



# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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## SHORT CUTS



### Minority workers fuel union gains

While there has been significant focus on union organizing efforts at places like Starbucks and Amazon, Bureau of Labor Statistics BLS statistics released in March indicate that it's actually Black and Brown workers in state and local government jobs, many in the South, who are driving union membership gains.

The BLS report showed that in 2022, the labor movement gained 200,000 net union members – not a big number by historical standards.

But the overall percentage of union workers actually decreased from 2021 to 2022, from 11.6 percent to 11.3 percent (a record low).

“Workers of colors made up 100 percent of union growth in 2022,” wrote Prem Thakker for the *New Republic*.

“The entire increase in unionization in 2022 was among workers of color – who brought an increase of 231,000, while white workers saw a decrease of 31,000,” said the Economic Policy Institute. “Of all major racial and ethnic groups, Black workers continue to have the highest unionization rates, at 12.8 percent. This compares with 11.2 percent for White workers, 10.0 percent for Latino workers, and 9.2 percent for Asian American and Pacific Islander workers.”

### Starbucks to union efforts: nope!

Starbucks Workers United, the grass-roots worker organizing campaign which the Service Employees aid, has organized its 300th store in the U.S., in Sacramento, Calif. The vote was 11-2 on April 14 at a store in the California capital.

And years after organizing efforts began, the coffee-serving giant still has yet to come to an agreement with a single bargaining group. The National Labor Relations Board said last month that Starbucks has illegally “failed and refused” to collectively bargain fairly at 144 sites.

Starbucks’s anti-union and anti-worker campaign, orchestrated by founder and former CEO Howard Schultz, is so extensive that it’s produced five federal court injunctions against the firm for labor law-breaking excesses – and more than 1,400 complaints so far to the NLRB, leading to hundreds of charges.

### Labor nominee too pro-union?

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – By an 11-10 party-line vote, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved President Joe Biden’s nomination of Julie Su as the next Secretary of Labor.

Her nomination will now go to the full Senate for a vote.

Republicans accused Su, now the acting secretary, of being anti-business, too pro-union, a bad administrator and an inexperienced negotiator. Organized labor is campaigning hard for Su, using TV ads. “Everywhere she goes, workers win,” AFSCME President Lee Saunders said.

### Quotable

“When arguing with a fool, first make sure the other person isn’t doing the same.”  
– Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

## Biden touts his ‘blue-collar blueprint for rebuilding the middle class’



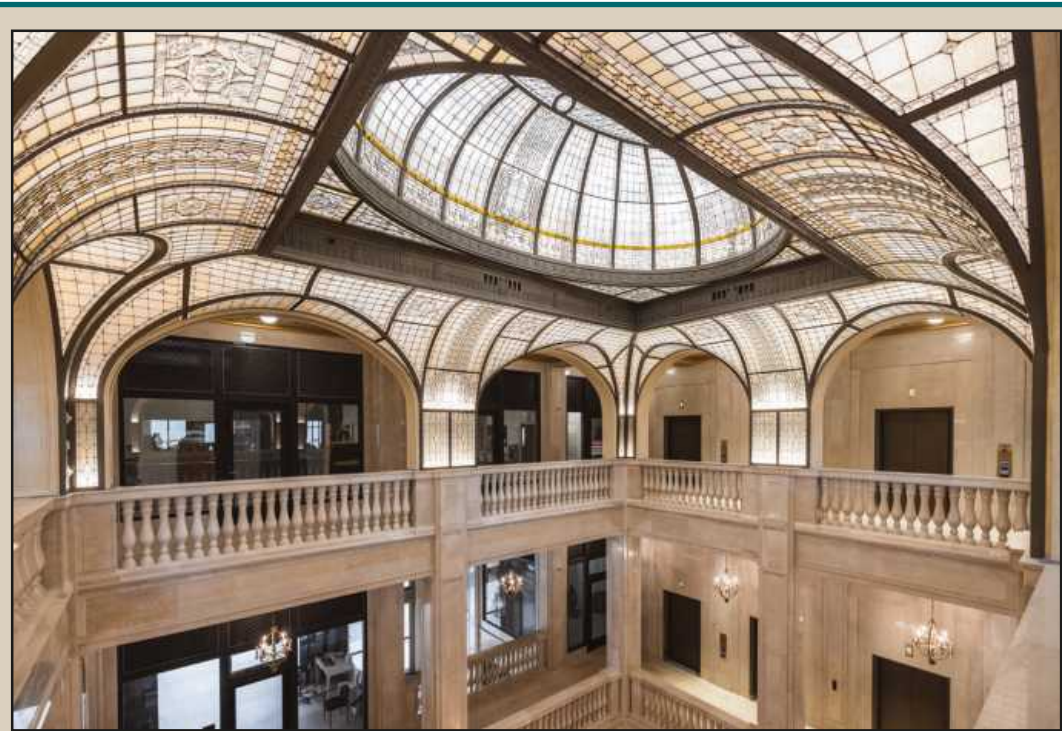
The president enters campaign mode at building trades conference

By Mark Gruenberg, Press Associates Staff Writer  
WASHINGTON (PAI) – In full-throated campaign mode, since he announced his bid for re-election just hours before, Democratic President Joe Biden launched his 2024 run for the White House with a stem-winding – and long and sometimes folksy – recapitulation of his and their achievements before an audience of 3,000 building

trades members.

Biden was repeatedly interrupted by applause and sometimes by whistles, cheers and chants of “four more years!” from the North America’s Building Trades Unions’ legislative conference on April 25. Biden spoke so long that he even joked at the end “I’m taking up too much of your time.”

The conferees, virtually all local union activists, at one point cheered for so long Biden had to stop and wait for several minutes. (Continued on Page 15)



WITH MORE THAN 7,000 individual glass jewels and 6,000 glass panels, Book Tower’s architectural centerpiece is a gleaming, original 1920s art-glass skylight. The skylight illuminates The Rotunda, a restored, newly unveiled three-story, marble-arched atrium that serves as the grand entryway for guests and residents to the building along Washington Boulevard in Detroit. For an historical perspective on the Book Tower, see Page 3. Photo credit: Bedrock

## Next chapter to be written for beautifully restored Book Tower

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

DETROIT – The Book is back.

No, not the historic and renowned Book-Cadillac Hotel, which sits along Washington Boulevard at Michigan Avenue. That’s been back: it reopened in 2008 after receiving its own years-long renovation.

We refer to the historic and renowned Book Tower, another property originally owned and named for a trio of Book brothers, which sits a short walk north of the hotel across Washington Boulevard. A renovation of the 38-story Book Tower, originally opened in 1926, and its co-joined 13-story partner Book Building (1916) are nearly complete. They’re the latest in a series of historic buildings in Detroit brought back to life over the past decade-plus by billionaire investor Dan Gilbert’s real estate firm Bedrock.

“Eight years ago, I said that Book Tower would be the most game-changing and exciting redevelopment project in Detroit,” said Gilbert, founder and chairman of Rocket Companies. “Today, we are thrilled as we prepare to re-open one of the most iconic, and interesting buildings in the entire city. Detroiters have always recognized the importance and historic significance of Book Tower, and we are ready to honor that sentiment as we

put into service and deliver the meticulously restored property back to the community.”

In 2015, Bedrock acquired what will now be called the Book Tower, and then sunk \$300 million into the renovation and

transformation of the property. The construction team has been led by Brinker/Christman Joint Venture, which hired a talented group of subcontractors employing building trades union (Continued on Page 14)

THE TALLEST BUILDING in Detroit when it was completed in 1926, the 38-story Book Tower, as well as its joined 13-story sibling (with a 14th story added), are nearly ready to open after an incredible renovation and transformation. The \$300 million project was led by Brinker/Christman. Depicted here about two years ago with its busy construction elevator, the building’s exterior is shown gleaming after masons scrubbed away its decades of soot.



## Right-to-work rollback Michigan’s example offers potent symbol for U.S. labor movement

By Barry Eidlin  
via Portside

Michigan’s repeal of its “right-to-work” law could be a huge boon to labor – not because a flood of new members will instantly join unions, but because the entire country is hearing the message that the state will not tolerate flagrant union busting.

On March 24, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation repealing a 2012 law that made Michigan a “right-to-work” (RTW) state – the first time since 1965 that a RTW law was repealed and only the fifth time ever since these laws were first introduced in the 1940s. Michigan’s repeal dropped the number of RTW states to 26.

Despite their name, RTW laws have nothing to do with guaranteeing a right to employment. Rather, they allow workers in unionized workplaces to opt out of paying for the costs associated with negotiating and enforcing their union contract. Employers tout them as a bulwark of freedom against “compulsory unionism,” while unions decry them for sapping union solidarity and resources by guaranteeing a “right to freeload.”

The news grabbed national headlines. President Joe Biden sent out an approving tweet.

## New research: RTW laws vex labor, but target of union ire may be misplaced

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Right-to-work laws have historically been put in place to silence workers, make it more costly for unions to do business, sideline political power – or even push labor unions out of business completely.

That’s according to labor unions. On the other hand, Republican lawmakers and the business community argue that a RTW law make a state more business-friendly.

But how do you measure any of that? There’s very little academic agreement – or for that matter, much research – on the effects right-to-work laws have on labor unions or society. Now, along comes an extensively researched paper, titled “What do right to work laws do to unions?”

### Viewpoint

Labor groups celebrated, and employer groups acknowledged defeat while sounding ominous warnings about the consequences.

Why do so many people care about what seems on its face to be an arcane piece of labor law?

Some labor partisans are excited that non-member workers at unionized shops will again have to pay “fair share” or “agency” fees.

Surely many unions will appreciate the boost in revenue from the influx of agency-fee payers. Some might even use it to fund extra organizing, which can only help efforts to stem union decline. But as welcome as new agency-fee payers will be, they won’t make much of a dent in union decline.

First, thanks to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Janus v. AF-SCME*, which extended RTW to the entire public sector in all 50 states and the federal government, the RTW repeal in Michigan only directly affects private-sector workers in that state. The public sector in Michigan will remain RTW for now.

Second, there just aren’t as many nonmembers in existing union shops as one might expect. (Continued on Page 3)

For valued unions, free-riders are an irritant that’s ‘surprisingly small and insignificant’

that attempts to answer some of those questions.

Published earlier this year in the *Journal of Labor Research*, the paper asks that question – and then suggests that consequences of RTW laws on labor unions are relatively benign... with two significant exceptions.

And those exceptions both underscore the extreme displeasure Michigan union members expressed in late 2012 with the passage of RTW by the Michigan Legislature.

The paper was published a few weeks before the Michigan Legislature, in March, made our state the second in history to repeal its right-to-work law. Perhaps the most surprising takeaway of the study is that “free-riders” created by RTW laws may indeed be aggravating – but they are ultimately a minor target of ire for labor unions. Yes, right-to-work laws allow workers to enjoy the benefits of a collectively bargained contract – but the paper finds that a surprisingly small number of workers toiling under a collective bargaining contract in RTW states actually take advantage of their ability to avoid paying dues.

“Right-to-work (RTW) laws prohibit union security agreements in many U.S. states, and are (Continued on Page 15)

## Good first quarter for U.S. construction

Construction-wise, Michigan and the rest of the nation passed 2023’s first quarter mark in good shape, with 44 states seeing an increase in building trades employment compared to a year ago.

There was a nationwide single-month decline in employment from February to March, but overall the trend is positive, said a report released April 21 by the Associated General Contractors of America.

“A one-two punch from a pullback in homebuilding and unusually severe weather, especially in California, caused employment to drop in most states from February to March,” said Ken Simonson, the AGC’s

chief economist. “Construction employment continued to expand almost everywhere in March compared to a year ago, as demand for apartments, nonresi-

## Brakes tap on building material costs

The cost of building materials overall dropped ever-so-slightly in March, a welcome change compared to the significant price hikes the industry had been seeing.

Producer Price Index for Construction Input costs fell 0.1 percent from February to March, part of a drop of a total of 0.9 percent over the previous 12 months. The current numbers, released by the Bureau of Labor

dential building and infrastructure remains strong in many states.”

Among the states, Michigan’s construction employment is doing well, up 4.1 percent in March

Statistics on April 13, show it was the first year-over-year drop in construction input prices since August 2020. However, overall construction input costs are still 39 percent higher than they were in February 2020, just before the onset of the Covid pandemic.

Despite the recent moderation, many inputs continued to post double-digit cost increases compared to a year ago. Input costs on the rise included cement

2023 compared to March 2022. That percentage increase ranks Michigan No. 18 among the states, with 7,500 more tradespeople at

(Continued on Page 2) (+17 percent) and gypsum products (+11.8 percent), as well as flat glass (+10.6 percent) and insulation materials (+10.5 percent).

A 7 percent decrease in diesel fuel prices in March helped offset those increases in costs. Other materials that have dropped in price over the past year include lumber and plywood (-35 percent), steel mill prices (-15.1 percent) and asphalt (-23.4 percent). (Continued on Page 15)

## Viewpoints



### Child labor... again?

Both violations of child labor laws and state legislative proposals to roll back child labor protections are on the rise across the country, according to a comprehensive new Economic Policy Institute report on child labor standards.

The number of minors employed in violation of child labor laws has increased 37 percent in the last year and skyrocketed 283 percent since 2015. Meanwhile, at least 10 states have introduced or passed laws rolling back child labor protections in the past two years (Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

The report comes as recent high-profile investigations have uncovered child labor violations across the country, including at Packers Sanitation Services, Inc., which illegally employed over 100 children between the ages of 13 and 17 in hazardous occupations at meatpacking facilities. These children worked illegally on overnight shifts cleaning razor-sharp saws and other high-risk equipment, and at least three suffered injuries.

Recent Department of Labor cases and media reports have also made clear that unaccompanied migrant youth left in limbo by a broken U.S. immigration system have become particularly vulnerable to exploitation by employers.

"Child labor laws are under attack in states across the country, just as violations of these standards are rising. The trend reflects a coordinated multi-industry push to expand employer access to low-wage labor, with the end goal of rewriting federal child labor laws and other worker protections for the whole country," said Jennifer Sherer, senior state policy coordinator for EPI's Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) Worker Power Project.

Already in 2023, eight bills to weaken child labor protections have been introduced in six Midwestern states (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota) and in Arkansas, where a bill repealing restrictions on work for 14- and 15-year-olds was signed into law in March. Iowa's proposed bill has generated national headlines for being particularly extreme: The bill proposes lifting restrictions on hazardous work to allow children as young as 14 to work in meat coolers and industrial laundries, teens as young as 15 to work on assembly lines, and 16- and 17-year-olds to serve alcohol, among a long list of changes.

The primary proponents of these laws are business groups and their state affiliates, particularly the National Federation of Independent Business, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Restaurant Association. Hotel, lodging, and tourism associations, grocery industry associations, home builders, and Americans for Prosperity – a billionaire-funded right-wing dark money group – have also supported bills in various states.

Industry lobbyists have attempted to justify the changes to child labor laws by citing the decline in the labor force participation rate among 16- to 24-year-olds over the last two decades. However, the report shows that these declines are due to a larger share of young adults being in school to obtain more skills and education, a positive trend that should not be slowed or reversed.

Sub-minimum wages are in play, too, for young workers. A Nebraska bill proposes that 14- to 17-year-olds be paid only \$9 per hour, with an increase to \$10 by 2026, while minimum wage that year will be \$15.

The EPI urges Congress to increase penalties for child labor violations and address chronic underfunding of agencies that enforce labor standards and pass the union-friendly Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

The Economic Policy Institute  
Washington, D.C.

## Good first quarter for U.S. construction

(Continued from Page 1)

work compared to the year prior. Our state even bucked the nationwide trend and gained 300 workers in March. That month Michigan employed a total of 189,800 tradespeople.

Even among states that lost construction jobs during that 12-month period, only West Virginia (-7.5 percent) saw a significant decline. Milder losses were in Connecticut (-2.9 percent, No. 49) and South Dakota (-1.2 percent, No. 48) were also among the states that lost jobs.

Texas added the most jobs over the year (41,200 jobs, 5.4 percent), followed by New York (18,200 jobs, 4.7 percent), Florida (15,100 jobs, 2.6 percent), and Indiana (10,800 jobs, 7.0 percent).

AGC officials said demand remains strong for massive manufacturing construction projects in numerous states, while infrastructure and energy construction is expected to boom in the next few years, but the industry will need more skilled workers to produce these facilities. A conservative organization, they're now calling on officials in Washington, D.C. to allow more employment-based immigration and to increase funding for career and technical education to enable more Americans to gain the skills needed for construction careers.

"There's an immediate need for workers that can't be satisfied domestically," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. "At the same time, Washington should help more Americans prepare for the expanding opportunities in construction by providing adequate funding for career and technical programs."

U.S. construction starts rose 19 percent in March to 1.09 trillion, according to Dodge Data and Analytics. The group said for the 12 months ending March 2023, total construction starts were 11 percent higher than the 12 months ending March 2022.

"Construction starts activity has yet to see the impact of tight-

*"One man practicing sportsmanship is better than a hundred teaching it."*

—Knut Rockne (1888 - 1931)

ening financial conditions in the wake of the failure of Silicon Valley and Signature Banks," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. "Several large manufacturing

projects are breaking ground; pushing nonresidential buildings higher, while a nascent recovery in single-family starts has been supporting residential growth. Construction starts began the

year with gusto, but that is likely to erode as the year progresses, as seen by the declining trend in the Dodge Momentum Index, which tracks projects entering the earliest stages of planning."



### Sky-lit steel cutting

CUTTING ARCHITECTURAL grates under a skylight on the 13th floor in public "amenity space" of the Book Tower project in Detroit are Marty Tult and Evan Pasternak of Iron Workers Local 25. They're employed by Allen Metals.

### There's a better way to practice medicine

By Jim Hightower

Your doctor is out and unable to see you now. Not out for lunch or out on vacation – but out of medical practice.

America's perverse health care system, which sublimates care to the profiteering demands of Wall Street speculators who essentially own today's system, has been driving out hordes of nurses, pharmacists... and now doctors.

These practitioners take their Hippocratic Oath seriously: "First, do no harm." Yet, again and again they see corporate managers of hospital chains, physician clinics, etc. doing severe harm,

routinely slashing staffing levels, eliminating services, rejecting low-income patients... and raising prices. All to prop-up the profits of rich, absentee investors.

A prominent physician recently wrote that in 2021 alone four times more doctors quit the profession than joined. He says his colleagues are demoralized by "the diseased systems for which we work." The disease is money.

The primary measure of "care" is now how much profit the system generates for its uncaring corporate owners, so one's health is largely dependent on one's wealth. The morally abominable result is that hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths occur each year. Yes, profit-based health care is a killer.

This is Jim Hightower saying... It's time to be blunt: For-profit health care is the creation

of profiteers and the politicians they buy. It's insane to let their greed dictate the allocation and quality of this essential human need. Luckily, a better way is right in front of us: Medicare.

This enormously-popular public program of universal coverage for each and every American over 65 has proven to be an effective and fair system that is far cheaper and much, much more caring than Wall Street's privatized scheme. So, let's eliminate the profiteers by extending Medicare to all of us – every woman, man, and child in our society.

(via [www.otherwords.org](http://www.otherwords.org))

*"That's the way things come clear. All of a sudden. And then you realize how obvious they've been all along."*

—Madeleine L'Engle (1918 -2007)

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN! Book Building and Book Tower HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

Any city, large or small, would be proud to have Detroit's Book Building and Book Tower as a part of their downtown skyline.

The joined structures are imposing parts of Washington Boulevard's streetscape, adding an important element to the city's tremendous collection of pre-Depression mid- and high-rise buildings. And now, thanks to a glorious restoration project by Brinker/Christman Joint Venture, their subcontractors and building trades union workers over the past several years, the 16-story Book Building and the 38-story Book Tower are poised to reopen.

With that being said, the original exterior design choices made with the Book Building and Tower by architect Louis Kamper can run the gamut from quirky... to questionable... to "what was he thinking?" But it all kinda works.

"She's one of a kind. Some might even say beautiful in its ugliness," writes Dan Austin for Historic Detroit. "No skyscraper in Detroit, let alone the Midwest, looks quite like the Book Tower on Washington Boulevard. It's a rather awkward-looking building, whether you look at its unusual maze of an external fire escape or the intricate, over-the-top details on its crown that are tough to appreciate without a pair of binoculars. It's an undeniably unique piece of the city's skyline and a rare breed of classical Renaissance-style architecture and skyscraper. As an added bonus, joined at its hip is one of the city's oldest surviving office buildings."

The need for more office buildings downtown drove brothers J. Burgess Jr., Herbert, and Frank Book, Detroit-born entrepreneurs and real estate developers, to come up with a plan to redesign run-down Washington Boulevard. They hired Kamper as architect to build their 13-story Book Building, completed in 1917. It was Kamper's first foray into designing a tall building.

"The 13-story structure, built first, was a relatively straightforward modern office building," says The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture, "although Kamper unconsciously loaded on a few details from antiquity, including 12 nude caryatids, or female statues, supporting the cornice." For parishioners exiting St. Aloysius Church across the street, who could see the nude figures if they peered closely at the top of the building, they were jokingly referred to as the wives of the 12 Apostles.

According to the Detroit Historical Society, Kamper designed both the Book Building and Tower in the Italian Renaissance style, clad in limestone. For the design of the exterior decorations, Kamper utilized the Academic Classicism style, seen in the intricately carved Corinthian columns, scrolls, florets, and crests covering nearly the entire surface of the building.

A year-long construction process under Sterritt-Dilks-Co. led to the completion of the Book Tower in 1926 on the corner of Grand River and Washington Boulevard. The ground floor spaces were occupied by shops; the floors above were for office space. Although limestone was an extremely common material to clad a building's exterior in the 1920s, Kamper was criticized for using it on the prominent Book Tower. Limestone is a porous material, and inevitably soot and other airborne contaminants discolored the building – for decades – before the exterior received a transformational scrub during this renovation.

"A horizontal belt of Italian Renaissance sculpture surrounds the building's midsection, featuring twelve nude female caryatids supporting the cornice," the Detroit Historical Society says. "Many of these elements are difficult to appreciate from the ground." And on the tower, much of the exterior masonry "icing" decorations were placed – difficult to see and awkwardly placed some might argue – on the 25th floor and above.

The September 1926 edition of *Building Age and Na-*

THE 16-STORY BOOK BUILDING, at left, was completed in 1917, and it was followed by the 38-story Book Tower, at right, in 1926. Erected along Washington Boulevard in Detroit, the buildings were intended help anchor Washington Boulevard, which the Book brothers envisioned would mimic New York's Fifth Avenue and European grand boulevards. The



Photo credit: Detroit Free Press Archives



Photo credits: Bedrock

BEFORE AND AFTER – Decades of grime and soot were removed from the exterior of the Book Building and Tower during its recent renovation. Architect Louis Kamper made the interesting decision to place these nude female figures, or caryatids, in a set 12 stories up along the tower, along with more supporting the cornice on the lower building.

ional Builder liked the building's figures and icing.

"These cornice breaks and ornamentation give a pleasing touch when viewed either near or from far," the publication said. But maybe that impression didn't wear well over the years.

"The artistic impression the tower leaves today is that Kamper didn't quite get the skyscraper idea," says *The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture*. "The icing almost oozes out from the multiple layers, as too much attention is paid to classical ornamentation at the expense of the building's elemental massing."

And that lack of a mass in the slim tower created another problem unrealized by Kamper in the design phase. He made room for only a single staircase in the tower, leading the fire marshal to demand construction along the building of what might be the most prominent fire escape structure in Michigan.

While there are nits to pick on the exterior of the Book buildings, the interior beauty and classic fixtures in the building are unassailable.

A 1928 postcard describes the building's "coffered ceiling, second-floor balcony and clock suspended from beam. All floors in the rotunda are of imported travertine stone, all marble columns, finish, etc. are imported Botticino marble. The four office elevators are entirely of bronze and steel." A rotunda dome in the tower was covered over decades ago to add more square footage to the building; it's now beautifully restored.

THE TOP OF THE BOOK TOWER, in Detroit, complete with extensive masonry ornamentation 37 floors up and Michigan's highest fire escape.

Photo credit: Bedrock



onset of the Great Depression in 1929 ended those plans. The architect's decision to put much of the ornate – and unusual – decorative masonry on upper levels of the tower has been criticized, but the building is cherished by many for its quirks. This photo was taken in 1949.

Ceilings feature painted and ornamental plaster. Marble walls line many of the upper floors' interior hallways.

The Book Tower was the tallest building in Detroit at the time of its completion, but it was overtaken in 1928 by completion of the 47-story Penobscot Building. The Book brothers had planned to build an additional 81-story tower to regain the title of the tallest building in Detroit, but plans were scrapped due to the start of the Great Depression in 1929.

The Book buildings had about 50 percent occupancy as late as 1993, but that percentage dwindled from competition from newer office space opening up downtown and the overall migration trend to the suburbs continued. The Book's ownership changed, and more tenants left as power was temporarily shut off to the building for nonpayment. The last tenant, a bar, left in 2009. Dan Gilbert's Bedrock company purchased the Book buildings in 2015, and like so many other historic buildings the mortgage czar has purchased downtown, it has been given a first-class renovation.

Historic Detroit's Austin said "the building's uniqueness and quirkiness give it an undeniable charm." He cited William M. Worden, retired director of Historic Designation for the City of Detroit and respected authority on Detroit's architectural history, who said of the Book Tower: "How could anyone walk down Washington Boulevard and not look at that thing? Whether you consider it wonderful or grotesque, it's going to get your attention."

# Michigan's RTW repeal offers potent symbol for U.S. labor

(Continued from Page 1)

Generally, the assumption is that because RTW makes union membership optional, large numbers of workers will choose to "free ride" by quitting the union while still getting the benefits of union membership, leading to union decline.

But looking at the data, you see that this doesn't usually happen, at least not on a major scale. For the most part, especially in the private sector, when there is a union in a particular shop, strong majorities of workers in that shop remain union members, even if they can opt out.

Here we need to think about the symbolic power of RTW laws. "Symbolic" does not mean "irrelevant." Rather, it means that RTW serves as a symbol for a set of broader social and political changes that have very real material effects.

This is not unique to RTW laws. Other laws and events have played symbolic roles that powerfully shaped unionization dynamics in the United States. We can think of the National Industrial Recovery Act in the early 1930s. Section 7(a) of the act provided for the first time a mechanism for workers to join unions. But it was unenforceable, and employers ignored it.

Still, the law symbolized a shift in state attitudes toward unions and gave millions of workers a confidence boost to organize and fight, setting off a massive organizing wave. The law in no way caused the organizing, as it was a dead letter. But it had a powerful symbolic role in moving workers to action.

RTW laws send a message to employers that a state is 'open for business.' And one key part of that message is that it's open season on unions.

On the negative side, we can think of President Ronald Reagan's firing of the PATCO strikers in 1981. It in no way caused the subsequent collapse in union membership, since it only directly affected a small group of 11,345 workers. But it played a powerful symbolic role in crystallizing an ongoing process of labor decline and heralding a new era of aggressive anti-unionism. We can think of RTW in the same way. It arises at times when reactionary forces are ascendant.

Early on, in the 1940s, it symbolized a right-wing business backlash to the labor insurgency of the period – particularly in the Jim Crow South. It is no accident that RTW proponents first emerged in the South, where the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was building a model of solidaristic, interracial industrial unionism that threatened the white power structure.

The early architect of RTW was Vance Muse, a staunch white supremacist and head of the Christian American Association,

*"Guard well within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness."*

–George Sand (1804 - 1876)

*"Have patience awhile; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee."*

–Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

*"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."*

–Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893 - 1986)

*"Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders."*

–Bob Moawad

who warned that, without RTW, "white women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes... whom they will have to call 'brother' or lose their jobs."

As business sought to reassert its "right to manage" after World War II, and Southern segregationists sought to squash the incipient labor civil rights movement that the CIO represented, "right to work" served as its rallying cry. The first wave of state RTW laws came on the heels of the defeat of Operation Dixie, the CIO's effort to organize the South, in the late 1940s. It was part of a broader business counter-mobilization that successfully limited labor's gains won in the previous decade.

The RTW map stayed fairly stable after Kansas became the 18th RTW state with its constitutional amendment in 1958. Wyoming (1963), Louisiana (1976, after repealing a 1954 law in 1956), Idaho (1986), and Oklahoma (2001) joined in the ensuing decades.

Then there was a second raft of RTW legislation in the 2010s, spearheaded by Michigan and Indiana in 2012. Wisconsin (2015), West Virginia (2016), Kentucky (2017), and Missouri (2017, but overturned by referendum in 2018) all followed in rapid succession.

This second RTW wave differed from the first in that it involved states from the U.S. manufacturing and mining heartland, all with long histories of unionism and labor struggle. Whereas the first wave tamed a union upsurge that was threatening to spread, the second ratified long-standing processes of union decline in these states.

The justification for the second RTW wave was also different. The overtly racist appeals of the 1940s were gone, though the history was impossible to erase. Appeals to worker freedom and choice remained prominent. But what stood out was the economic rationale. Politicians promoting RTW touted its economic benefits, arguing either that it would entice businesses to relocate to their state, or that failure to enact RTW would lead businesses to leave for nearby RTW states.

This is not just rhetoric. Consulting firms that help corporations decide where to locate their operations often develop state "economic competitiveness" or "business climate" metrics, and one of the factors they include is whether or not the state is RTW.

Here the actual provisions of the law are less important than what the law represents. RTW serves as a shorthand representing a whole package of pro-employer, anti-worker qualities: low wages and benefits, weak unions, weak regulations, favorable tax laws, pliable politicians, and more. RTW may not directly cause all of these things, but employers know that RTW goes hand in hand with them.

Essentially, RTW laws send a message to employers that a state is "open for business." And one key part of that message is that it's open season on unions. That can shape employer expectations about what they can and cannot get away with when it comes to taking on unions, much

as Reagan's firing of the PATCO strikers did.

Likewise, it can shape workers' expectations of what they can and cannot do when it comes to fighting for their rights. Popular conceptions of RTW laws sometimes misconstrue them to mean that they make unions illegal or prevent workers from striking. These claims are false, but as any organizer knows, they can throw up barriers to organizing by constraining workers' sense of what is possible.

Legal specifics aside, the idea of a state being RTW means something much more than being a state where workers in unionized workplaces do not have to contribute to the costs associated with negotiating and enforcing their contracts. Workers and employers alike know that when they say, "X is a right-to-work state," what they're saying is "X is a state where unions are weak and employers have the upper hand."

But just as RTW's passage has emboldened employers and constrained workers, its repeal in Michigan could play the opposite role, sending a message that it's no longer open season on unions.

While labor in Michigan and elsewhere remains in tough shape for reasons that go far beyond RTW, recent developments like new organizing at Starbucks, Chipotle, and elsewhere, along with moves toward greater militancy in established unions like the Teamsters and the United Auto Workers, could take advantage of the opening that the RTW repeal has created to rebuild the labor movement.

(Condensed from *Portside*. Barry Eidlin is an associate professor of Sociology at McGill University and a former head steward in UAW Local 2865 at UC Berkeley).

## Just joking

A brunette goes into a coffee shop, orders her drink, sits down at a table, and notices there's a "peel and win" sticker on her coffee cup.



So she peels it off, reads it, holds it up, and starts screaming, "I've won a motorhome! I've won a motorhome!"

The barista comes out from behind the counter and tells her, "that's impossible. The biggest prize is a free lunch."

But the brunette keeps on screaming, "No, I've won a motorhome! I've won a motorhome!"

Finally, the manager comes over and says, "Ma'am, I'm sorry, but you're mistaken. You couldn't have possibly won a motorhome. Look at this sign. The prizes are things like a free donut, a breakfast sandwich, or a cup of coffee."

The brunette replies, "No, it's not a mistake. I've won a motorhome! See!" And she hands the sticker to the manager and he reads...

"WIN A BAGEL!"

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## The Building Tradesman

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

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## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

### Plasterers and Cement Masons 514

DETROIT - The next membership meeting is Tuesday May 16 at 7:00 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Union membership is like a gym membership. Dues are necessary to operate. And just like a gym, if you don't show up and participate, you do not become stronger. @unions4workers

Bro. Michael Anthony Celini passed away on April 29, 2023 at the age of 66 years old, he was a 43 year member. Please keep the Celini family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Membership gold cards- Congratulations!** May.

Jamie Lerma-25 years  
Frank Roehler Jr.-25 years  
Josh Samples-25 years  
James Weible-25 years  
Thomas Mooney-30 Years

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

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

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

It is important for all members to keep the Local updated on addresses, email and phone

numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the Local at (248) 548-0800.

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

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

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

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

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

Please refer to website for updated information.

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

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date,

there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

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

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

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

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

Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes.

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where 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.



FORMERLY DEAD SPACE between the Book Tower, at right, and a Detroit People Mover station, at left, will be rehabilitated into a more people-friendly "live-wall alley" or "activated alley" as part of the Book Tower renovation. Here mason Jeff Aubuchon of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 inspects the wall prior to cutting into it. He's employed by Leidel and Hart.



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2  
WARREN/LANSING –  
**MAY 2023 CHAPTER MEETINGS**

**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 49685

**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, at (906) 250-6971

**DEATHS REPORTED.** Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother James Barker** (Bricklayer) who passed away on October 19, 2018. Brother Barker had been a member for 70 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Richard Gulliver** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 22, 2018. Brother Gulliver had been a member for 69 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother James Kirk** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 05, 2021. Brother Kirk had been a member for 72 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Stephen Maher** (Bricklayer) who passed away on April 16, 2023. Brother Maher had been a member for 25 years.

Our sincere condolences to

the family and friends of **Brother Stanley Przeslak** (Cement Mason) who passed away on October 05, 2012. Brother Przeslak had been a member for 64 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother John Thomas** (Bricklayer) who passed away on October 01, 2016. Brother Thomas had been a member for 67 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Anthony Tudryck** (Bricklayer) who passed away on June 11, 2013. Brother Tudryck had been a member for 65 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.

**\*IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues\*.** All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

**We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!**

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS.** Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at

the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2023 online training classes.

**APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS.** Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE.** During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

**FACEBOOK.** "Like" Local 2 on Facebook "Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan."

**E-MAIL ADDRESS.** Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

**PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION.** BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000  
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244  
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800  
Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550  
CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362  
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)



## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

(Continued from Page 4)

must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

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

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. **Ulliance** is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisor.EAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisor.EAP.com). **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.**

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

**Save the Date:**

**General Election Nominations:** May 23, 2023

**General Election Vote:** June 27, 2023

**Golf Outing:** July 15, 2023

**Picnic:** August 12, 2023



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

(Continued from Page 4)

**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 May 6, May 13, & May 20. 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.



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**Local 190**

Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190  
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, June 12 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UPCOMING HOLIDAY: 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.

49th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Will be held on Saturday, July 29. Our event will be held at Whitmore Lake Golf Links, Whitmore Lake. Mark your calendar for this special event. Tickets will soon be available to purchase at the union hall. If you have questions please contact Karen at (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

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.com. The UA scholarship is due no later than June 6.

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/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

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

LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid off or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.

PLEASE NOTE: Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

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

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: each month on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month. Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9 a.m. to 12:00 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.

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 welcomes 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/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - July 17, and Oct 2. Each class will start at 5 pm. Please register through the website: ua190.org

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 17, July 24, and Oct 16. Each class will start at 5:00 pm. Please register through the website: 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 25th and opening back up for night classes starting Sept. 5. 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 12th. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Please register through the website: ua190.org

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

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

Med Gas Installer Update (8hrs): This is a two-day course. 2023 Schedule: First course starts April 18. Second course starts Sept 26. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Please register through the website: 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

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

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Earl McTaggart passed away April 12. Earl was initiated May 10, 1965, retired Jan. 1, 2000 and became a lifetime member May 10, 2015. To all family members and friends in this sorrowful time, we would like to

(Continued next column)



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, 2023 at 6:35 pm. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before Friday, June 2, to reserve your tickets.

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

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café, 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. Phone no. for the location: (269) 775-1775.

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

WEBSITE INFORMATION - FRINGES - TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the FACEBOOK Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information - click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again - type in your email address and password - and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.

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

There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorcees. 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 & 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

CONDOLENCES: to the family of Mark Marsh on the recent passing of his mother.

**Local 190, con't**

extend to you our heartfelt condolences, may his soul rest in peace.

RETIREE MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 1, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries and coffee.

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.



PEEL AND STICK – When pipe labels are being installed, it's a sure thing that the work is wrapping up. Applying the "Heating Hot Water Supply" and "Condenser Water Return" labels to the appropriate pipes they helped install in the basement of the Book Tower project in Detroit are Chris Xenos and Zach Kessey. The Pipe Fitters Local 636 members are employed by Complete Mechanical.

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

UA Local 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, 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. The Retirees will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall.

The next retiree meeting will be held, May 18, 2023. A special thanks to both Retired Journeyman Brothers, Frank Grammatico and Jacques Merkau, who donated their prizes to Brother Brian Mierendorf to aid his recovery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after January 1, 2023. If you have not received your new ID cards, please contact the fund

office at 248-641-4936. You can also download the BCBSM app on your smart phone and access your ID card information from there. You may also register your account on the BCBSM website to help manage your costs and care.

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

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

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

Please contact the fund office with any questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please make reservations made by phone to 248.772.2451 or Pipefitters636Golf@gmail.com, with payments to P.O. Box 2742, Farmington Hills, MI, 48333. Transactions will not be made at the hall for this event. Payments can also be made when registering by credit or debit card.

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

S.U.B. Please send all requests for payment to Wanda Autrey at subpay@pipefitters636.org to be processed. All requests

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

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

Retired Journeyman Brother James F. Wright, who passed away April 24, 2023, and Retired Journeyman Brother Raymond Cavazos, who passed away April 28, 2023.

May they Rest in Peace.

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

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

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number 248-655-4048 or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new number for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526.

You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys.

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals.

Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol and or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling. Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund.

Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits. CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times, she is working from home doing phone conferences which is still beneficial to all our members and their families. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887.

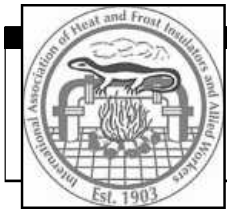
It's a new year, are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.

WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE CERTIFICATION PAYMENTS.









## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

### Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

**SOUTHFIELD - UNION MEETING** - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 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.

**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.

**EMPLOYMENTCHANGES:** 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

**Local 370, con't**  
(Continued from Page 8)

information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. Monthly award is 150 dollars.

**Attention All Active Members in Good Standing** The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

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

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

We are now able to accept Visa, 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.

out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

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

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

**SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION:** Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 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 333, con't**  
(Continued from Page 8)

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

**Retiree's Breakfast in Jackson:** 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 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.

Get well wishes to Ron Gonerka, Local 333 retiree, who is having issues with his back.

We all wish him a quick recovery. Get well wishes to Brain Bran-nick, Local 333 retiree, who is recovering from a recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him on the golf course.

*"Men for the sake of getting a living forget to live."*  
-Margaret Fuller (1810 - 1850)

*"He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."*

-Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)



## Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

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

LANSING - \*There will be a **Special Called Meeting** will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933. Please note that this is a **Mandatory Meeting for All Apprentices.**

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. The picnic is on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

If you would like to join us for our Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, July 22, 2023, please call your foursome in by June 30, 2023.

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

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

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

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

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.

**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

(Continued next column)



**WORKING ON SETTING UP** a whiskey bar in the basement of the Book Tower project in Detroit are Michigan Regional Carpenters Local 687 members Eric Schofield, Matt Rule and Eric Kramer. They're employed by Integrated Interiors.

## Majority of Americans like unions and don't want to see their decline: Pew poll

By Ted Van Green  
Pew Research Center

Majorities of Americans continue to see the long-term decline in the share of workers represented by unions as a bad thing for both the country and working people in the United States, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted from March 27 to April 2.

Roughly six-in-ten U.S. adults say the large reduction over the past several decades in the percentage of workers who are represented by unions has been somewhat or very bad for the country (58%) and for working people (61%). These figures are nearly the same as last year.

The share of U.S. workers who belong to a union has fallen since 1983, when 20.1% of American workers were union members. In 2022, 10.1% of U.S. workers were in a union.

While there are modest demographic differences in the perceived impacts of the decline in union membership, partisan differences are much more pronounced.

About three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (76%) say the decline in the percentage of workers represented by unions in recent decades has been very or somewhat bad for the country, and an identical share say it has been bad for working people.

Among Republicans and GOP-leaning, 40% say the decline of organized labor has been bad for the country and 45% say it has been bad for working people.

Among Republicans, there are sizable age, educational and income divides in views about the impact of the decline of union membership on working people. The differences among Democrats are more modest.

Older Republicans are more likely than younger Republicans to view the decline in union membership as good for working people: 64% of Republicans ages 65 and older say the decline of unions has been very or somewhat good for working people, compared with 39% of those under age 40.

Upper-income Republicans (65%) are more likely than their counterparts in the middle- (53%) and lower-income (44%) tiers to view the decline in union membership as very or somewhat good for working people.

Among Democrats, no more

### Local 47, con't

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

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

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

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

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

Get well to all our sick and/ or injured members

than a third across demographic groups see the decline in organized labor as good for working people. However, those without a college degree are 15 percentage points more likely than those with a college degree to say this (29% vs. 14%).

Lower-income Democrats (31%) are also more likely than middle- (21%) and upper-income (15%) Democrats to view the decline in union membership as a good thing for working people.

There are no substantial differences among Democrats by age.

A majority of White Republicans (57%) say the decline of union membership has been at least somewhat good for working people. The sample sizes for Asian adults and for Black and Hispanic Republicans are too small to analyze.

Meanwhile, White Democrats (17%) are less likely than Black (30%) or Hispanic Democrats (31%) to say the decline in unionization has been good for working people. The sample size for Asian Democrats is too small to analyze.

While Republicans and

Democrats overall differ greatly on whether these shifts have been good for working people, ideological differences are evident within both parties.

A majority of conservative Republicans (61%) say the decline in organized labor membership has been at least somewhat good for working people, including 23% who say this has been very good. In contrast, 39% of moderate and liberal Republicans say this has been at least somewhat good for working people, while a majority (60%) say it has been bad.

While large majorities of Democrats across ideological groups say the decline in the percentage of workers represented by unions has been bad for working people, liberal Democrats (86%) are more likely to say this than conservative and moderate Democrats (66%).

Liberal Democrats are particularly likely to say the decline in organized labor has been very bad for working people: 51% say this, compared with 19% of conservative and moderate Democrats.

*"When we see men of a contrary character, we should turn inward and examine ourselves."*

-Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

*"Do not think of knocking out another person's brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself ten years ago."*

-Horace Mann (1796 - 1859)

*"It's been my experience that you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will."*

- L. M. Montgomery (1874 - 1942)

*"Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death."*

-James F. Byrnes (1879 - 1972)

## 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](http://www.ssdfighter.com)



**ELECTRICIAN Kamil Chanski** of IBEW Local 58 wires a first floor lighting panel at the **Book Tower** project in Detroit. He's employed by Edgewood Electric.



# IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

## IBEW Local 131

**KALAMAZOO** – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on June 5, at 6 p.m. A presentation on a variable Defined Benefit Plan will be done by Ted Disabato of Maketa Advisors

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

**Tigers:** Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this Summer. 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 at no cost to the member. 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 Community Center.** Thank you to the following: Leroy Crabtree, Jon Current, Shane Howe Evan Babcock, Lucas Heinonen, Patrick Lipari-Jordan, Tyler Pawlawski, Joel Pixley-Fink, Spencer Sears, Trevor Smith, Mason Terburg, Tim Terpstra and Morris Applebey. Journeyman and Apprentices did a fantastic job upgrading and identifying the circuits throughout the building.

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

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

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

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Jared Allen, Nicholas Blaskie, Peter Carlson, Brian Clemons, Christopher Conforti, Matthew DeLoach, Peter Deutsch, Ruben Dunbar, Harland Haines, Shawn Harrison, Mark Johnson, Toby Jones, Easton Lovell, Marcus Mays, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Mark Melching, Todd Munting, Thomas Pickett, George Reenders, Thomas Seeds, Justin Sowash, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, Jason Tiefenthal, William Wolgast, and Gary Yerden.

**Retiree Lunches** at the following locations:

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

June 21, 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 (Continued next column)



# IBEW LOCAL 948

## IBEW 948

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

Our May Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday May 22nd, 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 [jwallice@local948.org](mailto:jwallice@local948.org) so we can add you to the e-mail list. This is a great way to keep up with the latest information on job calls and other information sent from the Hall.

## Local 131, con't

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.

**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.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> Wilson-McShane will establish a new website (Michiganelectrical.org) for Michigan Benefits. MEEHP, WEX and 131 Pension Plan will be found there. You will need to set up your account with a new password. A new WEX card will be mailed to you this month. It does not become active until June 1, 2023.

**Morris Applebey**  
*Business Manager*



# 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](http://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](http://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 Number, also referred to as your Account Access Code (or AAC for short). Customer Service can be reached by telephone at (866) 453-5071.

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

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers**- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. 9x9 brick pavers can have up to 7 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line (letter height .75"). \$100.00 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to 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 have not paid your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter dues (April – June) - 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 (please read all instructions on the APP/Website – it does take 24 hours for your payment to be processed), send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you!

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 6. We are proud to announce that we are officially a 501(3)c 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. Fishing is from 7 am to 3 pm with weigh in from 3:30 to 4:00 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 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 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 meeting 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 number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. 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, May 23 at 5:00 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](mailto:registrar@ibewlocal58.org). Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Deadline for all submissions is May 31. Mother's Day is fast approaching! We will be packing the Mother's Day bags for the Wobbly Kitchen on May 11, starting at 2:30pm and we need volunteers to help. We will also need volunteers to help load the

truck and to hand out bags at the park on Sunday May 14. Meet at the hall around 8am, we head to the park around 11 am. Our Sister Exchange Closet is looking for donations! If you have any new or gently used work clothing, cold weather gear, boots, coats, or even tools, please consider making the contribution. If you or a sister you know are in need, please contact one of the chairs. Our next meeting will take place on May 25th at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Angela Panicucci(586)291-8014 or Liz Gorski (586)921-3087

Email: [58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** meetings have moved to Sundays at different restaurants before a ride. Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Save the date, Saturday, Sept. 9. 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](mailto:aanderanin@gmail.com) or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

**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. 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.** The trip to Charleston, S.C. is Sept. 10-20. 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. Trip insurance is available if you choose. Information is available at the luncheons or email Rick at [rick\\_dona@hotmail.com](mailto:rick_dona@hotmail.com).

**Wremen's Golf Association (WGA) Members:** This year the Wremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 86, Rochester, NY on Aug. 15-18 with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday Aug. 15. The golf courses being utilized for the tournament this year are Morgan's Crossing (Scottsville, NY), Ravenwood Golf Club (Victor, NY), Wildwood Country Club (Rush, NY) and the optional scramble at Caledonia Country Club (Caledonia, NY). The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Holiday Inn Downtown, 70 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614 – 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 Senior 55+ Softball Team** is getting underway. Games will be played at two locations. FF = Shelby twp., Ford field on 23-mile road just west of Van Dyke. And MS = Mae Stecker field on 24-mile road just east of Van Dyke. For more info, please contact Gerry Casani 586-804-8026 or Jim Miles 586-933-3551. The Schedule is as follows and is subject to change: 5/8/23 10AM D2, F.F.; 5/10/23 10AM D2, F.F.; 5/15/23 10AM D1, F.F.; 5/17/23 10AM EAST D., M.S.; 5/24/23 10AM West D., M.S.; 5/31/23 10AM D1, F.F.; 6/5/23 10AM West D., M.S.; 6/7/23 10AM East D, M.S.; 6/12/23 10AM East D, M.S.; 6/14/23 10AM East D, M.S.; 6/19/23 10AM West D, M.S.; 6/21/23 12PM D1, F.F.; 6/28/23 10AM D1, F.F.; 7/10/23 10AM West D., M.S.; 7/12/23 10 AM D5, F.F.; 7/17/23 12PM D1, F.F.; 7/19/23 10AM East D, M.S.; 7/24/23 10AM West D, M.S.; 7/26/23 10AM D4, F.F.; 7/31/23 10AM D5, F.F.; 8/2/23 10AM D5, F.F.; 8/7/23 10AM D4, F.F.; 8/9/23 10AM East D, M.S.; 8/14/23 10AM TBD, TBD; 8/16/23 & 8/21/23 are the League Playoffs.

**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](http://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: Richard Bertini Jr., Mary Clarke, Steven Diamond, Jeffrey C. Johnson, Daniel McNinch, Uvaldo Perez, and Michael Swanson.

**Members who have Passed Away:** Robert A. Barnes, pension member, 53 year IBEW membership; Edward Cates, pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; Shawn Kuefler, JIW; Philip Mann Jr, pension member, 70 year IBEW membership; Ronald Puckett, pension member, 58 year IBEW membership, Father to JIW James Puckett; Martin Raymond, pension member, 48 year IBEW membership. We extend our sin-

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## 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  
Friends & Family Welcome! **7am - 3pm**

**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**

# IBEW LOCAL 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW 692  
BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The June monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, June 5, 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.** After many years of our members not receiving the service they deserve from our third-party administrator for our health insurance, a change has been made. Effective June 1, TIC will be replaced by Wilson – McShane. It is my belief at this time that Wilson – McShane will give our members the service they deserve regarding both our Health Plan and Pension Plan. Please look for mail regarding this change.

One item to look for in the coming weeks is a new WEX (Special Fund) Card. After June 1 your old card will no longer be valid. Please be very careful when going through your mail not to throw out important new Health or Pension documents coming from Wilson – McShane.

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

- Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain - Many more projects to come at Powertrain.

- Mt. Pleasant Schools Fire Alarm

- 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. Call coming soon.

- Newkirk Electric also has a solar project near Mio. Calls coming soon.

- Master Electric has the new Isabella County Jail.

- Countyline Power (Robinson Industries) in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in a fire. Airport Work as well.

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

- Conti- Many projects inside I-Park. (Dow)

- Escon has secured a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end.

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

**In Solidarity, Ryan Charney**  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary

**Organizers Report.** 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 more members become eligible for retirement, we must continue to train and recruit the next generation of qualified electrical workers.

As always, 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to achieve higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations. 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.

Bay City JATC's fifth-year apprenticeship class recently completed IBEW's COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training) course. COMET is designed to inform members of the importance and necessity of ongoing organizing efforts. The graduating apprentices also completed a New JIW Orientation course to help prepare them for topping out on May 5.

Please join us in congratulating our newest Journeyman Inside Wireman: Adam Barton,

Duane Dean, Nathan Droptiny, Joseph Ervin, Jeremy Fillhard, Nathan Hagoort, Keagan Hover, Cody Raymond, Nick Ramon, Nick Sheltrown, Dustin Setlak, Aaron Tuttle, Aaron Wejrowski, and Kolton Woods.

Member Nick Haas, along with his wife, have recently submitted a letter of assent to become a signatory electrical contractor with Local 692. Please join us in congratulating Brother Haas on his new business venture. **Arrow Power** is a full-service residential and commercial electrical contractor servicing Gladwin County and surrounding areas. They can be reached at 989.510.0602.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225  
bklele@ibew692.com  
Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131  
bbaranek@ibew692.com

**Union Dues.** PLEASE NOTE: The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022 approved a per capita increase of \$2.00 as well as a \$2.00 increase paid into the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF). Therefore, effective Jan. 1, 2023, monthly dues will increase to **\$45.20** per month.

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

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

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

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

**Death Benefits. American Income Life Accidental Death Benefit:** Recently you may have received 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 PM Thursday, May 18 at Castaways, 3940 Boy Scout Rd. 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.mielecricalthorpe.org  
Michigan Pension Fund 517-321-7502



Proud Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 family member

## North Point Mortgage Advisors

Nicole Jenner  
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## 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. If you are interested in signing other books, please contact Geoff at the hall for information. As a reminder the 10th through the 16th is used to re-sign out of work lists.

At the April union meeting the allocation was voted on and approved. The body chose to put the raise on the check with exception of the increase of 50 cents that went to healthcare. The new wage sheets have been sent in for approval and we should have them back soon.

The annual Letter Carriers Food drive is coming up on Saturday, May 13th. West Michigan United Labor traditionally provides the manpower for that day. We are looking for volunteers to sort food at the post office in downtown Muskegon. There will be 2 shifts this year to lighten the load for volunteers and hopefully make the day go smoother. Many hands make light work. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Walter at the Hall for the details and shift times. This is a great opportunity to give back to the Muskegon community and assist in restocking the food pantries throughout the area.

If you're not able to volunteer to sort food, you can help by leaving non-perishable goods by your mailbox that morning. This is also another opportunity to receive a volunteer reward point (all members) and or community service credit (apprentices/CW's). Thanks for all the help serving our community!

Sue would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the retirement party and the gifts she received. She will miss everyone and it was a pleasure serving the Local Union and its participants for the last 23 years.

The West Michigan EWMC will have volunteer opportunities this month as well building temporary services for Habitat for Humanity. These will be given to Habitat to help reduce the cost of electrical as they have been renting temporary panels. If you are interested in helping, please let Geoff at the hall know.

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

*"To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am."*  
-Bernard M. Baruch (1870 - 1965)

*"I have found that if you love life, life will love you back."*  
-Arthur Rubinstein (1886 - 1982)

*"I pay very little regard...to what any young person says on the subject of marriage. If they profess a disinclination for it, I only set it down that they have not yet seen the right person."*  
-Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

*"Americans detest all lies except lies spoken in public or printed lies."*  
-Edgar Watson Howe (1853 - 1937)

*"It is an interesting question how far men would retain their relative rank if they were divested of their clothes."*  
-Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



## IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

**ANNARBOR – OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 252:** The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on May 10, 2023, beginning at 6 p.m. at the local meeting hall located at 7920 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations, or, provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to 252electionjudge@gmail.com that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221, 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:** A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at BOTH.

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

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

**Retiree's 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UNION DUES FOR 2023:** Effective Jan. 1, 2023, union dues for "A" members will increase to

President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2023 IBEW Local 252 election can be emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com, mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221, or consult by phone 517-918-8948.

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

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

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(Continued next column)



## 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!

**Special Called Meeting:** There is a Special Called Meeting for the purpose of Wage Allocation. The meeting will be on May 24, 2023, at 4:45pm.

**Condolences** it is with a heavy heart Local 445 informs you of the passing of retired member Ken Eyre on March 17, 2023.

**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 meets at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend.

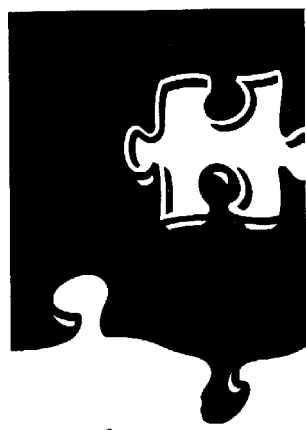
**IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing** is scheduled for July 15, 2023, with shotgun start at 8am. Mark your calendars.

**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*

## You Are the Missing Piece.



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**

**IBEW 252, con't**

\$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.**

*"When one admits that nothing is certain one must, I think, also admit that some things are much more nearly certain than others."*  
-Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)



# Local 665

IBEW 665

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

**NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:** On May 15, 2023, nominations for local union office will be held during the union meeting. You must be present to accept any nomination or provide a written signed statement that you will accept the nomination. On June 19, 2023 we will have the local union election. Polls are open from 6:00 am through 6:00 pm. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon request to the election judge. Please email local665electionjudge@gmail.com to request a ballot or to ask any questions. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of election.

**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. Gov. Whitmer should be signing both bills in the short term. 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@lejatc.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

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

**RETIREE DINNER:** Save the date for the next retiree dinner scheduled for May 21! 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.lejatc.org](http://www.lejatc.org) and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

**FIRST AID/CPR:** 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. (Continued next column)



# IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

**SAGINAW – Union News-** Hello brothers and sisters! Got a lot of the same stuff this week, so bear with me. Hope you all are having a spectacular time working!

**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.

Thanks to all that came out to this year's wage allocation Union Meeting. This is what Local Unions are all about, the members having the ability to decide what they would like to do with their hard earned negotiated wages.

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 26th through the 28th 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 years outing will be on June 10th 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 June 6th at 5:30pm. Come and hang with everybody!

**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 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocal 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 GreyIron. 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.

Thanks to all that supported the Saginaw Township Schools

## IBEW 665, con't

eficiaries. 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.

Bond!

**HEALTH CARE-** Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and also help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit [www.bcbsm.com](http://www.bcbsm.com). Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

**BLUE 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-** Alrighty ladies and gentlemen, we're starting to scale back from TIC. You might want to contact The Hall for details on what and how to use the new App.

**JOB CALLS-** Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.

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

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

"Freedom is a possession of inestimable value." – Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

"Live neither in the past nor in the future, but let each day's work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition." – Sir William Osler (1849 - 1919)

"There is no law of progress. Our future is in our own hands, to make or to mar. It will be an uphill fight to the end, and would we have it otherwise? Let no one suppose that evolution will ever exempt us from struggles. 'You forget,' said the Devil, with a chuckle, 'that I have been evolving too.'" – William Ralph Inge (1860 - 1954)

"A good End cannot sanctify evil Means; nor must we ever do Evil, that Good may come of it." –William Penn (1644 - 1718)

"Keeping your clothes well pressed will keep you from looking hard pressed." – Coleman Cox

"Many people despise wealth, but few know how to give it away." –Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

"Go often to the house of thy friend; for weeds soon choke up the unused path." –Scandinavian Proverb

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present." –Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

"All human situations have their inconveniences. We feel those of the present but neither see nor feel those of the future; and hence we often make troublesome changes without amendment, and frequently for the worse." – Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



**SHAVING SOME CROWN molding in what will be first floor restaurant space of the Book Tower project in Detroit are John Schleben and Chris Hinkle of Michigan Regional Carpenters Council Local 687. They're employed by Christman Constructors.**



# 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, 8th, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting** –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, May 8th, 2022.

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

**Retiree Notice** – Retirees that 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 1st is the expected transition date to change to Wilson-McShane.

**Death Notice** – Our condolences go out to family and friends of Retired Brother John (Jack) Leline who passed away along with his wife in a traffic accident on April 24th in Roscommon. They will be missed by all who knew them.

**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 (five to be elected) and Alternate 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

"Sometimes old things need to go away. That way, we have room for the new things that come into our lives." –Randy K. Milholland

"I do not want people to be agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them." – Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

"The best way out is always through." –Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

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 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 6th 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, 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 \$10.00 each. We also have Local 498 t-shirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

**Retiree breakfast-** Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport rd ev-

ery Monday morning at 9am. So if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

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

Please consider getting this important training if you want to be eligible to work on these projects when they are available.

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

**Service Pins** – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

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

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

**Important numbers for you to write in your address book:** MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 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#

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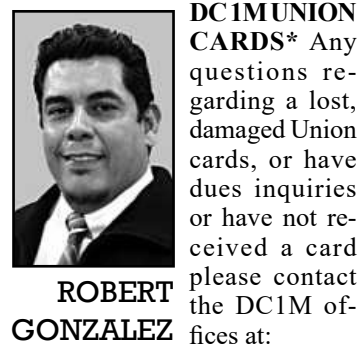
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### Michigan Painters District Council

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



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

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

**D-A SCOUT RANCH EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Members its 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<sup>TH</sup> @ 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 Local 591

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

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

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

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

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues 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 and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

"Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live."

-Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"A little learning is a dangerous thing but a lot of ignorance is just as bad."

-Bob Edwards

"Nothing is as far away as one minute ago."

- Jim Bishop

#### 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.

### Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357  
WARREN - Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 6pm. Please make every effort to attend.

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

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

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits. If you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-0666; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep our union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.  
**-Business Rep. Don Stepp**



### Local 169 Boilermakers

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.



**BOB HUTSELL**

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 West Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

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

**Area 3** Retirees luncheon lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be May 17, 2023, at 11AM. We will be meeting at Sporty's Wing Shack, 4502 N. Huron Road, Pinconning, MI. 48650.

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

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

Spring is here and with it will come 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.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) or on our Facebook page.

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

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

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your 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.

Retired member, David DeBlaey passed away on April 18, 2023, after a battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

The wife of Robert King is sending a big thank you to Mid-American Group for their thoughtful collection.

Tim Bowers is very thankful to Mid-American group for the collection they gave to him for monetary help during his chemo sessions.

"You may delay, but time will not."  
- Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



**HANDLING THE UPS AND DOWNS** of trades workers at the Book Tower Project in Detroit is elevator operator Vanessa Edwards, right, of Operating Engineers Local 324. Headed to a lower level is passenger Brent "Panda" White of Laborers Local 1191.



### Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., June 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Detroit Wage Allocation.** The winning proposal to determine what to do with this year's \$1.60 raise will be in the next Building Tradesmen Paper. You can also contact the Hall on 5/3/2023 to find out the winning proposal. This publication is as 5/1/2023, 2:00p.m.

**Retiree's Association.** Mark your calendar, Humana and BeneSys will be speaking with the Retiree's Association on May 26, 2022, at 11:00am.

**International Convention.** During the June 6, 2023, general membership meeting at 1640 Porter St, Detroit, nominations of delegates will be taken for the 30th International Convention.

**Scholarship Grant Program.** Local No.149 and the Roofing Industry Promotion Fund (RIPF) are working together to offer college scholarship grants to worthy individuals. This year the program offers four (4) scholarship grants in the amount of \$1000 each, to those eligible individuals who are attending or are planning to enroll at an accepted College or University. **Previous winners will not be eligible.**

This year the committee is proud to announce the offering of four scholarship grants, for those planning a post high school higher education.

A. Three scholarships offered to those persons who are dependents of Active Roofers Union Local #149 Members, and

B. One scholarship offered to those persons who are dependents of RIPF member contractor office employees. Dependents of company owners or principals are not eligible.

**HOW TO WIN.** Those individuals interested in obtaining one of four scholarship grants, should submit an essay to the

**Joint Scholarship Committee.** The essay should contain 250 words or more. You may select one or more of the following topics:

- Roofing Technology - Old vs. New
- Roofing Safety - Safety practices and their importance
- Roofing Impact - What does roofing mean to you, based on your life experiences?
- Roofing Ethics - Is my parent and/or guardian in a job that matters to society?

**DEADLINE.** All essays **MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT POSTMARKED)** at the RIPF office by mail, fax, or email no later than Friday, June 2, 2023. Essay should be type written, and be accompanied by the "Application Form," which includes the applicant's name, address, telephone number, college applied to, selected study major, parent or guardians name, and parent or guardian employer.

**NOTICE OF AWARD.** Winners will be notified by mail. The Roofers Union Local No.149 - Roofing Industry Promotion Fund Scholarship Committee are the sole judges of essays. For additional information, contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093

**DAD'S Day, Dollars Against Diabetes Canister Drive.** Saturday, June 17, Local 149 Members will have a canister drive in Taylor at Goddard and Pardee (GPS: 22314 Goddard Rd., Taylor, MI 48180) from 8 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers will receive a free DAD's Day T-shirt and lunch. Money raised will be used to help find a cure for type 1 juvenile diabetes. Contact the Detroit Union Hall 313-961-6093 or Detroit Training Center 248-543-3847 to volunteer. If you cannot participate but would like to make a donation, make checks payable to "DAD's Day" in care of Roofers Local 149, P.O. Box 32800, Detroit, MI 48232.

**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 Brother-

hood/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 scheduled 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 on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 5/1/2023, 2:00p.m.

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

## ATTENTION:



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



## Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36  
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY May 22, 2023, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.  
**Attention All Members,** GPS and “Real-Time” tickets are being implemented at some of the big companies, make sure your time matches where you are working. They are using GPS and customer’s security cameras for discipline, the days of us not punching a timecard are long gone, GPS is the new timecard, give them 8 hours work for 8 hours pay. We are always being watched, security cameras, GPS and our phones, the average person is on camera 70 times a day, make sure you are following company policies and representing the IUEC with professionalism.

May 29, 2023, is Memorial Day, make sure you take a moment on your day off to thank a Vet and remember the ones we have lost. If you have a family member, friend or an acquaintance that served, pick up the phone and call, text or visit them and thank them.

If you are going to be working in another local’s area, 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.

Local 85 will be having Forklift and Rough Terrain Forklift training classes and Aerial Lift and Scissors Lift training classes the weeks of May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If any of you are interested in attending, please contact Local 85 and we can get you into a class. They will set up extra classes if need be. They will have the equipment for 2 weeks.

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.

There will be a Zoom class 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.

**Attention All Apprentices,** Check your NEIEP emails frequently for any additional information. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 our sympathy to the Hansen family with  
(Continued next column)



## 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 by 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 19. 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 Wage allocations, and the by-laws; along with the Nomination of Officer listing are all posted on the ironworker website in the member only section. (www.ironworkers25.org)

**NOTICE:** Please call the Business Manager if you have not received your Ballot.

**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 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. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, May 25, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

**June vacation check schedule:** The last day to call to have your June vacation check pulled is Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm (Noon).

Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday June 1, by 2:00 pm.

All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**All members that a receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be transferred on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday June 3, 2023.

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

**Apprentices:** Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab “Monthly Report Sign-In” this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find “Evaluation Form” Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email for your pay raise slips.**

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

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

**24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

### Local 36, con’t

the passing of Honorary Brother Bob Hansen and the MacDonald Family with the passing of Honorary Brother Pat MacDonald, Rest in Peace Brothers.

We would like to extend get well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

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 newborn child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

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

**The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Retirees’ Club:** The Novi Chapter meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. The Retirees Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday June 6, 2023 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

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

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

**The West Michigan Chapter Retirees** breakfast will meet Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

**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 ant 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: Find-Treatment.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: Richard Mosher # 725643** passed away April 14, 2023 at the age of 76. He was a 57-year member and survived by his wife, Margaret. Earl Kelly # 809265 passed away March 14, 2023 while staying in Florida. He was 76 years old and a 54-year member. He is survived by his two daughters. Melvin Ciesa #452575 of Kalamazoo passed away April 22, 2023 at the age of 95. Formerly of Local 340 and held membership for 72 years.

**Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (May 1, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.)-



WORKING IN THE CRAMPED CONFINES of a stairwell on the 14th floor of the Book Tower project are iron workers Tim McDonald, James Viar and Aiden Viar. The Local 25 members are employed by Midwest Steel.

## Next chapter to be written for beautifully restored Book Tower

(Continued from Page 1)

workers. They worked with the firm ODA for architecture and interior renovation and Kraemer Design Group for historic preservation.

Brinker/Christman Senior Project Manager Nate Hubert said the 484,000-square-foot building was in “various states of disrepair” at the start of the project, “and we stripped nearly everything from the inside” to get the building ready for its new configuration.

“When I talk to people about the project, I tell them what kind of shape it was in four years ago,” Hubert said. “At the time I took my 6-year-old daughter (Beatta) in to work with me and she said ‘dad, this place is kind of sketchy.’ Well, we took a place that was hanging by a thread and made it beautiful. Now she asks when she can come back to see it again.”

Brothers J. Burgess Jr., Herbert, and Frank Book, Detroit-born entrepreneurs and real estate developers, foresaw a demand for additional office space in booming downtown Detroit more than a century ago. They underwrote construction of the Book Tower, which was the tallest building in Detroit at the time of completion.

The Book was originally built for office space with street-level retail and/or dining establishments. It gradually lost tenants beginning in the 1960s, and closed for good when the last business, a bar, left in 1993.

Following its 2015 acquisition of the Louis Kamper-designed, Italian Renaissance Revival-style building, Bedrock embarked on a comprehensive, historic restoration of Book Tower. The building was originally found in a state of disrepair, after sitting vacant for years, including destroyed century-old plaster ceiling tiles, shattered marble wainscotting, and exposed electrical and plumbing systems.

One of the largest adaptive reuse project ever undertaken in Michigan, the new building is expected to reopen June 1 with event, meeting, office, residential, and restaurant spaces. The new space will include 38 floors crafted into 229 residential units, 117 Roost Apartment Hotel rooms and 52,000 square feet of retail. There will also be three new dining options on site. An “activated alleyway” will bring some purpose to what was also some sketchy space outside on the west side of the building.

Tradespeople on the project also:

• Recreated and hand-painted more than 7,000 square feet of ornate ceiling tiles to match the original designs and color of the structure.

• Reinstalled 50,000 square feet of marble.

• Replaced all 2,483 windows with modern, historically accurate versions to increase energy efficiency.

• Restored 29 caryatids on the exterior of the building.

• Adapted the former office spaces into 46 unique floor plans for apartments and hotel rooms.

• Refitted the rooftop event space with a 2,200-square foot skylight.

• Repaired the building’s original travertine floors.

• Revealed the classic, limestone façade for the first time in years.

Hubert said the biggest challenge on the project was the “vertical transportation” of workers and materials up and down the tall tower. An extremely busy exterior elevator serving the building facing Washington Boulevard provided that transportation, as the individual floors moved from an interior demolition phase to completion. While some structural reinforcements were added, Hubert said, “it’s a building that still has good bones.”

At peak employment, about 300 tradespeople helped re-build the Book.

“Brinker/Christman Joint Venture is definitely proud of the work we’ve done here; the building is an icon in Detroit,” Hubert said. “We couldn’t have done it without our subcontractors and the tradespeople on the job, they felt the stress of the job and they worked through the up and down vertical constraints. It took teamwork, and the trades did some great work coming up with solutions when they were needed.”



CONSTRUCTED ALONG Washington Boulevard at Grand River in Detroit, the Book Tower took up a significant part of a newly designed, fashionable streetscape a century ago. The Book brothers planned to build an 81-story office building to the south (at left in this photo), which would have been the tallest in the world at the time. Then came the start of the Great Depression in 1929.

# BRICKLAYERS WANTED

## \$37.04 HR \$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS PLUS HEALTH & PENSION

[BRICKLAYERS.ORG](http://BRICKLAYERS.ORG)

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members:

**\$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers!**

BAC Local 2- Michigan is offering up to a \$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers and Masonry Restoration Workers who join now and who stay working for our contractors!

*Our Members who refer these new members will get the same bonus as well!*

**Journeymen Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$35.54 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions. Our Contractors have immediate opening for Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.**

For more information go to: [bricklayers.org](http://bricklayers.org)

Laborers' International Union of North America

LIUNA! LOCAL 1191

Feel the Power

Laborers Local 1191, (2161 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208)

DETROIT - Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborers-local1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208

The next Retiree Council Meeting will be held on the 2nd of June, 2023. June's General Membership meeting will be held on the 7th of July, 2023.

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208.

The next Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 30th of June, 2023. July's Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 28th of July, 2023.

Union Dues For 2023: Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4.

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.

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.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list.

Out-of-Work List: 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.

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.

Save Time & Money: We

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.mlta.org.

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

Available Scholarships: LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical trainings through Union Plus.

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

\* Telephone: (877) 645-2267 \*Website: www.michiganlaborers.org \*Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149 \*Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

\*Telephone: (833) 389-0025 EXT. 3359



Meet the Book Tower's Cleaning Crew

THE DESIGNATED "Cleaning Crew" of Laborers working the Book Tower project in Detroit has done terrific work keeping the worksite tidy during the course of the renovation project.

New research: RTW laws vex labor, but target of union ire may be misplaced

(Continued from Page 1)

frequently portrayed as a mortal threat to unionism in the country," writes the paper's author, Kyung-nok Chun, who has written extensively on labor relations issues.

Brakes tap on material costs in U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)

"With materials costs fluctuating so much month-to-month, contractors remain wary about committing to projects with unpredictable costs and lead times," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist.

"We are optimistic that this trend will hold, and we'll see further declines in the PPI for final demand in the coming months."

by RTW. "The question might then be asked, why were these unions afflicted by high levels of non-membership even before RTW legislation?"

That differential refers to a three percent higher union wage advantage, and the study found that the lowest 70 percent of income earners are the beneficiaries of that advantage.

RTW laws are associated with declines in union coverage but may be confounded by other state-level policies aimed at weakening public sector unions.

RTW laws do not appear to adversely affect union formation

through National Labor Relations Board-administered elections.

Levels of strike activity appear to be unaffected by RTW laws.

RTW laws have little effect on union membership, plus or minus, considering the small presence of "free riders" who don't pay dues yet enjoy union benefits.

Such a weak response in free-riding may be explained in a number of ways," Chun writes.

RTW laws by heightened efforts to recruit members and instill loyalty; third, complementing the previous explanations, the force of social custom and solidarity may be a much bigger determinant of union membership than pecuniary (monetary) considerations."

Biden touts his 'blue-collar blueprint for rebuilding the middle class'

(Continued from Page 1)

Left unsaid was whether rank-and-file building trades members agree with their leaders, especially in the key industrial states around the Great Lakes.

In 2020, Biden narrowly carried the nation's most-heavily industrial state, Wisconsin, against Republican Donald Trump. His margins were somewhat wider in swing states Minnesota, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

In turn, Biden gave the workers generous credit for helping to elect him to the White House in 2020, in his prior Senate career, and in steering his program through a closely split Congress in 2021-22—and especially for the five-year \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure and Jobs Act.

"My economic plan is a blue-collar blueprint for rebuilding" the middle class, he declared.

And Biden got in some digs at the "MAGA Republicans," too. After all, he repeatedly told the audience, they want to repeal almost all the measures he, they and congressional Democrats enacted to pull the economy out of the coronavirus-caused Depression.

Biden spent most of his speech touting the infrastructure achievements, and blasting the House Republicans for trying to repeal them in their budget blueprint. He conveniently omitted mentioning the other half of his coronavirus recovery plan, which conservative Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., the key swing vote on those social program boosts, forced Biden to drastically whittle, under threat of sinking it in what was then a

50-50 Senate.

"Under my predecessor, 'Infrastructure Week' became a punchline," Biden declared. "On my watch, infrastructure has become a decade headline. A decade."

And Biden repeatedly reminded the crowd that almost all the accomplishments occurred "without one Republican vote."

The coming job surge, in "green" factories and plants making semiconductor computer chips, will remake the economy and make the U.S. No. 1 in manufacturing again, he stated, without proof.

When Biden wasn't touting his and their achievements, he got in digs against "the MAGA Republicans," especially House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.).

A default, Biden forecast, would immediately cost 870,000 jobs. It also would blow the U.S.'s credit rating to hell.

"Little did I think I'd be quoting Donald Trump," Biden deadpanned. "But even Donald Trump said, 'I can't imagine (anyone) ever thinking of using the debt ceiling as a negotiating wedge.'" Raising the federal

debt ceiling is the technical term for setting a new and higher debt limit. "These guys are saying unless I agree to cut all these programs by 22 percent...and cut taxes for the super wealthy and corporations," they won't raise the debt ceiling.

As might be expected, the crowd was enthusiastic. One building trades union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, went beyond that and "jumped the gun," so to speak.

"When the IBEW endorsed candidate Joe Biden in 2019, it was because of his commitment to creating good union jobs, protecting secure retirements, addressing climate change responsibly and investing in American manufacturing."

"Throughout his first term, President Biden has been a steadfast ally of unions and American workers. I am confident that support will continue in his second term," Cooper continued.

"As a direct result" Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have "overseen robust economic growth, increased worker wages and the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years."

Biden, too, touted the 3.5 percent jobless rate, and bragged about the 12.6 million new jobs businesses claimed to create on his watch.

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## Outdoors



# 150 years of fish hatcheries

By Ed Eisch & Sierra Williams  
**Fisheries Division  
 Michigan Department of  
 Natural Resources**

Michigan has a rich history of rearing fish since the state began operating hatcheries 150 years ago. Hatcheries are facilities where fish eggs are hatched, and fish are raised to stocking age. The use of stocked fish has long been one of the cornerstones in managing Michigan's fisheries, but it has gone through many changes over time.

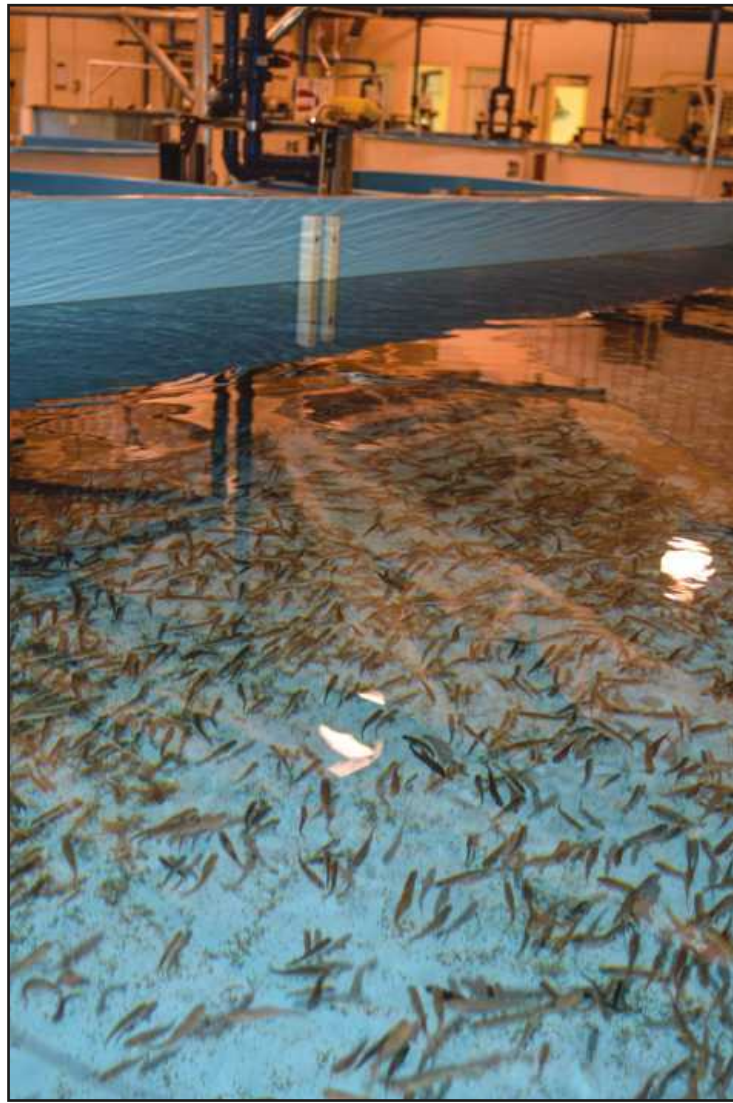
**The need for fish hatcheries.** In the early 1800s, Michigan's landscape was largely covered by old-growth forest. Northern Lower Peninsula streams teemed with Arctic grayling. In Upper Peninsula streams, the beautiful brook trout was king. Lake trout still served as the apex predator in the Great Lakes, but this idyllic scene was about to change.

With the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway creating a connection between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean – specifically via the Welland Canal during the 1830s – invasive sea lamprey began arriving in the Great Lakes and would soon begin their assault on native lake trout.

Rapid economic growth in Michigan and beyond would soon require massive amounts of lumber – the primary building material of the day. Environmental protection was not even a concern at the time that the timber harvest industry began to deforest the state at a ferocious pace.

Trees were harvested right up to the edges of streams, resulting in huge amounts of sand being flushed into rivers, threatening fish spawning areas. Logs were floated down streams to get them to lumber mills, scouring valuable trout spawning habitat that had not already been covered by sediment.

All of this took a tremendous toll on the trout populations. Fortunately, the timber industry now employs much more environmentally friendly practices, but those measures did not come into play until long after severe damage



**BROWN TROUT** fingerlings are reared in a tank at Oden State Fish Hatchery in Alanson. *MDNR photo*

had already been done to many of Michigan's trout streams.

By the 1870s, it was apparent that Michigan's fish populations were in trouble. In response to decreasing fish numbers and habitat quality, the Michigan Fish Commission was established and the state's first fish hatchery, Crystal Springs, was opened near Pokagon in Cass County in 1873.

Over the next several decades, many more hatcheries and satellite fish rearing stations were developed across the state. They were often located near railroads, as trains were the primary means of transporting fish to their stocking sites. Fish were moved by the Wolverine, a Pullman car that was specially outfitted for hauling fish

around the countryside, including sleeping and dining quarters for those tending to the fish. A replica of the Wolverine can be seen at the Oden State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center near Petoskey.

In the early days of hatchery operations, fish were most often stocked at early life stages (fry and fingerlings) because the means of transporting them dictated that large biomasses of fish could not be efficiently moved across the state.

By the mid-1940s, larger-sized fish known as fall fingerlings and yearlings became the more common rearing target.

**Lessons learned.** From the 1920s through 1940s, the Department of Conservation, predecessor to the Michigan Department

of Natural Resources, commonly stocked species such as bluegill, bass and perch. We learned through time that these species were doing just fine on their own. Beginning in the 1950s, fishery managers pivoted away from stocking these prolific warm-water species and focused more on stocking trout and coolwater species like walleye.

While it is generally known that fish stocked at larger sizes tend to survive better, stocking catchable-sized trout resulted in "truck chasing" from some segment of the fishing community. Newly stocked fish are highly susceptible to fishing, so the practice of stocking catchable-sized fish was discontinued by the mid-1960s.

Fish are stocked for several reasons, including reintroduction of extirpated species, achieving ecosystem balance between predator and prey species, rehabilitation of depressed fish stocks and to provide diverse fishing opportunities.

Where possible, fishery managers strive to rely on natural reproduction to sustain fisheries. However, due to factors such as high fishing pressure, lack of spawning habitat, etc., stocking of hatchery-reared fish is likely to remain a common practice into the foreseeable future.

**Introduction of Pacific salmon.** The late 1960s marked a new era of fisheries management in Michigan, as the Pacific salmon stocking program came into being. Coho and Chinook salmon eggs were imported from Pacific Northwest states, with the hope that the resultant salmon populations would staunch the uncontrolled growth of invasive alewives that had rendered many Great Lakes beaches unusable by tourists.

This program proved to be wildly successful, and it served as the impetus to move Michigan DNR hatcheries into the modern era.

**The Platte River State Fish Hatchery,** located west of Traverse City near the town of Honor, was the first of Michigan's hatcheries to be rebuilt. It was converted from a satellite trout-rearing station to Michigan's

primary Pacific salmon hatchery. Thus began the transition from many rearing facilities and hatcheries rearing fish at relatively low densities to only six modern facilities that were designed to rear fish at higher densities.

The switchover to modern facilities with higher targeted rearing densities has been very successful, but it came with its own learning curve and costs. High densities can cause stress for fish, and that can lead to health problems. Over the past 10 to 15 years, rearing densities have been ratcheted back somewhat to focus more on health and quality, rather than quite so much on quantity. The result is healthier, more robust fish that perform better after being stocked in lakes and streams.

The modern facilities largely rely on pumped well water that gets reused multiple times and must be re-aerated between uses. That means these facilities are reliant on complex mechanical systems, maintained by highly trained staff.

The Michigan DNR was fortunate to receive a \$30 million appropriation in fiscal year 2023 to be used to catch up on the backlog maintenance needs at all six hatcheries and to make energy-efficiency improvements.

In all, the Michigan DNR currently operates six fish hatcheries, five permanent egg-take stations and up to 40 rearing ponds. In addition to the permanent egg-take stations, the DNR collects eggs and sperm from natural spawning runs of walleye, lake sturgeon and muskellunge.

**The Marquette State Fish Hatchery** had a partial renovation completed in 1994. This included construction of a new incubation and early fish rearing building. Marquette serves as the brood and sole production facility for all the char species stocked by Michigan's fishery managers. The Arctic grayling brood fish are also held at Marquette. The rearing program includes brook trout, lake trout and the hybrid splake, which is a cross between female lake trout and male brook trout.

**Thompson State Fish Hatchery** is a few miles west of the Upper Peninsula town of Manistique. The rearing program there has included Chinook salmon, steelhead, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout in the years since the facility's rebuild in 1976. Thompson also served as a walleye incubation

and hatching station. In 2021, a new coolwater production facility was constructed at Thompson, adding muskellunge and spring fingerling walleye production to the rearing program. The cold-water species currently reared at Thompson include Chinook salmon and steelhead.

**Oden State Fish Hatchery** Oden State Fish Hatchery has been in operation since 1921. Over the years, Oden has reared brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, Arctic grayling and coho salmon. Having been fully rebuilt in 2002, Oden is the most recently modernized Michigan hatchery.

Oden's current rearing program includes both brood and production fish for the brown trout and rainbow trout stocking programs.

**The Platte River State Fish Hatchery** was fully rebuilt in 1975 and underwent a partial renovation that was completed in 2004. The current rearing program at Platte includes Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon and 100 percent of the coho salmon produced by the DNR. Platte also incubates and hatches walleye eggs each spring.

**The Harrietta State Fish Hatchery** is located about 13 miles west of Cadillac. The longest continually operating hatchery in Michigan, Harrietta was originally put into service in 1901. Over the years, brook trout, brown trout and rainbow trout have been reared there. A full hatchery renovation was completed in 1978. The rearing program at Harrietta now includes brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon.

**The Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery** underwent a total renovation that was completed in 1982 and included construction of a new hatchery and early rearing building, as well as 12 new concrete outdoor raceways. A standalone visitor center was also built. Over the years, Wolf Lake has reared many different species, including Arctic grayling, lake sturgeon, brown trout, Atlantic salmon, Chinook salmon, walleye and muskellunge. The current rearing program at Wolf Lake includes muskellunge, walleye, steelhead and Chinook salmon.

In an average year, the Michigan DNR stocks 20-25 million fish at up to 1,000 stream, inland lake and Great Lakes sites to support fish populations throughout the state.

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