D-8th District), the funding will pay for the replacement of the bridge, erected in 1938, while creating a shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path along the span.

"After 85 years of service, temporary closures, and repairs,

the replacement of the Lafayette Avenue Bridge is long overdue. Because of our passage of the federal Infrastructure law, this investment will make this bridge safe for drivers and pedestrians for years to come," said Stabenow.

## Why right-to-work was always wrong for Michigan

By Jennifer Sherer  
and Elise Gould  
Economic Policy Institute

The Michigan state Legislature made history last month by repealing an anti-union "right-to-work" (RTW) statute enacted in 2012. This repeal is an important step toward empowering workers to address historic levels of income inequality and unequal power in our economy, and marks the first time a state has repealed a RTW law in nearly 60 years.

For decades, Michigan boasted the highest unionization rate in the country – and relatively higher median wages resulted for the state's workers. We find that as recently as 2005, Michigan's unionization rate was 1.69 times the national rate, and the state's median wage was 6 percent higher than the national median.

But after lawmakers passed RTW in 2012, Michigan's unionization rates declined faster than in the nation as a whole, and the state's relative median wage fell below the U.S. median. Attacks on Michigan workers' rights have especially benefited the rich – declines in unionization rates have been accompanied by dramatic increases in income inequality, with half of all income in the state now going to the top 10 percent.

## Will Michigan's RTW repeal spark a more vibrant labor movement?

By Harold Meyerson  
The American Prospect

A big part of the decades-long radicalization of the Republican Party has been the embrace by Northern-state Republicans

*'In the past decade, unionization rates in Michigan fell faster than in the nation as a whole, and the state's relative median wage fell along with it.'*

The repeal of RTW in Michigan – in tandem with Illinois voters approving a constitutional Workers' Rights Amendment (which bans future RTW laws) in 2022 and Missouri voters overwhelmingly rejecting their legislature's attempt to impose RTW restrictions in 2018 – would also signal an important turning point after a decade of extreme anti-union state legislation in the Midwest that has suppressed wages and eroded job quality.

So-called right-to-work laws perpetuate inequality and result in lower wages and benefits for all workers.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. pointed out in 1961, "right-to-work" is a "false slogan" because RTW laws provide neither rights nor work, and are in fact designed

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### Viewpoint

of the neo-Confederate positions and policies of the Republican neo-Dixiecrat South.

In 2011, that embrace expanded to include the South's longtime war on adequately paid labor in general (see: slavery) and unions in particular.

Wisconsin's newly elected Republican governor in 2011, Scott Walker, took up arms against his state's unions, effectively ending collective bargaining for the state's public-sector workers and then passing a "right to work" law, enabling private-sector workers to receive the benefits of their union's collectively bargained raises and benefits while exempting them from paying any dues to their union – a measure that invariably weakens worker and union power.

As Wisconsin had been the first state to legalize collective bargaining for state employees, this marked a historic overturning of the state's social contract.

An even more historic overturning soon followed on the other side of Lake Michigan. Michigan, after all, had been the birthplace of American mass unionization, as its historic 1937 sit-down strike of the United Auto Workers had been the breakthrough in workers' efforts to unionize American manufacturing and inaugurated the mid-20th-century era of countervailing union power.

In 2012, however, the Republican-controlled Michigan Legislature passed a right-to-work law of its own, which the Republican governor then signed into law.

History, however, has a way of reversing itself, and history in

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## Construction industry shrugs off lower job numbers, uncertainty

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

The U.S. labor market continues to hum along, adding 236,000 jobs in March with the jobless rate dropping to 3.5 percent. The number of jobs created was a bit lower than expected, but was still quite healthy and represented the 27th straight month of growth.

The numbers, released April 7 by the U.S. Department of Labor, were doubly welcome as they were as a sign that the Federal Reserve could interpret the numbers

as part of trend, possibly leading the group to lower interest rates and ease inflation.

In the construction industry, the same report revealed that total spending took a slight 0.1 percent dip in February, as declines in single-family homebuilding and public construction outweighed a pickup in private nonresidential construction, according to an analysis released by the Associated General Contractors of America. Analysts brushed off the slightly lower building industry numbers, pointing to what's shap-

ing up to be a strong year ahead.

"Continued strong demand for manufacturing plants and data centers, along with an increase in power projects, contributed to the increase in private nonresidential construction," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Those segments appear likely to keep growing for many months to come."

Construction spending, not adjusted for inflation, totaled \$1.844 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in February,

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# Viewpoints



## Non-compete nonsense

There's a dirty trick many employers use to keep workers from getting a better job.

Some 30 million Americans are trapped by contracts that say if they leave their current job, they can't work for a rival company or start a new business of their own. These are called non-compete agreements. They block workers from seeing higher wages or better working conditions. And they enlarge corporate monopoly power by stifling competition.

But a sweeping new rule from the Federal Trade Commission would put a stop to these non-compete agreements. The FTC estimates that banning them could increase wages by nearly \$300 billion a year overall by allowing workers to pursue better job opportunities.

But non-competes aren't just bad for workers. They also harm the economy as a whole by depriving growing businesses of the talent and experience they need to build and expand.

Experts argue California's ban on non-competes was a major reason for Silicon Valley's boom. For several decades, non-compete agreements have been cropping up all over the economy — not just in high-paying fields like banking and tech but as standard boilerplate for employment contracts in many lower-wage sectors such as construction, hospitality, and retail.

A recent survey found that non-competes are used for workers in more than a quarter of jobs where the typical employee only has a high school diploma. Another found that they disproportionately impact women and people of color.

Employers say they need non-compete agreements to protect trade secrets and investments they put into growing their businesses, like training workers. Rubbish. Employers in states that already ban these agreements (such as California) show no sign of being more reluctant to invest in their businesses or train workers.

The real purpose of non-competes is to make it harder (or impossible) for workers to bargain with rival employers for better pay or working conditions. Workers in states that have banned non-compete agreements have seen larger wage increases and more job mobility than workers in states where they are still legal.

As we learn again and again, the economy needs guardrails — and workers deserve protection. Otherwise, unfettered greed will lead to monopolies that charge high prices and suppress wages.

America once understood the importance of fighting monopolies. Woodrow Wilson created the Federal Trade Commission in 1914 to protect the public against the powerful corporate monopolies that fueled unprecedented inequality and political corruption.

In 1976, when I ran the policy planning staff at the FTC, it began cracking down on corporations under its then assertive chairman, Michael Pertschuk. Corporate lobbyists and their allies in Congress were so unhappy they tried to choke off the agency's funding, briefly closing it down. Pertschuk didn't relent, but eventually he (and I) were replaced by Ronald Reagan's appointees, who promptly defanged the agency. Now, under its new Biden-appointed chair, Lina Khan, the FTC is back. Its ban on non-compete agreements nationwide marks the first time since Pertschuk that the agency has flexed its muscle to issue a rule prohibiting an unfair method of competition.

The rule is hardly a sure thing. I wouldn't be surprised if the radical-right Republicans, now in control of the House, tried to pull off a stunt similar to what the House tried in the late '70s. And corporations are sure to appeal the rule all the way to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, kudos to Lina Khan and the FTC for protecting American workers from the unfettered greed of corporate America.

**Robert Reich**  
Professor of Economics  
University of California-Berkeley

# Winter facelift improves Grand Hotel

(Continued from Page 1) arriving on May 5. Touhey said carpenters have the option to stay on the island during the week and return to the mainland on weekends, or commute via ferry to and from Mackinac Island.

"The work has gone well," Touhey said. "You don't know always know what you're getting into until you do some selective demolition, but that has helped us get an idea of what we're going to need to focus on in the future." Similar exterior work at the Grand Hotel, he said, would be conducted over the next few off-seasons.

**CARPENTERS WORK on the fascia of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.**



Image credit: Spence Brothers

# Construction industry shrugs off lower job numbers

(Continued from Page 1) 0.1 percent below the January rate, which was revised up from the initial estimate a month ago.

There was yet another hit to private residential construction, which saw spending decrease for the ninth consecutive month in

February, by 0.6 percent. Public construction investment dipped by 0.2 percent. Spending on private nonresidential construction increased by 0.7 percent in February.

The AGC said many projects are being held up by a lack of clear

guidance about new regulatory measures associated with much of the new federal investments in construction. Confusion about the Biden Administration's approach to Buy America rules, "labor measures" associated with the new semiconductor funding and

registered apprenticeship mandates for the new green energy investments "were either unclear or unfinished," the AGC said.

"The president and his team appear far more focused on interpreting laws to fit their agenda instead of progress when it comes to the billions in new federal investments Congress has authorized," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGC's chief executive officer. "Instead of adding miles of new red tape, the administration should be working with the construction industry to find ways to get construction started as quickly as possible."

*"That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest."*

—Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

*"Nature abhors a vacuum, but not as much as cats do."*

—Lee Entrekin

# Child labor was outlawed... right?

By Jim Hightower

With new outrages erupting every day, I find some comfort in knowing that we the people have at least eliminated certain particularly ugly plutocratic abuses. Child labor, for example — outlawed in 1938, right?

Well, outlawed, yes; stopped, no. Recent reports reveal that

thousands of children, ages 12 to 17, are toiling illegally at dangerous jobs, in manufacturing, construction, food processing,

etc.

To be clear, there's nothing wrong with teenagers working to help their families, gain experience, or just earn a few bucks. Indeed, I worked part-time throughout my high school and college years, and while I did gripe some, overall it was positive.

So, the problem isn't about children working — it's about corporate child abuse, plain and simple.

For example, last year Wisconsin-based Packers Sanitation Services was caught "employing oppressive child labor" in meat-packing plants to clean saws, head splitters, and other butchering machines. In a typical incident, one 13-year-old was badly burned by the caustic cleaning chemicals they used during long night shifts — which ran from 11 p.m. to at least 5 a.m.!

Once caught, top executives of Packers Sanitation tried to sanitize their reputation by proclaiming they have "zero tolerance for any violation" of child labor laws. Oh? Ask that 13-year-old.

These executives would be comical, except they're completely disgusting and morally repugnant. Yet our worker protection laws are so weak that Packers' multiple violations, involving 102 children in this one

case, resulted in a fine of just \$1.5 million.

That's not even peanuts for this nationwide giant owned by Blackstone, a trillion-dollar Wall Street huckster run by well-manicured executives who pretend they know nothing about the children they endanger for profit.

How about we make a few of the teenage children and grandchildren of Blackstone profiteers work some midnight shifts cleaning meat cutting machinery? I'm guessing they would stop the abuse overnight.

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN! Rock of Ages Lighthouse HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



CONSTRUCTED in 1908 atop its namesake, hazardous reef in Lake Superior, the Rock of Ages Lighthouse originally was fitted with a second-order Fresnel lamp that was visible to mariners for 29 miles. Isle Royale, located about three miles away, was used as a staging area for construction. In 1933 the 259-foot passenger vessel *George M. Cox*, on its maiden voyage, struck the reef in foggy weather. The lighthouse crew safely rescued and hosted all 125 passengers and crew, for a crammed overnight stay, many sleeping on the lighthouse's spiral staircase. They were removed the next day. The wrecked *Cox* is still visible at the site, its bow in 15 feet of water.

Photo credit: National Parks Service

After the Mackinac Bridge, the iconic symbol of Michigan could easily be the lighthouse. Despite Maine's claim as the "Lighthouse State," Michigan – with 129 lighthouses, according to the Michigan Lighthouse Guide – has double the number of beacons found standing in that state along the Atlantic Ocean. Michigan, with shoreline on four of the five Great Lakes, easily has the most lighthouses in the nation.

Almost all of Michigan's lighthouses have stood silent and strong for more than a century, often in remote areas. While they continue to be important, historic attractions for visitors, rarely do any of them make news headlines.

But last month, the Rock of Ages Lighthouse, sitting atop a shoal about three miles from Isle Royale in Lake Superior, received just a bit of attention, courtesy of an announcement by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office. The governor announced that the Rock of Ages light would receive some much-needed TLC, in the form of a \$46,000 matching state grant to paint the structure. It will be the lighthouse's first coat of paint for the lighthouse since 1985.

Certainly in the scheme of things, paint for an old lighthouse isn't exactly big news. But for this column, devoted to Michigan's historical structures, the announcement provides us an opportunity to shine a light on one of Michigan's hard-to-find architectural gems.

"Built in 1908, Rock of Ages Lighthouse was one of the most powerful and remote lighthouses on the Great Lakes," says the Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society. "Standing 137 feet tall, the light from the Rock of Ages could be seen from 29 miles away. The U.S. government undertook the project of building the lighthouse after two vessels, the *Henry Chisholm* and the *Cumberland*, struck the Rock of Ages reef and sunk."

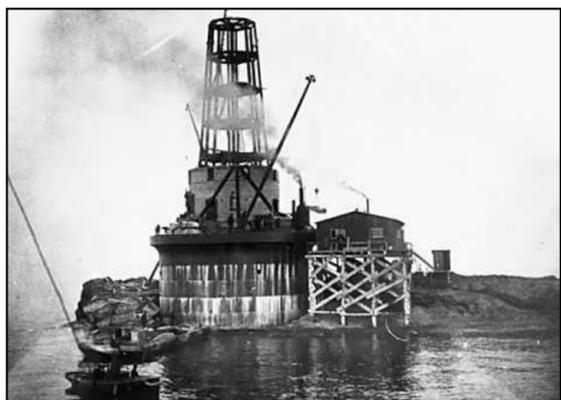
Especially for a far-flung reef in the Great Lakes, it was much easier for Congress to ignore the need to build a lighthouse than it was to fund one. Sometimes it was the news of shipwrecks that tipped the scales in Congress to allocate money to build a lighthouse.

Earlier this year we featured the construction challenges of the lonely Stannard Rock Lighthouse, completed in 1882 out on another reef in Lake Superior, 25 miles west of Keweenaw Point.

By the time it came to build the Rock of Ages light – to be built atop the "Rock of Ages Reef" – lighthouse architects and builders had plenty of experience in their construction. But that didn't make getting tradespeople and materials out to the reef's staging point at the also-remote Isle Royale any easier.

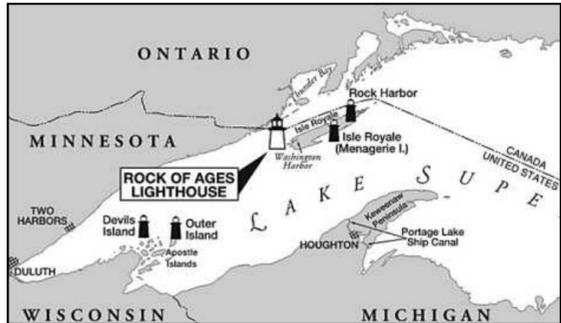
"The Lighthouse Board first recommended to the U.S. Congress that a light tower be built on the reef in 1896," says a history provided by the National Parks Service, which has jurisdiction over the light. "In 1905, \$25,000 was appropriated for a site survey and planning. Captain Charles Keller of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed the light tower.

"Construction was car-



THE ROCK OF AGES Lighthouse under construction in 1908. The construction crew was able to use the reef itself to work from as it built the tower.

Photo credit: National Parks Service



THE ROCK OF AGES Lighthouse, south of Isle Royal in Lake Superior, is closer to Minnesota or Ontario than to Michigan. There are three other lighthouses on or surrounding Isle Royale: Rock Harbor Lighthouse, Menagerie Island (also called Isle Royale) Lighthouse, and Passage Island Lighthouse.

ried out by Walter F. Beyer of Detroit. The erection of the 130-foot tower on the remote reef was considered an engineering feat in its day, comparable to the light towers built on Spectacle Reef in Lake Huron (1874) and Stannard Rock (1882). The total construction cost was \$125,000."

The lighthouse was erected on the same 50-foot by 200-foot rocky outcrop that claimed the *Chisholm* and the *Cumberland*. "A minute survey and examination of the rock was made and platted in 1905, and with the necessary funds in hand, a chartered steam barge left Detroit on May 21, 1907, loaded with the necessary work party, building materials, tools, and plans to build the station," says Lighthouse Friends.

"The vessel reached Washington Harbor on the western end of Isle Royale on May 27, and work began on repairing buildings from an old mining operation that had been leased to serve as a shore depot for the project. During the next month, quarters for the laborers were fixed up, the landing wharf in Washington Harbor was extended, and, at the construction site, the rock was blasted and dressed to receive the foundation cylinder."

The Parks Service said the massive steel plates for the crib base were riveted together on site and tied back to the concrete fill with anchor rods. The crib, filled with concrete, rose 30 feet above water level with a deck that was 56 feet in diameter. The tower was comprised of a steel skeletal framework with brick inner and outer walls and exterior concrete parging with a buff-colored finish. The spiral stairs were cast iron. When the tower was enclosed, a bunkhouse, mess hall, and galley were built on a timber platform on the rock.

Lighthouse Friends said the four keepers at the Rock of Ages Lighthouse typically

spent about eight months out of each year at the station, arriving in April and leaving in December.

The eight-story tower encased a subcellar with the heating plant and water tanks. On the first floor, about on level with the deck outside, was built a fog-signal plant and hoisting engine for the pillar crane. An office was on the second floor; a mess room and kitchen on the third; keeper's and first assistant's rooms on the fourth; second and third assistants' rooms on the fifth, and the service room and watch room on the sixth and seventh floors. Supplies were landed at the station by boat upon a landing pier, then by crane to the deck of the main pier. The keepers' boats were stowed on the deck of the main pier.

The light was automated in 1978, which ended 68 years of service by light keepers. In 1985, the Fresnel lens was replaced with a light powered by solar energy.

The Rock of Ages Lighthouse was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. It is also documented by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) as "a major engineering feat in an isolated location."

"Rock of Ages Lighthouse stands as one of the tallest and most powerful beacons on the Great Lakes," HABS continued. "The focal plane was 117' above mean water level with a range of 29 miles on a clear night which made it the most powerful beacon on the Great Lakes.... The Rock of Ages Lighthouse is one of the most unique beacons on the Great Lakes. It is one of four lighthouses that have served Isle Royale and its immediate vicinity. Although shipping has decreased between Port Arthur (Ontario) and Duluth, the reef remains a focal point for small fishing vessels and divers exploring the wrecks below."

# Why right-to-work was always wrong for Michigan

(Continued from Page 1)

"to rob us of our civil rights and job rights (and) to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone."

Decades later, research bears out King's contention that "wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower."

RTW laws are designed to diminish workers' collective power by prohibiting unions and employers from negotiating union security agreements into collective bargaining agreements, making it harder for workers to form, join, and sustain unions.

As a result, states with RTW laws generally have lower unionization rates than non-RTW states. Even after controlling for other factors that can be related to unionization (such as industry, occupation, education, age, gender, race, ethnicity, and foreign-born status), private-sector workers in RTW states are less likely to be covered by a union contract than peers in non-RTW states.

Consequently, workers in states with RTW laws have lower wages, reduced access to health and retirement benefits, and higher workplace fatality rates. Both unionized and nonunionized workers in RTW states are paid 3.1 percent less, on average, than workers with similar characteristics in non-RTW states, according to previous EPI research. Unionized workers are 58 percent more likely to have employment-provided health insurance and 65 percent more likely to have employment-provided retirement benefits than their nonunion counterparts.

RTW laws are historically rooted in racism and designed to maintain unequal power. When private-sector workers first gained legal protection to unionize after the passage of the federal National Labor Relations Act in 1935, unionization rates grew quickly.

In response, anti-union, explicitly white supremacist campaigns to limit worker power and maintain Jim Crow labor relations pursued state legislation as a means to constrain workers' newly won federal union rights via RTW policies, initially in Southern and Western states. These restrictions on collective bargaining rights have since spread to 27 states and continue to generate economic outcomes that disadvantage all workers.

State policies that reverse these legacies and empower all workers to unionize and collectively bargain should be considered top priorities for legislators in Michigan and across the country because they are fundamentally linked to key economic and labor market outcomes. Data show that unions reduce income inequality across the economy, counteract racial and gender labor market inequities, and reduce public-sector pay gaps.

By weakening unions, "right-to-work" laws fuel economic inequality – especially in Michigan.

Through bringing workers' collective power to the bargaining table, unions are able to win better wages and benefits for working people – reducing income inequality as a result. In decades when union density was higher, there was less income inequality (measured as the share of income going just to the top 10 percent) than there is today. But as unionization rates declined – particularly after 1979 – income inequality worsened.

Similarly, declining unionization rates in Michigan have been accompanied by a rising share of income accruing to the top 10 percent, but Michigan's in-

come inequality has become even more extreme than nationally. Declines in Michigan's union membership rate since 1978 were accompanied by a stark increase in income inequality, with the share of income going to the top 10 percent growing from one-third to now half of all income in the state.

Michigan used to boast the highest unionization rate in the country. In 1978, 34.9 percent of Michigan workers were union members, placing its unionization rate at 1.55 times the national average.

As recently as 2005, Michigan's unionization rate was 1.69 times the national rate. During those same periods, median wages in Michigan were about 6 percent higher than the national median. But in the past decade, unionization rates in Michigan fell faster than in the nation as a whole, and the state's relative median wage fell along with it. Today, Michigan's median wage has fallen below the U.S. median.

'Right-to-work' laws erode job quality but have no measurable impact on job growth.

Despite persistent claims from RTW proponents that weakening unions will lead to state job growth, comparisons of RTW and non-RTW states over decades show no relationship between employment levels and RTW laws. There are no measurable employment advantages between RTW or non-RTW states.

Prior studies have likewise shown no causal link between a state's RTW status and its job growth. For example, studies of Oklahoma after the state enacted RTW in 2001 found a significant reduction in private-sector unionization, but no measurable effect on employment growth.

Similarly, researchers at the University of Kentucky examined state economic performance across Southern U.S. states from 1964 to 2004 and found that RTW status had no relationship to state economic outcomes.

Michigan can lead the way to restoring worker power and democracy after a decade of attacks in Midwestern states.

The very need for Michigan to take special action to restore workers' union rights is a reminder that for too many U.S. workers, the internationally recognized human rights to organize and collectively bargain are either entirely off limits under broken federal labor laws or restricted by a patchwork of state statutes (RTW among them) left to shifting political whims of legislative leaders.

During the past decade, corporate-backed lobby groups

have waged an attack on workers' rights in Michigan and neighboring states by pushing to weaken public-sector workers' collective bargaining rights, repeal state prevailing wage laws, and pass RTW legislation.

Following the 2010 mid-term elections, newly elected Republican governors and legislative majorities prioritized these and other forms of extreme anti-union state legislation – especially in the Midwest. EPI analysis at the time documented a clear pattern of cookie-cutter, anti-union bills introduced in multiple state legislatures and driven largely by politics rather than economics.

Backed by a network of wealthy individuals and industry groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, Americans for Prosperity, and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), these state legislative attacks focused on undermining worker power in both the public and the private sectors.

In 2011–2012, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana joined Michigan in passing legislation to substantially restrict collective bargaining rights of public-sector workers. During the same period, 19 states introduced RTW legislation, and Indiana joined Michigan in passing a RTW law.

The steep declines in unionization rates in Michigan and other states that adopted RTW in the past decade (often as part of a package of multiple anti-union legislative changes) have devastating and multi-faceted impacts for workers. By lowering the share of workers who have union coverage, RTW laws weaken workers' bargaining power and allow business owners and corporate shareholders to capture more of the income generated by firms, resulting in lower wages and benefits.

All workers experience a wage disadvantage in states where RTW laws are in place, and data show these disparities are especially pronounced for women and workers of color (who make up two-thirds of today's union workers). When unions are strong, they improve wages and benefits for all workers (not just those in unions) and reduce racial and gender wage gaps, helping to counteract disparate outcomes resulting from occupational segregation and discrimination in the labor market.

When unions are weak, women and workers of color have less hope of working under a union contract, where equal pay for equal work and non-discrimination protections are enforceable guarantees.

## Just joking

Several men are in the locker room of their golf club. A cell phone on the bench rings and a man answers it and puts it on speakerphone. The locker room gets quiet.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Hi Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes."

WOMAN: "I'm at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$2,000; is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, go ahead!"

WOMAN: "On my way here I stopped by the Cadillac dealership. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "\$70,000."

MAN: "OK, but for that price get all the options!"

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing... I was just talking to Janie and found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$580,000."

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and make an offer of \$550,000, and see what they say. We can go the extra \$30,000 if it's what you really want."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much!"

MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open.

MAN, looks around: "Anyone know whose phone this is?"

## The Building Tradesman ISSN-007-3717

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Patrick Devlin

Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Claywell

President

Visit our website: [www.michiganbuildingtrades.org](http://www.michiganbuildingtrades.org)

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Plumbers,  
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Gas Distribution

**Local 190**

**UA Local 190**

**ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING:** The Wage Allocation meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Normal monthly business will take place after the Wage Allocation. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

**UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UP COMING HOLIDAY:** Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 26 and all day Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 1. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, this application will be available April 1 online only [uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com](http://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com). The UA scholarship is due no later than June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MICHIGAN GAS JOURNEYMAN:** Requalification testing for Consumer Energy and Semco Energy will start Monday, June 5 and run the whole month of June. Testing will be held at our training center. Please contact Ralph Booth 734-369-1432 for more information and to schedule your testing date.

**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/bce](http://www.michigan.gov/bce). Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms."

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

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

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

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

**MEDICARE:** When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5:00pm. Friday 8am. to 3:30pm. We will be closed for lunch from noon to 1pm.

The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JATC would like to welcome Kristyn Goebel as our new Administration Assistant. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members- only section under training to register for classes online.

The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

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

**Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays** – July 17<sup>th</sup>, and Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each class will start at 5:00 pm. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays** – April 17<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, and Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. Each class will start at 5:00 pm. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**Welding Lab:** The welding lab is open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, and Saturday from 7:00am-3:30pm until May 20, 2023. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. The open welding lab will be shutting down for the summer starting May 25<sup>th</sup> and opening back up for night classes starting September 5<sup>th</sup>. Welding tests will be scheduled by the Training Coordinator after participants are approved by welding instructors.

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

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

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

**Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs):** This is a two-day course. 2023 Schedule: First course starts April 18<sup>th</sup>. Second course starts Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

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

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs):** This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes scheduled for the following dates: No classes currently scheduled. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries and a warm cup of coffee.

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



**Local 85**  
Plumbers &  
Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85  
SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road starting at 7:00 PM.

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

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

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513  
[jpomerville@ualocal85.org](mailto:jpomerville@ualocal85.org)  
Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515  
[jbador@ualocal85.org](mailto:jbador@ualocal85.org)

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

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

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512  
[rjanderson@ualocal85.org](mailto:rjanderson@ualocal85.org)

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511  
[ktuthill@ualocal85.org](mailto:ktuthill@ualocal85.org)

Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://ualocal85.org) or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

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

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

**God Bless organized labor and the labor movement!**

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update:** Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone no. changes at (989) 799-5261.

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

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

**Insurance:** When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 16, at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 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 370**  
Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service

**UA Local 370**

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00.

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

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

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

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

**Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**Night Welding:** April 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00pm

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

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

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

Examining Board – Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 6:00pm

Finance Committee - Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued next column)



**SPRINKLER FITTERS**  
704  
DETROIT

**Sprinkler Fitters Local 704**

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

The third and final reading of a By-law proposal will be read at the May meeting. There will be a discussion and a vote immediately following the third reading.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

**You Are the Missing Piece.**



**Local 370, con't**

will add more content to the site as we move forward.

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

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

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

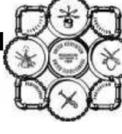
Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our by-laws. Dues will be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

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

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

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

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



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

**UA Local 357**

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30.

**GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT:** Local 357 will be participating in a Union Outing Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 6:35 pm. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at [thatfield@ualocal357.com](mailto:thatfield@ualocal357.com) on or before Friday – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to reserve your tickets.

**UNION DUES REMINDERS:** Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com). Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

**RETIREE MEETINGS:** Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café located at 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 775-1775.

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

**WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the FACEBOOK Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357/](http://www.facebook.com/UALocal357/). You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register.

This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box.

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

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

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

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Justin Whittaker and family, on the birth of a daughter, Denver.

"Our bodies communicate to us clearly and specifically, if we are willing to listen to them."

–Shakti Gawain

"Some people will never learn anything because they understand everything too soon."

–Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744)



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

(616) 345-0788

UA Local 174 COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 7pm.

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

**Magnet Edit:** The magnets that were mailed out, listing our insurance vendors and 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrators, had a misprint in Solxsys' address. It should be noted that their correct address is 5600 New King Drive. We apologize for any confusion.

**CHANGE OF THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR:** (SOLXSYS): The Boards of Trustees of the West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union 174 Pension Plan, Health and Welfare Plan, and 401(K) Retirement Savings Plan (collectively, "Plans") are pleased to announce that Solxsys Administrative Solutions is now the Plans' NEW Third Party Administrator effective Nov. 1, 2022.

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

**Website:** [www.ua174.org](http://www.ua174.org) We have recently changed our website vendor and will no longer be utilizing the Member Info section of our website. If you are unable to find what you are looking for please call Cami @ ext. 10 and she will help you. You are still able to pay dues online.

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

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

**Local 174 Golf Outing:** Aug. 5, 2023 at The Falls Of Barber Creek. Registration will be at 8am with an 8:30am Shotgun start. Four person scramble, at least 2 UA members per team. Cost per person is \$75. Call Cami or come into the hall to sign up. We can now take credit cards for payment along with cash or checks.

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

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

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

**Organizing Update:** Organizers have been uniting in different jurisdictions throughout the past month helping locals spread the word to the unrepresented worker about the benefits of joining the union. Most recently in Detroit/Flint and Jackson/Battle Creek. We had weld evaluations recently for non-union workers and as a result there were 10 that we will look at getting them into becoming members. I have a few more welders coming in soon for another evaluation, with the work that is here, we need all skillsets.

If you have workers in the non-union sector please give them my number, I'd love to speak with them. "We're all doing the same work but we're NOT all getting the same wages and benefits." Our biggest voice is our workers in the field. **Work safe, Brother Johnny Ortiz LU 174 Organizer (616) 307-8551**

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

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

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

**Dispatch:** We will be splitting up the dispatch responsibilities between the business agent and the assistant business manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email: [dispatch@ua174.org](mailto:dispatch@ua174.org) which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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

**FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR:** (SOLXSYS). West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local 174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098  
(855) 407-5862 Toll Free

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

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

**Out Of Work List:** Please remember to call the out of work list when you are laid off. You will be placed on the list based off the date you call in your layoff.

**Training News: ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Training Center will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, May 11, 2023, and Thursday, June 8

**ASSE BACKFLOW REPAIRER:** Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 22, 2023, @ from 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: May 22, 24, June 5, 7, 12, and 14(Exam).

**WCP:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, May 13, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

**HVAC/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety: Flammable and Mildly Flammable Refrigerants (A2L):**

As the HVACR industry continues to move forward and innovate, common refrigerants that were once used are now being phased out and replaced with Low GWP refrigerants (A2L). Technicians will require additional training for the safe handling and transportation of these refrigerants. Night training classes will be offered for A2L  
(Continued next column)



UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE - The next Union Meeting will be in **Marquette on April 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.** This will be a special called meeting for wage allocations.

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

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

**MRA CARD:** Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill with receipt of payment. Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Local 174, con't

safety certifications and dates will be announced soon. The prerequisite required to attend this class is holding a current EPA608 certification.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates. Please contact Jeff Rumsey or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

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



Plumbers 98

DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local Union 98,*

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found here. Go to [UALOCAL98.COM](http://UALOCAL98.COM).

**Meetings & Union Hall. Attention: prior to starting our next Union meeting on Thursday, May 11 at 7 pm, we will hold a "Special Order of Business" to distribute this year's wage allocation.** The regular Union Meeting will be held immediately after that has resolved.

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

**Calling all Retirees.** On every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 12 to 2 you can come down to the hall and say Hi to friends and even make some new ones. Take 2 hours to relax, have lunch and a beverage. Then go home to work on those to-do lists that you saved. Hope to see you on May 10.

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

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

It's time for renewal of your State of Mi. Plumbing License for Journeyman and apprentices, for detailed instructions visit [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc)

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

**FOOD DRIVE** President Jim Cools has set up a Food Drive Committee. There is a food collection day at the hall Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 12pm, any apprentices that can help will get a credit for a Union Meeting. As we all know, there are way too many people and way too many families that go hungry every day. We will be collecting non-perishable food and bottled water throughout the week of and another big collection in the fall. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact BA Dan Nixon or Jim Cools at the hall.

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

**Benefits. \*Change for "Golden Dental," they are now DENCAP no change in your plan and the good news is there are more locations added to their preferred list. More information can be obtained at 313-972-1400 or [info@dencap.com](mailto:info@dencap.com).** We now have a dedicated

BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. His name is Andrew Hill and he is the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Andrew will be receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Andrew. If Andrew is on the other line, please leave him a message and he will get back to you promptly.

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

Congratulations to those who have hung up their bibs: Robert Vandegest, Richard Little, David Defer, William Schroeder. May the road that rises to meet you, not be filled with really big cobble stones!

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

The following members are delinquent on dues and are working for our contractors. If you are working with these **EXPULSED MEMBERS**, please push them to get with the hall and get caught up. Mann Thomas, Hawes Steven, McGowan Thomas, Childress David, Hofer Mike, Willard Justin, Atkinson Adam, Stone Ken, Nowak Jesse, Lee Tyler, Percha Scott, Rienhold Mark, Lugg Matt, Maples Matt, McFarlin Rob, Waldecke Tyler, Mason Mitchel, Rakes Mike, Seidel Tim, Chase Brandon, Flanagan Casey, Henderson Raven, Bigelow Charles. If you know they have left 98 please let us know. Thank you.

**Good/Welfare. In Memoriam: Our sympathies to family and friends of Brother Victor C McCowan Initiated 10-23-1997 he was a 16-year member. R.I.P.**

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

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

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS.** Phone # 248-585-1435 Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

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

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

**Monthly Code Class** – Next class is May 24, 2023 at 4:30 pm. This is **NOT** a code update class.

Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.**

**Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber** - 40 hour class - \$100 fee. **Fall:** Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

**Hydronic Heating and Cooling** – 40 hour class - \$100 fee. **Fall:** September 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

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

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

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

**ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):**

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

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

**Fall:** Sept. 21 - Oct. 26, Deadline is Aug. 11 -\$100

**ICRA and Water Quality: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30.** **Fall:** September 19 to October 28, Deadline is August 11 -\$200

**Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):** **Fall:** Sept. 20 – Nov. 29 Deadline to register Sept. 1 -\$200

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

**2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be Saturday, May 6, and June 3, 2023. **\*\*You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.**

**2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are available at the Training Center. You **must** have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

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

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

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

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## Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,  
Refrigeration &  
Air Conditioning Service

### Pipe Fitters 636

DETROIT – There will be a **Special Called Union meeting** for the purpose of voting on the allocation for our contract year increase on **May 16, 2023**, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

The second year of the current contract provides for \$2.50 to be allocated by the local membership. Please submit to the Business Manager in writing or by email to [scadena@pipefitters636.org](mailto:scadena@pipefitters636.org), any suggestions you may have.

Prior to the May 16, 2023 union meeting, there will be the rescheduled presentation and discussion at 6 p.m., concerning the new BlueCross Blue Shield insurance plan for Active Participants.

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. Retirees meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next meeting will be held, May 18.**

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

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

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

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

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

### THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO OUR LOCAL 636 INSURANCE POLICIES ARE EFFECTIVE Jan. 1, 2023:

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

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

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

1. Select "Find a Doctor" on the left hand side of the page,
2. Click "Search Without Logging In",
3. Enter zip code & select "PPO".

From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty. Please contact the fund office with any questions.

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

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after Jan. 1, 2023. Due to a coding error, some members and

dependents may have received a second ID card from HUMANA. Please use this ID card and destroy the one received previously. Please contact the fund office with questions regarding eligibility or ID cards at 248-641-4936.

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

1. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Find a Doctor",
2. Enter ZIP CODE and select "Insurance Through Your Employer",
3. Select network "HUMANA/Choice Care Network PPO".

From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty. Any questions you have in regards to the provider network, pharmacy Rx or claims, you can call HUMANA Customer Service at 800-448-6262.

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

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

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

Retired Journeyman Brother David Levene on the passing of his wife, Mary, who passed away on Feb. 10, 2023.

Retired Journeyman Brother Aaron Munoz on the passing of his mother, Frances, who passed away on April 2, 2023. Frances was mother-in-law to Retired Journeyman Brother Ron Sarata and also grandmother to Journeyman Brother Aaron Jr.

Retired Journeyman Brother Leo Davis, Sr. and Retired Journeyman Brother James Davis on the passing of their mother, Mary, who passed away on April 4, 2023.

Journeyman Brother Eugene Orłowski, Jr. on the passing of his father, Retired Journeyman Brother Eugene Orłowski, Sr., who passed away on April 15, 2023. Brother Gene was also the grandfather to Journeyman Brother Brandon Orłowski and Apprentice Zach Orłowski. May they Rest in Peace.

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

**Considering Retirement?** Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Please allow a 7-10 day notice when you call her at ext.5, so that she can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact Kristal Mar, ext.3224 at the BeneSys numbers above as well for your retirement paperwork.

**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. It 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 website is [www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys](http://www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys).

**Worker Assistance Program.** Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887.

**Are you "Work Ready"?** Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at [mustbsafe.org](http://mustbsafe.org) and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you.

Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.



### Local 671

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

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

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

**Scholarship Opportunity:** The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be awarding (2) \$2000 scholarships through the Local 671 Scholarship Fund this year.

(1) each will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild, or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2023 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student at a college or a qualified post-secondary school. Please contact the Hall for an application; the deadline to complete and return it is **April 30, 2023.**

**Congratulations:** We would like to congratulate Brother Dustin Morrison and his Wife Tayler on the birth of their daughter, Mae Ryann on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy this wonderful time together!

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

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

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

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

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** We will be holding open weld shop nights on Thursday nights from 6pm- 10pm. Weld Shop nights would not be held on Union meeting nights or when we hold a UA weld test session. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Wednesday prior to the practice night. If we have 3 or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date. **The next Official UA Weld Test will be April 27, 2023 at 5 p.m.**

**Veterans Auxiliary:** We announced at the last Union Meeting that we are starting a Local 671 Veterans Auxiliary Group. Please contact Justin if you are interested in becoming a part of it!

**In Closing:** The Local 671 Service Awards banquet and Apprenticeship Graduation will be held tonight (April 21<sup>st</sup>) at LaRoy's Hall. This will be our first banquet in quite some time. It was free to any member who is an Officer, Instructor, receiving a service award, or an apprenticeship graduate in the last 4 years. I look forward to breaking bread with all who are attending, and I congratulate all the award recipients and Graduates. The goal is to have this celebration on a bi-annual basis going forward.

God Bless Local 671 and Union Labor.  
**(Continued next column)**



### Local 333

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

June's union meeting will be held Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 7:30pm.

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

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:** Special-Call Meetings to read and vote on a proposed By-Law Change. The change does NOT involve a change in the dues or any other with holdings. The meetings will be held on March 15, April 19, and May 17, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Lansing Union Hall.

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

**Spring Adopt-A-Highway: Battle Creek:** Volunteers will meet at the Quality Inn, 11081 Michigan Ave. Battle Creek April 22, at 9am. To sign up please contact Todd Scarborough at (616) 893-5354.

**Jackson:** Volunteers will meet at the Jackson Hall, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, April 22, 2023, at 8am. Please contact Joni Thomas (517) 784-1106 ext. 4 or Brandon Snider (517) 260-4659 to sign up.

**Lansing:** Cancelled until construction is complete.  
**WELD CLASSES:** Spring weld classes: Please go online to sign up at [www.ua333.org](http://www.ua333.org). There is no longer a fee for the weld class.

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

**Jackson:** Class will start April 4, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4pm-8pm, Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

**Battle Creek:** Class will start April 3, 2023, Mondays & Thursdays, 4pm-8pm, (KCC) RMTCC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

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

If you are interested in signing up for classes please go to our website at [www.ua333.org](http://www.ua333.org) or call the Training Center (517) 323-0333.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS:** Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed; between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

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

Retiree's Breakfast in Jackson: Retiree's breakfast will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the **(Continued next column)**

### Local 671, con't

•Mike Jewell: cell (419) 262-8503 email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)  
•Vinnie Fenech: cell (734) 693-4082 email: [vinnie@ualocal671.com](mailto:vinnie@ualocal671.com)  
•Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com)  
•Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692



**AT THE STATE FINALS FOR the Skills USA National Competition are Boilermakers Local 169 Business Manager Robert Hutsell, Robert (Bobby) Miller, Nathan Miller, and Nathaniel Miller. Nathaniel took home the gold medal in GTAW, (Gas Tungsten Arc Welding) for the High School division.**



### Local 169 Boilermakers

**CONGRATULATIONS TO Local 169 apprentices Kaden Kontranowski and Jillian Osentoski, top achievers in the Skills USA, State Finals.**

### Boilermakers 169

**ALLEN PARK -** Our next membership meeting will take place on **May 12, 2023**, at 8PM at The Boilermaker Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI. 48101.

Current Union dues for 2023 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

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

**Retirees:** Retiree luncheons have resumed.

**Area 1** Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 W. Jefferson, River Rouge.

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

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

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

Any apprentice interested in working in other local areas should contact their area business agent. Congratulations to apprentices Jillian Osentoski, Kaden Kontranowski, and Nathan McCatty on winning first place, gold medals at the Skills USA, State Finals! This competition pitted them against

college level students in the field of welding and fabrication. Winning the state championship qualifies them to compete at the Skills USA, National Championship in Atlanta, Georgia this June.

In addition, Nathaniel Miller, son of member Nathan Miller, and grandson of retired member Robert "Bobby" Miller, took home the gold medal in GTAW, (Gas Tungsten Arc Welding) for the High School division. He too, will be representing the State of Michigan at the upcoming Skills USA National Competition. Will he soon be the fourth generation Boilermaker to come from the Miller family? We hope so. Congratulations to all and good luck at the Nationals!

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

Hoodies have arrived and are for sale at the hall. We now have ALL sizes, medium through XXXL. The cost is \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

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

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

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

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

### Local 333, continued

west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center. If you have any questions or need directions just contact Joni at 517-784-1106 ext#4. Please pass the word to fellow retired members.

**Attention:** Local 333 has signed a new drain cleaning company. The owner is Matt Ellis who is a UA Local 333 member. Matt owns Ellis Sewer & Drains. The company is able to do drain cleaning; camera work, locating, and will very soon have a new jet on board. If you, a friend or family member need drain cleaning work, please call Matt at 517-879-5681.

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

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

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Robert Livermore who passed away April 5, 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time.

**North Point Mortgage Advisors**

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

Proud Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 family member



**He'll be eating steak for a while**

WOW. CONGRATULATIONS to IBEW Local 252 retiree Jack Strieter on the successful harvest of an 800-lb., 8½ year-old bull elk on Dec. 12, 2022. He said he downed the elk in Montmorency County after weeks of scouting and gathering intel in the area. He had been applying for an elk permit for more than two decades before finally being chosen. The elk is a 7x7 (14-point, total) with 336-inch antlers. Jack reports that after the butcher did his work, he had 500 lbs. of meat and had to purchase two new freezers to put it all in. Jack's son, Wade Strieter, is a member of IBEW Local 692.



**IBEW LOCAL 252**

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

A member may nominate themselves for office. NO member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager / Financial Secretary, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected). In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252.

Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. Apprentices cannot be nominated or elected to any office EXCEPT if they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect. 14). Pat Ulanowicz, was appointed Election Judge on Feb. 8, 2023 (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11, Amendment 30).

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

The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media (or other appropriate place) by the close of business on the day following the election. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221 or emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com.

Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Anyone receiving an absentee ballot

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

The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 12, 2023. Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. (The candidate themselves may be the observer.) Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election results. Further, protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2023 IBEW Local 252 election can be emailed to 252election-judge@gmail.com, mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221, or consult by phone 517-918-8948.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Retirees' Breakfast:** will take place the second Wednesday (Continued next column)



CONGRATULATIONS to Sue McCall, center, who retired this month from working in the office of IBEW Local 275. Congratulating her (l-r) are three former Local 275 business managers, George Robinson, Walter Christophersen, and Sean Egan and current Business Manager, Jonas Talbott.



**IBEW Local 275**

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – The work outlook for the Local remains the same as I've been reporting for the last few months. We are getting sporadic calls for various contractors and locations, so call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

On Saturday, April 15, we hosted Sue's retirement party. She had a lot of friends, family and members show up to wish her a long and happy retirement. Sue will be finishing off a 23-year career with the local at the end of May, so if you were unable to attend her party, you still have time to call and wish her well.

Sue has been with us over the terms of four Business Managers, countless Assistants and Organizers, as well as all the JIWs, apprentices, CEs and CWs. She has helped almost every member in some way and has volunteered her own time through "Labor Rings the Bell" every holiday season, wild game dinners and the Muskegon Labor Council to name a few.

Sue, you will be missed tremendously, and we love you and hope your well-deserved retirement leaves you happy and fulfilled each day for many years to come. Congratulations!

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Jonathon Alviar, Jacob Cleary, Brian Flanery, Robert Haddad, Jacob Hallatschek, Joshua Hansen, Gregory Holmes, Andrew Holmes, Kevin Koon, Joseph Rich and Braydn Van-Patten. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

**IBEW Local 252, continued**

of each month at 8 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

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

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

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

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

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

**DUES PAYMENTS –** Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 per quarter for 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April thru June) are due now. **Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, June 30, 2023.**

**14th Annual DETROIT ELECTRICAL WORKERS BENEVOLENT FUND DETROIT RIVER WALLEYE TOURNAMENT Saturday May 6th, 2023**

**\$35 per person entry fee** **Rain or Shine!**  
4 People to a Boat **7am - 3pm**  
Friends & Family Welcome! **Weigh-in 3:30pm to 4pm**  
**Entries MUST be received By: May 3, 2023**

Entry forms are available at:  
ibew58.org (under Local News) or at Union Hall  
Make checks payable to:  
Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund  
Return to: IBEW Local 58 1358 Abbott St Detroit, MI 48226  
Attn: Kelly Lynch

**Fish Fry Following Weigh-in at the Union Hall**  
**3 Prizes Awarded including Big Fish Contest**

"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something."  
-Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)

**IBEW LOCAL 906**

IBEW Local 906 – UPPER PENINSULA – MEETINGS.

MARQUETTE UNIT–First Tuesday.

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT–Second Tuesday.

ESCANABA UNIT–Second Wednesday.

IBEW 906 will meet on May 6, 2023 at the Masonic Building beginning at 1:00 pm. This meeting will be a General Membership Meeting. The wage allocation from the recently negotiated Inside Agreement will be voted on. Food and beverages will be provided.

Billerud in Escanaba has shut down for three weeks to scrub and disinfect the plant. The CDC and other government agencies have been searching for the location that quite probably is the cause of the recent cases of Blastomycosis. This potentially serious fungal infection affects the lungs. It is native to our region and generally is produced by mold spores that are airborne and then inhaled by humans. Wet and damp areas, rotting wood are some of the areas where this fungus is found.

A reminder to all that beginning Jan. 1 the monthly dues will increase to \$45. This increase was acted upon and passed at the International Convention in May. Please make sure you inform the service or person paying the dues of this change.

Reminder, monthly dues are now \$45.00. Please make timely dues payments to avoid any lapse in death benefits.

Please remember that address changes and phone changes along with new additions to the families need to be passed on to the Hall and the Pension and Health Plans.

If you have any information you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. ibew906@gmail.com

**IBEW Local 445**

IBEW Local 445 BATTLE CREEK – Local 445 Officer Elections 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**IBEW Local 445 Night at the Ballpark** is scheduled for June 17 and July 14, 2023. Mark your calendars. More info to follow.

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

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

"There is nothing worse than aggressive stupidity."  
-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)

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

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

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

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

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

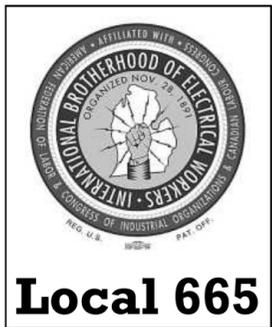
In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

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

**www.ssdfighter.com**



IBEW 665

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

**WORK OUTLOOK:** Local 665 is expecting full employment for our local members and needing help from our traveling brothers.

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

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

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

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

**APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS:** We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program.

To apply, go to [www.lejatec.org](http://www.lejatec.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 MEETING:** Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

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

**DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS:** Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #339. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

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

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** In remembrance of local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal:

Christopher Brown 04/12/23, Richard Farrington 03/12/2023, Donald Reidsma 02/22/23, Lee Benjamin 01/26/23, Garth Smith 6/21/2022, Thomas Jones 1/02/2023, James Love 12/11/2022, Larry Wisner 11/09/2022, John Freshwater 7/26/2022, Dale Cole 09/07/2021, Keith Reimel 05/04/2022.



## IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

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

**Apprenticeship Stewards meeting** on Monday April 24, at 5 p.m.

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

The next **Executive Board meeting** will be held on May 15, at 5 p.m.

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

**Tigers:** Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this Summer, July 8. Tickets will be available for purchase (\$24.00 + Purchase Fee) to the first 100 members. Be on the lookout for a purchase link. Each member will be able to purchase their own tickets by following the link to the official Tigers Ticket Pay site. All Tickets for Local 131 will be grouped together in the same section. There will be two charter buses for this event. Email Jon for more information at [jcurrent@ibew131.com](mailto:jcurrent@ibew131.com). On the Local website there is a Tab for the Detroit Tigers Tickets.

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

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

**5<sup>th</sup>-year Class of 2023 Charity GOLF Outing.** The Outing is raising funds for Homeless Veterans in our Community and is on May 20 at 9AM at Pine View Golf Course. The cost will be \$75. The link is on the local website.

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

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

**At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments:** Nicholas Blaskie, Dominic Brondi, Brian Clemons, Christopher Conforti, Matthew DeLoach, Peter Deutsch, Harland Haines, Mark Johnson, Easton Lovell, Marcus Mays, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Mark Melching, Thomas Pickett, George Reenders, Thomas Seeds, Angil Solis, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, Cory Werner-Hoskins, William Wolgast, Gary Yerden and Andrew Yezic.

**Retiree Lunches** at the following Locations: May 17, 2023, Dig-in Café, 111 West Michigan Ave. Augusta, MI. @ 11:00

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

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

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

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

Roger Clark, a 34-year member passed away on April 3, 2023, at the age of 65. Roger always had a story to tell.

(Continued next column)



## IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.**

**Regular E Board –** The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, May 8th, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting –** The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, May 8th, 2023.

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

**Retiree Notice –** Retirees who participate with the Michigan Electrical Employee Health Plan. Please check to make sure your coverages are correct and active. There have been other issues in the other locals with TIC. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the expected transition date to change to Wilson-McShane.

**Death Notice –** Our condolences go out to family and friends of Retired Brother Keith Curtis who passed away. He will be missed by all who knew him.

**ELECTIONS - Notice of Nominations-** In Accordance with Article 16 of the IBEW Constitution and Article 3 of the Local Union #498 Bylaws, there will be a special order of business during the Regular membership meeting of Monday May 8, 2023.

The purpose of the special order of business is for the nomination of Local Union 498 Officers, Delegate, and Alternate to the International Convention. Officers will be elected to three-year terms, commencing July 10, 2023 and concluding July 13, 2026.

A member must have two years of continuous good standings in the local immediately prior to being nominated and must be present to accept the nomination, or must submit, to Recording Secretary Ryan Lautner, not later than noon of May 8, 2023 their written willingness to be nominated. The written notice of nomination shall specify a single office that they are willing to be nominated to. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union as stated in Article III, Section 8 (e) of the Local Union bylaws.

Nominations shall include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board (six to be elected), Examining Board to the IBEW Convention. Candidates for Business Manager/ Financial Secretary/Delegate to the IBEW Convention shall also be a participant in the Pension Benefit Fund.

An election judge and tellers were appointed at the last regular meeting. None of these may be a candidate for any office.

Ballots are to be mailed on May 26, 2023 and will be picked up for counting at noon on June 12, 2023 from the post office and counted at the union hall. The election results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted at the Regular membership meeting.

In the event a run-off election is required ballots will be mailed no later than June 16, 2023 and will be picked up at noon on July 3, 2023 from the post office and counted at the union hall with the results read at the following meeting July 10, 2023.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the Local Union on July 10, 2023.

Any member who believes

## Local 131, con't

Brian Giepel, a 29-year member passed away on April 10, 2023, at the age of 58. Brian was a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation craftsman who will be missed.

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

**Morris Applebey Business Manager**

a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge within a few days after the ballots are counted. Further protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the 6<sup>th</sup> district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Get involved and run for an office. Even if you only serve one three-year term you will gain a much better understanding of how the Union is run and a much greater appreciation for the members that serve us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Important numbers for you to write in your address book:**

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

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

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

**DUES RATES**

Jan 1, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.

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

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time. Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#



IBEW 557

**SAGINAW – Union News-** Welcome to spring in Michigan ya'll! Sunshine, snow, and rain all in the same week!

**IMPORTANT-** Soon all of IBEW 557's fringes currently administered by TIC International in Lansing will give way to our new third party administrator, Wilson McShane. Correspondences will be going out in the weeks leading up to the June transition. Do not ignore these mailings! New cards for member's Special Funds will also be issued as well, don't miss these in the mail! The membership's fringes should be managed more efficiently when the switch occurs. Please note that some patience will be necessary as we work through the transition process.

The local's next CBA increase will occur in June. Discussion on how to disperse the increase of \$1.97 will be happening and decided on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I know ya'll have opinions, but mamma needs some new boots so let's put it on the check! (Haha)

There no doubt will be some that has to go to the health plan again this year. Joy. The Health Plan board continues to meet leading up to the final negotiated number.

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

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

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

**Update:** the game time has been announced and it will be a **1pm game time**. Tentatively, the bus would leave the Hall around 10am the day of the game. If anyone wants to go on July 8th to the Tigers game, please contact the Hall to be put on the list. Family members are welcome! Cost is \$57.50 which includes the ticket and buffet. The bus fare is an additional cost based on participation.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** Our next meeting is May 2nd at 5:30pm. Wage allocation will be the hot item on the agenda this evening. If you have ideas leading up to the meeting please reach out to the Hall.

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

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

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

**WORK OUTLOOK-** Pierce Power continues work on Saginaw High and Swan Valley HS. VanHerweg continues work on Handley Elementary. Nelson hired recently for Nexteer and the Greylron. HSC work has started with a crew going to work for Conti recently. Solar projects will start here soon. The Frankenthum water park work is currently being done by IBEW contractor Weinstein Electric out of Flint.

Saginaw Township Community Schools continues to push the Bond proposal with the vote coming up on May 2. Currently, the local has 36 members who live in that voting district. We need those 36 members to get out and vote and encourage everyone else you can find to vote as well. Early voting is currently being conducted. Stop in to the Township clerk to take care of your vote and get it done. Upcoming Town Hall meetings included April 26<sup>th</sup> at Heritage High at 6pm and

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 948

**FLINT –** Our May Union Meeting will be held on Monday May 8th, 2023, at 6:00pm.

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

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd, at 9:00am.

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. [www.local948.com](http://www.local948.com).

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

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

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure, please refer to our website @ [http://local948.org/job\\_referrals/](http://local948.org/job_referrals/)

**Gregory Remington Business Manager**

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

## IBEW 557, con't

also Mackinaw Academy on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm as well. If the bond passes, these projects have the potential to provide roughly 3 years of work for our members. As an added bonus, if the bond passes the Township Administration offices will move into Mackinaw Academy which will force the GMCA's Construction program to move out!

**HEALTH CARE-** Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and also help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com).

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

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

**JOB CALLS-** Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **Work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK call 989-781-0516, option 3.**

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES.** Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards and also E-checks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished over the phone.

**CONTACT NUMBERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website [mielectricalhealth.org](http://mielectricalhealth.org)

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

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

IBEW 692

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

**Executive Board Meeting.** The May Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, May 15, 2023.**

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

**Work Report.** Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include: Nelson Electric – GM Powertrain work started on Oct. 3 and will run through the first quarter of 2023. Swan Electric – Multiple DTE natural gas pumping stations throughout Zones 1 and 2. This project just as many others have seen delays due to supply issues. J.Ranck Electric – continuing work on phase 2 of the SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility. Ranck Electric has also secured the Balance of System work on a Solar Farm in Gladwin County.

Newkirk Electric has a solar project near Mio. More calls for this project are expected as the weather breaks. Master Electric has the new Isabella County Jail. Robinson Industries in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in their recent fire. County-line Power has secured this work.

Clements Electric is on site at Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay) and has begun work.

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

**In Solidarity, Ryan Charney**  
**Bus. Manager / Fin. Secretary**

**Organizers Report.** As we look towards building a sustainable future for our Local and our industry, there seems to be promising opportunities for growth over the next few years. Michigan Locals expect to be busy with many large projects. Upcoming solar developments will demand a large number of Journeymen and Apprentices, as will powerhouse shutdowns, auto plants retooling, and new industrial projects such as battery and semiconductor manufacturing facilities. This is all welcome news, but we cannot ignore the fact that we will undoubtedly need more members available to perform the work.

Successfully organizing enough qualified electricians to man upcoming work only becomes more of a challenge when we recognize that many of our existing members are eligible to retire, and many more are over the age of 50. More than 10% of Local 692's active members are 57 or older, and nearly 15% are in their 50's. The recent pension plan improvements, which in part reduced the penalty for early retirement, will only increase the need to recruit more young electricians.

That being said, it is also imperative that we recruit and eventually indenture more apprentices to replace the Journeyman who will decide to retire. Apprentice applications are accepted in-person every first and third Wednesday at the Bay City Electrical Apprenticeship Training Center during regular business hours. There is currently no application fee. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in applying.

As always, 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organiz-

*"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something."*

—Thomas H. Huxley (1825 - 1895)

*"When I pass, speak freely of my shortcomings and my flaws. Learn from them, for I'll have no ego to injure."*

—Aaron McGruder

*"Nothing is said that has not been said before."*

—Terence (185 BC - 159 BC)

ing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to build a higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations. If you know any unrepresented workers in our industry, please reach out to them and share your experiences as an IBEW member. There is a pathway to IBEW membership available to all workers in our industry.

If you'd like to register on any other IBEW Local out-of-work lists, please reach out to the hall for details on which locals are currently accepting fax or email registration.

Our website is in the process of being redesigned. If there are any specific features you would like to see, please let Brendon know via phone or email.

**Brian Klele: 989.252.9225**  
**bklele@ibew692.com**

**Brendon Baranek: 989.327.4131**  
**bbaranek@ibew692.com**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**American Income Life Accidental Death Benefit.** Shortly you will be receiving a letter in the mail regarding the \$3,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit available through a partnership with the IBEW and American Income Life. All active and retired members are eligible for this benefit.

The letter states that you need to return the enclosed yellow card in order to qualify and name your beneficiary. Please note you are **NOT REQUIRED** to return this card in order to name your beneficiary; the beneficiaries you have on file at the hall are sufficient. The \$3,000 benefit would be paid to your named beneficiary, not to your estate.

American Income Life does offer other policies and services. If you are interested in having a representative contact you to discuss available options, you may return the yellow card in the postage paid envelope provided. If you have any questions, please contact the hall at 989-684-4510.

**Retirees Lunch.** The next retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 18 at Castaways, 3940 Boy Scout Road in Bay City.

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

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

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

**Important links & numbers.**  
IBEW Local 692  
989-684-4510  
www.ibew692.org  
Health Plan 517-321-7502  
www.mielectricalhealth.org  
Michigan Pension Fund  
517-321-7502  
www.michiganelectrical.org  
First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"  
NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-430010  
Pension: 202-833-7000



## IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW 58

**DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

Disbursement from the Vacation Fund is anticipated to be transferred to your PNC Bank Stored Value Card or if you elected, direct deposited into your checking or savings accounts, on or around May 23, 2023. Please check the listed contributions from your employers with your pay records for accuracy. A list of contributions may be obtained from the Benefit Office Website, www.ewjbt.org by logging into your personal information and clicking My Benefits then Vacation Benefits.

If you require a paper statement, please contact the Benefit Office for a printout. If there is an error, contact the Benefit Office at (586) 575-9200 ext. 212.

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

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

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

NOTE: No symbols or clip-art 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-** For those who lapsed – you will need to call and talk to a Business Agent and make an appointment for the Executive Board to be Reinstated. It is Your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone no.

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund:** Next meeting will be Tuesday May 2. We are proud to announce that we are officially a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This will allow for bigger and better things. Our next event up is the 14th Annual Walleye Tournament on the Detroit River which will be Saturday, May 6, 2023. (See the notice on Page 7). Fishing is from 7 am to 3 pm with weigh in from 3:30 to 4 pm, followed by a fish fry back at the union hall. All family, friends, and trades welcome. Cost is \$35 per fisherman with up to 4 per boat. Shore fishing is allowed as well. The 22nd Gaudi Open will be Friday June 2 at Glennhurst golf course. \$100 per golfer and Registration will start Monday April 17. Get your foursomes together this event fills up fast!

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, at 5:30 pm. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8:00 am to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming

projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next committee meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday, May 9, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 PM.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI –** The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

Our DPSCD National Reading Month event was a big success. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated on Friday, March 24. Thank you to everyone who took pictures and submitted them to us to include in our video. If you have not yet seen the video DPSCD has also posted it on their On The Rise - Family Newsletter (www.sway.office.com).

Thank you to all of the contractors and members who attended our Top Golf Networking event. A great time was had by all. Some new partnerships were made and we are looking to continue having the event. Tickets are available for our EWMC raffle. Only 300 tickets are available for some awesome prizes. The drawing will take place at the June membership meeting. Please reach out to Stacy at the hall to sign out your tickets. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future.

We will be creating more tie-dye t-shirts in the coming weeks. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with this fundraiser and the Lottery Raffle.

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

The **Safety Committee** meeting will be on Monday, May 8, at 5:30 PM.

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

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

**Local 58's Women's Committee-** The ARC Scholarship is open and accepting applications! Information is available at the Hall and it's posted in the app. We are asking that all physical and monetary donations for the Wobbly Kitchen Mother's Day bags be turned in by April 28. These can be turned in at the Hall or in person to Angela or Liz. We will be holding our Decorating Party for the bags on April 27. We're looking for a personal

touch so if you have little ones, bring them down and they can help us decorate! We are asking for volunteers to join us at the Hall, after work, on May 4 to pack bags. Our Sister Exchange Closet is also looking for donations! If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, please consider making the contribution. Our next meeting will take place on April 27 at 5:30pm at the Hall and also on Zoom. The Decorating party will take place right after the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Angela Panicucci or Liz Gorski (586)921-3087 or email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** Group meetings have moved to Sundays at different restaurants before a ride. Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Save the date, Saturday, September 9, 2023. The IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle group will be hosting the Poker Run this year. Details to follow.

Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ aanderanin@gmail.com or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

**IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association:** Our next board meeting is May 10, at the local union hall in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the building. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. We will be hosting the Annual Pin Party, on Saturday April 29 at the union hall. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at noon, awards presented after the meal. The gathering will honor 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70-year pin recipients. This celebration takes place in lieu of a luncheon in April. You don't have to be an honoree to join us. To reserve your spot for the Pin Party, send your checks, made payable to the "Retirees Association," \$20 per person to IBEW local 58, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit, MI 48232-0756. For reservation questions call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Memorial Day holiday, we do not have a luncheon in May. The Gazebo will be the venue for the June luncheon, on Wednesday June 28.

**Local 58 Retiree's Association Fall Bus trip.** Local 58 Retiree's Association trip to Charleston, S.C. is Sept. 10-20, 2023. There are 34 of 50 seats reserved at this time. A \$75 deposit per person by May 10 will secure your reservation. The BALANCE IS DUE BY JULY 3, 2023. Trip insurance is available if you choose. Information is available at the luncheons or email Rick at rick\_dona@hotmail.com.

**Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Members:** This year the 2023 Wiremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 86, Rochester, NY on Aug. 15, 16, 17, and 18 2023, with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday Aug. 15. The golf courses being utilized for the tournament this year are

Morgan's Crossing (Scottsville, NY), Ravenwood Golf Club (Victor, NY), Wildwood Country Club (Rush, NY) and the optional scramble at Caledonia Country Club (Caledonia, NY)

. The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Holiday Inn Downtown, 70 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614 – phone : 585.355.4811. There will be a meeting at the Local 58 Union Hall in the basement classroom on Thursday May 11 at 6 PM regarding the Tournament. Entry fees (\$235 per man for the Tournament and \$65 per man for the optional scramble) will be collected and Tournament information will be available at this time. They are anticipating a large showing in Rochester so it will be imperative to have your entry money for the tournament turned in ASAP this year.

All monies must be turned in/received by June 1. Any WGA member who is planning on participating in the 2023 Tournament or anyone looking for information or to join the WGA this year should plan on attending this very important meeting. Any questions call Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Local 58 IBEW Senior Golf Outings 2023:** begins Thursday, May 18 at Tyrone Hills Golf Club, 8449 Old US 23, Fenton, MI 48430, tee time 9:30 am; Thursday, June 15, Maple Lane Golf Club, 33203 Maple Ln Dr, Sterling Heights, MI 48312, tee time 9:30 am; Thursday, July 13, Whitmore Lake Golf Links, 1111 Six Mile Rd, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189, tee time 9:30 am, Thursday, Sept. 14, Rouge Park Golf Course, 11701 Burt Rd, Detroit, MI, 48228, tee time 9:30 am; Thursday, Oct. 5, Tanglewood Golf Course, 22805 Country Club Dr, South Lyon, MI 48178, tee time 9:30 am.

Call Art DeCoste at 248-887-3396, two weeks in advance for a headcount due to the security deposit at most of the golf courses. Come on and join the golf outings! This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends, to make new friends, and to get out and enjoy the camaraderie! Remember, All IBEW Local 58 members are welcome to participate! Call Art for questions or concerns.

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

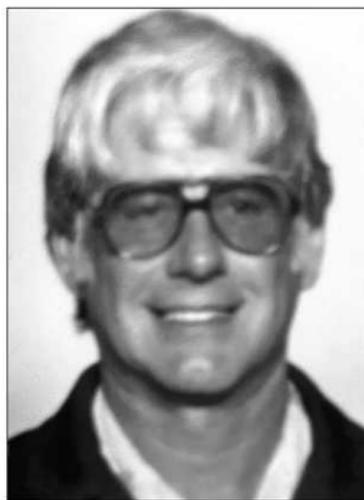
Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and email.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Lawrence Costantini, Mark Heard, Kevin C. Miller, and Kenneth Morgan.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Terry Cox, pension member, 25 year IBEW membership; Aurelia Guzdziol, wife to the late pension member Harold Guzdziol, Harold Guzdziol, pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; Jacqueline Malewicz, JIW, 43 IBEW membership; Frances Starch, Mother of Aaron Munoz; Gary Stephens, pension member, 49 year IBEW membership.

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

## ATTENTION:



**Ron Darga in a photo taken during the 1970s**

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



**Painters DC 1M**  
WARREN – Dear Members,  
**DC1M WEBSITE:** www.iupatdc1michigan.org  
**DC1M FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/iupat1m

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



**ROBERT GONZALEZ**  
FTI of the GREAT LAKES INSTRUCTOR

**POSITION Local 357 and Local 826**

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

**FTI of the Great Lakes upcoming upgrade classes**

Supported Scaffold Class-Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> at Warren Training Center

First Aid/CPR Class Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Warren Training Center

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

**D-A SCOUT RANCH EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Members it's that time of year again. We will be going to the scout ranch to do a little work and play. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

**DATE: MAY 13 @ 8AM** (breakfast served between 7-8)  
**LOCATION: 880 EAST SUTTON ROAD, METAMORA, MI 48455.** Breakfast, snacks, lunch, and dinner provided.

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

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore  
Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP  
Username: your member id#  
Password: painters

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

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

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

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



**Sign Pictorial & Display 591**  
WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2, at 6:30 p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Display members will be voting on wage distribution at this meeting. Members must be in good standings in order to vote. 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



**District Council 1M**

**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

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

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

**Local Union 312**

**Business Rep:** Tim Schwerin

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

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

**Local Union 514**

**Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen

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

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

**Web site:** www.iupat-local514.org

**Local Union 826**

**Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman

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

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

**Local Union 845**

**Business Rep –** Fred Frederickson

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

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

**Local Union 1052**

**Business Rep –** Jake Fluty

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

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

**Local Union 1803**

**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle

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

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

**Local Union 2352**

**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland

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

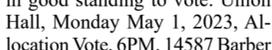
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

**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.



**Glaziers & Glassworkers 357**

WARREN –Notice: Monday May 1, 2023 will be a special called meeting. We will be voting on this year's wage, and benefits increase through allocation. Please make every effort to attend. You must be a active 357 member, in good standing to vote. Union Hall, Monday May 1, 2023, Allocation Vote, 6PM, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI 48088.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. Iupatpension.org

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

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes. Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 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. 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,

– Business Rep. Don Stepp



**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25**

**Heat & Frost Insulators 25**

**SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING -** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

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



**CURT MCGLONE**

**CSC MASTER APPRENTICE COMPETITION:** Thank you to Andrew Ployn-gam for representing Local 25 at the Central State Conference Master Apprentice Competition. Andrew showed a high level of skill and represented Local 25 well!!!

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT CHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

**LAYOFF/HIRE:** Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

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

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

**NOTICE TO ALL:** When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

**BENESYS:** When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

**SICK AND INJURED:** Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.



**Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators**

**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**

LANSING – The next Special Called Meeting will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center, at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933. Please note that this is a Mandatory Meeting for All Apprentices.

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

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

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

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

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

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

Local 47's Annual Picnic Invites and Scholarship Drawing forms have been mailed out. Please RSVP by May 8, 2023 so we can be sure to have enough food and beverages for everyone. This years Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

**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

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

**Please complete and return the working spousal forms to (Continued next column)**



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

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

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

**The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2023. June's General Membership meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2023.**

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are at 11 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next Retiree Council meeting will be May 26, 2023. June's Retiree Council meeting will be June 30, 2023.**

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

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

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

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

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work

**Local 47 cont'd**

**JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)**

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

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

**Good and Welfare:** Get well to all our sick and/or injured members

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 5 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](http://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](http://www.must-safe.com) to see how many modules you have.

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

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

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

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

\* Telephone: (877) 645-2267

\* Fax: (517) 321-7508

\*Website: [www.michiganlaborers.org](http://www.michiganlaborers.org)

\*Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

\*Telephone: (248) 641-4942

\*Fax: (248) 813-9898

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)

\*Telephone: (800) 228 0048

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' AND Michigan Laborers' Vacation Funds

WPAS

\*phone: (833) 389-0025 ext. 3359

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## Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

### Roofers Local 149

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

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

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan membership meeting is set for Tue., May 23, 2023, and May 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

**Condolences.** It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother.

Brother Edward Popielarz, he was 59 years old and a 37-year member. Brother Popielarz past on 4/3/2023. Rest in Peace Brother Popielarz.

**Detroit Wage Allocation**  
The proposals to determine what to do with this year's \$1.60 raise are as follows.

**Proposal 1-** \$1.00 Check, \$0.19 Annuity, \$0.41 Pension.

**Proposal 2-** \$1.00 Check, \$0.19 Annuity, \$0.41 Vacation.

**Proposal 3-** \$0.50 Check, \$0.50 Annuity, \$0.50 Vacation, \$0.10 Health & Welfare.

**Proposal 4-** \$0.30 Check, \$1.00 Annuity, \$0.30 Vacation.

**Proposal 5-** \$1.41 Check, \$0.19 Annuity.

The Union Hall recommended Proposal 1. If you have any questions regarding the proposals, please contact the Union Hall at 313-961-6093.

Voting on the proposals is scheduled for the Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216, from 2 thru 7 pm.

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

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

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

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

**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you

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

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The next Mid-Michigan membership meeting set for Tue., May 23, 2023, and May 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

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

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

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368, or midmichroofers149@gmail.com to make arrangements.

**Notice.** When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put

(Continued next column)



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

### Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, May 16, at 7 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

*"Although it is true that only about 20 percent of American workers are in unions, that 20 percent sets the standards across the board in salaries, benefits and working conditions. If you are making a decent salary in a non-union company, you owe that to the unions. One thing that corporations do not do is give out money out of the goodness of their hearts."* – Molly Ivins

**Membership gold cards- Congratulations!**

**April.**  
**David Ellis-25 years**  
**Richard Fountain-25 years**  
**Greg Miller-25 years**  
**Tommy Sanchez-25 years**

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

**Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account.** To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to [bcbsm.com](http://bcbsm.com) register and select register now.

**BENEFICIARY REMINDER:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

**Death Certificates:** Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

**Lawrence Nemeth is the Apprenticeship Coordinator; (313) 350-0389.**

**Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: [www.micement-plasterertraining.com](http://www.micement-plasterertraining.com) to enter your work hours. When you go to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions". You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.**

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

**The Local's website is [www.opcmiami.org](http://www.opcmiami.org).** Please refer to website for updated information.

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

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!!

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: [www.muston.com](http://www.muston.com)

**Local 149 cont'd**

on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 4/17/2023, 12:00p.m.

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

### line.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure that we have all of your current contact information, address and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated for your health care and pension and also if you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please contact the Local and we will change your addresses with all of the fund offices.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS:** You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, [www.Principal.com](http://www.Principal.com) or by telephone, 800-547-7754. Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)

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

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identify), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue. If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you. Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address. Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us. You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes. The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

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

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

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

**Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.**

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **ROAD BUILDERS** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502. **PLASTERERS' AND COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357. All **Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. **For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

### BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – MAY 2023 CHAPTER MEETINGS  
**METRO DETROIT CHAPTER:** Tuesday, May 02, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

**ANN ARBOR CHAPTER:** Tuesday, May 02, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

**FLINT CHAPTER:** Wednesday, May 03, 2023 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

**HOUGHTON CHAPTER:** Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

**KALAMAZOO CHAPTER:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

**LANSING CHAPTER:** Monday, May 08, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER SEMI-ANNUAL:** Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

**TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER:** Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City, MI 49685

**UP RETIREE LUNCHEON**

**WHEN:** Friday, May 12, 2023; Noon

**WHERE:** Vierling Sampling Room, 119 S. Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**WHO:** Retired members ONLY

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Adam Saari, Business Agent, (906) 250-6971

**DEATHS REPORTED:** Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Jerry McAfee** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 20, 2023. Brother McAfee had been a member for 67 years.

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

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

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

**A SPEEDY RECOVERY:** A speedy recovery is wished to all those who have been sick or injured.

**\*IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues\***  
All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

**We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!**

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS.**  
Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2023 online training classes.

**APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS:** Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE:** During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://baeweb.org/> member-service/member-assistance-program-map and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday – Friday 8 am-8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

**FACEBOOK:** "Like" Local 2 on Facebook "Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan."

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

**BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM:** We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by texting **2MI to 877877**; You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#); Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

**PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION**  
BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000  
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244  
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800  
Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550  
CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362  
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 ([bacbenefits.org](http://bacbenefits.org))



## Local 36 Elevator Constructors

### Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS MONDAY May 22, AT 5:30 pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. The April Meeting is cancelled due to the Business Manager being out of town.

Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

**Attention All Members,** IUEC Safety Stand Down will be on April 28, this is also Workers Memorial Day in the United States and the National Day of Mourning in Canada, remembering the 382 fallen IUEC members that have lost their lives on the job.

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

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

Anyone interested in becoming a State of Michigan Elevator inspector, contact the State of Michigan or call the Hall.

There is a route open in Local 85 in Kalamazoo for TKE, anyone interested call Mike Janca or the Hall.

There will be a Zoom class being held for 2010 – 2016 code changes coming soon, I will put an email out with time and dates are scheduled.

The weather is changing, and warmer temps are right around the corner, try to keep your mind on your work so you can go home at night and enjoy the weather and your family.

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

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

Anyone interested in getting certified in Welding, you can sign up with NEIEP @ Local 85 or call Mike Janca. Also, Local 85 is putting together classes for forklift, lull and scissor lift certification, if you are interested, contact Mike Janca or the Hall.

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

**Attention All Temporary Mechanics,** your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement MUST be signed by the end of each month at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the next morning. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools MUST be taken off the job and notify the hall.

**If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list.** We would like to extend get well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!



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## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next general membership meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. Election Nominations will be at this meeting.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** The next executive board meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

**ELECTION NOMINATIONS NOTICE:** 2023 is a general election year. At the May 23, 2023 general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for the general election. The Election will take place on Tuesday June 27, 2023 at the Local 80 Union Hall. You will be voting on the positions of Business Manager, Business Agents (4), Executive Board President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Executive Board Members (5), Warden, Conductor and Trustees (3). In order to be nominated or elected your dues must be paid prior to the first day of the current month, for example Mays dues must be paid

**TIM MULLIGAN**

prior to May 1. Candidates must have a record of continuous good standing for a minimum of 2 years prior to the nomination, election or appointment. Poll hours are 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm. An official election notice shall be mailed to the last known home address of each voting member no less than 15 days prior to the election.

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

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

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

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

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

**Effective immediately** you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575.

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

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** Gordon Peans, Jared Miller, Matt Shaffer, Blake Grubb, Jese Certain, Remus Koroj, Mike Foley, Anthony Pliva, Brenden Marsee & Matthew Harding.

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

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

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

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven (7) days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

**LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay.** Without lay off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off.

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

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

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

**Save the Dates:**  
General Election Nominations: May 23, 2023  
General Election Vote: June 27, 2023  
Golf Outing: July 15, 2023  
Picnic: August 12, 2023

**Training Center News.**  
**Part-Time Instructor Opportunities.** The Joint Apprenticeship Committee is accepting applications for part-time instructors to teach upgrading classes in the evening, including Introduction to AutoCAD, Revit 1 and Revit 2. Ideal candidates should have strong knowledge and experience using the particular CAD program as a detailer and  
(Continued next column)



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Local 292

**TROY – MEETING NOTICE:** The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. This meeting is extremely important for all to attend as there will be a Special Order of Business regarding Division of Money. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. sharp. All members are encouraged to attend.

Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com) for the location and date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE:** Check out the online store to purchase Local 292 shirts and jackets. Purchased items will be shipped directly to you. Access through [Sheetmetal292.com](http://Sheetmetal292.com) at the online store tab or <https://sheetmetalworkers292.itemorder.com/sale>. Contact Paul or Tony if you have any suggestions for new items or artwork changes.

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

**RETIREES NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The 2023 schedule for the Local 292 Retiree luncheon are as follows: **June 8 (rescheduled from June 1), Aug. 3, Oct. 5, and Dec. 7.** The retirees' luncheon will be held at: Tavern on the Main @ 12:30 p.m., 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street.

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

Please join us for lunch, great conversations and storytelling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

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

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

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

**SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST:** Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

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

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

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

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

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on April 22nd. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

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

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

### Local 80 cont'd

show have a strong interest in helping Local 80 members improve their skills. The same person can apply to teach more than one class or one specific class.

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



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, June 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

**SMART Union Labels:** Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. For more information visit the official website at [www.labelscantireport.com](http://www.labelscantireport.com) and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

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

#### ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

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

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

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

(Retirees, please notify James or Eric of any changes or additions you would like) – In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders

**ZONE 2 Info:** The work outlook in Zone 2 is good with a lot of good-size projects starting up. Always remember your dues are due prior to the first of the month, keep me informed of any changes in your address or phone numbers. Save the date: (July 22, 2023) Local 7 picnic at the Double JJ Resort in Rothbury. Our next scheduled zone 2 meeting is May 16 in Muskegon at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores, Mi. Thank You, Mike Adams

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** Work in the Saginaw area remains slow, but should be picking up soon, we do have some nice projects and it will be a busy year once things get moving. Other areas are starting to pick up also especially with the battery plants in Lansing and Holland getting started. If anyone needs any journeyman upgrade classes, first aid/CPR, OSHA 30, MSHA please contact me or the training center.

Just a reminder to please schedule your physical in this calendar year (2023). If you do not get your physical, your deductible will go up next year. Retiree meetings are June 27 and Sept 26 at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. Thank you, Joe Dotson

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City).** The current work outlook is the best we have seen in quite a while. Furthured with the repeal of Right to Work and Prevailing Wage, we will have a lot more in the future. Mark your calendar for the Local picnic at the Double J resort in Muskegon on July 22, call for reserving campsites at (231) 894-4444, let them know you are from Local 7. Anyone needing assistance on anything or information for new apprentices, give me a call. Please verify your address with the fringe office and the hall if you haven't done so. In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

**ZONE 4 Info:** I hope all is well, spring is here and work is about to get very busy statewide. If anyone is interested in traveling let me know. If any members know of anybody that has Sheet metal experience or is interested in becoming a member let us know. Any member that is interested in upgrade classes please contact Dan Bryant at the zone 4 training center. Your Brother Scott Brotherton

**ZONE 5 Info:** Work in the U.P. is very good. We have a few travelers up here at the moment. If you know anyone that would be a good fit for our trade, have them give me a call at 906-250-6045. If you're laid off and want to work let me know. Also the retirees are planning to have a meeting at the Dry Dock in Harvey, May 10 at 10 a.m.

– In solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld  
**SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5:** SASMI benefits for period 2022B – Hours are from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2022. You must have worked under 750 hours in that time and have been a member in good standing to qualify. Please contact your Business Agent to apply.

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

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

**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 – 517-882-4064  
**Local 7 Officers:**  
Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223  
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200  
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752  
Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552  
John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112  
Brandon Langenfeld (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112  
Brandon Langenfeld (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

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## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers 25

**NOVI – Local Union Election of Officers will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023.** This Election cycle will be a hybrid election with the option to vote by mail or to cast your ballot in person. Voting will take place in all Union Halls from 7am to 7pm Friday, May 19th. Ballots are in the mail. A member is considered “eligible” to vote who is in good standing. Union Dues must be paid through April 2023 or better. Apprentice, pre-apprentice, probationary, honorary and lifetime members, not being full dues paying members, are NOT eligible to vote.

The voting results for the Nomination of Officers, the Wage allocations, and the by-laws are all posted on the ironworker website in the member only section. ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org))

**The May Union meeting will be Monday, May 22, 2023** at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open.

**Monday May 29, 2023 is the Memorial Day Holiday, all Union Halls will be closed.**

**Steward meeting(s):** The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, April 27, at 6:00 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday May 17, at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, May 22, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

**The Ironworkers Local 25 Training Center is now accepting resumes** for the full-time position of JIW Instructor for the Hudsonville, MI Training Center location primarily and some weeks at the Wixom, MI Training Center. Members that are interested can call the Wixom Training Center at (248)960-2130 to schedule a time to submit their resume. Also all candidates will take the ACT Work Keys “Talent” Assessment here at the Wixom Training Center, this test is approximately an hour in

length. Please read the Ironworker Instructor Job Description for qualifications and requirements located in the members section on the [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) website. **The deadline to turn in resumes will be FRIDAY April 21, 2023 @ 2pm.**

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

**Apprentices:** Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab “Monthly Report Sign-In.” This gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find “Evaluation Form” Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email for your pay raise slips.**

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

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

**24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org). **The phone no. is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI

48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

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

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

**The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Retirees’ Club:** The Novi Chapter Retirees Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday May 2 at 8:30 am. The meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday May 16, 2023 at 10 am in Novi. All are welcome.

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

**The Downriver Chapter:** The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be in July 21 at 9 am at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, 48183. All are welcome.

**The West Michigan Chapter:** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday May 2, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

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

Alternately 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

## Tab for U.S. union avoidance: \$400M+

**(Continued from Page 1)** for workers to fight for their collective bargaining rights because they do not know the extent of their companies’ investments in union-busting, a figure that could empower them at the negotiating table when employers claim they can’t afford to increase pay and benefits.

•While the law requires employers and consultants to disclose their union-avoidance agreements, it provides an important exception when the consultant is merely providing the employer with “advice”—a term that is not defined in the statute and is exploited by many union-busting consulting firms.

•The Obama administration tried to rectify the problem by attempting to close this loophole through a regulatory action known as the “persuader” rule. In its proposal, the administration emphasized the significance of this loophole, stating: “Although 71 to 87 percent of employers hire consultants to manage counter-organizing campaigns, the Department has received very few

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

**MDHHS launches the OpiRescue smartphone app to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses.** The OpiRescue app is available for Android and iOS platforms/cell phones. It is free to use and anonymous. It can be downloaded at Apple iOS app store or through Google Play. “OpiRescue provides information and a 5-step process for how to respond to an opioid overdose event.

The guidelines have been

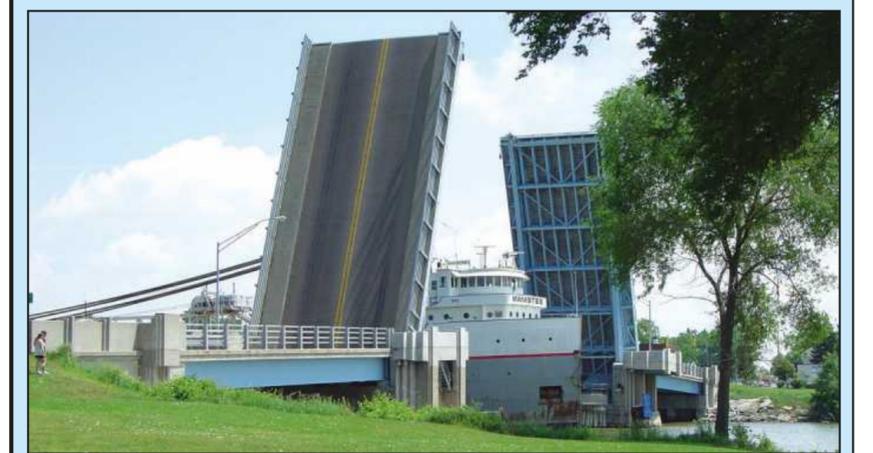
developed by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)”. **Help available at: FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city etc. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).**

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

will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

**In Memory:** Clark Pettit #541554 passed away January 31, 2023 at the age of 88. He was a 68-year member & survived by his wife Charlene & others in the ironworking industry. Former 13-year member Glenn LeClerc #1251843 passed away April 4, 2023 at the age of 73. Survived by his wife Susan, and 2 sons; he had friends in the industry too. **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 (April 17, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.).



**THE SOUTHERN MOST bridge along the Saginaw River in Bay City, the Lafayette Street Bridge has had a significant amount of repair and rehabilitation work since it was erected in 1938. “The bridge superstructure is continuous over the piers, an uncommon detail for a bridge of this type and age. With the exception of the original railings being replaced, the bridge retains excellent historic integrity,” says Historic Bridges.** Photo credit: Wikipedia Commons

## Bay City bridge rehabilitation

**(Continued from Page 1)** The city has four bascule bridges over the Saginaw River that open to allow for marine traffic.

The funding for the project is awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Bridge Investment Program, which was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law adopted by Congress. The entire

rebuild project is expected to cost \$91 million.

The Lafayette Avenue Bridge, is actually comprised of two separate spans, the West Channel Bridge and the East Channel Bridge, where the draw-bridge is located. They meet at Middleground Island in the Saginaw River. The bridges carry M-13 and M-84 over the Saginaw

River. “This significant investment in Bay City will help replace this aging bridge – improving quality of life, helping residents commute to school and work more reliably and bolstering the local economy,” said Peters. “I’m proud to have helped enact the bipartisan infrastructure law, which made this funding a reality.”

## Meet the nation’s union-buster in chief

**(Continued from Page 1)**

in Buffalo in late 2021, more than 278 stores have done the same, according to Starbucks Workers United. Still, the number of unionized cafés remains a tiny fraction – about 3 percent – of all stores. Early on, Schultz admitted to workers that the company had failed to give them the tools they needed, such as better staffing and training. But Schultz’s response was to create an uneven playing field and punish workers for daring to demand better conditions.

In 2022, Schultz reportedly rewarded nonunion workers with better wages and benefits, as well as credit card tipping, and denied the same to people working in union stores. As a result, the New York Times reported, “Filings for union elections dropped from more than 60 a month in March and April to under 10 in August.”

Meanwhile, the company is firing union leaders such as Starbucks worker Hannah Whitbeck in Ann Arbor. Her termination prompted a lawsuit and a federal judge’s decision that prohibited the Ann Arbor store from firing workers for union activity.

The company has also been understaffing stores that are unionizing, a move that the union says is a deliberate ploy to make workers’ lives more difficult. Schultz has even closed entire stores that have dared to take up union activity, including the first store in Seattle to unionize. “This is just the beginning. There are going to be many more,” warned Schultz in July 2022.

As long as an employer can abuse workers, there is a need for unions. And union activity is surging, with a 50 percent increase in strike activity last year compared to the year before, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Shultz apparently sees himself as above the law. He refused to testify about his company’s 75 documented violations of federal labor laws in front of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders, until Sanders forced him to with a subpoena.

But not every company is fighting its own workers tooth and nail. When Toyota workers in Japan asked for the largest pay hike in 20 years, the automaker agreed to all the union’s demands in the very first round of negotiations. Toyota’s head Koji Sato said the move was intended as an example “for the industry as a whole.” It worked. Hours after Toyota’s announcement, Honda accepted its own union’s demands in full.

No so for Starbucks. Schultz has ruined the company’s reputation for caring about its workers and become the poster child, even in the business world, of what not to do when faced with union activity.

Starbucks should take a page out of Toyota’s book. In his CNN interview, even Schultz admitted that what Starbucks workers want more than anything is “a seat at the table.” He added, “It’s hard to walk in someone else’s shoes, but you’ve got to do that a little bit.” Instead of experimenting with olive oil in coffee, he could try something else that’s new for him – treating workers with the same respect that he commands.

## Will Michigan’s RTW repeal spark a more vibrant labor movement?

**(Continued from Page 1)** democracies can be swayed by the mobilization of popular will.

Last November, Michigan voters returned Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to office and turned out the majority-

Republican legislature in favor of a majority-Democratic one. And last month, that Legislature voted to repeal the state’s decade-old right-to-work law and to reinstate the law (which those Republicans had abolished in 2018) requiring that workers be paid the “prevailing wage” (in effect, a union-level living wage) when working on publicly funded construction projects. Those two bills were signed by Gov. Whitmer.

The move also enhances Whitmer’s bona fides as a national Democratic leader, one whose name invariably comes up among Democratic activists and pundits in discussions of who the Democrats should be running for president next year.

The swing of Michigan back

into the pro-union column and the prospect of a revived UAW may both be part of the larger movement in public sentiment, which last year reached the highest approval ratings for unions (over 70 percent), as measured by both Gallup and Pew, since the mid-1960s.

None of that, alas, is sufficient to restore the modicum of worker power that can only come with a vibrant union movement. That will require a strengthening of labor law to again give workers an unencumbered right to join unions, which business and Republican-dominated courts and administrations have stripped away over the past 60 years. That said, let’s hope what’s happening in Michigan doesn’t stay just in Michigan.

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## Outdoors

### A sweet, sappy story



METAL BUCKETS are shown attached to a silver maple tree, collecting sap in the author's backyard. MDNR photos

By Rachel Coale  
Forest Resources Division  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

Sunshine gleaming off metal buckets in Michigan's maple forests heralds the end of winter's viselike grip on the landscape. This telltale sign of spring is part of a story I grew up romanticizing – the process of collecting sugar maple sap and turning it into syrup.

Learning to make maple syrup seemed like a natural evolution for me as a foraging enthusiast.

The problem? I live on a half-acre lot on the edge of town without a sugar bush, the term for a stand of sugar maples, which I thought was needed to explore this heritage tradition.

Reading up on the subject, I realized I didn't have to have a whole sugar bush, or even a sugar maple, to get started. I decided to explore syruping on the micro level, with a single tree. Not even a sugar maple, but its shaggy-barked cousin with deeply notched leaves, a towering silver maple.

This tree provides much-needed backyard shade in summer. But would it yield usable sap? Although they don't boast

the prized 2 percent sugar content of a sugar maple, silver maples still clock in with an average of 1.5 percent sugar, which seemed like it could be worth an attempt.

Galvanized with enthusiasm after reading a few syruping blog posts, I ordered a three-bucket starter kit, which arrived on my doorstep in a snowstorm. I hoped to get a few gallons of sap over the season as the warming weather coaxed energy from my tree's roots back into the trunk and branches.

**Collecting sap:** Prepare for a deluge. My massive tree splits into three trunks, each much larger than the 10-inch minimum needed to tap. I agonized over where to put the taps, picked three locations at about hip height and finally got out the power drill.

After drilling holes upward into the tree and gently whacking spouts, called "spiles," into the tree trunk with a rubber mallet, the taps immediately started dripping. They made a satisfying plink – plink – plink as drops hit the bottom of the metal buckets.

I couldn't resist trying the sap straight from the tree. It was cold, with the texture of water and a taste like the first whispers of

spring: very slightly sweet, with an enigmatic, botanical flavor reminiscent of fresh-cut wood.

After the first 12 hours, a little over a gallon of sap had collected in the buckets. And then the wild temperature swings began.

The slow plink-plink in my buckets became a faster plink-plink-plink-plink-plink as a sunlit, 45-degree day drew sap up the tree, and down again with a freezing 25-degree night.

At first, I was delighted. So much abundance! But then the buckets began to fill faster than I could empty them.

My storage capacity – a hopeful array of mismatched 5-gallon buckets and a few old milk jugs – quickly became overwhelmed. Even an ice storm followed by a snowstorm didn't slow the tree down for long.

Worried, I sent my husband to the store for more buckets. And again, as those quickly filled. My "micro" operation suddenly felt very macro indeed. I needed to start boiling down my sap.

In the end, I was satisfied with my haul. I pulled the taps to focus on processing the more than 45 gallons of sap in my basement before it spoiled. Fresh sap,

if kept cool, should last about a week.

**The boiling:** An eternity of steam. The biggest challenge in a syruping operation is evaporation. Reducing 40 gallons of sap yields about one gallon of syrup in a sugar maple, and somewhat less with other maple varieties.

I filtered the sap through a sieve to remove bits of bark or bugs that might have gotten in, set up a borrowed Camp Chef burner on my deck and got to boiling ... and boiling ... and boiling.

Why not boil off sap indoors on the stove where it's cozy and warm? Boiling adds gallons of steam to the air, a dangerous plan if you want to do it inside your home.

I didn't have to imagine the consequences – a coworker warned me with the story of her father's intrepid effort during her childhood, which ended with the collapse of a plaster kitchen ceiling!

As I boiled and topped off our makeshift evaporating pan (a repurposed restaurant chafing dish) with more sap, I realized that each addition of cold sap killed the boil and slowed down the whole operation.

I began to use a slow cooker to warm the sap, and I was able to process many more gallons during each boiling session.

**Finishing:** The tricky part. After hours and hours of boiling off sap, I had several quart jars of tantalizingly almost-there syrup in the refrigerator. Although the main boil should be done outdoors, the finishing steps should be completed where you can keep an eye on the precious syrup to ensure it doesn't burn.

The final test is to get the syrup to boil 7 degrees hotter than water, then filter out any minerals or sugar sands formed during the process. These bits look like brownish muck and cloud the syrup with grit.

At this stage, my husband and I peered over the boiling pot like anxious mother hens on a nest, debating whether we'd done it correctly. We checked the pot frequently with a thermometer, waiting for it to reach the magic temperature of 219 degrees Fahrenheit.

After what seemed like an eternity, the thermometer finally flickered, then held, at 219 degrees. Working quickly, we followed instructions from Michigan State University Extension to pre-

serve the precious syrup in glass canning jars, where the finished product sparkled like a tawny jewel. Surrounded by sticky pots and spatulas, we grinned at our accomplishment. Our wild idea had paid off.

Here's the answer to the question everyone asks: We ended up with just over a gallon of syrup once the project wrapped up. The syrup is delicious: light amber and delicate, richly sweet, with woody caramel notes.

Would I do it again? Absolutely. Knowing how much work it is, I'll never complain about the price of maple syrup again. The real deal is an effort, but the process was fun and rewarding. Now that I've made the initial

investment in supplies, I can see diving into this project every year to welcome the lengthening days of early spring.

If there's a year when I don't want to tap maples, Michigan thankfully produces a lot of syrup – the fifth most in the nation. In 2022's record-breaking season, commercial syrupers in Michigan reported 190,000 gallons, following behind Wisconsin, Maine, New York and Vermont, which took the top spot with a whopping 2.5 million gallons of the sweet stuff.

Interested in your edible outdoors? Find information on making maple syrup, foraging for wild berries and searching for elusive morel mushrooms at [Michigan.gov/Foraging](https://www.michigan.gov/Foraging).



A MASON JAR holds some of the finished syrup – now let's make some pancakes!

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