



THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council



VOL. 74, NO. 1

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January 10, 2025

SHORT CUTS

Construction boom lingers in Michigan

Michigan gained a mid-dling 400 construction jobs from October to November, but when added to the strong employment numbers from earlier in the year, the sum is on its way to making 2024 one of the best years ever for industry employment in the Great Lakes State.

Michigan gained a whopping 14,800 construction jobs in the 12 months prior to November 2024 – only four other states hired more Hardhats during that time. And the resulting 7.8 percent gain in construction employment over those 12 months was second only to whatever they have been building in Alaska, which saw a 20.3 percent gain in industry employment.

The latest federal employment numbers and rankings were released Dec. 20 by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

An analysis by the Associated General Contractors said 41 states saw a jump in employment during those 12 months – the highest 12-month total up to that date in 2024 – but only 23 states saw gains in the short term between October and November.

“While job growth has been widespread over the past year, the more limited growth in the latest month may be a sign of the difficulty contractors face in finding qualified workers,” said Ken Simonson, the AGC’s chief economist. “More states would have added construction employees from October to November if there were enough qualified workers available to hire.”

Moreover, U.S. construction industry project starts were also on the plus side. Total construction starts increased 5 percent in November from the month before, and were up 4 percent from 12 months prior. The near-term numbers were led by a 16 percent jump in non-building (usually infrastructure) starts, while residential construction fell 1 percent and non-residential starts gained 2 percent.

“Construction starts continue to move sideways as the market waits for further rate cuts,” stated Richard Branch, chief economist of Dodge Construction Network. “Elevated interest rates, labor shortages, and strict lending standards will continue to constrain construction activity in the near term.”

Costco talks with Teamsters resume

Contract negotiation progress “remain stalled” with Costco, the Teamsters reported this month, although negotiations regarding its negotiations with the company were due to pick up again Jan. 6. The union and retail warehouse giant are negotiating a national contact as a Jan. 31 contract deadline approaches.

The Teamsters represent more than over 18,000 Costco workers nationwide. Costco undermined negotiations by cutting scheduled bargaining sessions from five days to three.

Costco recently reported annual net profits of \$7.4 billion – a 135 percent increase from \$3.1 billion in 2018. “It’s time for Costco to get serious in negotiations and respect the workers who fuel their billions in profits,” said Tom Erickson, Director of the Teamsters Warehouse Division.

Quotable

“New year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours.” –Alex Morrill



WITH ITS COMPLETED neighboring tower in the background, the JW Marriott Detroit Water Square residential hotel is shown on the rise along the Detroit River at the former site of Joe Louis Arena. Colasanti, its subcontractors and building trades union workers are erecting a new 25-story hotel tower, whose rooms are expected to be a boon to the nearby Huntington Place convention center, which will be connected by a skywalk.

New waterfront hotel set to benefit convention biz

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – The former Joe Louis Arena site on the riverfront is filling in nicely.

Following the completion last year of the 25-story Residences at Water Square, a luxury apartment building, now going up next door is another 25-story tower that bring a much-needed hotel to the site.

The JW Marriott Detroit Water Square hotel will have a pedestrian skybridge link to nearby Huntington Place (former Cobo Hall), which has probably lost convention business to other cities due to the lack of a dedicated, connected hotel.

Union pension dollars, and a 100 percent union workforce is making the project happen.

“This connected hotel will change the hospitality landscape in the City of Detroit and allow for Huntington Place to attract more and larger conventions. It will be a significant economic benefit to the City and the region,” said Danny Samson, chief development officer of the Sterling Group. “We are appreciative to the

Union Labor Life Insurance Co. (Ullico), the State of Michigan, City of Detroit, and Oakland, Wayne and Macomb Counties for their continued support and all of their efforts to make this project a reality.”

Colasanti is managing construction of the project, which

is rising immediately east of the residence tower. The hotel will have 600 rooms, and will feature 50,000 square feet of meeting spaces, restaurants, a lobby bar, and a market.

Construction on the project began in April 2024. Work is

(Continued on Page 2)



READYING scaffolding materials for a lift at the JW Marriott Detroit Water Square hotel site in Detroit is Chris Cromwell of Laborers Local 1191. He’s employed by Colasanti.



THIS TRIO OF PIPE TRADES professionals are working on tapping into a decades-old Detroit River intake, with the pipe allowing the Water Square hotel to use river water in the building’s cooling system. Employed by Sylvan Inc., they are (l-r) Patrick Ventimiglia of Pipe Fitters Local 636, and Jason Roth and Troy Okoniewski of Plumbers Local 98.

Huh! ABC’s ‘top’ states have anti-union theme

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Among the 50 states, which is the “top state for construction?”

That question has been asked and answered at the end of each of the past 10 years by the anti-union advocacy group, the Associated Builders and Contractors. Their

answer in late 2024: Wisconsin is No. 1!

But it begs asking, what does the “top state for construction?” even mean? Not surprisingly, the ABC has their own, non-scientific take on how the list is compiled. And wouldn’t you know it: the lack of a statewide right-to-work

law and other pro-union laws and regulations are the keys to a state getting to the top of the list.

Conventional “measurables” for the U.S. construction industry tend to rank states according to criteria for which there is solid government data: construction employment, spending, industry

Labor celebrates some legislative wins, but were kinda hoping for more

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The end of 2024 brought the end of state Democrats’ “trifecta” control of legislation that could be adopted by the House, Senate and governor’s office. Dems lost control of their slim majority in the state House after the November 2024 election, putting much focus on the year-end lame-duck session to adopt legislation before the session closed at midnight on Dec. 31.

While the year-end results were mixed, with Democrat lawmakers (mostly) supporting their objectives, organized labor can look back at the prior two years with a great deal of pride in what got done for the state’s working people, along with regret for what didn’t.

“Organized labor had some huge wins over the past two years that deserve celebration,” said Todd Tennis of Capitol Services, a lobbyist for the IBEW. “But

it’s extremely frustrating that we couldn’t get some other things past the finish line.”

Two of the heavy lifts for the building trades and the rest of organized labor were taken up and adopted by the state Legislature early in 2023: the repeal of the state’s right-to-work law and the resurrection and strengthening of the state’s prevailing wage law. Michigan’s Legislature made history by being the first in 60 years to overturn a statewide existing right-to-work law.

But after passage of that historic legislation, there was a too-long pause in working on most other priorities sought by labor. And satisfaction, such as it was, didn’t come until the very end of 2024. And even then, internal squabbling among

(Continued on Page 3)

Biggest lame duck win:

Jobless benefit weeks restored for workers

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – With so many recent hires in the state’s construction industry, fewer tradespeople have any knowledge of the hit Hardhats and the workers in the rest of the economy took when Unemployment Insurance cuts were imposed earlier this century.

Gov. Rick Snyder signed a GOP-adopted law in 2011 which lowered jobless insurance benefit weeks from 26 to 20 – making Michigan the first state in history to lower benefit weeks for unemployed workers. Moreover, Republicans controlling the levers of power declined to increase the jobless benefit amount for more than 20 years.

After two years of Democrats enjoying a power “trifecta” in Lansing before it ended on Dec. 31, Dem lawmakers in the year-end lame duck session finally pushed through a substantial, albeit gradual increase in jobless benefits, from \$362 per week to \$614 per week by 2027. However, the return of the benefit week level from 20 to 26 weeks – a restoration of the maximum number of weeks before the Snyder-era cap was installed in 2011 – will happen right away.

“This is a huge victory for Michigan’s working people,” said Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber. “For too long Michigan has lagged behind not only our Midwestern neighbors, but almost every other state in

the country when it comes to our safety net for workers who lose their job through no fault of their own. Unemployment can affect anyone and everyone, especially union workers, as our industries are often first to bear the brunt of economic crises.

“Strong unemployment benefits that allow workers to continue to put food on the table and

(Continued on Page 2)

State’s plumbing industry bolstered by new 2-1 apprentice ratio

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The waning days of the Democrat-led legislature yielded a win for the plumbing training industry in Michigan, with the adoption of legislation that limits the ratio of apprentice plumbers to 2-1 who can work with one journey plumber or one master plumber.

There had been no limit on the number of apprentices who could be trained on a job by a journeyman plumber in Michigan. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Senate Bill 740 into law on Dec. 23.

“This legislation,” said Whitmer’s office, “will help ensure apprentices are given proper supervision and mentorship throughout the training process, supporting quality education for Michigan-ers and expanding our state’s workforce.”

“Plumbers are a vital skilled trade, this legislation will require a reasonable ratio for apprentice plumbers so they can learn and advance in their profession,” said the bill’s sponsor, state Sen. Darin Camilleri (D-Trenton). “I’m proud to have advocated for this”

(Continued on Page 4)

Biden honors D-Day vet who co-founded IBEW 498

By Peter Kobs
Staff Writer

Traverse City Record Eagle TRAVERSE CITY – The quiet people who volunteer their lives for freedom rarely appear in Hollywood movies or glossy magazines. Their sacrifice is all the more remarkable because they don’t ask for – or expect – any kind of accolades.

Such is the story of Sam Bossingham, now 101 years old, who is one of the region’s few remaining veterans of the D-Day invasion 80 years ago.

This is an update on a feature we published last May on Mr. Bossingham.

On a cold Thursday afternoon, with a blizzard howling outside, Bossingham met with a local reporter and photographer to talk about his life.

His small bedroom at Joy Givers Senior Center is decorated with family photos and mementos. On his bed sat a manilla folder filled with records of his Army service. The papers were yellowed and wrinkled, but still precious for all they contained.

Out of South Dakota. “I grew up on a ranch in South Dakota near the Rosebud Indian reservation,” Sam recalled. “Our family had five brothers and sisters, and I’m 1/16th Indian.”

When the Great Depression began in 1929, the financial crisis

(Continued on Page 4)

World War II veteran Sam Bossingham served in Europe during the war and went on to help found IBEW Local 498 in Traverse City.

Photo credit: Jan-Michael Stumpf/
Traverse City Record Eagle



Viewpoints



When billionaires take over

Friends,
In 10 days, a bunch of bilious billionaires will essentially take over the U.S. government. What do they want?

Consider where they came from, who mentored them, who pushed them on Trump, and who continues to exercise influence on them: Peter Thiel. Thiel is a venture capitalist and the co-founder of PayPal. He's also the hub of Trump's second-term billionaire braintrust. Thiel mentored JD Vance, who worked for Thiel at one of his funds, Mithril Capital, then launched a venture fund backed by Thiel. Thiel then bankrolled Vance's 2022 senatorial campaign. Thiel introduced Vance to Trump and later convinced Trump to name Vance his vice president.

Thiel also worked closely at PayPal with Elon Musk, who devoted a quarter of a billion dollars to getting Trump elected and whom Trump has chosen to run the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE. Thiel's venture-capital fund, Founders Fund, was an early investor in several of Musk's companies, including Space X, the tunneling firm the Boring Co., and brain-chip startup Neuralink.

Thiel also mentored billionaire David Sachs, who worked with Thiel at PayPal and wrote for the *Stanford Review*, the right-wing student newspaper Thiel founded as an undergraduate at Stanford University in 1987. Trump has named Sachs as the White House's incoming "AI and crypto czar." Thiel had put Jim O'Neill in charge of Thiel's personal foundation. Trump just picked O'Neill to be deputy secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Thiel Capital's former chief of staff Michael Kratsios is reportedly handling tech policy during the Trump transition.

What are these people really seeking? What does Thiel want? A former generation of wealthy U.S. conservatives backed candidates like Barry Goldwater because they wanted to conserve American institutions. But this group doesn't want to conserve much of anything – at least not anything that occurred after the 1920s, including Social Security, civil rights, and even women's right to vote.

As Thiel has written: "The 1920s were the last decade in American history during which one could be genuinely optimistic about politics. Since 1920, the vast increase in welfare beneficiaries and the extension of the franchise to women – two constituencies that are notoriously tough for libertarians – have rendered the notion of 'capitalist democracy' into an oxymoron."

Hello? If "capitalist democracy" is becoming an oxymoron, it's not because of public assistance or because women got the right to vote. It's because billionaire capitalists like Musk and Thiel are intent on killing democracy.

Not incidentally, the 1920s marked the last gasp of the Gilded Age, when America's robber barons ripped off so much of the nation's wealth that the rest of the U.S. had to go deep into debt both to maintain their standard of living and to maintain overall demand for the goods and services the nation produced. When that debt bubble burst in 1929, we got the Great Depression. Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler then emerged to create the worst threats to freedom and democracy the modern world had ever witnessed.

If America learned anything from the first Gilded Age and the fascism that grew like a cancer in the 1930s, it should have been that gross inequalities of income and wealth fuel gross inequalities of political power – as Musk, Thiel, Sachs, and other oligarchs are putting on full display – which in turn generate strongmen who destroy both democracy and freedom. History shows that under fascist strongmen, no one is safe – not even oligarchs.

Robert Reich
Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley

New waterfront hotel rises in Detroit

(Continued from Page 1)
expected to be complete by early 2027, in time for the Men's NCAA Final Four tournament in Detroit in March of 2027.

The project is being financed by Ullico which is the only labor-owned insurance and investment company in the country and is the same lender that provided the financing for the adjacent Residences at Water Square.

"We are proud to invest in a Detroit project that supports unions," said Ullico CEO and President Brian J. Hale. "Through J for Jobs, we help increase the vast economic power of the labor movement while bolstering local economies."

The developer said the hotel will help "elevate Huntington Place to the connected, convention-style hotels present in Chicago, Minneapolis, Columbus, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and other cities." The Detroit Red Wings left Joe Louis Arena in 2017 and the property was demolished in 2021. In February of 2022 construction began on the Residences at Water Square.

"The significant investment made by Sterling Group will create the first hotel connected to our convention center in the city's history," said Claude Molinari, chairperson of the Detroit Regional Convention Facilities Authority. "This waterfront development reflects the accelerating strength of Detroit to attract premier meetings and conventions. A connected hotel is a critical component that will allow Huntington Place and the City of Detroit to be a competitive force to attract such events going forward."

Convention Facilities Authority. "This waterfront development reflects the accelerating strength of Detroit to attract premier meetings and conventions. A connected hotel is a critical component that will allow Huntington Place and the City of Detroit to be a competitive force to attract such events going forward."



Jobless benefit weeks restored for workers

(Continued from Page 1)
support their families while they look for work is simply the right thing to do by working people."

Bill sponsor State Rep. Paul Wojno said the new benefit amount accounts for inflation "retroactive to the early 2000s." Future increases will also be automatically adjusted to the inflation rate.

The legislation was adopted mostly along party lines. In the state Senate, Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) was the lone GOP yes vote; while in the state House, only Republican Reps. Gregory Markkanen (R-Hancock) and Dave Prestin (R-Cedar River) joined Dems to adopt the benefits increase.

Michigan Chamber of Commerce Vice President Wendy

Block called it "unrealistic legislation" that "drastically increases the cost of our state's 100 percent employer-financed unemployment insurance system. The chamber is strongly opposed to this proposal because it is nearly impossible to enact a benefit payout of this size without increasing UI taxes on employers. Despite a Michigan have a robust UI Trust Fund balance of \$4.54

billion in March of 2020, the fund that pays benefits remains in an unhealthy financial state due to mismanagement and an influx of fraudulent claims paid during the COVID-19 pandemic."

According to the news service MIRS, the trust fund, bankrolled by taxes paid by employers on workers' wages, had a \$2.28 billion balance as of January 2024.

The Michigan League of Public Policy said prior to the passage of this law, Michigan:

- Paid the lowest maximum benefit in the Midwest, both as a numerical figure and as a percentage of the average weekly wage.

- Had the lowest Unemployment Insurance coverage in the Midwest.

- Provided the fewest weeks of Unemployment Insurance benefits.

"Data has shown that people don't stay on unemployment by choice and that Michiganders often get back into the workforce as soon as possible," said Michigan League of Public Policy President and CEO Monique Stanton. "But the limiting factors of geography and timing can make job searches much more difficult for some individuals. The economic security of Michigan families will undoubtedly be strengthened by this legislation."

'Everybody does better when everybody does better'

By Jim Hightower

This holiday season got me to thinking about America's spirit of giving, and I don't mean this overdone business of Christmas, Hanukkah and other holiday

gifts. I mean our true spirit of giving – giving of ourselves.

Yes, we are a country of rugged individualists, yet there's also a deep, community-minded streak in each of us. We're a people who believe in the notion that we're all in this together, that we can make our individual lives better by contributing to the common good.

The establishment media

pay little attention to grassroots generosity, focusing instead on the occasional showy donation by what it calls "philanthropists" – big tycoons who give a little piece of their billions to some university or museum in exchange for getting a building named after them. But in my mind, the real philanthropists are the millions of you ordinary folks who have precious little money to give, but consistently give of themselves, and do it without demanding that their name be engraved on a granite wall.

My own daddy, rest his soul, was a fine example of this. With half a dozen other guys in Denison, Texas, he started the Little League baseball program volunteering to build the park, sponsor and coach the teams, run the squawking P.A. system, etc. etc. Even after I gradu-

ated from Little League, Daddy stayed working at it, because his involvement was not merely for his kids ... but for all.

He felt the same way about being taxed to build a public library in town. I don't recall him ever going in that building, much less checking-out a book, but he wanted it to be there for the community and he was happy to pay his part. Not that he was a do-good liberal, for God's sake – indeed, he called himself a conservative.

My daddy didn't even know he had a political philosophy, but he did, and it's the best I've ever heard. He would often say to me, "Everybody does better when everybody does better." If only our leaders in Washington and on Wall Street would begin practicing this true American Philosophy.



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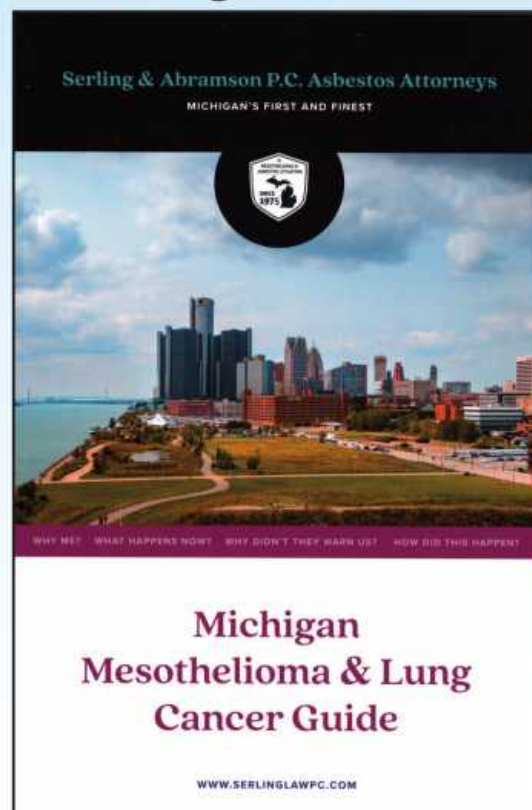
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BUILDING MICHIGAN! The Sand Hills Lighthouse HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



“MODERN LIGHTHOUSES” – including one of the last to be erected on the Great Lakes, the Sand Hills light (1919) in Ahmeek on the Lake Superior shore in the Upper Peninsula – were usually much-improved versions of the shoreline quarters inhabited by earlier keepers. Integrated with the keeper’s quarters below, this light, now switched off, could be seen out into the lake for 18 miles. But the quality quarters below have been transformed into a modern bed and breakfast.

Michigan’s 129 lighthouses – the most in any state – include an architectural mixture that reflect the availability of local raw materials to construct the tower and/or building, contemporary design styles, the geographical topography of the site, and the housing needs of the keepers.

The scores of lights to help navigation for Great Lakes mariners along Michigan’s shorelines first started in 1825 (followed by an 1829 replacement) with the erection of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse near Port Huron at the entrance of the St. Clair River.

One of the last to be erected in Michigan was the Sand Hills Lighthouse, whose light went into operation in 1919 on the northwest side of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior. Compared to some of the drafty and spartan keeper’s dwellings attached to numerous lighthouses in Michigan, the more modern Sand Hills lighthouse and dwelling was comparatively opulent.

“This imposing yellow brick structure, listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, was the largest and last manned lighthouse built on the Great Lakes,” says *Exploring the North*. “Capturing a Victorian spirit, the common-room and dining areas will invite you to cozy up by the fireplace with a good book, or linger on the rich leather couches for some old-fashioned conversation or piano music. From its ornate crown moldings to the hand-tooled walls and staircase balustrade, no detail for beauty and comfort is spared.”

If that sounds like an advertisement for a bed and breakfast inn – it is. The restored dwelling is privately owned today, and its website says it is temporarily closed, which may be just for the season. “It is one of only 12 lighthouses in the United States converted to a bed and breakfast,” says *Exploring the North*. Public tours are also offered in the warmer months.

The fact that the lighthouse was among the last to be erected on the Great Lakes wasn’t due to a lack of effort by local leaders and Great Lakes mariners – they wanted this built much earlier.

The Eagle River Lighthouse (1857-1908), a few miles north on the Keweenaw Peninsula along the Lake Superior shore, was the only light in the region, and it started to decay in the 1870s as the copper boom in the region started to slow.

“As maritime traffic at Eagle River had ceased, the (Lighthouse) Board recommended that Eagle River Lighthouse be discontinued and replaced with a more powerful coastal light at Sand Hills,” said Lighthouse Friends. “Congress authorized the construction of the new station in 1893 but

never provided the necessary funds. The Lighthouse Board repeated its annual plea for funding up until 1908, when Eagle River Lighthouse was decommissioned.”

A 1908 *Detroit Free Press* article called the Eagle light “the most important on Lake Superior,” with its going dark “likely to raise a storm of protest from mariners who navigate Lake Superior.”

Well, that storm passed. The remote Keweenaw Peninsula is more than 1,000 miles from the halls of Congress, and it wasn’t until 1917 that the Sand Hills light construction was funded with an allocation of \$70,000, in part because of pressure from the shipping industry, upset at the number of ships that went aground at nearby Sawtooth Reef. Sand Hills is about halfway between Eagle Harbor Light and Ontonagon.

First, in 1917, a temporary light was installed atop a 30-foot mast, along with an electric siren.

Stormy weather and non-delivery of the lantern room delayed the completion of the permanent lighthouse and keepers quarters at Sand Hills. The fog signal was placed in operation on May 15, 1919, and the main light was lit on June 19. The Commissioner of Lighthouses reported that year that structures built on the site included a combined tower and triple dwelling, fog-signal house, storehouse, boathouse, oil house, and landing dock, all connected by concrete sidewalks.

“The shoreline of Lake Superior off Keweenaw Point and abreast of Eagle River, Mich., is fringed with rocky shoals on which a number of vessels have been wrecked. The purpose of this project is to provide an adequate light and fog signal station to mark these reefs,” the commissioner wrote.

Further describing the setup at Sand Hills, the Lighthouse Commissioner wrote that the combined dwelling and tower rose 70 feet. Clad of buff-colored, pressed brick, it held three separate apartments. The structure was built about 150 feet from the shore.

“The tower proper, which is of fireproof construction throughout, having steel framing, concrete floors, and steel stairs, doors, window sash, and frames,” The commissioner reported. “The cornice and balustrade are cut stone and the lantern deck cast iron. The lantern is of the 7-foot, 1-inch diameter helical bar, revised design. The second story of the

SET ON BLUFF above Lake Superior, the light at the Sand Hills Lighthouse is 91 feet above lake level.

Photo credit: Historical Marker Database

Photo credit: Williams Aerial Media

tower is used as an office by the keepers and has separate entrances into each apartment. The basement, which is accessible from the cellar of each apartment, contains a central heating plant and control valves for the pneumatic water-supply system.

“The apartments, or keepers’ quarters, have timber floors, partitions, etc., and are provided with fire walls where they adjoin. The roofing material is of copper. The side apartments have each six rooms and the front five rooms, in addition to bathroom, pantry, and basement. All are supplied with cooking stoves, hot and cold water, modern plumbing, and hot-water heat.”

Excerpting from the *National Register of Historic Places* database, *The Historical Marker Database* said “the Sand Hills Light Station is significant for two reasons. First, it was the last traditional attended light station constructed on a new site in Michigan at a time when the Lighthouse Service was beginning the transition from attended lights to automated lights and radio beacons.

“Second, it represents a unique example of lighthouse architecture. This particular, functional design for a combination keepers dwelling and tower, utilizing the most modern materials available at the time, has not been used at any other site on the Great Lakes or elsewhere in the United States.”

It was considered a good assignment for a lighthouse keeper. But relatively speaking, it wasn’t a long-lived light.

William R. Bennetts was the head keeper from 1919-1939, the entire period Sand Hills Light station was manned. He used an oil vapor lamp mounted in a Fourth-Order Fresnel bullseye lens which was visible for 18 miles. Bennetts and his two assistant keepers kept the light burning until it was switched to an automatic acetylene gas lamp in 1939.

During World War II, the property was used as a training facility for the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1954, with the greater use of shipping radar, the Sand Hills Light Station was taken out of service.

A private party purchased the light station in 1961, and it was fully restored between 1992 and 1995 and opened as a bed and breakfast.



THE SAND HILLS LIGHTHOUSE under construction in Ahmeek in the Keweenaw Peninsula in September 1918. Its first light would shine in June 1919. Photo credit: Lighthouse Friends

Labor celebrates some legislative wins, but were kinda hoping for more

(Continued from Page 1)

the Democratic caucus left labor wanting more. The state House adjourned early, with the finger of blame being pointed at state Rep. Karen Whitsett (D-Detroit) and her refusal to be present and provide a quorum for any legislative action to take place in the final weeks of the session. Whitsett was protesting that legislation she wanted to see adopted wasn’t getting a place on the docket.

But two important pieces of legislation did get adopted by Democrat majorities in the lame duck session: worker-friendly improvements in unemployment compensation and in plumbing apprenticeship ratios (see the front page articles).

But left undone during the Dems’ control in Lansing were reforms to the state’s workers’ compensation system, a return to a 1-1 journeyman-to-apprentice ratio in the electrical industry, and a permanent funding mechanism to meet one of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s long-stated priorities: to fix the damn roads.

In 2011, state Republicans lawmakers adopted reforms to the state’s workers’ comp system, which have proved to be a thorn in the side of workers ever since. The law introduced a system wherein an injured worker who is physically unable to toil at her job could see her workers’ comp benefits reduced by a “phantom wage” system. The rules say that if an injured workers’ restrictions allow for employment in some sort of lower-paying job, then their benefit-wages can be reduced – even if there is no such job available. Dems and organized labor have long railed against that phantom wage system that has permanently lowered benefits for injured workers, but legislation to fix it died in the lame duck session late last year. It was one of numerous pieces of legislation that went unpassed due to the Dem disorder in the state House.

“The House absolutely collapsed and failed to get their job done,” Tennis said. “We had a series of bills in place to fix workers’ comp system. Not getting it

addressed was one of the biggest failures of the House leadership, and to call it a disappointment for working people in the state is a massive understatement.”

Other hoped-for legislative goals that were unmet was a new 1-1 apprentice-journeyman ratio in the electrical industry – which would have helped to improve the training environment in the state for apprentices.

Labor also failed to get satisfaction on bills that would have allowed Michigan’s 1,800 local units of government to enact their own employment laws (like local prevailing wage, minimum wage and paid leave). Also not done was implementing restrictions on worker non-compete agreements, setting penalties on employers for violations of wage and benefit

rules and subjecting employers to wage transparency requirements.

The legislative years of 2023 and 2024 were the first in 40 years that Dems have controlled the House, Senate and governor’s office. Tennis said his expectations that Dems would “reverse decades of the ratcheting down of issues important to working people” proved unrealistic with the razor-thin Dem majorities in the House (56-54) and Senate (20-18).

“To think that you could reverse all that has gone on over the past several decades in just two years was maybe naïve; it was nearly an impossible job to keep everybody together,” Tennis said. “Still, there were some huge wins for working people. And we’ll go back to work in 2025 trying to get more wins.”

Huh! ABC’s ‘top’ states have anti-union theme

(Continued from Page 1)

demagogues. In fact, in the ABC’s rankings, 24 of their 25 “top states for construction” are right-to-work states. Go figure.

Let’s let the Associated Builders and Contractors explain how they arrived at who’s No. 1, as they did in their Dec. 16 media release.

“Wisconsin is the No. 1 state for construction, according to Associated Builders and Contractors’ 10th annual Merit Shop Scorecard. The scorecard, released annually since 2015, ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on policies and programs that better career pathways in construction, further workforce development and strengthen fair and open competition on taxpayer-funded construction projects. Arkansas, Kentucky, West Virginia and Florida rounded out the top five states in 2024, in ranking order.”

Ben Brubeck, ABC’s vice president of regulatory, labor and state affairs, said the anti-union contractor group looks at “policies and processes that protect free enterprise, promote economic growth, reduce regulatory burdens and expand workforce development create the conditions to welcome all of the U.S. construction industry to rebuild America’s infrastructure.”

Not mentioned as factors in the ABC’s list, not surprisingly, are the benefits of good worker wages and benefits, the presence of strong safety laws, and collaborative worker- owner- contractor programs.

Three of the top ABC “core” issues contributing to the ranking system are all near and dear to the unionized construction industry: whether a state has laws promoting project labor agreements, prevailing wage and right to work. The twist is, not having those laws in place seems to be the key to a state moving up on the list.

Michigan, which overturned its right-to-work law and reinstated its statewide prevailing wage law in 2023, was singled out for the ABC’s ire. A now-ended trifecta of Democrat control in Lansing “caps off an adversarial two years for the merit shop” in Michigan, the ABC said. And it led to Michigan’s continued drop in their rankings in 2024, falling to two spots to No. 33 (we were No. 31 in 2023 and from No. 23 in 2022).

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A GROUP PHOTO of electrical workers, including Sam Bossingham, at a Manistee plant. Bossingham is in the middle row, fourth from right, wearing a hat and jacket.

Biden honors D-Day vet who co-founded IBEW 498

(Continued from Page 1) was just the beginning of trouble for the Bossingham family.

During the so-called "dirty '30s," droughts, sandstorms and snowstorms wiped out his father's cattle ranch. Grasshoppers ate 60 acres of their corn. To help support the family, Sam worked for local ranchers from the age of 14 to 17, when he learned how to tame wild horses while doing hard, physical labor. "We ate mostly food we raised on the farm - pork, beef and vegetables from our garden," he said. "I guess we were pretty lucky because of lot of people in the cities could only stand in line for a loaf of bread."

To Northern Michigan. In desperate times, parents improvise to survive. Sam's father moved to Interlochen, where he made money renting out horses for trail riding and doing other odd jobs for the National High School Orchestra Camp (now the Interlochen Arts Camp).

In 1941, as war was raging in Europe, his dad invited him to move to Northern Michigan. Then, in October, Sam signed up for the draft. By February 1942 - only two months after the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor - he was in basic training at a camp in Alabama.

The army assigned him to the 81st Chemical Battalion, which received special training in protections against chemical warfare. Thanks to Sam's leadership skills and athletic prowess, his commanding officer "asked him" (i.e., told him) to become a "buck sergeant" for a team of 26 soldiers. That rank signifies a newly promoted, junior non-commissioned officer. They became known as the backbone of the U.S. Army.

As Hitler's forces marched across eastern and western Europe, Sam's platoon soon found themselves aboard the R.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, along with 25,000 other troops.

When the massive ocean liner arrived in Portsmouth, England, they began months of training and preparation for the Allied invasion of Europe. At just 19, Sam was the youngest man in the battalion.

When D-Day finally arrived on June 6, 1944, he landed on Omaha Beach where the most intense fighting took place. The death toll was immense. More than 4,400 Allied soldiers perished, along with an estimated 5,000 Germans.

"Out of 26 men in my unit during the war, we lost 13 and six were wounded," Sam said. "I had some good friends who sort of watched out for me and God is what I prayed to," he said, pointing up.

"The Army trained us to

Just joking

A turtle was walking down an alley in New York City when he was mugged by a gang of snails. A police detective came to investigate and asked the turtle if he could explain what happened.

The turtle looked at the detective with a confused look on his face and replied "I don't know, it all happened so fast!"

...

Dentist to patient: "Your gums are terrible. When was the last time you flossed?"

Patient: "You should know, you were there!"

...

Two roaches were munching on garbage in an alley.

"I was in that new restaurant across the street," said one. "It's so clean! The kitchen is spotless, the floors are gleaming white. It's so sanitary the whole place shines."

"Please," said the other roach, frowning. "Not while I'm eating!"

make ourselves as small as possible while taking fire," he added. "You forget about being scared and saving your life at those times. You do what you've been trained to do."

On those rare occasions when Sam received letters from his sisters back in America, he learned that his brother, Walter, had been taken prisoner by the Germans and was living in a POW camp, where he would remain until the end of the war.

No less a hero, Walter had completed 21 bombing missions in the tail-gunner position before his B-24 was shot down for the second time. Only three crew members survived.

March across Europe. After the costly success on D-Day, Sam's unit joined forces with other soldiers for the long march across Europe toward Nazi Germany, mostly on foot. One of the most traumatic battles he fought was the struggle to capture Saint-Lô in Normandy, France. The intense fighting for the strategically important city lasted 12 days between July 7-19, 1944.

Sam's unit fought alongside the 29th Infantry Division, among others GIs. Inside the German-occupied city, the Germans were holding both regular civilians and imprisoned French resistance fighters as their de facto human shields.

"Warning leaflets were dropped the day before, but high winds dispersed them to neighboring communities, failing to alert local residents," wrote witness Mignon Jean. "Over 200 prisoners were killed at the local prison, including 76 imprisoned French patriots."

After that battle, Sam's unit continued the long, perilous march across northern France. In one town, after a taking a German soldier prisoner in a house, they discovered a beautiful accordion inside.

"My friend, Swede, played the accordion, Frank played guitar and another one of us played violin," he recalled with a smile. "So we started a regular band from then on."

In addition to France, Sam fought battles in the Ardennes Forest and Antwerp, Belgium. He later received a special certificate of gratitude from the city of Antwerp, beautifully engraved with images of the historic city.

Meeting Patton. Some weeks later, Sam's commanding officer ordered him to take two soldiers, along with tank retriever vehicles, to bring tanks forward into the Bulge battlefront. The trip took three days because the Germans had blown up one of the key bridges along the autobahn. "When we finally got to Patton, he walked up to me and said: 'What the hell took so long!'" Sam recalled. "He was a helluva soldier." The Battle of the Bulge marked the turning point of the war, leading to the eventual surrender of German forces on May 7.

Sam said he enjoyed a special Christmas dinner that year. Thanks to their years of brave service, his unit was sent home aboard a small Norwegian ship. Eventually, he made his way back to Michigan with help from the \$300 severance pay provided by the Army.

Electrician training. When he arrived in Grand Traverse County, he and two brothers were offered a job "wheeling cement" at the Cone Drive Building on 12th Street.

"I didn't like that too much, so one day I saw an ad in the *Record-Eagle* for an ICS correspondence course in electrician work," Sam said. "I studied hard and passed the state exam, one of the few who passed it the first time around."

"Back at the ranch (in South Dakota), we didn't even have electricity and I didn't know how to screw in a lightbulb," he added with a laugh. "When I became an electrician, there was usually some other guy around to help me learn how to do it."

With talent and drive, Sam's new career took off. He worked on many major projects over the years, from huge new salt plants and paperboard plants in Manistee to the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant in Charlevoix.

One day, Sam was approached by two union men from Detroit who encouraged him to help start a local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Soon after, in 1949, a group of 53 local electricians established Local 498, which now serves the trade in counties throughout northern Michigan.

In August 2024, the union celebrated its 75th anniversary and Sam was honored for his long service at a special event at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City.

"He's the last living member of our charter group and we all just treasure him," said Dave Fashbaugh, business manager for Local 498.

President Joe Biden sent a special hand-signed letter to him on the occasion of his 101st birthday, praising him for his sacrifices in World War II as part of the "Greatest Generation."

While at the White House earlier this year for a trade union gathering, Fashbaugh asked the staff for help clearing up a problem that was preventing Sam from getting his full VA benefits for his service in World War II. "They fixed the problem in short order and Sam got his overdue benefits," Fashbaugh said.

Asked about the value of unions, Sam didn't hesitate: "I'd definitely tell any young person who's interested in being an electrician, or working in any other skilled trade, to join a union. If you want good pay, benefits and a pension, you'll join the union for sure."

Of 16 million Americans who served in the military during World War II, he is among few D-Day veterans who remain to tell the story.

(From the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, Dec. 7, 2024, reprinted with permission).

State's plumbing industry bolstered by new 2-1 apprentice ratio

(Continued from Page 1) commonsense change that will safeguard our workers and job sites across Michigan."

The legislation was opposed by the Associated Builders and Contractors and other business groups, who have complained about the additional costs associated with the lower ratio. The state pipe trades unions saw it as a way to improve industry training standards in the Michigan.

The legislation was adopted along party lines, with Dems supporting it and Republicans opposed.

"The Michigan Pipe Trades Association extends our deepest appreciation to Gov. Whitmer for signing Senate Bill 740 into law," said Jeremy Garza, a Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 member and Michigan Pipe Trades state political lead. "This vital legislation establishes a balanced journeyman-to-apprentice ratio, ensuring apprentices receive the hands-on training necessary to uphold the highest standards of job site safety and quality. By prioritizing the health and safety of both our job sites and the communities we proudly serve, this law strengthens our workforce and reinforces the critical role skilled trades play in Michigan's future."

"Nothing is permanent in this wicked world - not even our troubles."

-Charlie Chaplin (1889 - 1977)

"Above all things, reverence yourself."

-Pythagoras (582 BC - 507 BC)



Elevator Constructors

Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT - ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **Jan. 27, 2025, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed some well-deserved time off.

You should have received the new 2025 wage rate and zone sheets in the mail, if not, you can stop in the hall or request them via email. Also, the IRS mileage rate increased to \$.70 per mile. If you have not received your pay raise as of Jan. 1, 2025 contact the hall.

I sent out an email about the Schindler Rise program concerning taxes on the points accumulated. Employees who receive RISE points will see a posting on the paycheck at the end of the year that reflects the total dollar amount associated with the points they received. The posting of these dollars is entered in the payroll system so that the taxes can be accounted for. These taxes are paid by Schindler. Any questions contact the hall.

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

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

If you haven't enrolled in the IUEC's new National Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, we've entered the fourth enrollment window for guaranteed approved disability and life insurance coverage. To learn more or enroll, go to <https://iuecvip.com> or call the IUEC Service Center at 224-487-5030. These tax-free benefits can help you continue to get paid when you're unable to work due to illness, injury, surgery, mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment, or

death. The benefits are paid in addition to other benefits you may receive, providing a financial safety net when you need it most. The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison has volunteered to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans.

You don't have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran's benefits has done for him and I'm a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one (1) week waiting period.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email. If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. **When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic's phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list. We extend our sincerest condolences to the Feighner family after the passing of Honorary Brother Charles Feighner. We also extend our sincerest condolences to the Scarnegie family after the passing of Honorary Brother Phillip Scarnegie, please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers. We would like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

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

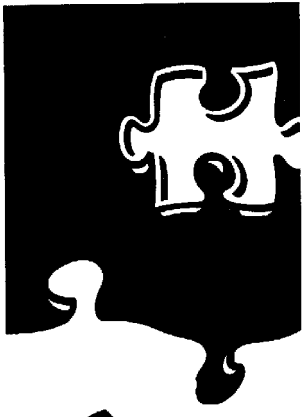
NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply**

with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.

Attention All Apprentices, NEIEP orientation will be the week of Jan. 13 and classes start the week of Jan. 20. Your instructor will be reaching out to you via email or text with more information. Contact the hall if you have any questions. If you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

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

Attend Your Union Meetings!

You Are the Missing Piece.  **Attend Your Union Meetings!**

Labor celebrates some legislative wins, but were kinda hoping for more

(Continued from Page 1)

wherein an injured worker who is physically unable to toil at her job could see her workers' comp benefits reduced by a "phantom wage" system. The rules say that if an injured workers' restrictions allow for employment in some sort of lower-paying job, then their benefit-wages can be reduced - even if there is no such job available. Dems and organized labor have long railed against that phantom wage system that have permanently lowered benefits for injured workers, but legislation to fix it died in the lame duck session late last year. It was one of numerous pieces of legislation that went unpassed due to the Dem disorder in the state House.

"The House absolutely collapsed and failed to get their job done," Tennis said. "We had a series of bills in place to fix workers' comp system. Not getting it addressed was one of the biggest failures of the House leadership, and to call it a massive disappointment for working people in the state is a massive understatement."

Other hoped-for legislative goals that were unmet was a 1-1 apprentice-journeyman ratio in the electrical industry - which would have helped to improve

the training environment in the state for apprentices.

Labor also failed to get satisfaction on bills that would have allowed Michigan's 1,800 local units of government to enact their own employment laws (like local prevailing wage, minimum wage and paid leave). Also un-done was implementing restrictions on worker non-compete agreements, setting penalties on employers for violations of wage and benefit rules and subjecting employers to wage transparency requirements.

The legislative years of 2023 and 2024 were the first in 40 years that Dems have controlled the House, Senate and governor's office. Tennis said his expectations that Dems would "reverse decades of the ratcheting down of issues important to working people" proved unrealistic with the razor-thin Dem majorities in the House (56-54) and Senate (20-18).

"To think that you could reverse all that has gone on over the past several decades in just two years was maybe naïve, it was nearly an impossible job to keep everybody together," Tennis said. "Still, there were some huge wins for working people. And we'll go back to work in 2025 trying to get more wins."



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators 47
LANSING - *The next Notified Meeting will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., and it will be held at the J.A.T.C. Training Center Located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices. The purpose of this meeting is for the Installation of New Officers.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications.

If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

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

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

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

Patrick Welch - Business Manager

Phillip Wilson, Gerald Weller, and MaryJo Hidalgo - Executive Board

Tyler Kohnke - JATC Trustee

MaryJo Hidalgo - Recording Secretary

Phillip Wilson - Union Trustee

Joshua Kroell - Pension/Welfare Trustee

Albert Hidalgo- Sergeant-At-Arms

Joshua Eagan - Market Recovery Committee

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671 Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275 Toll Free: (800) 323-8079 Telephone: (517) 321-7502 Fax: (517) 321-7508

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

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

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Ap- (Continued next column)



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25
SOUTHFIELD - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

ELECTIONS: Congratulations to the following recently elected members:

Business Manager- Bob Wright

Vice President- Marty Allen

Executive Board- Micah Vincent, Mike Lassen, Elo Rodriguez, Ed Howard

Pension Trustee- Micah Vincent

Welfare Trustee- Josh Smith, Mike Lassen

S.U.B. Fund Trustee- Micah Vincent

J.A.T.C. Trustee- Mike Lassen, Zach Hare

Union Fund Trustee- Gerald Strunk, Dan Stevens

Entertainment Committee- B.J. Claxton, Dan Stevens

Sgt.-at-Arms- Zach Hare

Recording Secretary- Micah Vincent

RETIREMENT: Local 25 would like to wish Curt McGlone a happy retirement after 35 years of dedicated service. As you step into this next chapter of your life, we wish you immense happiness, good health, and endless opportunities for relaxation. Best wishes for a fulfilling retirement.

SUBFUND BENEFIT: Per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 30 days will be denied per the Plan Document. As a reminder, documentation for SUB Fund benefits must be received by 2:00 p.m. Thursday to receive a benefit check on Friday. Any documentation submitted after the deadline will be issued the following Friday.

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

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: It is important to keep your M.U.S.T. Safety Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

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

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.

Local 47, con't

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: Please stay in good health

"Have more than thou showest; Speak less than thou knowest."

-William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616), King Lear



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT - The next membership meeting is canceled due to conferences.

The Patrick Finley Scholarship applications are now available.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

January 2025
Christopher Clutts-25
Years

Sherman Smith-25 Years
Thomas Wright-25Years
Thomas Lovejoy 55-year

member passed away on December 18, 2024 Please keep his family in your prayers.

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: abest@opcmiami.org Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Please refer to website for updated information.

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

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

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons: You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, www.Principal.com or 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 identify), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

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

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

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

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

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

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

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

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

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) (Continued next column)



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN - JANUARY 2025 CHAPTER MEETINGS METRO DETROIT

CHAPTER: Tuesday, January 07, 2025 at 5:30 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANNARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, January 07, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, January 08, 2025 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, January 09, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906



PAUL SAGINAW DUNFORD

CHAPTER: Tuesday,

January 28,

2025 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Thursday, January 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Road West, Traverse City, MI 49685

DEATHS REPORTED

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Peter Agar** (Bricklayer) who passed away on December 20, 2024. Brother Agar had been a member for 24 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother John Coates** (Bricklayer) who passed away on August 02, 2024. Brother Coates had been a member for 52 years.

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

TEXTING PROGRAM: Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI to 50607**

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

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

Local 514 cont'd

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.

"We only do well the things we like doing."
Colette (1873 - 1954)

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

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

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

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2024 online training classes.

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

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: The IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday - Friday 8 am - 7 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

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

International Pension/Annuity Fund - (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension - (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) - (800) 531-2244

Michigan BAC Vacation Fund - (248) 828-6000

"Whoever saw old age that did not applaud the past and condemn the present?"

-Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592)

"The difference between a violin and a viola is that a viola burns longer."

-Victor Borge (1909 - 2000)

"In Mexico we have a word for sushi: Bait."

-Jose Simon



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UA Local 85
SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Road at 7:00 PM.

The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**, at 7:00 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

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

Tim Danieliak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteeler@ualocal85.org

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rbjanderson@ualocal85.org

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

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

The new website is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

JATC News:
Congratulations to our newest Journeyman Dylan Berglanga!

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

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance.
(Continued next column)



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

PARTY INFORMATION: There will be a Holiday Party at the Hall on **Saturday, January 18th, 2025**. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:00. You **MUST RSVP** no later than **January 10th, 2025**, by calling or emailing Lori at (269) 679-3708 / lhatfield@ualocal357.com. You can also go online to Eventbrite.com and search for Local 357. Note: There is a limit on the number of attendees allowed so please RSVP early.

K-WINGS HOCKEY NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a "night out" K-Wings Hockey Game on **Saturday, February 8th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.** Tickets will be at the K-Wings WILL CALL window. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before **Monday – February 3rd**, 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 MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9:00 am at **The Crew** located at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

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

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

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of Kyle Goldberg on the recent passing of his mother.

Local 85, con't

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Ronald J. Steele who passed away on December 20, 2024.

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

"We learn something every day, and lots of times it's that what we learned the day before was wrong."

—Bill Vaughan
"Now, in reality, the world have paid too great a compliment to critics, and have imagined them to be men of much greater profundity than they really are."
—Henry Fielding (1707 - 1754)



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

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

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedas-associationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

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

Thank You: The Annual Local 671 Children's Christmas Party was another fun one. We would like to give a special thank you to Julie Jewell, Tawni Fenech, Ron and Jo Sweat, and everyone who helped make it a success!

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

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

Condolences: We are sorry to report that Retiree Chris Diullo passed away on December 29th. He was a past President of Local 671 and a 58-year life member. He will be missed dearly by family and friends.

We are also sorry to report that Retiree Rose Burgard passed away on January 2nd. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, Retiree Tom Peterson and the rest of her family.

Open Weld Shop Nights: The open weld shop nights are now **Thursday nights** from 6pm-10pm. A booth will need to be reserved by noon on the Friday prior to the practice night. If we have (3) or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

Michigan Plumbing Code Update Class: The Local 671 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code Update Class will be held on **February 1st, 2025 from 9am to 12pm** in the Union Hall. Please call Carly to register, and have your license number ready when you call, please. This will be the only session held at Local 671, and there is no cost for this training. **This update is required if you wish to renew your license in April of 2025.**

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

In Closing: Never be afraid to try something new. Life gets boring when you stay within the limits of what you already know. We need to strive toward getting outside our comfort zone and grow as individuals and as an organization. Let's have a great year and continue to challenge each other and our Union. God bless Local 671 and all its members.

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

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



UA Local 190
ANN ARBOR – A MONTHLY UNION MEETING will be held on Monday, Jan. 13and will start at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING & HELPER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 6 and run for 2 ½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.* Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

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

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

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

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

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 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 benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM BERNADETTE MAUS IS OUR FULL TIME BENEFITS MANAGER: Bernadette's office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked "Bernadette Maus - Benefits Manager"** Please use this entrance door for Bernadette. Bernadette will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1-4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

2021 State of Michigan Plumbing Code Update is scheduled for Jan. 27 at the UA 190 Union Hall, 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103. From 5pm to 8:30pm. Please show up at least a half hour early for check in. Late arrivals will not be registered and must be rescheduled. Participants must bring their State Photo ID, Union Card, and current Plumbing License to attend. Participants must also be a member in good standing with the UA to attend. Please call Kristyn at the training center to be scheduled. Class size is limited to 100 participants, this class is a State of Michigan requirement to renew your plumbing license. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL APRIL 2025, classes will fill up fast. New 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code books will be available for purchase for \$89.75

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 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

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

Available Journeyman classes:
Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 **Schedule - Mondays - Feb. 17, April 21, July 21, and Sept. 29.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 **Schedule - Mondays - Feb. 24, April 28, July 28, and Oct. 6.** Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

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

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

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this re-certification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **Feb 11**. The second course starts **May 6**. The third course starts **Oct 14**. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Brazier 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. **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **March 11**. The second course starts **Sept.** Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2025 Schedule:** First course starts **April 22**, Second course starts **Oct. 7**. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

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

EPRI Rigging and Signal 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 **Winter/ (Continued next column)**



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704
DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held **Wednesday, Feb. 19**, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

Results from the Local 704 Election on Dec. 11, 2024:

Business Manager: Greg Herman

Business Agent: Kevin Ryal

President: Glaine "Butch" Stewart Jr., Vice President: Jeff Gray

Executive Board: Tanner Tringovski, Eric Reid, Adam Novac, Al McCreadie

Recording Secretary: David Ryal

Sergeant at Arms: Chris Styla

Joint Apprenticeship Committee: Francisco Rodrigues, Dave Ryal

Examining Board: Jeff Gray, Joe Troutt, Curtis Folts

Finance Committee: Eric Reid, Al McCreadie, Jason Watterworth

SUB Fund Trustee: Kevin Ryal, Jason Watterworth

DC Pension Trustee: Kevin Ryal, Glaine "Butch" Stewart Jr. Michigan State Pipe Trades Delegate: Jeff Gray, Kevin Ryal, Scott Ryal, Tim Bieber, Jason Watterworth

Michigan Building Trades Delegate: Dave Ryal, Kevin Ryal, Joe Troutt, Jason Watterworth, Tim Bieber.

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

Condolences go out to the family and Friends of Brother Andrew Boggs. Brother Boggs passed away on Dec. 26. Brother Boggs was a 10 year member of the UA and Sprinkler Fitters Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

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

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

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

Local 190, con't

Spring 2025. 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 are scheduled for the following dates: **course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the following members on their retirement.

Tony Ratcliffe, initiation date, July 14, 2010; retired Dec. 1.

Richard Leck, initiation date, May 28, 1976, retired Dec. 1st

Jack Kanitz II, initiation date, Oct. 8, 2002; retired Jan. 1.

Wishing all of you the very best for a relaxing, happy and healthy retirement.

CONDOLENCES: Our member Fred Charles passed away on Dec. 23. Fred initiated Sept. 29, 1978, and retired Dec. 1, 1991. To all family members and friends, we send our expressions of sympathy to comfort all of you.

RETIREE MEETINGS - PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service
Local 111

UA Local 111
UPPER PENINSULA – ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.
The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on Jan. 30, 2025, at 7:30 PM. This will be a special called meeting to review the Local’s Financial Report. **Please make plans to attend.**
We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of life member Anthony Ozzello, who passed away on Nov. 22, 2024.

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

Call Escanaba or Marquette and try out 111’s new Lay Off Line; Extension #7 and Job Line; Extension #8.

MRA FUND - *IMPOR-TANT* This is a reminder that you are required by the IRS to provide proper substantiation for your MRA debit card usage. Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 111 Benefit Fund office, Zenith American Solutions. **As per IRS regulations,** the use of the MRA card must be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. **These IRS requirements are mandatory, and the Fund cannot make exceptions.**

It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that all requested documentation is submitted to the Fund office in a timely manner. To check whether receipts are required for any transactions, please log in to the Zenith American Solutions Portal website or app.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1 or the Union Hall. **Thank you for your attention to this matter.**
New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site lu111.com and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

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



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters
Local 333

UA Local 333
LANSING – January’s union meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at 6:30pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Lansing, MI, 48911.

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

Rigging Re-Certification classes will be at the Lansing Training Center from 5:00-8:00. Bub will be the instructor.

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

Winter Weld Classes: Lansing: Starting Jan. 6, 2025

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

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

Jackson: Starting Jan. 13, 2025

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

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

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

Battle Creek:

Jan. 13, 2025 Monday’s & Thursday’s 4:30 – 8:30 pm (10 weeks)

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

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

CSD-1, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, and Feb. 1, 2025. Class will be from 8am to 4pm. Anyone enrolled should plan to attend both days. George Nevejans will teach the class; he will review the CF tables and cover what should be inspected per boiler rating. Please call Diana at the Training Center to register. (517) 323-0333 ext.1

Lansing Orbital Welding: 40 hours. You must have your UA21 and UA41 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up.
PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone’s continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member’s responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

Medical Gas Certification will begin Jan. 13, 2025 5-8 pm
Backflow Recertification will begin Feb. 24, 2025 5- 8pm
Medical Gas Recertification will begin Feb. 26, 2025 5-8 pm

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

Please sign up on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.
Battle Creek Retiree’s Breakfasts are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

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

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

Sincere condolences to Daniel Delaney and his family for the loss of his father Thomas Delaney who passed away Dec. 21, 2024. Services will be held Jan. 17, 2025, at St. Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow Hwy. Lansing, MI. 48917. Visitation starts at 9:30am and a service to follow at 10:30am. We are very sorry for your loss.

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

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ualocal370.org

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



Local 370
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at 7pm.

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

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

CSD-1 Jan. 7, 8 & 9, 5-8 pm

2021 Michigan Plumbing Code Update Class Wednesday, Jan. 15 4:30 – 7:30. Call the Training Center with your plumbing license number to sign up.

Night Welding January 6th thru the 30th. Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30 – 7:30

Feb. 3 thru the 27th Mondays and Thursdays 4:30 – 7:30

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

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

Backflow Mar. 3 thru Apr. 2 – Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30- 7:30. Testing will be on April 7 and 9.

First Aid & CPR March 19 and Sept. 17.

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

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

2025 Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6 pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UA Local 636
DETROIT – Our next regular Union meeting is Jan. 21, 2025 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.
For any member that couldn’t make the Annual Awards & Christmas Banquet, the Years of Service Awards and pins are available to pick up at the Union Hall until March 1, 2025. The remaining will then be mailed.

Results of the Dec. 3 Special Meeting for the Election of Officers for Detroit Pipefitters Local 636 are as follows in order as they appeared on the ballot:

Business Manager: (1) Larry D. Krisniski – 346 votes Elected

Financial Secretary Treasurer: (1) Jake Regits – 346 votes Elected

Business Agent: (1) Rick Fast – 91 votes Elected (2) Bill Holsomback – 330 votes Elected

(3) Jeff Lewis – 308 votes Elected

(4) Tony Sievert – 327 votes Elected

(5) Dan Gurley – 338 votes Elected

(6) Brandon Spaulding – 309 votes Elected

President:

Bill Helwig – 179 votes Elected

Jeff Selph – 118 votes Elected

Peter Dunn – 89 votes Elected

Vice President:

David Fox – 326 votes Elected

Recording Secretary:

Tess Schmidt – 307 votes Elected

Assistant Recording Secretary: Lou Hadley – 303 votes Elected

Executive Board:

Michael N. Sylvester – 103 votes Elected

Mike Pierce – 280 votes Elected

Malcolm Harris – 178 votes Elected

Jeff Rimer – 196 votes Elected

Val Pod – 260 votes Elected

Melissa Leonard – 158 votes Elected

Bill Fast – 140 votes Elected

Examining Board:

Jason Blouin – 255 votes Elected

Doug Bardy – 278 votes Elected

Mike Wall – 279 votes Elected

Financial Trustee:

Kim Pigeon – 193 votes Elected

John Verran – 218 votes Elected

Ed Hyvonen – 207 votes Elected

Mike Ferrante II – 197 votes Elected

Inside Sentry:

Derek Sheldon – 277 votes Elected

Michigan Pipe Trades Delegates:

Larry D. Krisniski – 318 votes Elected

Bill Helwig – 222 votes Elected

Val Pod – 265 votes Elected

Jake Regits – 323 votes Elected

Dave Fox – 268 votes Elected

Tess Schmidt – 161 votes Elected

Rick Fast – 96 votes Elected

Lou Hadley – 135 votes Elected

Melissa Leonard – 171 votes Elected

Mike Wall – 222 votes Elected

Jeff Rimer – 196 votes Elected

Jeff Lewis – 275 votes Elected

Bill Holsomback – 280 votes Elected

Dan Gurley – 305 votes Elected

Kim Pigeon – 156 votes Elected

Mike Pierce – 246 votes Elected

Brandon Spaulding – 271 votes Elected

Derek Sheldon – 138 votes Elected

Local 370, con’t
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.

Michael N. Sylvester – 126 votes Elected
Peter Dunn – 194 votes Elected
Bill Fast – 155 votes Elected
Jeff Selph – 235 votes Elected
Ed Hyvonen – 155 votes Elected
Malcolm Harris – 173 Elected
Mike Wright – 206 Elected
Doug Bardy – 194 votes Elected
Frank Grammatico – 152 votes Elected
Mike Ferrante II – 150 votes Elected
John Verran – 149 votes Elected
Tony Sievert – 301 votes Elected

Special Announcement as of 1/1/2025 all active, retired, and opt-out members are being enrolled in vision coverage through Delta/VSP Vision. For details look for information in your Open Enrollment packet that should arrive in the mail in the next couple of weeks. Or contact BeneSys at 888-646-8920.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held January 16, 2025.

The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

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

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

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Peter Nowakowski Dec. 30, 2024 father of member David Nowakowski; Lifetime Member Billy J. Towle Dec. 24, 2024 Father of member John Towle; 28-year member Steven Usher Dec. 4, 2024; 28-year member William Bricks Dec. 3, 2024.

Our deepest condolences to member Frank Tilton on the passing of his wife April Dec. 24, 2024; to Kim Bolling on the passing of her mother Diane McDonald Dec. 8, 2024. Condolences to Bill Towle on the passing of his wife Altha Dec. 7, 2024. Our condolences to the family of David Tracy, service applicant, who passed away Dec. 6, 2024.

Get Well Wishes to: Bill Kurtzhals, Terry Gilligan, Tom Tabin, Larry Krisniski Sr., Chris Fye, Paul Franjesh, Andre Cadaret, David Hochstein, Daniel Creps, James Jacobone, and Thomas L. Williams Jr, Timothy

R. Marciniak, Brandon Kandler, Denver Malenfant, Jason McNamara, Ryan Seitz, Justin Morgan, Ron Sarata, Jason Howe, Buddy Woods and Matthew T. Miller.

DUES – 4th quarter dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an **auto-pay system** for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

S.U.B. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday. After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions. Please call #888-646-8920.

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

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4-8 pm Starting Jan 13th:

Mitsubishi Certified installers class: Monday and Thursday nights from 5-8 with Jason for 5 weeks

Hydronic pipe sizing and design class with Kevin: Mon. and Thur. nights from 4-8 for 5 weeks.

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

Hydronic low mass boilers with Todd starting Wed. from 5-8 Cert. Rigging and Signalperson class with Doug: Mon. and Thus. nights from 5-8 begins

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

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

Certified Fusion class Sat. Jan. 11th from 7-3.

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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process has closed.



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



Plumbers Local 98



UA Local 98

DETROIT – Membership of Local 98: The officers and staff at Local 98 wish you and your family a happy New Year! Congratulations to our NFC North Champions, Go Lions!

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our website. Go to UALOCAL98tc.org

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

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

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

Fall Food Drive: Special thanks to our membership for all your donations. We collected 1,374 lbs. of food which FST Dan Nixon delivered to Forgotten Harvest for distribution to those in need.

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

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

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

Expelled Members: No expelled members this month.

SUB Apps/Out of Work List. SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

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

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

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

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have passed or lost a loved one. Our deepest condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of

deceased Brother Robert Murley, initiated on 02/09/1961, he was a 63-year member; Brother Preston Brooks, initiated on 08/22/1968, 56-year member; Brother Kevin Scully, initiated on 09-12-1968, he was a 56-year member; Brother Randall Bryan, initiated on 04/08/1971, he was a 53-year member.

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

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

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

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

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

Jeff Kavalar, Business Agent (313) 938-1554 jkavalar@ualocal98.org

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

In solidarity, Gary Glaser, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98! Protecting the health of our great nation since 1893.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435

Check out The Training Center website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, January 24th, 2025. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division has instituted the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. Books are available for order through the ICC. The Training Center has a limited number of 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code books available for sale.

PLUMBING CODE UPDATE (required to renew the State of Michigan Journey or Master License) Classes are available at the Training Center. Call the Training Center to get signed up for the next available class. These classes are being held in January and February.

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

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

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for February 6th, 2025, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Wednesday, Jan. 29. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call

to get a booth.

****2024 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be February 1st, 2025. ****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.** Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

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

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

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

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

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

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

Fall: Sept. 8 – November 17 Deadline is August 22 - \$200

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

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

Fall: September 10 - October 15, Deadline is August 22 - \$100

BIM I - 40 hour class

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

Fall: September 10 – November 17 Deadline to register August 22 - \$100

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

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

Fall: Week of September 8 to week of November 17. Deadline to register August 22

Day of week to be determined

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

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

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

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

MUST CONTACT the Training Center for the next available class.

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

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

Fall: Week of September 8 to week of November 17. Deadline to register August 22

Day of week to be determined

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

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

Fall: Week of September 8 to week of November 17. Deadline to register August 22

Day of week to be determined

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

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

GRINDING A 12-INCH CARBON spool pipe at the Firekeepers Hotel refresh project in Battle Creek is Dave Barnes of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 174. He's employed by Andy J. Egan.



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall, 1008 O'Malley Dr. Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

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

Elected Officials: Congratulations to the 2025-2027 elected officials.

President: Micah Perkins

Vice President: Frankie Pagan

Recording Secretary: Nicole Hines

Inside Guard: Stanley Ireland

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Trustee: Ryan Bennett

Executive Board: Scot Baird, Clinton Fowler, Christopher Pelton, Jeremy Raap

Finance Committee: Edmond Bouchard III, Micah Golba, Jason Whitman

Examining Board: Alex Keeney, Curtis Maat, Jason Volink

Pension/401K/ Health & Benefit Trustee: Jason Finch, Mark Mangione, Jeffrey Rumsey

Aetna/Trinity settle contract: On behalf of the Local #174 Board of Trustees we are happy to report that the contract between Aetna and Trinity has been settled. Trinity will remain an "in-network" provider for Aetna and Local 174 participants.

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

Organizing Update: We are looking for licensed plumbers! With the Journeyman to apprentice ratio passing, there will need to be one journeyman to 2 apprentices on the job sites. Some of you may have come from a non-union company where they have plumbers still working there, reach out to them better wages, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension. The message is clear, they deserve better wages, benefits, and representation which is why they deserve a UNION! **Work safe, Johnny Ortiz (616) 307-8551.**

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (855) 878-4101

EAP: (888) 238-6232

Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree, \$1,110.33

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree, \$791.10

Medicare Single, \$123.63

Medicare Couple, \$247.26

Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse, \$497.13

Medicare Surviving Spouse, \$126.67

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

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

as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training News:
Plumbing Code: 2021 Code update class will be offered on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025 @ 8 am.

Michigan adopted the 2021 code this past March. Plumbers will need to take an update class before their 2025 license renewal. There are 2021 code books available to purchase through the training center. Call to be placed on the list for the class

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

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday February 11th, 8th and the test to follow Thursday, February 13th at 5pm

OPEN WELD: Wednesdays of every week watch Facebook for any updates

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

Revit One: We will be holding a Revit One course in February. The Revit One course introduces students to Autodesk Revit, a leading Building Information Modeling (BIM) software. The course focuses on developing foundational skills for using Revit to design, document, and manage construction projects. Students will explore how to create architectural elements, annotate drawings, and generate 3D models. If interested please call to sign up.

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



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **January 10, 2025.** This meeting will be at Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI. 48101

In an effort to assist our Brotherhood, the Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has voted to waive the increase in monthly dues for the second year in a row. Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 and will remain \$55.85 for the 2025 calendar year in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

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

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

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

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

Retirees: Retiree luncheons on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar, at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next luncheon will be January 15 at 11AM at the Green Spot Grill, 808 N. Mission Street, Mount Pleasant, MI. 48858. Everyone from all areas are welcome.

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.

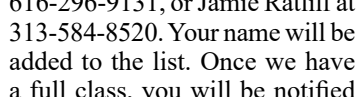
Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.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 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.

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON

Real Estate Training Inc.
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Troy, MI 48098
www.middletontraining.com
248-885-8311





Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. **There will be a Fund Trustee Election at this meeting.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2025 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.



TIM MULLIGAN

TRUSTEE ELECTION OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the general membership meeting on January 28, 2025, you will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2025 through January 2028. Your dues must be current to vote.

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

READY TO WORK STIPEND: Ready to Work stipend payments for Bldg. Trades, Resid., Service Class A and Nat'l Bldg. Enclosure JOURNEYPERSONS are scheduled to be distributed

November, December 2024 & January 2025 to Local 80 members who have completed all requirements. Stipend check payment is determined by eight (8) hours June 1, 2024 base JOURNEYPERSON wage. **DEADLINE FOR 2024 STIPEND REQUIREMENTS IS JAN. 31, 2025.** If you qualify for this stipend, please be on the lookout for an email explaining full requirements. If you need assistance with your log in credentials please reach out to: readytowork@smacnad.org

2024 Ready to Work stipend requirements:

- Current MUST Drug Test – no lapse
- Current MUST 18 Safety Modules – no lapse
- First Aid certification – classroom training
- OSHA 30 – official certification required
- DOL Office of Apprenticeship Anti-Harassment Training Quiz – required for 2024

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2025 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: Feb. 17, April 21, June 16, Aug. 18, Oct. 20 (Holiday Party) and Dec. 15. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

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

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: There will now be a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available all-day Monday – Thursday from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

DUES PAYMENTS: YOUR DUES PAYMENTS ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. The books will close at the end of the business day on the last day of the month. **Payments made on the 1st of the month are considered late for that month.** There will be no exception; once the books are closed, it cannot be undone. Members will receive a text message dues reminder prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving our text messaging, please call the hall. **REMINDER:** We ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and do not accept American Express.

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

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

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

LAY-OFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list 14 days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay-off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay. Without lay-off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted without one. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven days after your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Send your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax to 248-557-0297. Proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid that Friday. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

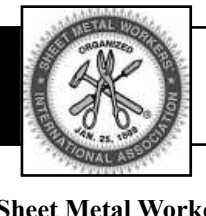
SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather, you may collect sub for that week but only if it is at the beginning or the end of a layoff. You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete the SUB application at the hall. Provide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

**SAVE THE DATES:
Golf Outing – July 12 * Picnic- August 9
Training Center News.**

Entrance Exam Information. The Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Apprenticeship Entrance Exam is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025. The deadline to apply is Monday, January 17. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by April 1, 2025. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center at (586) 979-5190.

Upgrading Classes. Upgrading Classes for the Winter 2025 term begin the week of January 20 and enrollment starts Monday, December 2. To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule. To enroll in a class, call the training center starting at 7:30am on Monday, December 2 - 586-979-5190.

First Aid Classes. If you need a First Aid class to fulfill your requirements for the Ready To Work stipend check, call the Training Center to check on the schedule of Saturday First Aid classes.



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: **NEW LOCATION:** Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance. The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Jan. 8, 2025, at 6 pm.** Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The February meeting will be moved to 2/5/24. Tim Brice will attend to discuss and answer any questions regarding your Annuity contribution. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.



PAUL GUALDONI

The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on **Jan. 28, 2025**, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic, or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at **1-800-448-8326** or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is **available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.** Services are of no cost to members and their dependents.

REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS WE LOST IN 2024:
Cyril Peryn 1/25/24; Roger Godreau 1/29/24; Ralph Yakey 1/31/24; John Shoemaker 3/30/24; Richard Sarrach 5/21/24; Jake Gordon 6/14/24; Eugene Wilcox 7/10/24; Charles Augustine 7/30/24; Samuel Arreola 8/27/24; Fred Hartman 10/13/24; Michael Stefanski 10/22/24; Norman Lemay 11/5/24; Jeff Demascio 11/6/24; Bryon Belcher 11/18/24; Leslie Benson 11/18/24; Richard Winkler 11/21/24. Please keep their family and friends in your prayers during the grieving and healing process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you must complete an Out of Work List Registration/SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and also through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

TRUHEARING: This benefit of premium hearing aids is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. Contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

RETIRES NOTICE: Thanks to all the retirees who came out to the meetings in 2024. It's always nice getting together and staying connected. The 1st meeting for 2025 will be held on 4/3/25. Stay safe and be well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. The IRS requires this validation, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the members' responsibility to ensure all requested documentation is returned to the Fund office promptly. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

UNION HALL HOURS: Hall office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on, January 4th, January 11 & January 25. February 1st, February 15th, & February 22nd. These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone who signs up for a class, must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled in the class.



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

LANSING – NOTICE. This Newspaper Article shall serve as Official Notice of ALL meetings for Local 7!

The next Statewide Meeting will be Feb. 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

*Zone 3 March 20th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

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

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

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelscantireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area continues to be busy and will remain this way through the end of the year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson

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

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, (Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like) - **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same, if your employment status changes please let me know. Always keep in mind that dues are always due prior to the first of the month. The next Zone 2 scheduled meeting is January 21st at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores, MI at 6:00pm. Keep me informed of any phone number or address changes. **As always, work safe and thank you, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area is good with everybody working now that the Phoenix project is getting started. Please make sure to check your dues receipt to make sure your current on dues, also if you have changed your address or phone number please contact me or the Lansing office to update your contact information. Don't forget to schedule your physicals for the year.

Next Retiree meeting is March 25th 2025 at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd

In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work is slowing down in our area. If anyone has traveled out of our zone for work in the past ten years, please contact me. Please call your government reps in Lansing to support the increase in unemployment benefits, we all know the current weekly benefit is long overdue to be increased. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Local 7 Zone 4, the work continues to look strong through the fall and winter. If anyone is looking for upgrade classes for the winter get ahold of Kurt S at the Flint training center. **Thank you, your brother Scott Brotherton,**

ZONE 5 Info Work in the U.P. is busy and should stay that way going through winter. There is a lot of mine work coming up in the next several years so if you don't have your mine safety training make sure you get signed up for that at upconstruction.org. I also want to send out my deepest condolences to the Pelkola Family with the passing of David. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfild**

Dues Department: *Online dues payment is now available* Dues of all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership, we accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you would like to take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied – Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours at 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

Address/Telephone Changes: Article 8, Section 1 of Local 7 Work Rules: Address Changes: All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed of their correct address. A notice mailed to the last address shall be sufficient and legal. If you have moved or changed your telephone number, please contact the union hall to update your records.

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200

Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752

Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) 989-225-0095

John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) 231-590-1112

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552

Brandon Langenfild (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

"I think the first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches nearest to gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right." –Cato the Elder (234 BC - 149 BC)

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IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. The next **Renew meeting** will be held on Jan. 20, at 5 p.m. **The Executive Board meeting** will be held on Jan. 20, at 5 p.m. **Woman in the Trades Meeting** will be held on Jan. 21, at 6 p.m. **The EWMC meeting** will be held on Jan. 28, at Union Hall, at 5 p.m. **Retirees' Group meeting** will be held on Jan. 15, at Union Hall, at **2:30 p.m.** **Brotherhood Night** is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's, 3:30 to 5:30p.m. The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady. Today we continue to have open calls for Hi-Tech and Champion Services. We have crews working on the Pfizer, Zoetis, Gun Lake Casino, and Palisades. Lots of 40-hour calls. Give me a call if you want to go to work. Monthly dues will be increasing by \$2.00 in January 2025. Monthly dues will be \$47.00 per month. If you know of any electricians interested in joining the IBEW please contact Ryan at (269) 366-0322 or rlewis@ibew131.com. **Retiree:** A new group is forming the "IBEW 131 Retirees Group." We plan to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The first meeting will be on Jan. 15. I changed the time to start it is now meeting at **2:30PM.** Lunches at the following locations: Jan. 15, Olive Garden, 6700 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage 49002 @11. Feb. 19, Red Lobster, 6535 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, 49002 @11. March 19, Julianna's, 2105 Lake St., Kalamazoo, 49001 @11. Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage 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 and IBEW PBF applications take at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your Social Security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down: NEBF 301-556-4300 IO Pension 202-833-7000 **Life Events:** Marriage, Divorce, Birth of children, Adoption and Deaths all require documentation to be submitted to our benefits office. If you need help call the hall for guidance. Wilson-McShane, our new benefits administrator, has the website: michiganelectrical.org, up and running. Please log in and click on the "Member Portal" (on the left side of the screen) to begin the steps to register your account. If you would like to call their phone no., it's **855-633-4584.** Check out the Local 131 website. There is a new tab called "Retirees. You can find the Retirees calendar of Events. There is a list of those who have retired. If you think of something you believe we should post, please let me know. All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the "Memorials" Tab. If you hear of anyone's passing, please notify the Hall. Job listings can be tracked. A recorded message of calls for employment will be available after 5 PM by calling (269) 382-1762 and posted on the website under "Job Listings". The job call will list the name of the employer and the number of employees needed. The Union business office will offer all the work calls available at the time of the job offer. Any registrants that are interested in a call may either apply in person at the union business office between 8:00AM and 8:30AM OR leave a **(Continued next column)**



IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – 2025 dues structure The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. Accordingly, effective Jan. 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only, and \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. Effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. **As of Jan. 1, 2025, thru June 30, 2025,** the following due's structure: **JiWs:** Monthly \$60.00 Quarterly \$180.00 **Apprentices:** Monthly \$49.00 Quarterly \$147.00 **As of July 1, 2025,** the following due's structure: **JiWs:** Monthly \$61.00 Quarterly \$183.00 **Apprentices:** Monthly \$50.00 Quarterly \$150.00 **Death Benefit Assessments.** Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due's payment **Code Update Classes,** Online Courses are also available. Please contact BCEJATC at (269) 300-8002 to get signed up for the online course. **IBEW Local 445 App/Website** The new app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website. **Organizing.** If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states "The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry." **Retiree Breakfast:** The Retiree monthly breakfast at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend. **The General Membership Meeting** is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall. **Local Website -** Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is **IBEW445.com.** Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites. **2025 Personal information** Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them. **Executive Board E-Board** meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. **Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary**



IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The February monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 3rd, 2025.** **Executive Board Meeting.** The January Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, January 20th, 2025.** **Message from the Business Manager.** You have my sincere wishes Brothers and Sisters for a very Happy New Year from my family to yours! It is my hope the New Year brings you and your family all unbound prosperity. **Work Report.** Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction continues to be very, very strong. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include: **J. Ranck Electric** is continuing the third phase of work at SK Siltcon semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility, thanks in part to \$560M which was allocated by the Biden administration as part of the Chips & Science Act. J. Ranck has also secured both phases 4 and 5 on this project and calls are coming in. Ranck is continuing work on their Mission St. Solar project through the winter. This is a 250-mw site which will require a substantial number of JiWs from our hall to complete. Calls have already begun for this project and more are expected shortly. **Master Electric** is wrapping up work on the new Isabella Co. Jail. Master is also completing projects at the Midland Armory and Midland ESA. Master has recently secured Phase 2 and began work at Bangor Schools. **Countyline Power** has ongoing work at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility and Harrisville Pumpstations. **Clements Electric's** work on Independence Bridge is wrapping up in Bay City. Clements Electric has also secured the next phase of work out to Mersen USA. Work on the Midland Center for the arts, Delta College Chillers, Bay City lift stations and HL Mechatronics in Midland continues. **Conti Electric** has projects inside the I-Park (Dow) and Karn Generation Facility. **Escon** continues work on a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end and multiple projects within the I-Park. **Superior Electric** has a new line out to Bay City Powertrain along with a cooling tower project. Additional job calls are expected this month. **Zone 2 contractors** have been bidding and securing a fair amount of work, doing a great job of keeping their crews busy. **John's Electric** has secured nice projects in Luzerne, Rogers, Atlanta, and a considerable amount of work in Alpena schools. **Hardie's Electric** has ongoing work in Cheboygan and Towers. **Northern Valley** has completed construction of their new shop near the cement plant. **Pierce Powerline** has secured work at Oscoda schools. Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. All locals in the State of Michigan are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Saginaw has kicked off work at Project Phoenix in Hemlock. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books. Please remember when calling the job line to use extension #1 as our menu options have recently changed. **In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Bus. Manager / Financial Secretary Organizers Report.** Organizers continue to visit non-union job sites to speak with unrepresented electricians. If any current members know non-union electricians who may be interested in joining our Local, please do not hesitate to reach out. Immediate onboarding opportunities are currently available around the state, in addition to expected open calls in 692 and nearby 557 in early 2025. The organizers' involvement in school presentations and apprenticeship recruitment events has ramped up considerably over the past two months. JATC personnel are also helping with this effort. Apprenticeship classes have grown nearly 300% over the past few years to keep up with demands from local contractors. JATC has also indentured at record levels to combat attrition due to so many of our existing JiWs reaching retirement age. Apprenticeship application information is available by calling or emailing either organizers or the Bay City Electrical JATC. Brian Klele bklele@ibew692.org 989.252.9225 Brendon Baranek bbaranek@ibew692.org 989.327.4131 **New Member Orientation Class (rescheduled).** Organizers are hosting a New Member Orientation Class on **Wednesday, Jan. 22** at 5 PM at the Union Hall. All members are welcome, with those organized or indentured within the past two years are expected to attend. Dinner will be provided. Topics covered will include wage and benefit descriptions, understanding the Inside Wireman and Sound & Communications agreements, organizational structure and history, navigating referral procedures in 692 and other locals, negotiations and allocation, and addressing other FAQs. **Ice Fishing Tournament.** 692 Renew Committee is hosting their fourth annual Battle on the Bay ice fishing tournament on Saturday, Feb. 22. All IBEW members are welcome to participate. A trophy will be awarded to the Local Union whose anglers catch the heaviest three fish. Individual prizes awarded for heaviest perch and walleye. The fishing must take place anywhere on the Saginaw Bay watershed. Cost is \$15 to preregister, \$20 day of tournament, fee includes a walleye dinner to follow tournament at the Union Hall. Walleye dinner is also available to non-fishing members for \$10. For more information or the preregister, contact Garrett at 989.600.5555. **Union Dues. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, dues will increase to \$48.20 per month.** This \$2 Pension Fund increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022. **Additionally, effective July 1, 2025, dues will increase to \$49.20 per month.** **If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.** Dues can be paid via phone, 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.* **To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.** **Death Benefits.** We regret to inform you of the death of recently retired Brother Ronald Oswald Jr., Card No. D960424, who passed away on Dec. 20, 2024. Brother Oswald was born on Dec. 22, 1962 (61 years old). He was initiated on Oct. 4, 1999. Ron resided in Midland. #349 - Local death fund assessment **\$10.00 each** (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 692, 1300 W. Thomas, Bay City, MI 48706 **Retirees Lunch.** The January retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, Jan. 16 at The Boulevard Lounge, 316 S. Saginaw Road in Midland. **Fringe Benefits. REMINDER:** if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall. **REMINDER:** If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list. **Important links & numbers Health Plan & Pension Fund.** 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE www.michiganelectrical.org NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300 IO Pension: 202.833.7000



IBEW Local 275
COOPERSVILLE – Work in the jurisdiction remains steady with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call in if you are seeking work in Local 275. Code update will continue to be available, so keep an eye out for future classes and go to the JATC website at www.wmejatc.org and click the Code Update Course link. The cost for mem-



IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Jan 13, 2025, @ 5:30pm. **Regular Meeting –** The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, Jan 13, 2025. **Resale Items –** The new order of Tee shirts is in, as well as Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing. **Retiree breakfast-** Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am. So, if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives' tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's. **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/. 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! **Email Addresses -** Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you! **Important numbers for you to write in your address book:** **MEEHP (Health)** 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org **MEEPP (MI Pension)** 1-855-633-4584 **(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan), 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425** NEBF 1-301-556-4300 NEAP 1-301-556-4300 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000 **DUES RATES** July 1, 2024 – Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter. Jan 1, 2025 – Dues increase to \$161.10/Quarter. July 1, 2025 – Dues increase to \$164.10/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# **"Ask yourself: Have you been kind today? Make kindness your daily modus operandi and change your world."** –Annie Lennox (1954-)

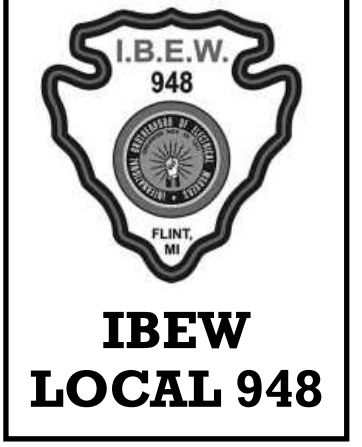
bers is \$20. There is an online version available for \$40.

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

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

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

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



IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meetings **Membership Meeting -** Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be January 13th, 2025 at 6:00 PM. **Retiree Meetings -** Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00am. **Book Signing -** For any members looking to sign our books, please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall. **Work Outlook -** Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs. **Dues Reminder -** Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308. **Seeking New Membership -** As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski. **New Store Stock -** To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace. **New Membership -** Welcome to our latest member, Timothy Lawson. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field. **Retirees -** Congratulations to Rodger Pfeiffer on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement. **Draping of the Charter -** Our condolences to the family of John Zwerican. We are tremendously sorry for your loss and we will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from."
 –Andrew S. Tanenbaum

"Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense."
 –Gertrude Stein (1874 - 1946)

"There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge."
 – Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

"Dwelling on the negative simply contributes to its power."
 – Shirley MacLaine (1934 -)

"If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed and color, we would find some other cause for prejudice by noon."
 –George Aiken (1892-1984)

"There are only two ways of telling the complete truth-anonymously and posthumously."
 –Thomas Sowell (1930 -)

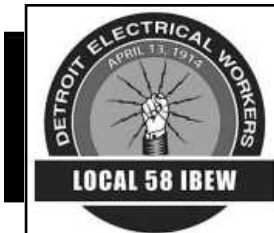
"What we call 'Progress' is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance."
 –Havelock Ellis (1859 - 1939)

"How little a thing can make us happy when we feel that we have earned it."
 – Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

IBEW 131, con't

message on the recorder, stating they wish to apply for a job call. **Three Months** or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Joshua Cook, Trevor Doney, Jonathan Frakes and Joseph Zirkelbach. *Morris Applebey Business Manager* **"Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike."** – J. K. Rowling **"It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place."** –H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956) **"Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticized anyway. You'll be damned if you do, and damned if you don't."** –Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

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IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

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

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100.00 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – January 2025

I would like to thank all the members, for the last 12 years for allowing me to work in your Dues Department. I am retiring 2-1-2025. It has been an honor to help and serve the membership of IBEW Local 58. Thank you, Marsha.

Look at your Dues Receipt – if you are paid through date shows 6-30-2024 you have lapsed and will need to make an Executive Board appointment to be reinstated. If your paid date shows 9-30-2024 you will have the \$30.00 reinstatement fee. It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement and death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. *Stay Safe!*

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next Benevolent Fund meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The 22nd Ken Fitzhenry Party on Super Bowl Sunday will be Sunday, February 9, 2025. Raffle tickets are \$20 and available at the hall or you can Contact Michael Bellhorn 586-612-5964 for electronic payment options. The party will start at 4pm and there will be a \$10 fee for food and drink. Grand prize is a 75 inch TV with Home Theater Recliner as well as over 15 other prizes.

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

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8:00a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Enter-

tainment Committee: The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2025 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

2024 was an AWESOME year for our EWMC chapter and we are looking forward to a bigger, better and more impactful outreach for 2025. The delegates for the 2025 EWMC Leadership Conference are ready to head for St. Louis. Thank you to all who participated in the fundraising efforts for the conference. The Raffle winners were pulled at the December Membership meeting. Congratulations to Conrad Holland (LU 692), Dylan Stack (LU 267), and Pat Duenas (LU 188). Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

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

Local 58's Women's Committee - : The next committee meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 23 at 5:30p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The Political Action Committee: If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org. Political Action Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the main conference room at the local union hall. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at Cori's Banquet Center 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30 pm. Lunch is \$25 per person, send your reservations and checks (payable to the Retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees, P.O.Box 32756, Detroit 48232-0756. Questions and/or reservations call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

The 2025 Annual Florida Luncheon is happening on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at noon at Applebee's Grill and Bar in Venice, FL. Contact Syl Ludwic 352-250-1178 to make a reservation or for questions. The September Bus Trip is heading to Washington DC this fall. The trip takes place Friday, September 12 through Tuesday Sept. 16, 2025. Total cost for the trip per person, \$710, based on double occupancy. Call Dave Riley with questions, 586 206-8075.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

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

(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

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

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

Journeyman Prep- (Monday's) January 13, 20, 27 February 2 & 10

Masters Prep- (Monday's) March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7 Conduit Bending- (Wednesday's) January 15, 22, 29 February 5, 19 & 26

EPRI Part B- (Tuesday's) January 21, 28 February 4, 11, 18, 25 March 4, 11, 18 & 25

OHSa 30- (Tuesday and Thursday's) May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29

CPR- (Tuesday's) March 4 & 11, June 3 & 10, September 2 & 9, December 2 & 9

All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM. If there's interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there's enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.

2025 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2025 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2025 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2025! Beginning Monday, January 6, 2025, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! These calendars make great Christmas gifts for the hunters/gun enthusiasts in your life, or just treat yourself for a chance to win! Online calendar registration is available until April 15, 2025.

Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after that date. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.

Local 58 cont'd

State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Michael Banes, Kevin Devlin, David Lane, Keith Lifton, Stephen MacLean, Joseph Nagel and James Nicaise.

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

Ambrose Beaton, Pension member, 52 year IBEW membership; William Beyer, Pension member, 56 year IBEW membership; Carl Bolchi, Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; Father to Joseph Bolchi, Retired former Business Agent at Local 58, Pension member, 50 year IBEW membership; Father-in-Law to David Breitschuh, Pension member, 46 year IBEW membership; Brother to the late Pension member Marvin Bolchi; Cousin to Gerald Garcia, Pension member, 59 year IBEW membership; Donald Cates Jr., Pension member, 64 year IBEW membership; Camille Cichowlas, Wife to Bobby Cichowlas, Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; Mother to David Cichowlas, Residential Wireman; Sister-in-Law to the late Pension member Francis Cichowlas; Reginald Ellison, Pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; Kathleen Higgins, Wife to James Higgins, Pension member, 53 year IBEW membership; Charles Kniffen, Pension member, 69 year IBEW membership; John Kraehling, Pension member, 51 year IBEW membership; Dolores Milen, Widow to the late Pension member Donald Milen; Jerry Ross, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; Lois Soule, Widow to the late Pension member Eugene Soule.

union4lifecharity.com.

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

SUPER BOWL PARTY: The Local's 4th Annual Super Bowl Party presented by EWMC will be on February 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Union Hall. Bring your friends and family.

There will be games for kids, 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a TV. Food and refreshments will be provided. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact Geoff Morning (734) 209-4542.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ERTS: Please make sure that you are signed up 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.

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

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

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

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

(Continued next column)

IBEW 445's article – See Page 12



IBEW Local 557

IBEW Local 557

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

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION- Each year in February Local 557 holds a new member orientation for anyone that has come into the Local in the past year. This year there will be many people in attendance as the Local has grown quite a bit in the last year.

RETURN OF POKER NIGHT- Local 557 Poker nights for Winter 2025 will return on **Thursday, Jan. 23** at 6pm. All are welcome to play some friendly games of poker and have fun with other members of the local.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING - Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task in the IBEW and in the trades in general. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others.

Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

PROJECT PHOENIX work continues. At the time of this writing, 104 IBEW members have been placed to work on the project. This is a long way from the peak manpower projection for the project. If you are available for work Local 557 would appreciate the help on this Mega-Project.

Calls are working a 6-10's schedule. An incentive program has been implemented to help attract manpower. Currently, all overtime is being paid as Double Time for JIW calls provided a member works 95% of the scheduled hours. If you are interested in working on this job please contact the Hall.

With a great number of Unfilled Calls available for this project, several new and difficult situations are presenting themselves. Contractors working on this project have signed contracts to get this work done. If those Contractors get desperate enough, they will look at any and all scenarios to get the manpower in place to complete their work. Expecting the customer to help with the situation is certainly not a given. Work is very good for all electricians presently. Local 557

Local 252 cont'd

quired documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Local 252 Brother Brian Goss, who passed away on December 8, 2024. The Local sends our sincere condolences to Dave and Kathy Spicer for the recent loss of Kathy's mother.

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

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

is in a tough spot when it comes to attracting manpower to this project. To say that the project may move in an unfavorable direction is certainly something that could happen.

If you are a member and already working on this project – thank you for manning the work. If you are interested in helping and taking a call please reach out.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next membership meeting is February 4th and will start at **6:00pm. Please note the change to a 6:00pm start time** due to Overtime being worked in the area.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7-4:30pm.

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

WORK OUTLOOK- Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by contacting their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. At the time of this writing, a great deal of Open Calls are available for Project Phoenix. Van Ert Electric from Wisconsin continues to work on the Wheeler Dairy Farms. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 continues work on the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Overtime is available for all three of these big projects. Master Electric has begun a job at SVSU. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, some auto plants, and other various jobs. More solar projects are slated to begin in early 2025.

HEALTH CARE- Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit www.bcbsm.com. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test.

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

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

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

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

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org

In Solidarity,
– Evan Allardyce, Business Manager

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Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

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

Happy New Year! Happy New Year, from the Officers and Members of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149. May 2025 be a great, safe, and prosperous year for you and your family.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2025 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money. To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a “I paid my Dues” t-shirt to anyone who’s dues are paid up to 12/31/2025 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2025 dues in full by January 31, 2025. To receive your 2025 “I paid my Dues” t-shirt, please contact the Union Hall (313.961.6093 ext. 0).

Out-Of-Work. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

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

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

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall. Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

Detroit Training Center Information. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:
Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, Jan. 20, 2025
Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025
BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday Jan. 22, 2025
BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025
Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025

All classes begin at 6:30pm
Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

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

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

Every Thursday from 6:00pm – 8:00pm until further notice
Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.

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

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

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

The publication above is as 1/6/2025, 2:00pm
– **In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149**

“If I have learnt anything, it is that life forms no logical patterns. It is haphazard and full of beauties which I try to catch as they fly by, for who knows whether any of them will ever return?”
–Margot Fonteyn (1919 - 1991)

“I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment, while I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance that I should have been by any epaulet I could have worn.”
–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

“Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared to see them misunderstood.”
–H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

“The past with its pleasures, its rewards, its foolishness, it punishments, is there for each of us forever, and it should be.”
–Lillian Hellman (1905 - 1984)

“A gift in season is a double favor to the needy.”
–Publilius Syrus (~100 BC),

“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”
–Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952)

“The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think the nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it’s their fault.”
–Henry Kissinger (1923 - 2023)



DRYWALL MUDDING an 18th floor room at the Residences @ 150 Bagley project in Detroit is Hamlet Martinez of Michigan Painters District Council Local 2353. He’s employed by L.S. Brinker.

**Michigan Painters
District Council**

Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupat-dc1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:
WARREN OFFICE: (586)552-4474 extension 100
FREELAND OFFICE: (989) 695-6888

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.

UPGRADE CLASSES AT THE DC 1M FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES

*Scaffold Awareness Training December 21,2024; at the Owosso Training center, 1111 E. M-21, Owosso, MI 48867

To sign up or for more information contact FTI Director Shawn Oneill at dot@iupatdc1m.org or 517-304-4425.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

District Council 1M Michigan

**District Council 1M
Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulien

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

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Fred Frederickson

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

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

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

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

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

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker

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

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



Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Happy New Year to all of the local 357 Glassworkers, and our families. May you have a happy 2025. Our next union meeting will be held on Monday Feb. 3, 2025 at 6 pm.

We had a terrific turnout at our holiday parties. Thank you for attending, and making these events a success once again.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

– **Business Rep. Don Stepp**



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, at 5:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:00 p.m.

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

Anyone possessing a union

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

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

Questions pertaining to

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

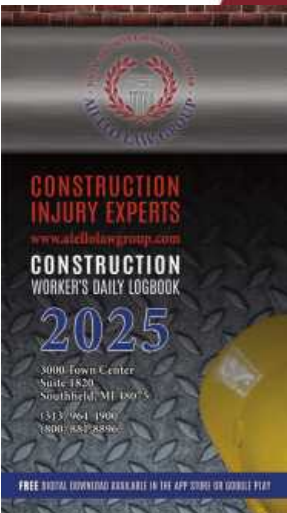
OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474.

2025 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

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

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



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Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

The next Union Meeting will be Monday Jan, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Novi Union Hall.

BY-LAW(S) Proposals will be due in the Novi Union Hall ON OR BEFORE 4:00 pm Jan. 27, 2025. This meeting will be the first reading of any proposed by law(s). If you plan to mail in a proposal, please make sure it arrives several days earlier than Monday 1/27/2025. We've noticed mail has been slow in Michigan, so please be aware!

February's Union meeting will be Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm. This union meeting will be the second Reading of any proposed by law(s). The third Reading will be during March's Union meeting Monday March 31, 2025, with the Vote date TBD.

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

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

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 5:30 pm. **The West Michigan Steward Holiday meeting open house will be Jan. 20, 2025 at 5-9 pm at the Hudsonville Training Center, 3020 Corporate Grove Dr, Hudsonville MI.** The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6:00 pm and the Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday January 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

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

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

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

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

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

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

HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted.

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

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

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted **BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.**

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

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

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025 at 10 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 at 8:30 am in Novi. All are welcome.

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

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

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be in Jan. 16; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeway S. Saginaw MI 48604 at **12:00 pm.** All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9 am on Jan. 17, 2025 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

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

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

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

In Memory: Lifetime IW John Barnella #725605 passed away Dec. 1, 2024 at the age of 80. He was a member of Local 25 for 59 years. He was widowed and survived by his only daughter Bernadette. Lifetime Rigger MM Kenneth Burgess #697583 passed away Dec. 10, 2024 at the age of 83. He was a 60-year member of Local 575/25 and was an Instructor at the Local 25 Training Center once upon a time. He is survived by his son Lifetime Rigger MM Steve Burgess #1054696 and Nephew Lifetime Rigger MM Sean Caldwell #1190200 and many friends in the industry.

Lifetime Rodman Robert Millard #1018274 passed away Dec. 17, 2024 at the age of 86. He was a 45-year member of Local 340/25. He had many friends in the ironworking industry and will be missed by all who knew him.

Alonzo Cann Sr. #710669 passed away Dec. 18, 2024 at the age of 86 in Florida. He was a former member for 40 years. He is survived by his son is retired JIW Alonzo Cann #1121509. JIW Craven Leggs #1522972, passed away Dec. 15, 2024 at the age of 42. A member for 7 years, he is survived by his father, 2 daughters and many friends in the Ironworking Industry.

(Continued next column)



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

DETROIT – LABORERS

RISING is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8am – 4 pm to provide necessary contact information.

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

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

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

January's General Membership Meeting date is TBD.

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

January's Retiree Council meeting will be held on Jan. 31.

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

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you.



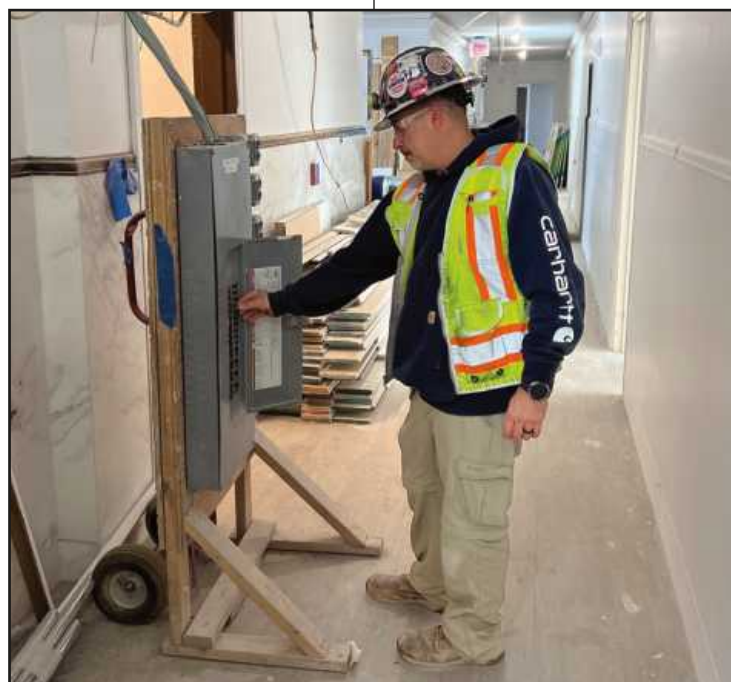
INSTALLING WINDOWS on the third floor of the Residences @ 150 Bagley project in Detroit is Curtis Braxton of Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 357. He's employed by Universal Glass. We didn't have the space to publish these photos from last year, but we do now.



YOU WANT A SOLID PLATFORM? Scaffold erectors on the grounds of the 150 Bagley project in Detroit include (l-r) Noah Morales, Rick Baumia and Justin Guthrie. The Michigan Regional Carpenters Council Local 687 members are employed by... Solid Platforms.



SANDING A DOORFRAME edge while painting a 14th floor apartment at the Residences @ 150 Bagley project is Roy Porter of Michigan Painters District Council Local 213. He's employed by Madias Bros.



FLIPPING A SWITCH on a temporary electrical panel on the 9th floor at the Residences @ 150 Bagley project in Detroit is electrician Frank Licavoli of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Edgewood Electric.

Local 25, con't

Lifetime Rodman Darwin "Doc" Lampman #609549 passed away Dec. 20, 2024 at the age of 91. He was a 67-year member of Local 426/25. He is survived by his wife Aletha and was married for close to 69 years!

JIW Steven Bolf #1304931 passed away on Christmas Day December 25, 2024 at the age of 61. He was a 23-year member of Local 340/25. He was predeceased by his brother JIW Robbie Bolf #1192774. He is survived by his wife Cheryl & many friends in the ironworking industry. *Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!*

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Jan. 6, 2025 11:50 am E.S.T.)-

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For more information go to: bricklayers.org



Outdoors



Let's not turn eagles into roadkill

By John Pepin
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

Last month, along a snow-covered highway near the Schoolcraft-Luce County line, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Jason Ruth pulled his vehicle over to the side of the road.

DNR wildlife biologist Kristie Sitar had arrived there in her truck too. Sometime over the past few days, a vehicle passing the area had struck and killed a white-tailed deer. Crows, ravens and at least one bald eagle had found the carcass and began scavenging meat from the roadkill.

At some point, when a vehicle or vehicles sped past, the adult eagle flushed from the carcass and tried to fly away – likely to a branch in a nearby tree where it could overlook the scene.

But the tremendous bird, with a wingspan of nearly 7 feet, couldn't gain enough altitude on take-off before it too was struck by passing traffic and thrown down to the side of the road with the force of the impact.

Sitar and Ruth were now trying to recover the injured bird in hopes of getting it to a bird rehabilitation facility. Slowly, but deliberately, Sitar approached the eagle that was downed in the snow away from the highway. She was able to capture the bird in her hands. She and Ruth rolled a tarp around the eagle for the safety of the bird and its would-be rescuers. The eagle was taken to the Skegemog Raptor Center in Traverse City to be assessed further and treated. Sitar said the prognosis for recovery is not good.

"The eagle is being treated, with recovery possible, but it is a very slim chance due to severe paralysis," she said. The eagle was determined to be a female that was wearing metal leg bands indicating it was banded as a juvenile 20 years ago.

Unfortunately, these eagle-vehicle collision incidents and outcomes are not as rare as one might hope – especially along



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES wildlife biologist Christie Sitar holds an injured bald eagle in her arms. The bird, which was struck by a vehicle, was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator last month.

MDNR photo

highways with higher speed limits, where roadkill and scavenging eagles frequently occur.

"Ravens can get out of the way easily, but eagles are much bigger, and it often takes them five or more wing strokes to get out of the way of oncoming traffic, and since they are big and need a lot of room, they fly into the open area over the road to do so," Sitar said. "A bird's chances of a full recovery from this type of accident are very small, so we really want to avoid hitting them."

According to the website World Population Review, Michigan is home to about 800 breeding pairs of bald eagles, ranking seventh-highest among U.S. states, behind Alaska with 30,000 breeding pairs, Minnesota (9,800), Florida (1,500), Wisconsin (1,500), Virginia (1,100) and Washington (900).

In all, the U.S. has about 55,630 breeding pairs. Rhode

Island, Utah and New Mexico each have less than 10 pairs.

Among large North American birds of prey, only golden eagles and California condors have larger wingspans than bald eagles. A study on golden eagle collisions with vehicles at highway roadkill sites in Wyoming cited several factors affecting a higher number of eagle-vehicle collisions in fall and wintertime.

"Vehicle collisions are a recurrent source of golden eagle deaths that cause an estimated 1 percent annual mortality in the western United States. Much of this mortality and the opportunities for mitigation occur in fall and winter when more typical eagle prey is hibernating or less available, which may increase scavenging by eagles" the "Modeling Golden Eagle-Vehicle Collisions to Design Mitigation Strategies" research article read.

"At the same time, roadkill of ungulates (hoofed mammals) typically peaks in winter, and cooler temperatures facilitate longer persistence of carcasses. Together, these factors make it more likely that golden eagle collisions with vehicles occur in the fall and winter..."

Another research study, "Golden Eagle Use of Winter Roadkill and Response to Vehicles in the Western United States," said "vehicle collisions are a significant source of wildlife mortality worldwide, but less attention has been given to secondary mortality of roadkill scavengers, such as the golden eagle."

Primary mortality refers to the original vehicle collision with a white-tailed deer, for example. Secondary mortality would be eagle deaths at roadkill scavenging sites.

Researchers in the study sought to quantify golden eagle

winter use of roadkill mammal carcasses and eagle flushing from vehicles in Oregon, Utah and Wyoming, as proxies for strike risk, using motion-sensitive cameras.

They monitored 160 carcasses and captured 2,146 eagle-vehicle interactions at 58 carcasses (one to 240 observations per carcass) during winters of 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

The researchers discovered that roadkill distance from the road is the easiest factor to manipulate, with the dual benefits of increasing food availability to golden eagles and decreasing flush-related vehicle strike risk.

"We recommend that roadkill be moved at least 12 meters (40 feet) from the road to increase eagle use and decrease flushing four-fold relative to behavior observed at the road edge," the study read. "Because flushing from roadkill is believed to be the primary cause of eagle-vehicle strikes, informed roadkill management has the potential to reduce human-caused mortality of golden eagles." It stands to reason that the same logic pertains to bald eagles.

"The DNR tries to safely pull deer carcasses farther off the road to help avoid eagles getting hit when feeding on road-killed deer," Sitar said.

DNR wildlife biologists suggest slowing down when approaching an area where scavengers are feeding on roadkill.

If you accidentally strike an eagle with your vehicle, or you see one hit, report it as soon as possible to a local DNR office. For incidents that occur after business hours, call or text the DNR's Report All Poaching hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

The sooner an injured bird can be recovered, the more likely help might be effective.

A conservation letter published in the *Journal of Raptor Research* earlier this year said that raptor (carnivorous birds of prey) interactions with landscapes modified by humans, including structures and infrastructure systems – like highways – "have the potential to negatively affect individual birds, populations, and species, often in the form of collisions with human-made structures and vehicles."

"Many raptors are attracted to built environments because

of high availability of prey and carrion, and novel perches and nest sites, yet living in such environments puts raptors at risk of collisions," according to the letter. "Raptors are vulnerable to collisions with stationary and mobile human-made objects, which frequently result in traumatic injuries or death. Globally, collisions are consistently reported among the top causes of raptor admissions to rehabilitation centers."

The letter said these admission records represent only a fraction of all raptor collisions, with many occurring in places with limited accessibility. Raptors found dead are often unreported.

"Multiple collision risks pose threats to raptors in urban and rural areas alike, though some have been better studied than others," the letter's authors stated. "Most studies on raptor collisions focus on vehicles, wind turbines, or to a lesser degree, windows and buildings. Numerous other collision risks in built environments remain under-studied, such as aircraft, overhead power lines, communication towers and fences."

Vehicle collisions with nocturnal owls blinded by headlights represent "a substantial threat to wild populations and are a major cause of owl mortality," according to the letter.

Within the last month, a barred owl that flew in front of a vehicle and was struck along a city street in the darkness of early morning was brought to the DNR's customer service center in Marquette. The bird was released later that day and, after resting in a pine tree for a couple hours, flew away.

It is illegal for any individual to possess a bald or golden eagle, including its parts (feathers, feet, etc.). The distribution of bald and golden eagles and their parts to Native Americans is authorized by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and provisions found in the Code of Federal Regulations.

For hundreds of years, Native Americans and Alaska Natives have used eagle feathers for religious and cultural purposes.

In recognition of the significance of these feathers to Native Americans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established the National Eagle Repository in the early 1970s.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

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- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
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- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

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