CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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SHORT CUTS

Tradesman switching to monthly in 2027

The Building Tradesman will transition to a once-a-month publication schedule starting in January 2027.

The paper will continue to be a strong voice informing and supporting the unionized construction trades in Michigan.

Originally a weekly publication when it was founded in 1952, the newspaper has been publishing on an every-other-week schedule since 1992. The paper has had one of the largest print circulations in the state, mailing nearly 50,000 copies to members of our subscribing local unions.

Each edition of *The Building Tradesman* will also continue to be available for reading online at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org.

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Individual building trades union members who don't wish to receive a printed, mailed copy of *The Building Tradesman* – who may instead choose to read it online – are invited to contact their local union to have their name and address removed from the subscription list.

Current and past editions of the paper have been, and will continue to be, available to view online at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org.

It will remain the decision of officers at local unions whether or not to remove members' names from the mailing list. Many local unions are required by their bylaws to use *The Building Tradesman* as their official publication, by including meeting notices, insurance and pension reminders, local union election information, and contract updates in their articles.

Construction job market tight as ever

You might have heard about the tight labor market in the U.S. construction industry over the past few years? The latest government numbers show it's still a thing.

The unemployment rate among experienced construction workers seeking employment fell to 3.6 percent in October, the lowest rate in nine years. It also tied the 2018 rate as the lowest for the month of October in the 27 years that similar records have been kept. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics released the latest employment numbers on Nov. 6.

"The low unemployment numbers indicate why many contractors are struggling to fill open positions," said the Associated General Contractors. The AGC added that the low jobless rate coincided with "wage increases that outpaced other sectors."

Nonresidential led the way, with construction firms in that sector accounting for all of the industry's job gains, as they added 13,300 employees for the month and 164,600 or 3.3 percent over the past year.

"Nonresidential contractors are adding employees and raising hourly pay at rates far exceeding the broader economy," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist.

Construction employment totaled 8.36 million in October. That was 3,000 less than the upwardly revised September figure but 124,000 or 1.5 percent higher than a year earlier. The gain far outpaced the 0.6 percent increase in total nonfarm payroll employment since October 2025.

Quotable

"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings."

– Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)



MICHIGAN MEDICINE is making a move into Oakland County, with construction of a $250 million health-care center on land formerly occupied by the Kmart headquarters complex. A major part of the development is the four-story Frances & Kenneth Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care. Construction is being managed by Walbridge-Roncelli Healthcare Partners.

Michigan Medicine makes 1st move into Oakland Co.

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

TROY – University of Michigan Medicine is making its first foray into Oakland County, with a major development on property that was once the headquarters for the Kmart Corp.

Going up at 3050 W. Big Beaver is the four-story Frances & Kenneth Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care, a 225,000-square-foot building that will house a host of medical services. On the same site to the north across Cunningham Street, the project includes construction of a separate building, the 25,000-square-foot Samuel and Jean Frankel Cardiovascular Center and Forbes Advanced Imaging Center.

The work is being managed by Walbridge-Roncelli Healthcare Partners. Health care services available at the buildings will continue to expand Michigan Medicine's presence away from its base in Ann Arbor.

The $250 million health care project, expected to see both buildings open in 2027, "will enhance access to specialty clinical services provided by U-M clinicians for patients in Oakland County and across southeast Michigan," says Michigan Medicine. "Programs planned in the facility include advanced cancer care services, musculoskeletal/sports medicine and reproductive medicine. Additional diagnostic and therapeutic services will include an ambulatory surgery and procedure center, infusion suite and imaging services including CT, MRI and mammography."

"This is our first development in Oakland County," said Michigan Medicine Executive Director of Facilities, Planning and Operations Ron Henry. "There are roughly 200,000 patients from Oakland and Macomb counties who travel back and forth to Ann Arbor. So this will serve that need in the community, where patients can get advanced treatment and follow-up care closer to home."

Henry, Walbridge/Roncelli Project Manager John Heikka and Senior Project Manager Jacob Powell discussed the project with us last month.

(Continued on Page 2)



MOVING IN to paint a second-floor pre-op area at the Michigan Medicine-Troy project is Vincent Kirk of Painters District Council 1-M, Local 2353. He's employed by Accurate Painting.



SETTING A 10-INCH DUCT on the first floor of the University of Michigan Medicine Eisenberg Center in Troy is Cameron Layne of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. He's employed by Ventcon.

Election emboldens Congress' Labor Caucus, putting union goals more within reach

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

Washington Wire

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – An expanded, improved and strengthened Protect The Right To Organize (PRO) Act and raising the federal minimum wage for the first time since 2009, head the agenda of the AFL-CIO and the expanded Congressional Labor Caucus in the incoming, pro-worker 120th Congress, which opens Jan. 3.

While AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler made passage of the union-friendly PRO Act again labor's top priority, she used it as the windup of her Nov. 10 speech in front of the Capitol Building and lined up other goals as well. The Labor Caucus presentation was made after Democrats won a 56-44 majority in the Senate and 259-176 edge in the House after the Nov. 3 election.

"This was a mandate, folks, from working Republicans, working Democrats, working independents. All joined together to say 'fix this economy. Un-rig this economy that's been rigged against us for too long,'" Shuler declared. "It's a very clear message, but I know the Labor Caucus leaders up here with me today are ready to deliver. Our job for the next two years is to make sure this Democratic majority does what they said they were going to do – and that is to fix this economy for working people."

The PRO Act would remove decades of obstacles to organizing and bargaining first contracts which bosses, backed by finance capital and right-wing ideologues in Congress and the courts, use to make successful unionization into an obstacle course or worse.

Fines for employer unfair labor practices would increase, captive audience meetings would be outlawed, getting federal court injunctions against labor law breakers would be easier, back pay for workers illegally fired would not just be net back pay but would cover their expenses,

(Continued on Page 3)

Management legals see Dems active for unions, but veto, filibuster hover

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

As a measuring stick, the Nov. 3 midterm election brought significant turnover in Congress – Democrats' net pickup of roughly 44 to 47 seats creates their largest House margin since the 1990 midterms and the biggest national House popular-vote victory for either party in 50 years.

But while flipping control of both the House and Senate to Dems creates some increased level of comfort for organized labor – unions overwhelmingly supported Democrat candidates – the greater number of lawmaking allies in Congress still will not allow a Senate filibuster to be overcome or get past a veto by President Trump.

But the presence of organized labor's new-found friends and influence in Congress does open some doors for the nation's labor movement. It's instructive to see what some of the nation's legal experts and top management-side law firms are saying about what happened and how things might shift in Congress after Dems take control of Congress at noon on Jan. 3.

J.D. Supra, a legal news and content distribution platform: "Democrats rode a blue wave to a decisive victory at the 2026 midterm elections. They won key races across the United States, including in states that had been viewed as safely Republican for decades."

Haynes Boone, a corporate law firm employing more than 750 lawyers worldwide: "Labor unions were active participants in many of these Democratic campaigns and will read the results as an opportunity to expand their influence in traditionally nonunion states where they saw electoral success (including Texas, South Carolina, Kansas, Mississippi, Georgia and North Carolina). Additionally, the newly elected legislators may attempt to overhaul federal labor policy by adopting portions of the PRO Act and/or the Faster Labor Contracts Act.

"Further, the midterms could provide an impetus for a bipartisan overhaul of the National Labor Relations Act whose constitutionality has come into question following several high-profile challenges.

"The pendulum will not immediately swing towards union-friendly policy, though. The NLRB still has a Republican majority and a Trump-appointed general counsel, and President Trump has already reminded Congress of his veto power."

Jackson Lewis, a management-side firm specializing in labor, employment, and immigration law: "In 2027, organized labor is likely to pursue its traditional legislative priorities, including the Faster Labor Contracts Act

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Breathe easier? Not under proposed OSHA rule

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Unions don't like it. The nation's leading construction contractors' association has spoken out against it. Raising the alarm about it are a group of 23 members of Congress. And anyone on a construction jobsite who wants and deserves protection from exposure to airborne silica particles from cutting masonry, or from asbestos fibers or from dust in confined spaces – well, they won't like it, either.

We refer to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's proposal to roll back workplace respirator protections. In an Oct. 29 letter to Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health David Keeling, the group of lawmakers, led by Rep. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), warned that the changes could expose workers to dangerous

(Continued on Page 4)



(Credit: N.W. Labor Press)

Short-term relief for construction material costs

Construction material input prices for the nonresidential portion of the industry climbed a hefty 13.3 percent during the 12 months leading up to October 2026.

The numbers – which represent the highest year-to-year jump in nonresidential construction in four years, continue a generally inflationary scenario for industry material prices. But the government figures released Nov. 13 brought some near-term good news: overall construction input prices remained virtually unchanged from September to October for the U.S. construction industry, including residential and nonresidential.

"Construction input prices were unchanged in October due to falling oil and lumber prices," said Associated Builders and Contractors Chief Economist Anirban Basu. "Nonresidential

(Continued on Page 4)

Egan's Hunt 2 Heal help puts UA member back in the field

Carl Beintema is all too familiar with healing. After a 2022 accident resulted in the amputation of his right leg, the longtime Andy J. Egan Co. employee feared he might never return to one of his favorite pastimes: hunting.

Four years later, his experience with Hunt 2 Heal has come full circle, inspiring Egan to sponsor a weekend that allowed the West Michigan nonprofit to serve another family this hunting season.

During his extensive rehabilitation, Carl had to put his career at the mechanical contractor on hold to focus on his recovery. As he healed, he was able to gradually return to the trade he loved, but in a transformed capacity.

Previously a foreman overseeing jobsite crews, Carl now puts his skills as a journeyman plumber and steamfitter to work in Egan's Virtual Design and Construction department, where he models many of the same types of mechanical systems he previously built in the field.

Like many of his friends and

(Continued on Page 4)

THE AMPUTATION of his right leg hasn't hindered Carl Beintema's ability to hunt. Through the nonprofit group Hunt 2 Heal and a sponsorship by the UA Local 174 member's employer, Andy J. Egan Co., Beinema has been able to enjoy accessible hunting as both a participant and volunteer.



(Credit: Hailey Liverance/ Andy J. Egan Co.)

Viewpoints

Corporate taxes, and us

For working families, corporate taxes might seem like a distant concern – something for accountants, lobbyists, and politicians in Washington to debate. But corporate taxes are vital to whether our communities can afford health care, infrastructure, good schools, and other public services people need to raise healthy families.

A generation ago, nearly a third of federal revenue came from corporate taxes. Today they cover only about 6 percent. When corporations pay less, the gap doesn't disappear: it means that ordinary taxpayers have to make up for it – or we get weaker schools, roads, and health care, plus even bigger deficits.

Most Americans, across party lines, think big corporations should pay more. So why doesn't it happen? Because corporations spend heavily on lobbying and campaign contributions, and their favorite talking point is "competitiveness": dare to tax us more, and we'll take our business elsewhere. This threat has helped justify decades of corporate tax cuts.

But does raising corporate taxes really drive businesses overseas and cost jobs? That's not what the evidence shows. Evidence shows that businesses decide where to invest based on many factors, including access to customers, skilled workers, good infrastructure, and the rule of law. And these are precisely the things that taxes pay for. The real reason the U.S. is home to more of the world's top companies than any other country isn't low taxes. It's our large market, productive workforce, and strong institutions.

Economic growth is underpinned by these public goods, but its rewards are distributed very unevenly. The rise of artificial intelligence is a case in point. AI has flourished thanks to public research funding, universities, an educated workforce, and taxpayer subsidies.

Record profits are already concentrated in a handful of tech giants, while workers are getting a smaller slice of the country's income than ever before. The rise of AI threatens to widen this divide further. Workers may face job losses or lower wages, while a relatively small number of companies and their investors capture the bulk of the gains.

To help workers adapt, governments need the resources to invest in education and training, and a stronger safety net. Fair corporate taxation is a sensible way to pay for that transition.

But AI profits, like those from other digital products and services, can be easy to move on paper: profits from a service built in California and used by customers in Ohio can be booked in an offshore tax haven.

It's not just AI. The same pattern runs through pharmaceuticals, energy, and manufacturing, with multinational corporations using complex legal arrangements to book profits in tax havens. The root cause of the problem is that individual countries face pressure to offer tax breaks out of fear that businesses will move elsewhere.

The upshot is a race to the bottom in which corporations escape taxation and public budgets come under pressure. This is why the G20, which brings together the world's major advanced and emerging economies, must strengthen international cooperation on a meaningful minimum corporate tax – and close loopholes that allow multinational companies to avoid taxes through offshore accounting arrangements. The G20 should reject the flawed assumption that countries must keep cutting corporate taxes to stay competitive.

Working families have a direct stake in the corporate tax debate. A successful economy is not one that is "competitive" but one that works for all. Corporate taxes are how we collectively secure the conditions that make a prosperous economy work for working families.

Zorka Milin
The Fact Coalition
via www.otherwords.org

M–Medicine moves into Oakland Co.

(Continued from Page 1)

Heikka said, structurally, the four-story Eisenberg Center is "a fairly straightforward building," erected on space taken up by the now-demolished, 900,000-square-foot Kmart headquarters. Heikka said the below-ground remnants of the Kmart building offered no significant challenges – "nothing exciting" – when it came to installing new foundations.

Out-of-the-ordinary features of the new Eisenberg Center will include a "vibration resistant" fourth story, which will include a series of springy vibration isolators intended to isolate movement from the floor's basketball court. The court will be part of the building's sports rehabilitation mission.

The health-care facility will also house a linear accelerator – the first of its kind in Oakland County – which will be used in cancer treatment. Patients will have access to major medical procedures, as the outpatient facility will include six operating rooms.

Henry said Michigan Medicine has some experience in opening facilities outside of the Ann Arbor area, having opened locations in Brighton and Northville in recent years.

"We have a robust strategy department that looks at all the current patient volumes coming from different geographies – and where the need is that we don't serve those geographies," Henry said. "So we're working to align where those patients are, and where the future need is for the buildings that we operate."

The Troy project will seek a Silver LEED standard, and include the use of highly energy-efficient materials and some 450 carport parking spaces covered with solar panels.

Both Henry and Heikka cited long lead times and difficulties in sourcing things like switchgear and transformers as among their top challenges on the project.

Heikka said about 240 building trades workers were toiling at the dual-building site in mid-October, and that count would likely max out at about 300.

"In this heated market I'd say it's a challenge at times to achieve the level of trades personnel that we need," Heikka said. "But we definitely appreciate the partnership with the trades supporting us on this project. For all intents and purposes both projects are staffed with all union trades, and they're doing great for us; we've got a great team out here. We're all working together to overcome some of the challenges that we've faced."

In working with the construction management partnership of Roncelli and Walbridge – two of the state's largest contractors – Henry said: "It's been very good, they've been a great team to work with. We've worked very openly together on any issues that have developed. The global supply chain market has caused the team to be creative when it comes to sourcing things.

"Sometimes we have had to do some minor redesign work to get products that are available that meets our needs, when there is an extremely long lead time on some products, like electrical gear. We've had some very good creative solutions that have kept us on track."



ON THE JOB and pausing what they were doing for a photo are plumbers Kyle Munson, Chris Markaj, J.T. Stricklin and Drew Hantz. Working at the University of Michigan Medicine-Eisenberg Center project in Troy, the Local 98 members are employed by Western Mechanical.

Time to rock the boat, Dems?

By Jim Hightower



After years of wandering through the MAGA wilderness, a sweeping majority of grassroots voters resoundingly rejected the GOP's regressive regime, bestowing a mandate for fundamental progressive change on victorious Democrats.

So, how should leaders of the winning party respond? Obviously, they should keep faith with grassroots voters who demanded real actions to restore fairness and opportunity for all – not just for rich elites.

But – uh-oh! – here come the congressional clique of don't-rock-the-boat corporate Democrats, squealing that populist-minded members must settle for incremental change, small-bore tweaks to the status quo. Anything stronger, they asserted, will spook voters in the next election. As one of these frightful Democrats put it: "This is not the time to show how progressive we can be." Really? When would that time be?

Sure enough, the party's pusillanimous legislative leaders (Chuck Schumer in the Senate, Hakeem Jeffries in the House) are abandoning rank-and-file voters in order to appease corporate powers. Consider health care – literally a crying need for a majority of American families who demanded a program to provide care for everyone. That would be a basic FDR-style response from – Hello! – the party of FDR! But, "NO," barked Jeffries, insisting his priority is just to oppose further cuts in health care funding that Republicans are pushing. So, his big idea is to take us back to zero and claim victory.

Wait, who won the election – voters or profiteering health care vultures? Thank the populist gods that the corporatized Schumer-Jeffries clique was not in charge back in the New Deal when Democrats had the stuff to provide Social Security, unemployment pay, food assistance, and basic health care to America's workaday people.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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- Asbestosis
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BUILDING MICHIGAN:
The Rock Cut
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



MOTORING THROUGH the nicknamed "Rock Cut" 15 miles south of Sault Ste. Marie is the bulk freighter Paul R. Tregurtha, whose unsurpassed 1,013-foot length makes it the "Queen of the Great Lakes." The 105-foot-wide ship is traversing the 300-foot-wide West Neebish (Island) Channel, which was cut out of limestone in a massive four-year-project that created a new, safer passage for Great Lakes shipping when it was complete in 1908. The channel was expanded in the 1930s and again in the 1960s.

Image credit: Visit Sault Ste. Marie

North America's five Great Lakes are part of a water-bound superhighway connecting commerce to and from the middle of America with the Atlantic Ocean and the rest of the world.

Today it's taken for granted that the lakes are wide and deep enough to allow the passage and docking of the longest 1,000-foot-long freighters – as long as the ships stay in their lanes. And the man-made creation of those lanes over the past couple hundred years is some of the least-known, out-of-sight, out-of-mind features of Great Lakes shipping.

Perhaps the most unsung of those improvements is the massive Sault Ste. Marie "Rock Cut." That name tells us a little about a series of projects that began in 1904 to widen and deepen a channel of the St. Mary's River about 15 miles downstream from the Soo Locks. The rock cut project has allowed ships to more safely navigate around Neebish Island, whose 21 square miles create one of many barriers to ships passing from Lake Superior to Lake Huron.

"Along the eastern edge of Michigan's Upper Peninsula lies the St. Mary's River, one of the busiest and yet most beautiful waterways in the world," says a report by Gregg Beukema in *Upper Country: A Journal of the Lake Superior Region*. "Giant ore carriers, some exceeding 1,000 feet in length, traverse the river daily. Navigating the St. Mary's requires 20 changes in course along its 65-mile length to dodge the islands, sandbars, and reefs that litter the river. Near the halfway point in the river lies Neebish Island. Although smaller than Sugar, St. Joseph and Drummond, Neebish was the biggest hindrance because of a shallow rocky narrows along its west side called the West Neebish Rapids."

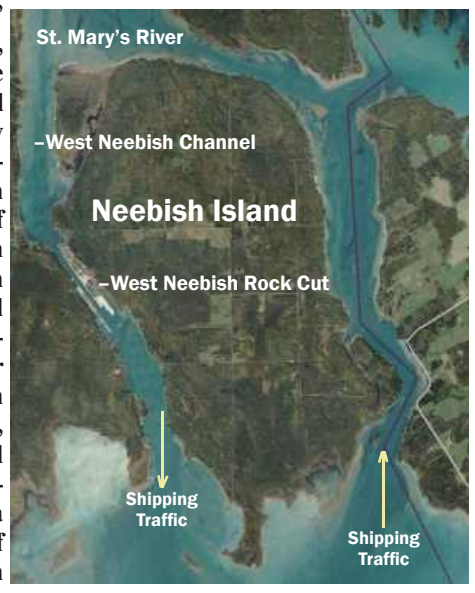
Beukema said in its 1897 report, the Lakes Carriers Association of ship owners suggested that the Corps of Engineers (then known as the United States Army Engineers) investigate a new channel around Neebish Island. This channel would separate traffic, upbound going to the east and downbound to the west of the island, through what was then known as the West Neebish Rapids. "It was a section of the river that was very narrow, shallow and strewn with large boulders and limestone ridges," Beukema wrote.

"This," the Lakes Carriers Association said, "would make a grand improvement in the navigation between Lake Superior and Lake Huron."



THE CARGO CAPACITY of Great Lakes ships grew over the past century, and shown here on Nov. 11, 1931, in a project to accommodate the bigger ships is the expansion of the "Rock Cut" west of Nebbish Island. This 1931-33 project saw the blasting and excavation of another four feet of rock from the bottom of the canal. In the early 1960s, they were at it again: the bottom of the cut was deepened to 28.5 feet, and that hasn't changed since.

Image credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Not surprisingly, the project to improve the west-side channel didn't get funded by Congress until the potential problem with the navigable section of the St. Mary's River on the east side of Neebish Island was confronted with a real-world collision. The freighter Douglas Houghton sunk on Sept. 5, 1899, when it was rammed by a barge it was towing, which caused a week-long blockage of about 200 vessels on the single, east-side Middle Neebish channel around Neebish Island. Vessel groundings and jam-ups were already common on that channel.

Work to make the west channel navigable began in the spring of 1904, with the first of 300-400 men arriving on site. The project was led by general contractor MacArthur Brothers of Chicago.

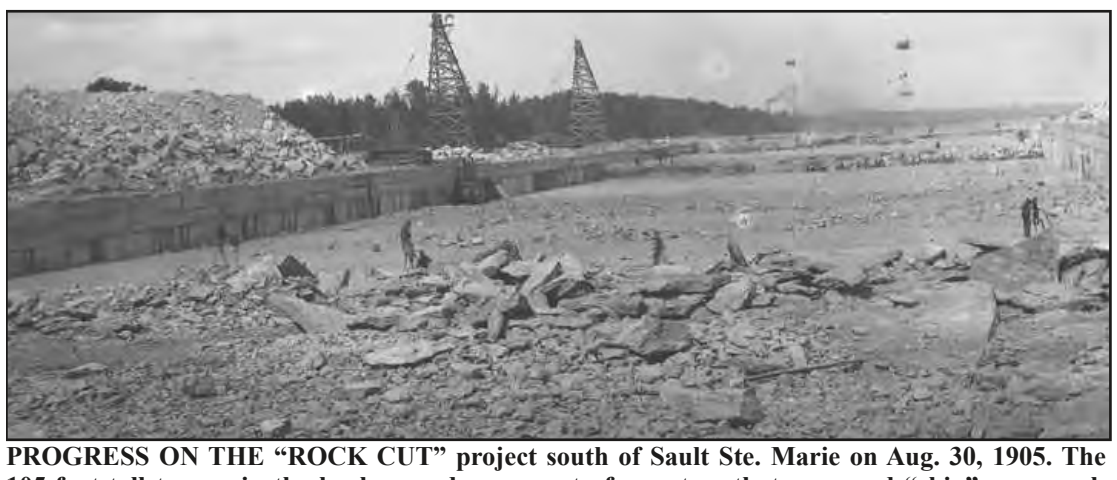
The original plan called for a 20-foot-deep channel, but a new Army engineer on site changed it to 21 feet "because of the many new ships under construction that could use the increased depth for a much greater cargo carrying capacity," Beukema wrote. Digging out an extra foot of rock was no small ask for such a massive project – and there was much more blasting and digging three decades later as ships continued to increase in size.

Sections of the channel were isolated and dewatered during construction, exposing the solid limestone riverbed.

"The building of the cofferdams was a time-consuming but simple process," Beukema said. "Steam shovels dug up earth from the bottom of the channel and dropped it into the channel adjacent to the point from which it had been removed. Once this task was completed, two 12-inch pumps were run day and night to drain the first section of the project. The cofferdams held out the incoming water extremely well, with the first 1,000-foot section pumped dry by Aug. 7, (1904) nearly 30 days ahead of schedule."

Deep holes were made with air-powered drills, which were packed with explosives and detonated. The resulting rubble was loaded onto 13-ton skips and removed via cables attached to 105-foot-tall towers. The vertical walls of the Rock Cut were topped with two-ton ashlar masonry stones. The new channel opened to shipping traffic on Aug. 16, 1908.

"This was a tremendous undertaking," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Ed Cook. "The Corps of Engineers oversaw the project that involved blasting and removing 1.7 million cubic yards of rock. It went on for four years to complete this engineering marvel and ensure the St. Mary's River as one of the busiest waterways on the Great Lakes."



PROGRESS ON THE "ROCK CUT" project south of Sault Ste. Marie on Aug. 30, 1905. The 105-foot-tall towers in the background were part of a system that conveyed "skip" cars, each capable of moving 13 tons of rock to debris piles out of the canal zone. Some of the removed rock was placed to shore up the canal's sides. According to Gregg Beukema in *Upper Country: A Journal of the Lake Superior Region,* a "small city" grew around Neebish Island during the four years the project took to complete. Included were a boarding house, a commissary, a blacksmith shop, offices and many small cabins to house the workers. Labor relations were strained: in September 1904, Beukema wrote that a group of about 100 Italian laborers from Detroit went on strike after their demand for a wage increase of 25 cents a day to earn $1.75 a day was refused. They also had to pay for their own housing. When they walked off the job, other workers refused to join them and continued to work. The Italians pelted the other workers with (what else?) stones, and forced a work stoppage until until the strikers departed. *Image credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Election emboldens Congress' Labor Caucus, and closer to labor's goals

(Continued from Page 1)

and joint employer arrangements would be regulated so workers would know who to bargain with.

There may be optimism for the Labor Caucus to get its proposals over the goal line: Dems control both Houses of Congress, and President Trump may be willing to make a deal to agree to sign some of the legislation.

But before lawmakers can tackle the PRO Act or any other agenda items in the new Congress, they must get through their current lame-duck session of the present GOP-run Congress, and nobody knows what's going to happen there, caucus co-chair Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., a Painters Union member, told *Press Associates Union News Service* after the speeches and press conference.

"Having the voice of labor at the table is incredibly important," said IBEW member and Congressman Donald Norcross (D-N.J.), who said he expected the Labor Caucus to include 150 members in the next Congress. "And we're going to see that as we roll out this public policy which is going to be reflective or not just the corporations, but of the people who create all wealth – the workers."

The Labor Caucus, and political offices nationwide, will be filled with a record number of card-carrying unionists from the U.S. Senate and House, to state legislatures, city councils and school boards. AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler estimated the Nov. 3 election yielded 719 card-carrying unionists in political positions as a result.

And the incoming Congress, she predicted, will be the most pro-union in years, as unionists and their families accounted for approximately one-fifth of the vote totals from coast to coast—and their votes, like those of the rest of the U.S., were overwhelmingly pro-union and Democratic. Shuler and caucus co-chairs Reps. Debbie Dingell, (D-Mich.), Norcross, Steven Horsford, (D-Nev.), Mark Pocan, (D-Wis.), and incoming House Labor Committee Chair Bobby Scott (D-Va.), unveiled the skeleton of the agenda – and its top priorities – at a celebratory press conference.

Shuler and the caucus called not only for passage of the PRO Act and for raising the minimum wage, but also to restore health care subsidies to the Affordable Care Act that were taken away in President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" adopted in 2025. That same bill also instituted $800 billion in cuts to SNAP and Medicaid benefits for low-income people – deliberately set to go into effect post-Election Day.

In remarks introducing the event, Michigan Rep. Dingell (D-6th District) called the Congressional Labor Caucus' agenda as "the pro-labor path forward as we look to the 120th Congress. Over the last two years we have watched the Trump Administration trample on workers. Dismantling worker protections and stripping over 1 million federal workers of their federal (collective bargaining) rights.

"As members of the Labor Caucus, we are going to put the needs of hard-working men and women first. We are union strong. And when unions are strong, every single worker benefits."

Other agenda items on the wish list of the Labor Caucus include reining in CEO pay, placing worker-friendly checks on the use of artificial intelligence, using trade policy to support good union jobs, and cracking down on employers who violate workers' rights, such as illegal union-busting and wage theft.

Management legals see Dems active for unions, but veto, filibuster hover

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(FLCA), the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, and the LET'S Protect Workers Act. The FLCA would substantially alter first contract bargaining by:

- Establishing fixed deadlines for negotiations; and
- Providing for binding arbitration when the parties cannot reach an agreement.

"For employers, the FLCA could significantly change bargaining strategy by shortening the negotiation period and allowing arbitrators to determine economic and other contract terms without the parties' agreement. It could also make union organizing more attractive because a first contract would be all but assured."

Littler (which "provides legal strategies and solutions for employers of all sizes, everywhere"): "Democrats now control both houses of Congress and many new statehouses across the country. In Washington, D.C., they will use their new power to scrutinize federal agencies and set their future legislative agenda. In the states, they will likely enact a bevy of new labor and employment laws. And in both places, employers should prepare for change.

"Democrats will also be active legislatively. They are expected to introduce or reintroduce bills on longstanding priorities, including minimum wages, noncompete agreements, and pro-union reforms. Many of these bills still stand little chance of becoming law: Democrats still don't have the 60 votes needed to overcome the filibuster in the Senate, much less the 67 needed to overcome a presidential veto. So these bills will serve mostly as a message to the electorate.

"All of this activity will lay groundwork for the presidential race in 2028. Following (the Nov. 3) results, Democrats will likely go into 2028 with the wind in their sails. They will use their positions over the next two years to make their case for full control of the federal government. Bills in Congress will set the federal agenda, and activity in the states will show what full control means in practice."

ZAMLER, SHIFFMAN & KARFIS, P.C.

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Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED;** our next regular membership meeting will be **Dec. 28, 2026, at 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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.

Attention All Members, Upcoming meetings:

Dec. 7th – Probationary Meeting at 5pm.

Dec. 21st – Executive Board Meeting 5pm.

Dec. 28th – General Membership Meeting 5:30pm.

At the Oct. 26, 2026, meeting, a motion was made to amend Article XIV, Dues and Assessments, Section 1 of the Local Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed amendment would establish a flat rate for **probationary fees** until the probationary apprentice is initiation as a member. The first reading took place at the October meeting. The second reading is scheduled for Nov. 23, 2026, and the third reading, discussion, and vote are scheduled for December 28, 2026, at 5:30.

The 2027 wage rates and zone pay will be mailed out at the end of this month or early next month. You should have also received an email from me earlier in the month with the wage and zone sheets. If you are not getting my emails, please contact the hall.

The Picnic assessment will be $58 per member and will be assessed with the 4th quarter dues.

The General Executive Board established the "International Union of Elevator Constructors Death Benefit Trust Fund" and the IUEC Death Benefit Fund Policy at the 2022 Fall meeting of the IUEC General Executive Board as authorized by the delegates to the 32nd International Convention. At the 2026 Fall meeting of the IUEC General Executive Board, the Board has approved the following in accordance with the IUEC Death Benefit Fund Policy:

All active members shall be assessed $25.00 on Dec. 1, 2026. This funding will allow the fund to increase the IUEC Death Benefit amount to $300,000, continue to invest in a responsible manner and allow for timely payment to beneficiaries. **This assessment will be assessed with fourth quarter dues.**

I just wanted to remind everyone that we **DO NOT** provide personal identification as a condition of entering or working on a job. Please refer to the CBA Article XXII Par. 6, when your company tells you to give your license to enter a job or call the hall.

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 Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWPF National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com or Ricky Azzopardi (Local 36 Co-Chair) (586)719-7465 or email him at rickypardi@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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 use the website job reporting at www.iueclocal36detroit.org/job-reporting. This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. Mail a copy to the fund office and one to the hall.

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

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic's Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting Jan. 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. **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 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 **NEXT MORNING**. If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.

We wish a speedy recovery to all the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

Short-term relief for construction material costs

(Continued from Page 1)

construction input prices, which are less impacted by lumber than residential input prices, increased modestly for the month and are still up a scorching-hot 11.5 percent year over year."

From October 2025 to October 2026, construction costs hikes were led by "crude petroleum" (+52 percent), steel mill products (+32.9 percent) and copper wire and cable (+25.5 percent).

Lumber and wood products (+5.8 percent) were among the more modest year-to-year increase categories. That number included a 0.2 percent monthly drop from September to October 2026, while "softwood lumber" products dropped 3.9 percent.

Along with "crude petroleum" (-10.3 percent for the month) and "unprocessed energy materials" (-7.7 percent), they were the only categories that saw price drops for that month.

Every other building material cost rose from September to October – albeit modestly – led by "natural gas" (+3.7 percent), heavily tariffed "steel mill products" (+2.7 percent) and "iron and steel (+2.5 percent).

"Construction firms are experiencing ever-greater impacts from tariff and Middle East turmoil as prices accelerate for metals, fuel and freight," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "In addition, lead times for steel and insulation have lengthened, making it harder for contractors to keep projects on schedule."

Egan's Hunt 2 Heal help puts UA member back in the field

(Continued from Page 1)

colleagues in the construction trades, Carl enjoys hunting, fishing and other outdoor hobbies. "Hunting was a passion of mine. Every October comes and I'm just stoked to go. Love it," said Carl. "When I was in that hospital, I thought my hunting was over."

As he adjusted to life after the accident, Carl obtained a state permit allowing him to hunt from his vehicle, believing that might be his only way back to the pastime he loved. Then he learned about Hunt 2 Heal, a Michigan nonprofit that provides people with physical disabilities opportunities to participate in outdoor pursuits such as hunting and fishing.

After Carl applied, Hunt 2 Heal's founder, Carson Nyenhuis, called Carl and invited him to the lodge and 640-acre property for a weekend of accessible hunting. "We created a place where people with disabilities can come out and enjoy the woods like everyone else gets to," said Carson. The property includes accessible hunting blinds, trails, bedrooms and bathrooms, along with adaptive equipment that helps guests participate in outdoor activities.

"Being up there at Hunt 2 Heal, it was like filling a void in my heart," said Carl. "They do so much here that it's just a huge blessing to be able to allow another family to have the same experience we did," added Ashleigh Beintema, Carl's wife.

Since his first Hunt 2 Heal experience in 2023, Carl has continued his involvement as both a participant and volunteer, eventually inviting Egan to support the organization financially as well. Egan's sponsorship covered a weekend of lodging, meals and activities for a participating family, allowing Hunt 2 Heal to add another weekend to its 2026 hunting season. "Egan sponsoring this weekend meant the world to me," said Carl. "I'm so grateful that they did so that somebody else can have that joy in their life, and to see that your life is not over." *(Text from from the Andy J. Egan Co.)*



READY TO PLACE a condensing unit line at the Michigan Medicine Eisenberg Center project in Troy is Joe Dugan of Pipe Fitters Local 636. He's employed by Bumler Mechanical.

Local 111 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – **UNION MEETING:** There will be no meeting in November. The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on Thursday, December 10th at 7:30pm.

2026-2027 CERTIFICATION/UPGRADE CLASS SCHEDULE is now available on the lu111.com website. Please contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew for registration or questions.

ONLINE REFERRAL PROGRAM will go into effect on **June 1, 2026.**

REFERRAL RULES UPDATE: Due to recent referral rules change, text messages from the Local are now more important than ever. If you are not receiving texts, call the hall to update your information.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES: Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line – Extension #7. All job calls will be posted via our new **online referral program.** The user guide, along with mobile app and desktop login instructions, are available on the website at **lu111.com**. If you have any questions, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft.

2027 HEALTH & WELFARE OPEN ENROLLMENT: Open enrollment informational packets were mailed to eligible active participants at the beginning of November. The Upper Peninsula Plumbers & Pipefitters Health and Welfare Fund's annual open enrollment period runs Dec. 1–31, 2026, for coverage effective January 1, 2027.

Participants who are currently covered and do not wish to make changes will automatically remain enrolled, provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

For questions, contact Zenith American Solutions at 866-823-4730.

MEMBER HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE INFORMATION: Active members receive medical insurance through **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM)** and dental coverage through **Delta Dental of Michigan**. Members can create online accounts through each provider's website to access their insurance cards and plan details.

For medical and prescription questions, contact **BCBSM** at 1-877-457-2583 or visit www.bcbsm.com to access/create your account. For Medicare Advantage (MAPD) questions, call 866-684-8216.

For dental questions, contact **Delta Dental** at 1-800-524-0149 or visit www.DeltaDentalMI.com to access/create your account.

Members can also find a Summary of Benefits for both medical and dental coverage by logging into their Zenith American Solutions Participant Edge and selecting Documents/Links from the menu.

DO NOT opt out of healthcare coverage on your **auto insurance**. If you are injured in an auto accident our health care coverage will not cover you.

MRA FUND: Members are reminded that the Local 111 Health & Welfare Fund's Medical Reimbursement Account covers **eligible expenses** such as copays, deductibles, coinsurance, eligible self-pay medical costs, non-covered dental and vision services, non-covered medical services and prescriptions, and durable medical equipment.

The MRA **does not cover** home exercise equipment, sporting equipment, hot tubs, saunas, mattresses or bedding, beauty products, recurring memberships, fitness trackers, vitamins, vacations, or other expenses that are primarily for general health and wellness. Please refer to the Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) for complete details or **contact the Fund Office at (866) 823-4730 with any questions.**

MRA cards can no longer be used for purchases through the online FSA Store or other vendors that use the same merchant category codes. Eligible items may still be purchased from these websites using another form of payment and submitted for reimbursement according to plan rules.

This change helps ensure compliance with plan guidelines and prevent ineligible purchases. Your MRA card may continue to be used for eligible expenses at approved providers and merchants. For any questions or assistance, please contact the Fund Office at **866-823-4730**.

It is YOUR responsibility to submit the requested documentation promptly**. The IRS requires substantiation for all MRA debit card transactions**. Many members have received request letters from Zenith American Solutions- failure to respond will result in suspension of your card until documentation is received. You can review transactions and upload documentation through the Zenith Portal or App.

NEW HEARING HEALTH BENEFIT: UA members have access to an exclusive hearing healthcare program through Amplifon Hearing Health Care. The program includes discounted hearing aids, a free hearing exam, a 60-day risk-free trial, warranty coverage, and follow-up care. To learn more about this valuable member benefit, check out page 45 of the UA Journal magazine or contact Amplifon at 866-488-3873.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(MAP): Our Health & Welfare Plan offers a confidential, no-cost benefit through Ulliance for members and covered dependents. Support is available 24/7 for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, relationships, substance abuse, and financial or legal concerns. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, and referrals. Call 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.lifeadvisor.com to access services.

988 CRISIS HELPLINE: If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 anytime to connect with trained counselors for mental health or suicide prevention support.

MEMBER RECORDS: Please keep your records current by contacting April or Rose with any changes to your address, phone number, email, or family status.

LAYOFF REMINDER: Report layoffs immediately; the day you call is the date you are placed on the Out-of-Work List.

APPRENTICES: You are required to attend four union meetings each year.

WELDERS AND CERTIFICATIONS: UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the Hall. Certifications expire every six months, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure forms are turned in on time. Please also update all Non-UA Certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA, etc.) by sending a copy to the Union Hall.

DUES REMINDER: Check your dues records regularly; a $50 reinstatement fee applies once you are three months behind. Members are automatically expelled after six months of nonpayment.

SAFETY TRAINING – LOCAL 111 WEBSITE: Visit lu111.com and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

MSHA TRAINING: Registration and cancellations are handled online at upconstruction.org under the MSHA Calendar.

Just joking

I took my brother to the hospital today.



When a nurse asked what happened, he told her that a wolf bit him. "Where?" She asked.

"No, it was just a regular wolf," he responded.

Breathe easier? Not under proposed OSHA rule

(Continued from Page 1)

chemicals and airborne hazards, despite objections from labor unions, medical professionals, and industry experts.

"OSHA now seems to be moving rapidly to finalize the removal of critical respiratory protections from more than a dozen OSHA standards. Most OSHA standards take years to move through the same steps these respirator rules have in a matter of months," wrote the lawmakers. "The proposed rules would weaken requirements for employers to provide effective respirators to workers exposed to hazardous substances, including lead, asbestos, formaldehyde, and inorganic arsenic. The changes would also eliminate medical evaluation requirements for employees who wear certain types of respirators, raising concerns about the risks to workers with underlying health conditions.

"Unions, medical professionals, and industry experts have cautioned you against removing this requirement. In fact, the Advisory Committee for Construction Safety and Health, which is statutorily required to provide advice to OSHA on construction-related issues, recommended that you not proceed with this rulemaking," continued the lawmakers.

And yet, the weakened respirator rule is one of 60 deregulatory proposals President Trump's Labor Department, including his Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), have issued since he returned to the Oval Office on Jan. 20, 2025. The new, weakened respirator rule is currently formally under consideration by OSHA.

National Nurses United testified at OSHA's single hearing about the respirators in August that "when respirator programs are weakened, health care workers are left exposed to airborne hazards that can lead to illness, severe disease, death, and long-term health impacts."

Comments submitted to OSHA on Aug. 21 by North America's Building Trades Unions said, "we strongly urge OSHA to withdraw the current proposed rule as it harms workers and will create additional burdens for employers." It also could confuse the employers, who often equate "medical evaluations for respirators with fit-testing requirements," and confusion could endanger workers.

The Associated General Contractors of America, comprised of both union and nonunion contractors, also submitted a comment opposing the rules, saying that "quality safety regulations save contractors money in the long run and any deregulatory benefits associated with the proposed rule will be outweighed by potential liability down the line."

The proposed respirator changes are part of a broader Department of Labor deregulatory effort. Since July 2025, OSHA has proposed more than 60 deregulatory actions, including changes to workplace safety requirements covering general workplace hazards, construction lighting, and safety color codes.

"The Trump Administration's claims that it is a 'champion of the American worker,' but the (Labor Department) has demonstrated its disregard for workers' lives by trying to roll back the regulations that keep workers safe – even when industry leaders, safety experts and workers raise the alarm," the lawmakers' letter said.

"I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist it."
–Mae West (1892 - 1980)

"Never feel self-pity, the most destructive emotion there is. How awful to be caught up in the terrible squirrel cage of self."
–Millicent Fenwick (1910-1992

"If you want creative workers, give them enough time to play."
– John Cleese (1939 -)

"There is a theory which states that if ever anybody discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another theory which states that this has already happened."
–Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001)

"Fear sometimes stops you from doing stupid things. But it can also stop you from doing creative or exciting or experimental things. It can cloud your judgment of others, and lead to all kinds of evil. The control and understanding of our personal fears is one of the most important undertakings in our life."
–Helen Mirren

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."
–Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

"You must lose a fly to catch a trout."
–George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

Local 190
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – **UNION MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. The annual audit will be read at this meeting. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

For the Thanksgiving holiday the office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27.

For the Christmas holiday the office will be closing at Noon on Thursday, Dec. 24 and will be closed all day Friday, Dec. 25. Merry Christmas to all of you and your family members.

The office will be closing at Noon on Thursday, Dec. 31 and will be closed all day Friday, Jan. 1. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

A BIG THANK YOU – 5th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOR ALL: This year UA Local 190 provided 250 turkey dinners to families in need around Washtenaw Co. On Nov. 14 we had 35 volunteers put together 250 bags with items for a nice Thanksgiving dinner. On Nov. 21 we had 18 volunteers to distribute the food items to 250 families. We thank all of the volunteers, we could not have done it without the help of all of our fantastic volunteers! A special thank you to Brian and Beth Keating, Ralph Booth and Karen Spearin for putting this event together.

REQUALIFICATION WELDING TEST FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY, DTE AND SEMCO ENGERY: The following dates there will be a requalification weld test for Consumers Energy, DTE and Semco Energy at Local 190's Training Center located at 8040 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor MI.

Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4.

Monday, Dec. 7 through Friday, Dec. 11.

Also please be aware there is a policy change with Consumers Energy and Semco. Welders must not exceed two calendar years between performing initial qualification requirements for all qualifications held. Please contact Ralph Booth at (734) 369-1432 to schedule your test date, first come first serve!

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 4 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday, 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**.**

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

All members who get laid off or report back to work *please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work*.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 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"

Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2027. Please remember to bring in the 2027 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org, go to documents, health care, 2027 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page)

2026 HEALTH COSTS: Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2026 health costs personally, you must submit information to the Union Hall 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to the attention of Bernadette by Feb. 15, 2027. If you have questions contact Bernadette at 734-424-0962 EXT 3

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

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

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We close 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.

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

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - Mondays, Feb. 15, April 19, July 19, and Sept. 27, 2027**. Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule – Mondays, Feb. 22, April 26, July 26, and Oct. 4, 2027.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

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

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4-8:30pm. closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. 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). **2027 Schedule:** First course starts on **Jan 5**. The second course starts **Sept 7**. Courses run on **Tuesdays** 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 ***Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.***

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): **ASSE PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to $85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2027 Schedule**: First course starts **Feb 9**. The second course starts **May 4**. The third course starts **Oct 12.** Courses are on Tue and Thurs 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 ***Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.***

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry.

2027 Schedule: First course starts **Feb. 23, 2027**. The second course starts **Sept. 1**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. 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. **2027 Schedule:** First course starts **April 28**, Second course starts **Oct. 6**. 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. **2027 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/ Spring 2027**. 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: **2027 course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.): **Journeyman members** who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

GAS DISTRIBUTION TRAINING. *Greater Michigan UA Local 190 Joint Training Committee, Ann Arbor, MI.* The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 Joint Training Committee is seeking **qualified and experienced Gas Distribution professionals** to join our instructional team and help prepare the next generation of highly skilled tradespeople.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Full-Time Gas Distribution Training Coordinator. Will oversee and deliver Gas Distribution apprenticeship and journeyman training throughout UA Local 190's Michigan and Ohio jurisdiction. Responsibilities include classroom and hands-on instruction, curriculum development, Operator Qualification (OQ) evaluation, program coordination, and maintaining high standards for safety and technical training. Travel throughout Michigan and Ohio is required. The full-time position is compensated at the UA Local 190 Michigan Gas Distribution Journeyman rate and includes a full benefits package.

Part-Time Gas Distribution instructional opportunities are available January through March 2027, with assignments based on course schedules and training needs. Evening or weekend instruction may be required.

AREAS OF INSTRUCTION. Gas Distribution Welding • Plastic Pipe Fusing • First Aid & CPR • Safety • Basic and Advanced Pipefitting • Blueprint Reading • Rigging and Signaling • Hot Tapping • House Piping • Appliance Relights • Operator Qualification (OQ) Training and Evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS. Candidates should possess strong Gas Distribution field experience and technical knowledge. **BTJ Journeyman status in the Gas Distribution Division is preferred.** Previous teaching, mentoring, supervisory, or OQ evaluation experience is also preferred.

Candidates should demonstrate a strong commitment to **safety, quality training, professionalism, and the development of future Gas Distribution professionals.**

APPLY TODAY. Submit a current resume and documentation of relevant Gas Distribution experience to: Ckrasny@190jtc.com or mail to: **UA Local 190 Training Center, 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

Qualified applicants selected for further consideration will be contacted for an interview. For questions regarding these opportunities or qualification requirements, please **contact Colin Krasny at the UA Local**

(Continued next column)

Local 333
Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – December's union meeting will be held Dec. 16, 2026, at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm

Dues: Effective Nov. 1, 2026, dues receipts will be emailed to you for your convenience. Please contact your regional office to update your email address if necessary.

UA Local 333 Christmas Party: Friday, Jan. 8, 2027, 5-9pm, FireKeepers Casino Hotel, 11177 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI. Call your Regional Office to RSVP. Reservations must be made by Dec. 15 and not to exceed 6 people per family. We want to make sure Santa brings enough for everyone to enjoy. Hotel rooms can be reserved by calling 877-352-8777, mention group code 010827pipe. Please note reservations must be made by 10 pm on Dec. 24, 2026, to receive the discounted rate.

DO NOT opt out of health care coverage on your auto insurance. If you are injured in an auto accident our health care coverage will not cover you.

Welding: Dates: Jan. 4, 2027 – March 11, 2027. Runs for 10 weeks. Time: 4:30 pm – 8:30pm

Lansing: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm Tuesday and Thursday will open only if Mon/Wed class fills. 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906

Jackson: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm. Limit 8 people. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI 49201

Battle Creek: Monday and Thursday 4:30pm – 8:30pm Limit 12 people

(KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037

Backflow:

ASSE BACKFLOW – New certification. Dates: Class: TUES/ THUR Jan. 19, 2027 – March 2, 2027. Test: March 4, 2027. Time: 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Must have a Journeyman plumbing license **and** 5 years of piping experience or be in the 5th year of apprenticeship.

ASSE Backflow certification classes will be held once per year in January. Please plan accordingly.

ASSE BACKFLOW – RENEWAL. Dates: January 2027 Dates TBD.

MAY 2027, Sept. 2027. Time: 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

** ASSE Backflow recertification classes will be held three times per year in January, May, and September. Please plan accordingly.

Medical Gas Installer: New certification.

Dates: Class: MON/WED Jan. 18, 2027 – Feb. 24, 2027

Test: March 1, 2027

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Med gas certification classes will be held twice yearly in January and September. Please plan accordingly.

Medical Gas Installer - Renewal. Dates:

Class: MON/WED March 1, 2027 – March 3, 2027

Test: March 15, 2027. Time: 5-8 p.m.

Med gas recertification classes will be held twice yearly in March and October. Please plan accordingly.

Tube Bending class: Jan. 2027 dates TBD. *must have 6 people to hold class

Blueprint Interpretation: Reading: Intro to Bluebeam- Jan. 2027 dates TBD **limit of 6 people per class

Rigging and Signaling: EPRI Rigging and Signaling - new certification. Dates: Sept. 2027 TBD

** Rigging and signaling certification class will be held once annually in September. Please plan accordingly.

EPRI Rigging and Signaling – Renewal. Dates: Spring 2027 dates TBD

** Rigging and signaling recertification will be held one annually in the spring. Please plan accordingly.

Basic First Aid– 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min 6 people have signed up

CPR – 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min of 6 people have signed up

Please note: for all certification classes that do not have scheduled dates yet- 2 weeks before class begins, you will be notified of class details.

Please call the training center with questions at (517) 323.0333

Please note moving forward, classes will be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

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 the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

Please sign up for classes 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 meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is at the west end of the Jackson Crossing Shopping Center.

"*The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and their families. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall.*

Sincere condolences to Deborah Corwin on the loss of her husband Jackson member Gary Corwin who passed away Nov. 11, 2026. He was a member of Local 333 for 28 years. We are so very sorry for your loss, and you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our thoughts and prayer to the family and friends of Battle Creek member Damon Banks whose wife Barbara passed away November 12, 2026. We are so very sorry for your loss.

Local 704
Sprinkler Fitters

UA Local 174

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held on Wednesday December 9th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 p.m.

The Hall will be closed Nov. 25 and 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the hall will reopen Monday Nov. 30 at 7:30 am

The link to the form for members to reserve their holiday ham can be found on the website rsvp for hams must be in no later than Nov. 30.

The annual 704 kids Christmas party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, noon to 3 pm at the union hall please register using the link on our website.

Any member interested in playing in the UA hockey tournament taking place in Hamilton ONT in May 2027 please contact Mark Micolo at 248-841-5233

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

Please sign up for MDLive. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 190, con't

190 Training Center. Invest your experience in the future of the trade. Help us train the next generation of safe, skilled, and highly qualified Gas Distribution professionals.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and coffee.

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

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 themself 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 Plumbers Local 98.* **Join us in celebrating and welcoming the 56 new apprentices and journeymen sworn in at our November membership meeting! You are now part of something bigger than yourselves, a proud brotherhood built on hard work, solidarity, and generations of excellence since 1893. We're proud to stand beside you. Welcome to the Local 98 family!**

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026 at 6pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Jan. 7, 2027 at 4:30pm. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Noon** at the Plumbers 98 hall. Contact Dave Schroeder or Dominic Fanto if you have questions, or call the hall.

Annual Wrapping Party: Mark your calendars! Calling all of Santa's Elves and helpers… the annual **Wrapping Party** is on **Monday, Nov. 30 from 5-8 pm** to help Santa prepare for the Local 98 annual Children's Christmas Party.

Children's Christmas Party is on **Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 5-8pm.** Watch the trades paper, website, Facebook and Instagram for additional information. We look forward to seeing all of our members and their families both nights.

Ready To Work: It's that time of year to submit your "Ready to Work" form again. *All forms must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2026*. To be eligible for payment under the program, you must have remained current for the entire 2026 Calendar year. The Ready to Work Program form can be found on our website under the resources tab.

Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Hts. & Novi) are now open. For more information, please see their website at my.marathon.health or call 866-434-3255. Participants enrolled in the Fund's Medicare Advantage program are unable to utilize Marathon Health. *Two additional locations will be opening in Pontiac and Taylor first quarter 2027.* Contact an officer with any questions.

Open Enrollment Health Care Updates/Changes: The 2027 open enrollment packets will be sent to active and retired members' homes within the next few weeks. Please watch for them in the mail. Any questions on changes or coverage, call the BeneSys direct line, 248-641-4988.

NOMI is part of our health care benefits which started Aug. 1, 2026. The NOMI Health Network is an additional power network to make your healthcare experience more accessible, affordable and tailored to your unique needs. Information has been mailed to our active membership, under 65 and do not have retiree Humana health care. Any questions, please call BeneSys for additional information.

Benefit Update: To better serve you, Local 98 has changed record keepers for our Defined Contribution plan from BeneSys to Empower. Empower can be reached at (833) 569-2433. We have also changed our HRA tracking portal. Any questions on setting up your new accounts please call an officer. In addition, the monthly status reports will only include the past hours and contributions reported since the previous statement. To check your balances please go to fundoffice.lh1ondemand.com The username is your first initial last name and last four of social security number. For additional information call the hall or BeneSys.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Membership Dues Friendly Reminder: to stay up-to-date on your membership dues to avoid suspension fees and/or being expelled. You may do auto deduction, pension deduction, pay online, pay in person or call the hall.

SUB Apps/Out of Work List: SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. This also includes notifying the hall for jury duty, bereavement, short term disability and worker's compensation. *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.

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have passed or lost a loved one recently. Brother Frank Fath, was 71 year member and initiated on 8-9-1955; Brother David Walinske, was a 69 year member and initiated on 1-10-1957; Brother Charles McCarrick, was a 40 year member and initiated on 2-27-1986; Brother David Glomski, was a 69 year member and initiated on 4-11-1957; and Brother Frank Talaki, was a 65 year member and initiated on 5-11-1961. Brother Talaki is also the father of the late Brother Frank V. Talaki who passed in December 2017. May they rest in eternal peace.

Expelled Members: We currently have one member expelled for November 2026: Vincent Montalto.

Benefits. We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues **Please call Benesys at (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.**

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

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more: www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org, Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

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

Luke Garcia, Organizer (248) 763-2187 lgarcia@uanet.org

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

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. # 248-585-1435
www.Plumbers98tc.org

Happy Thanksgiving weekend from the staff here at the Training Center to everyone!

The Apprenticeship Application process is open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, Dec. 18, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. 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 the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have questions.

Ready to Work Program payouts can be achieved in 3 tiers, all of which can be earned separately. This program is for Journeymen, and the certifications must be current through the entire year. The link to the form can be found on the Local 98 website, ualocal98.org and also on the MCA Detroit website, mcadetroit.org

Tier 1 (12 Hours):

State of Michigan Plumber's License

Completed Drug Test (Recorded by MUST)

First Aid Certification (Submitted by Issuing Company)

MUST Modules (Recorded by MUST)

Tier 2 (3 Hours):

ASSE 5110 Backflow Prevention Certification. Tier 3 (3 Hours):

ASSE 6010 NFPA99 Medical Gas Installer Certification

Monthly Code Class – Next class is **pending**. 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** the Training Center to register.

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Feb. 2, 2027, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesdays, Jan. 20 and January 27. ***Call*** the Training Center if you are interested in attending. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2027. *All classes are register and prepay by check or money order only.*

All Spring classes will begin the week of March 1 with a deadline to register by Friday, Feb. 12.

All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 6 with a deadline to register by Aug. 13.

ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification: *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

8 hour recert class January 19&20. Deadline is Dec. 24, 2026

8 hour recert class April 20 & 21. Deadline is March 26, 2027

8 hour recert class July 20 & 21. Deadline is June 25, 2027

8 hour recert class Oct. 19 & 20. Deadline is Sept. 24, 2027

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): $200

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): $200

ASSE Repairer: *** ***Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification*** $100

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

Hydronic Heating and Cooling: $100

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: $100

CAD/BIM: $100

Welding Classes

Orbital Class: $100. Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 12 – Feb. 2. Max of 6 people per class. Deadline to register is Dec. 29, 2026.

Downhill Class: $100. Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 9 – March 23. Max of 8 people per class. Deadline to register is Jan. 26, 2027.

****2026 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 Dec. 5, 2026. **You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.

OPEN WELDING – is available on Monday and 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.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10 ($59), and OSHA 30 ($159) available as an online class at www.careersafeonline.com . These OSHA classes are not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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

"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

–Moshe Dayan (1915 - 1981)

"Have you learned the lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed passage with you?

—Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – **Important fund change information; effective 01/01/2027 all active and pre-Medicare retirees are moving from Blue Cross Blue Shield and/or Aetna to Nomi/HAP. There are no changes to the Humana insurance for Medicare retirees. Please open all mail for new identification cards and important fund information.**

Our next Regular Meeting/ which is a Special Called Meeting will start at 7 pm on Tuesday Dec. 15, 2026 at Penna's of Sterling 38400 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Hts., 48312.

REMINDER This year's Annual Years of Service Awards Banquet / Union Meeting will be held on Dec. 15 at Penna's of Sterling 38400 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights MI 48312. Doors open at 6:30 meeting will be called to order at 7:00 pm.

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 online merchandise store is live! Sign into the members section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.

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

Get Well Wishes to; Frank Grammatico, Douglas Detomaso, Robert Filar, Jacob Giacobbi, Ryan Hartmann, Dennis Shrewsberry.

Deceased Members; Lifetime Member Johnnie Motyka Nov. 17, 2026;/ Lifetime Member William Jamison Nov. 12, 2026; 48 Year Member Floyd Posey Nov. 8, 2026.

Congratulations to Anthony and Ericka Marsack on the birth of their son Michael Joseph Nov. 3, 2026.

DUES – 4th Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and retirees.

This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

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

636 Retiree Association! The next meeting will be held Jan. 21. Informing all retirees and their significant others to attend our meetings at the Local Union Office in Farmington Hills, every third Thursday of every month at 11 am, excluding December. The meetings present speakers which are very helpful with regard to your retirement and officers are there to answer any questions, you are also brought up to date on the activities of Local 636. Lunch is served for $7.00 with refreshments and desserts. -*Secretary Michael N. Sylvester*

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

For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys. **BeneSys** has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **888-646-8920.**

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The customer service

(Continued next column)

Local 357

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING:** will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 8** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00.

TOYS FOR TOTS: The Union has a box in the front entrance for Toys for Tots donations. Presents must be new and unwrapped. This box will remain at the Hall until mid-December for anyone who would like to donate.

PARTY INFORMATION: There will be a Holiday Party at the Hall on **Saturday, Dec. 12.** Drinks and hor d'oeuvres start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:00. You **MUST RSVP** no later than **Nov. 30, 2026,** by calling (269) 679-2570 or emailing Lori at 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. Late RSVP's will not be accepted.

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

RETIREE MEETINGS: On the 1st Monday of every month, retired members can meet for Breakfast that will commence at 9:00 am at **The Crew,** at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. 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 and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change. **There also seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** *(See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).*

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Alex Wait on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Christopher Beltran on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Brad Leep and family on the birth of a son, Jaren.

Local 636, con't

number for Empower is **833-569-2433.** For account information please create log in at **empowermyretirement.com** or download the Empower mobile app.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60–90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

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

When you stay current with your safety modules, drug test and first aid, from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.

Local 85

Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2026,** at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM and will serve as our Christmas Party and Election Results.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738. This will be our Zone 2 Christmas Party.

Contact Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 No. If you have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

JATC News:

Congratulations to our newest journeyman**,** Grant Gillis!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR 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.

The next retirees' luncheon will be the Christmas Party and will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603. RSVPs are required as this is a catered event. The deadline to rsvp is Nov. 20.

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Manny Garcia who passed away on November 12, 2026.

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

Local 370
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2026, at 7 p.m.** This meeting has been designated as a **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of accepting nominations to fill recently vacated positions through special election.

The following positions are up for election for the remainder of the current term until next general election.
(1) Executive Board
(1) Examining Board
(1) FMR Fund Committee

Apprentice application window is Jan. 2 through March 31.

Retiree Breakfast will be Monday, Jan.11 at 9 a.m. (No December Breakfast due to the service award banquet)

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026 Local 370 will host our annual Service Award banquet and Holiday celebration. The location will be at our hall at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI. Cocktail hour will begin at 5 pm. The service award ceremony will begin at 6 with dinner following. Please call Karla or Kyara at the hall to reserve your spot for a night of dinner, dancing and celebrating members' years of service and the Christmas Holiday.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is now available to all members and retirees as of March 1. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

Weld Test: Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7am.

December Welding: Nov. 30 thru Dec. 23. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

January Welding: Jan. 4 thru Jan. 27. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

Med Gas: Jan. 4 thru Feb. 25. Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

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

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available. Cost is $85. Check, money order or credit card.

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:
Examining Board – Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 4:00pm
FMR Committee – Tuesday December 8th,2026 at 4:00pm
PAC committee – Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 5:00pm
Executive Board –Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 5:00pm
Building Committee – Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 6:00pm
Finance Committee -Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 6:15pm
JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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.

(Continued next column)

Local 671
LOCAL 671 MONROE – PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS, HVAC & WELDERS

UA Local 671

MONROE – The **next Union meeting will be held on Dec. 17, 2026, at 7pm**. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **Dec. 17, 2026, at 5pm**. If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall. There will food and beverages at our December meeting to celebrate the Christmas season.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. Also, please refer to our website https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/ and its calendar for the latest updates.

The annual Local 671 Children's Christmas party is Saturday, Dec. 12 at 12:30 pm. The event is for active members and their children only. Letters went out already; please make sure you contact the Union Hall to RSVP. Also please remember to bring nonperishable food donation to help with our community food pantry.

Training: We continue to have open weld nights every Thursday at the Guiberson Training center. If you are work on getting your certs, you need to make every effort to attend.

Health & Welfare: If you have any issues or concerns with your Health Care feel free to contact me (Mike) or Carly at the Union Hall.

Local 671 App: There will be a new app platform getting launched soon. If you are having issue logging on to the current app, please contact me and I will help you. The new platform will need to have all new username and password. This information will be sent out as soon as we go live with the new app.

In Closing: As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, let us reflect on the sacrifices, hard work and dedication of the men and women who built our labor movement and continue to strengthen it every day with your professionalism and skill.

We are thankful for the brothers and sisters who stand together, support one another, and fight for good wages, benefits, safe working conditions, and opportunities for future generations. May we never take for granted the solidarity that brings us together or the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

I am truly grateful to be a part of a movement built on hard work, brotherhood, sisterhood, and standing up for one another. Wishing the members of Local 671 and all our Union Brothers and Sisters a safe, blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Solidarity Forever!

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

Local 370, con't

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.

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

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

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test can contact the Training Center for application and testing dates.

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

T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free no. is 1-888-797-5862.

Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE –**MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The monthly membership meeting and annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, Dec. 3** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Office Closures: The office will be closed for the following days as the holiday season approaches.

Nov. 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 24 & 25 - Christmas
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 – New Years

Condolences: It is with sadness we report that brother Frank Skocelas passed away 11/8/26. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The 2026 Toys for Tots drive has begun. Please drop off any new and unwrapped toys for donation at the front office by Dec. 1. Your gift will be greatly appreciated!

Hiring New Organizer: The Michigan Pipe Trades is currently accepting resumes for an organizer. Any UA journeyman member from Michigan can apply. If you have any questions or are interested in applying, please contact Ryan Bennett.

Operation United: As we begin planning for next year's event supporting West Michigan Veterans, we are currently working to identify veteran Union members in need of assistance with yard work and minor exterior home projects next spring. If you know a veteran Union member who could benefit from help, please reach out so we can begin building our project list for 2027.

Local 174 Peer Support Group: Sometimes talking with people who understand makes all the difference. Join fellow Local 174 members for an **anonymous, judgment-free, Peer Support Group** at **6 PM the Tuesday after each Union Meeting.** Come talk, listen, share, or just be there. There is **strength in numbers –** the more members who participate, the more experiences, perspectives, and support we bring to the room. **No pressure. No judgment. Members supporting members.** Reach out to Chris Phillips or Josh Herrick with any questions.

Union Strong Phone App: If you have not downloaded our app and would like to, reach out to the front office for the link or QR code.

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1st, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows:
1st year $4.20/ 2nd year $3.30/ 3rd year $3.30
$10.80 over 3 years.

Language changes:
Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foremen pay.

Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked.

The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Wage Allocation: The 2026 wage allocation was voted on at the June 2, 2026 membership meeting. Results were $2.25 increase on the check, $0.05 increase to the Retiree Bonus Program, $0.50 increase to the Pension fund, and $0.50 increase to the Health Fund.

Organizing Update: *I'm curious how many members went out hunting on opening day? How about Oct. 1 opening bow season? Who's looking forward to the holidays, spending time with family? Who watched the Lions play in Munich, Germany? When I talk to the nonunion worker, these are the things that I bring up, a lot of times I don't even talk about wages or benefits until a few conversations down the road. It's about building a relationship. We have more in common then what divides us. We're all trying to put food on the table to provide for our families. If they're doing our work, they deserve what we have… the best wages, the best benefits, and a contract! Know someone working non-union? Give them my number 616-307-8551.* –Thank you, Johnny Ortiz.

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
Medicare Retirees:
Retiree First: (616) 345-0788
*New rates reflected below effective 9/1/26.
Current Health Insurance Premums: Active Member/ Working Retiree $1,300
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree $926.00 with Non-Medicare Spouse/Dependents Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree $582.00 with Medicare
Spouse/Dependents
Medicare Single $123.63
Medicare Couple $247.26
Medicare with Pre-Med care 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.

Retiree Dues: If you are retiring, it is the member's responsibility to inform the Union Hall on the final day of work in order to request a reduction in window dues at the Retiree Rate. Additionally, it is the member's responsibility to call Ext. 17 to notify dispatch of your retirement, providing your name, phone number, contractor name, and the date of your last day worked.

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.

Helpers: Please remember that if you are working as a Helper, 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 and the Lakeshore have merged their meetings and are now held on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 pm in Local 174's Assembly Hall.

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact Nathan Phillips for details.

Training News:

ATTENTION: Apprentice meeting December 9th 630pm.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm**.** The next class will be held Thursday, December 10th, 2026.

WELD TEST: Capability demonstration will be Tuesday, December 8th and the test event to follow Thursday, December 10th at 5pm**.**

OPEN WELD: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates**.**

INDUSTIAL RIGGING AND SIGNALING: We will be announcing a class that will begin this February, look for the announcement of dates in January.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: If there is any training you would like to see made available, please let us know. We appreciate your suggestions and feedback so we can look into making those training opportunities available.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your **welder certification status cards are now being emailed** instead of sent via USPS mail.

If you have turned in your continuity but have **NOT** received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

Please contact Chris Phillips or Megan Colborn if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Megan @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Megan (231)288-8329.

"A technical objection is the first refuge of a scoundrel."

–Heywood Broun (1888 - 1939)

Local 169
Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **December 11, 2026 at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI. 48101. We will have food and drinks after the meeting.**


MICHAEL CARD

We would like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all are members enjoy your time with family and friends.

If you are a deer hunter good luck and be safe.

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of 55.85 for 2026.

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 getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Scott Ivey at (989)662-6491.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend.

Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons

Area 1 Retirees luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar located 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 located 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 at 11AM. The next lunch will be on December 16, 2026, at The Otherside Bar and Grill. The address is 8301 Midland Road, Freeland, Michigan 48623. As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

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 in all sizes have arrived at the Union Hall soon. The cost is $50.00 XL and smaller 55.00 for 2XL, 60.00 for 3XL and 70.00 for 4XL. 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 or on our Facebook page.

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

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

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

Local 174, con't

on who is on dispatch.

"A poet who reads his verse in public may have other nasty habits."

– Robert Heinlein (1907 - 1988)

"Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece."

–Ralph Charell

"Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?"

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

"Never be haughty to the humble; never be humble to the haughty."

– Jefferson Davis (1808 - 1889)

"My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary."

Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)

CA$H FOR $CRAP METAL
Aluminum - Copper - Brass
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide
Radiators - Lead - Batteries
McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co.
6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott)
mcnicholsscrap.com
(313) 365-6100
Detroit Iron & Metal Co.
8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)
detroitironandmetal.com
(313) 841-5100

Local 80
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.


JASON GRUNENWALD

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Dec. 21. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the December 2026 meeting, nominations will be taken for the position of Fund Trustees. Elections will be held at the January 2027 membership meeting. 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 2027 through January 2030. Your dues must be current if you would like to be nominated.

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

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to the families of the following members that have recently passed away**:** Louis Anulare – 10/17/26, Kenneth Daniels – 11/1/26, Ronald Gute – 11/17/26, Daniel Spankie Sr. – 10/26/26 and Charles Wethington – 10/19/26.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Nick Koppinger, Michael J. Miller, Jack MacFarland, John Rejc, Justin Brown, Raymond Cordovado, Joseph Laird, Joseph Fabian, Joseph Verbit, Robert Crooks, Robert Schmidt, Wayne Morgan, Paul Parpart, Ronald Kramer, Kyle Trombley, Brian Proctor, Michael D. Miller, Wyatt Osborne & Jeffrey Haywood.

READY TO WORK: As you are aware, Local 80 and SMACNA Detroit have partnered to develop the Ready to Work Program and stipend effective Dec. 1, 2015, for the Building Trades Construction, Residential and Service journeyperson classifications. Stipend checks are scheduled to be distributed November-December 2026 to Local 80 journeyperson members who have completed all requirements. Stipend payment is determined by eight hours June 1, 2026, JOURNEYPERSON base wages.

DEADLINE FOR 2026 STIPEND IS DEC. 31, 2026. 2026 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. **NO ADDITIONAL QUIZ or MODULES FOR 2026!** To view your credentials in the Ready to Work database go to: https://smd80.copperrange.com/

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

WORKING IN OTHER LOCALS: Please remember that if you are working in a jurisdiction outside of Local 80 you must call their union hall and check in as a traveler. It is the member's responsibility to do this, not the contractor's! If you have any questions please reach out to an agent.

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

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

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

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

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

SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements:

Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff to avoid forfeiting benefits.

Layoff slips must accompany your application to qualify for SUB benefits.

Send proof of UIA benefit payments within **21 days** of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to **smw80subfund@gmail.com** or fax it to **248-557-0297**. To ensure payment by Friday, proof due by **2:00 PM on Tuesdays**.

Important: Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office. For questions, call the hall at **248-557-7575**.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply:

Complete the SUB application at the hall.

Provide a pay stub for the week.

The hall will submit your information to the fund office.

Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you're facing challenges in your family, relationships, or dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, grief, or substance use, please reach out to our Assistance Program **Ulliance** at 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

Training Center News.

Apprenticeship Entrance Exam. The Entrance Exam for the next **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Building Trades Apprenticeship** class is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2027. Applications will be accepted until all available testing spots are filled. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by April 5, 2027. Applications must be submitted in person by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.

Winter 2027 Upgrading Classes. Enrollment opens at 7:30am on Monday, Nov. 30, 2026. To enroll, call the training center at 586-979-5190. Classes begin the week of January 18, 2027

To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to **https://www.smw-80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule.**

(Continued next column)

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 held in Lansing, MI at 4931 Contec Drive at 6 p.m. will be held on December 10, 2026.

Regular Area MEETINGS are as follows:

Zone 1 – (Dec. 9, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at 1612 Brooks Drive/Marshall

Zone 2 – (Dec. 8, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at VFW 5209 Grand Haven Rd Norton Shores

Zone 3/Sag – (December 2, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at Xmas mgt Back Orchard Barn 11001 Wilkinson Rd Freeland

Zone 4 – (Dec. 1, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at 4070 Dolan Drive/Flint


SAM FULLER

Zone 5 – (December 4, 2026) – 10:00 a.m. held at 511 Avenue D Gwinn

Zone 3/TC - (December 3, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at 406 Hyde St Kalkaska Traverse City

Business Manager. **Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16 Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information.**

Please register on our website at **www.sheetmetal7.org** for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. Once you are registered it must be approved to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

ZONE 1 Info: Work in Zone 1 has slowed down a bit as we head into fall but still looks to remain strong. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric and Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with Unemployment, ESTA, Insurance, or Pensions, please contact Eric or Vance for assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in any upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Zone 1 Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested.)

Monthly Retiree meeting: 2nd Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm located at Sarah's Place 1100 Page Ave, Jackson MI 49203. **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in zone 2 remains the same with just a few members on the out of work list. If you become unemployed please reach out to me so I can put you on the out of work list. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and also let me know of any address or phone number changes. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and spends some quality time with family and friends. **Work Safe and Thank you, Your Brother Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: Work in the area remains steady. Make sure to contact me if you are out of work, there is travel work available. Be sure to check your dues receipt to make sure you are current; dues are due before the first of every month.

Please contact the Lansing office if your address or phone numbers have changed.

The next Zone 3 membership meeting is December 2 at the Back Orchard Barn at 6pm located at 11001 Wilkinson Rd Freeland.

Next Zone 3 Retiree meeting is December 1st at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

(Traverse City Info). Work in the area is still steady. Our Christmas meeting will be December 3rd at 5:30 pm. MSHA training is to be paid for by the contractor, not on your own time. Contact me if you get laid off as there will be work available in the southern areas of the state later in the year. Call the Hall in Lansing with any changes to your address and phone number. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 is starting to slow down a bit; there is talk of some work coming to get us through the winter. I want to let everybody know that we recently closed on the new building in Clio. The Mac we are super excited about that we're going to have a new training center next year. Also don't forget to get with the training center regarding upgrade classes for this winter. Fall is now upon us, I hope everybody is having good success in the woods. **Thanks Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP is holding steady. Don't forget to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address or phone number, please call me or the Lansing hall to get that changed. Just a reminder, our Christmas party is on December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the hall in Gwinn. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

NEWS: Local 7 – **Union T-Shirts** are now available through the Lansing office more information on our website **www.sheetmetal7.org**

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

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI 48910– **517-882-4064** or visit us online at www.smwlu7.org.

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 Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**

Local 80, continued

Part-Time Welding Instructor Position. The Trustees of the **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Committee** are seeking to hire **a part-time welding instructor**. The ideal candidate will have several years of experience in Stick and MIG welding in the sheet metal industry and a strong desire to educate fellow members in this vital aspect of our trade. Primary duties will include teaching apprentices and journeypersons during the Training Center's night upgrading classes.

All interested applicants may submit their resume via email to Sam Velez at sam@smw80jac.org

Part-Time Architectural Instructor Position. The Trustees of the **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Committee** are seeking to hire **a part-time Architectural instructor**. The ideal candidate will have several years of experience in architectural fabrication and installation in the sheet metal industry and a strong desire to educate fellow members in this vital aspect of our trade. Primary duties will include teaching apprentices and journeypersons during the Training Center's night upgrading classes.

All interested applicants may submit their resume via email to Sam Velez at sam@smw80jac.org

Local 292
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Dec. 9, 2026, at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance.

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Friday, Dec. 18, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. The regular meeting schedule will resume in January.

RETIREES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be on 12/3/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. Please contact the union hall via our website, www.sheetmetal292.com. Click the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.


PAUL GUALDONI

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Applications are being accepted for the Sheet Metal Scholarship program, beginning Sept 1, 2026. Applications must be received by Feb 15, 2027. 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.

BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026: The Board of Trustees of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Supplemental Unemployment Fund is pleased to announce the following benefit improvements effective June 1, 2026.

Journeyman/Apprentice: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $225 to $275.

Classified A/B: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $102 to $124

Classified C: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $30 to $37

Please note that all existing credits will also be increased.

HRA BENNY CARD APP: We want to share an important update regarding your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and your Benny Card. Effective June 8, 2026, your HRA will move to a new platform designed to make managing your benefits easier, faster, and more convenient. To access the Mobile App, search for the **BeneSys Member Reimbursement** app in your app store. Our Member Services team is still here for you. If you have questions or need help during the transition, please contact the Fund Office, 248-641-4992

LOCAL 292 ANNUITY/WAGE DEFERRAL: Beginning 1/1/26 the Annuity Fund will offer both pre-tax 403 (B) and Roth 403 (B) contribution options. Check your mail for flyers from Local 292 & John Hancock explaining the new option.

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance.

UNION EAP. Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915.

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

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you Must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List. **Please get in touch with Paul or Tony for updated work opportunities.**

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.

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. If you haven't already done so, you must create an account to access your information. If you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues must be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday; therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed, and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e., late fees or service fees, are included if paid online (sheetmetal292.com).

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please contact the union hall to update your address.

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 members interested in a Saturday welding class on Dec. 5, Dec.12 & Dec. 19. 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 are scheduled for the class.

Local 514
Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – **December membership meeting is canceled due to the Christmas party.**

Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!
November & December 2026
Boyd Pennington, Jr.-25 Years
Gerardo Guerra-25 years
Hector Leon-25 Years
Arthur Patino-25 Years
Roman Guzman-30 Years
Dino Ricciuti-30 Years
Jasen Thompson-30 Years
Raymond Redmond-40 Years

Happy Thanksgiving from OPCMIA Local 514! As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, Local 514 would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members, retirees, and their families.

We are truly thankful for the hard work, dedication, and loyalty of our members, both past and present. Your commitment and contributions have helped build the strong union family we are proud to be part of today.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with love, laughter, gratitude, and cherished moments with those who mean the most.

From all of us at Local 514, we wish you and your families a safe, blessed, and Happy Thanksgiving!

We are pleased to announce that Patrick Tejkl is our new Outstate Business Agent for the Flint area. Members with any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Patrick directly at 517-719-2316. Please join us in welcoming Patrick to his new role!

We are pleased to announce that Membership Gold Cards will be distributed to our members at this year's Christmas Party. We encourage all members to make every effort to attend this special event and receive their Gold Card in person.

LOCAL 514 CHRISTMAS PARTY: We are pleased to announce that our Annual Local 514 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026! Time: 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Location: Local 514, 1154 E. Lincoln Avenue, Madison Heights, MI 48071. **Members only, must be in good standing to attend!**

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of great food, fun, fellowship, and prizes! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our members!

Important Meeting Announcement. December Membership Meeting: CANCELED.

We hope to see everyone there! Wishing all our members and their families a joyous holiday season!

Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opcmiami.org

Please contact the local office at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to aajrouche@opcmiami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. **We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to the members' email addresses.**

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 benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

(Continued next column)

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2

BAC Local 2

WARREN – **Upcoming meetings.**

SAGINAW CHAPTER: December meeting - CANCELLED

DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, at 5:30 PM, at 21031 Ryan Rd, Warren MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd, Dexter, MI 48130



FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St, Lapeer, MI 48446

BRETT GIERAK – *Apprentice meeting starts at 7:00 PM*

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Dr, Lansing, MI 48906

GRAND RAPIDS: Thursday, December 3rd, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 233 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, December 10th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Rd, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, December 10th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Trivola, MI 49965

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, December 21st, 2026 at 7:00 PM, 199 S Front Street, Marquette, Mi 49855

SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, December 5, 2025! Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Rd in Livonia. Doors open at 5:00pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

KALAMAZOO MEMBERS – SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual Kalamazoo Christmas Party, Thursday, December 17, 2026! 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087at 6:00pm. Food & drink will be provided. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

U.P. MEMBERS – SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual U.P. Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 23, 2026! Vierling Restaurant Sample Room, 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855 at 6 pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL: We have moved the Apprentice Hours Portal to a new platform called WorkHands. You should have received an email or text message with an invitation to join the platform.

All monthly hours must now be submitted through the WorkHands app. After you submit your hours, they will be reviewed by your foreman or superintendent, who will complete an evaluation of your progress before forwarding them to the Training Center.

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month. For more information please see the video announcement that was sent out in WorkHands on the updated evaluation process.

If you need assistance accessing the portal or help submitting your hours, resources are available online at: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources

You may also contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382 for additional support.

For more information about the Training Centers, please visit: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of 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 Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to https://www.michiganbricklayers.org, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website, and register for future 2025 training classes.

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

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.

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)

Michigan Masonry Trades Pension – (248) 828-6000

Local 514 continued

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

Attention, all Apprentices: you will now 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 get in touch with the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

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

Please refer to the website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Members 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 Pat Tejkl at (517) 719-2316 or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

We must stay vigilant in our efforts to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more, an Apprentice must be on the crew. 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; some plant jobs require the MUST modules. You can go online at www.mustonline.org or call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure we have all of your current contact information, address, and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated.

Important Notice for Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons: You can 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.

Local 25
Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – All Union Halls are closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2026. We wish all our Staff, Members & their families a Great Holiday!

The November Union Meeting is Monday, Nov. 30, 2026 at 7 pm and **will be in person & zoom will also be available**. All Union Halls will be open. We encourage members to come in person to the November meeting for solidarity & fellowship! 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 Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Nov. 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Cancelled for November due to hunting season.

The Flint Steward Holiday meeting open house will be Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 5 pm; at the Flint Hall.

The Downriver Steward Holiday meeting open house will be Thursday, Dec.17th at 5pm at Mr. K's in River Rouge.

The Lansing Steward Holiday meeting open house will be Friday, Dec. 18 at 5 pm; at the Lansing Hall.

The West Michigan Steward Holiday meeting is Monday, Dec. 21 at 5:00 pm; at the Masonic Temple 4th Floor Dining Room; 233 Fulton St. East, Grand Rapids 49503.

The Saginaw Steward Holiday meeting open house will be December 22nd at 5:00 pm; at the Saginaw Hall.

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT AND HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday December 2, 2026 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm NEW TIME. If you have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome!

If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.

December vacation check schedule: The last day to call to have your December vacation check pulled for in-person pick up is Monday, November 30, 2026 at Noon. Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday, Dec. 3, 2026 after 2:00 pm. All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026. ***All members that a receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be on deposit Friday, Dec. 4, 2026.*** All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday Dec. 5, 2026.

The Iron Workers Annual Children's Christmas Party is *SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2026* at the Novi Union Hall, 25150 Trans X Dr. Novi MI. **Doors open at 10 am. We have a new Magic show starting at 11:45 - PLEASE arrive BEFORE the show starts.** In addition to the show, the kids will enjoy face-painting & crafts; pictures, hot dogs, pop & chips, cotton candy, popcorn, raffles, and of course Santa Claus. **We will have gifts for kids to age 10.**

The 2027 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is now available. *All requests must be made by **Monday, Feb. 15, 2027** and all Completed applications are due by Monday **March 1, 2027**.* Call Mary at 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.

Shout out to our Instructors & Secretarial Staff as you keep everything running efficiently at the Local 25 Training Centers in Wixom and Hudsonville!

Apprentice applications accepted electronically. Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can apply online, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a variety of training requirements, offering over 100 online courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/

The username is the member's book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2026 Block Schedule, or Roster. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

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

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 open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).*

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

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 **and follow the prompts**. Hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

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

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

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

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

The **Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club.** The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, Dec.1, 2026 at 8 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday Dec. 15, 2026 at 10 am. All are welcome.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026 at 9 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** expected to be January 21, 2027; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw Mi 48604 at 12 pm. All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be Jan. 22, 2027 at 9 am, at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, MI, 48183. All are welcome.

The IRONWORKER Magazine To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up www.iwu.crediblemind.com is a free online resource for ironworkers and their families, with the site containing expert rated videos, podcasts, apps, programs, books & articles all in one place and available 24/7.

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 Substance-use-disorder.

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.

When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is 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.

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then press 1. Or, you can send a text message to 838255 to received confidential support 24/7. For more information visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

In Memory: Norman Hamilton #559909 passed away Nov. 1, 2026 at the age of 88. He was a 72-year member survived by his beloved wife Mary Theresa. He is survived by his sons David Hamilton #980167, Rick Hamilton #1035794; Grandsons Jonathon Grunas #1289226 & Nathan Santino #1356619; and his cousin Franklin Hamilton #622823. Larry Harden #739264 passed away November 2, 2026 at the age of 85 and his beloved wife Margaret passed several days later on November 8, 2026, both due to a tragic auto accident. Larry was a 60-year member and was the mid-state Business Agent for Local 25 from July 1979 through October 1993. Leland Wendt #754873passed away November 6, 2026 at the age of 83. He was a 60-year member survived by his wife Jean. ***Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your dear loved one(s).***

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Nov 20, 2026 10 am E.S.T.).

The Building Tradesman, and this article, will transition to a once-a-month publication schedule starting in January 2027.

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Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.

IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW Local 557

SAGINAW – **NEXT UNION MEETING IS THE CHRISTMAS MEETING.** The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 5:30pm. We will be celebrating the Christmas Holiday at this meeting with a catered meal and special gift for the membership as well. Please join us for this annual tradition. Service Pins will also be awarded for members that have reached certain milestones.

2026 SERVICE PIN AWARDS – The following members will receive some of the prestigious Service Pin Awards for their time in the Local. **25 Year pins –** Evan Allardyce, Keith Gross, Matt Hamilton, and Ron Miner. **30 Year pins –** Russ Combs, Mark Fini, Duane Hamling, Kent Krauseneck, and Scott Sova. **35 Year pin –** John Delestowicz. **40 Year pins –** Dave Luth & James Wesolek. **50 Year pins –** Michael Drake, Robert Orr, Richard Rebischke, and Edward Silva. **55 Year pins –** John Hill & Fred Schmunk. **60 Year pins –** Louis Dupuis & Robert Gage. **65 Year pin –** Donald Loiselle. **70 Year pins –** Gil Foster & Richard Parent. We hope to see as many of the milestone recipients as possible.

TEAM ONE CREDIT UNION AFFILIATION – You may know that Team One Credit Union is in the process of building a new headquarters in Downtown Saginaw. This Local had been partners with Team One since the 1990's. When Team One chose to build this building using a non-union electrical contractor, that partnership ceased to exist. Local 557 no longer does any banking business through Team One. It is our advice that if you have funds there you should take them to another financial institution. Preferably, one that supports this organization and will not sacrifice a partnership over a few dollars difference of an electrical bid.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS – These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting.

JOBSITE SAFETY - is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work. All members should be as diligent as possible when it comes to making sure work is completed in a safe manner.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union. Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task. 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.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm. The next observed holiday through the Local's CBA is Thanksgiving. The Union Hall will be closed both Thursday and Friday of that week, Nov. 26-27. Please have a very Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy some quality time with friends and loved ones.

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and register on Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list 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. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or renee@ibew557.org

WORK OUTLOOK- Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, wastewater plants, and other various jobs. The Saginaw Twp. schools' re-light project is progress-

(Continued next column)

IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT - Meeting

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be December 14th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be December 1st, 2026 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. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns.

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 Eric Crites.

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.

Retirees - Congratulations to Douglas Roth and Arnold Shangle 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 Christopher Clark. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brothers in our hearts.

Local 557, con't

ing. Calls have slowed but are still trickling in for Battery Energy Storage System (B.E.S.S.) projects in multiple locations within the Local's jurisdiction. Locations include Alma, Merrill and Fairgrove. New contractor W.S.G. has informed us the Freemont Solar project will begin around April. The Ingersol Twp. Solar Farm has been delayed with no clear resolution in sight. Conti has started to pick up work around Hemlock Semi Conductor and the Wafer Plant again. Master Electric will begin to ramp up manpower at the CMU College of Medicine project this spring. This project is the largest piece of the Medical Diamond projects.

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 and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

WEX APP- To download the WEX app on your smartphone, search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

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 4:00 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3. You can also view job calls for the day through the Local 557 website and the accompanying smartphone app as well. Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like, please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone.

STAY CURRENT ON DUES –Paying dues can now happen through the Local's new website & app.

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

IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO - **Local 131 Toys for Tots Donations will be accepted at the Hall until Dec. 2!**

General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6PM @ The Hall

RENEW Meeting: Tuesday Dec. 15th 6PM @ The Hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: Thursday Jan.7 @ 5PM, South Haven American Legion

Executive Board: Monday Dec. 14, 2026, 5PM @ the Hall

Hall Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM – Lunch hour between 12:30 and 1:30

Holiday Hours: The Hall will be closed on Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day. All other hours will remain the same.

Contract Holidays, Per Sec. 4.02: ***New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day, shall be paid for at double the straight time rate of pay.***

We encourage all members to take the holidays to spend with family & friends!

FREE WMU Broncos Football Season Tickets – Local 131 has once again partnered with WMU athletics, which includes 50 season tickets to see the Broncos @ Waldo Stadium

Upcoming Games:
Tuesday Nov. 24: WMU vs Miami OH Free Tickets Available
Parties and Events:

Retiree Holiday Lunch will be at the Fieldstone Grill on December 16th @ 11AM

Facebook Open Enrollment! Local 131's Facebook group is normally hidden and private, but we are temporarily making it visible so new members can request access.

Media Photos: If you are able to take photos or videos at work, please send them our way!

IBEW Local 131 App: Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131."

Ulliance is Local 131's Member Assistance Program that offers mental health counseling, financial planning, legal assistance, divorce support, substance use support, parental counseling, elder care advice, and much more. If you or a friend could benefit from support, please call 1-800-448-8326 to speak with a professionally trained advisor and counselor today.

Work Outlook: At the time of this writing, there are 98 Book I JIW on the out of work list. There are also several apprentices out of work and awaiting assignment. The work outlook for winter remains slow in Local 131, relative to the last 5 years, while neighboring jurisdictions continue to have unprecedented demand for electricians. Those able to travel 1-2 hours for work are picking up call in Ann Arbor, Lansing, South Bend, and throughout Indiana and Illinois. Local 58 is also hiring into Book II. The Palisades restart is ongoing, and work there will remain slow until then. There is no news on the project for the two new reactors expected there.

Remember if you are working anywhere, you should not be on any other local's Book II. Please call those locals and remove yourself if you are working.

Retirees' Lunches at the following locations:

December 16: Fieldstone Grill, 3970 W Centre Avenue, Portage, MI 49024

January 20: Main Street Pub, 5462 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

February 17: Louie's Trophy House, 629 Walbridge Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Death of Members: None to report

Delinquent Members: Scott Alton, Samuel Bronkema, Christian Buckhold, Bryan Chai, Jason Fairfield, Nathan Jones, Joseph Pineda, Scott Van Raden

Jonathan Current
Business Manager
IBEW Local 131

"The most beautiful adventures are not those we go to seek."

–Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

IBEW Local 692

IBEW 692

BAY CITY – **The next monthly membership meeting** will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Dec. 7, 2026.** A nice meal is being planned, please consider ending 2026 by showing solidarity towards your Brothers and Sisters. The Big Buck contest winners will also be announced, and raffles to take place.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Dec. 21, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. Reminder: Please Contact Training Director Stoike at (989) 686-4890 to inquire about upcoming training courses available to all active members in good standing with an Inside classification. We thank all the apprentices who helped spread holiday cheer by assisting Dave Clements erecting his annual Downtown Bay City Christmas light displays as well as illuminating the exterior of the hall for the Season.

SANTA'S ANNUAL VISIT to the hall is taking place on **Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM.** Snacks and a kid's craft project will be provided. Photos and individual time with Santa will also be available. A gift will be given to children ages 10 and under. **Please RSVP** this week with names, gender and ages of children attending to Season Holdwick at sholdwick@ibew692.org or call the hall at (989) 684-4510 **by Friday, Nov. 27.**

The work report in our jurisdiction remains steady. We have had open calls recently in both Zones 1 & 2.

ABI out of Indiana is wrapping up their IsoPhase project at Consumers Energy's Karn Generation Facility in Essexville.

Clements Electric has multiple projects wrapping up soon. Work continues in Bay City's Water Streets Lofts, Mersen USA, Michigan Sugar, ATS Printing expansion, County Health facility, Liberty Bridge internal lighting retrofit, Community Center new public pool, Midland's Center for the Arts and Oddfellows mixed use building, and multiple smaller projects elsewhere in the jurisdiction.

Conti Electric has ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility and MCV.

Escon Group has some work in Midland's I-Park, Consumers Energy Bay City Service Center, and McLaren's Bay City West campus.

J. Ranck Electric Calls will be coming in for DTE's Isabella BESS project, which is expected to last all winter into spring. They have also been steadily requesting Journeymen at their pre-fab shop in Mt. Pleasant.

Nelson Electric continues work in Bay City Powertrain.

Northern Valley's residential division has been busy.

Northern Power has started work at Cheboygan Hospital, a year-long project including ER expansion, new gear and generator, lighting upgrades and remodels.

S&G and **Hardies Electric** are keeping their crews busy on various projects.

Van Ert Electric is wrapping up work on their solar project in Gladwin.

If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use ext. #1.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers' Report. Job calls are now posted on our website, www.ibew692.net. The out-of-work list has been updated with additional information such as ding detail, a job log, and a list of recently rolled members. Please note initial sign of the out-of-work list should be in person at the hall. Re-signs after rolling can be done in person or by emailing, texting, or calling Business Manager Ryan Charney.

We recognize the ongoing organizing efforts of 692 JIW **Brett Stern.** Brett has been spreading the gospel of the IBEW for years, talking to non-union electricians wherever his work has taken him. He has consistently provided organizers with valuable information regarding upcoming projects and has helped identify many potential new members. Brett has offered his direct support to newly-organized

(Continued next column)

IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – **The date for Christmas at the Hall** is Dec. 12, 2026, at 9:00am. Please RSVP for this event.

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

Paying dues late If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be charged a $10.00 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

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 dues payment.

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".**

IBEW Local 445 App/ Website. 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.

The General Membership Meeting is on 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.

2026 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 on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m**.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Secrest/
Recording Secretary

Local 692, con't

members when they are traveling for the first time, helping them get acclimated to the culture and comfortable with navigating our referral procedures. He's never hesitated to answer the call when contacted by Local agents. We genuinely appreciate everything he has done to further the purposes of our Brotherhood. Thank you, Brother Stern!

-Brendon "Deon" Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 989.252.9225

Union Dues. There is no dues rate increase for the 2026 calendar year. Monthly dues will remain at $49.20.

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

American Income Life Accidental Death Benefit. The first mailing has gone out recently regarding the $3,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit available through a partnership with the IBEW and American Income Life. All active and retired members are eligible for this benefit.

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.

Important links & numbers.

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

IBEW Local 252's column – See Page 12

IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – **Meetings.**

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Friday, Dec 11, 2026 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Friday, Dec 11, 2026.

First Aid/CPR- Classes are scheduled for:
Nov 30th at 12:00 pm
Nov 30th at 5:00 pm

Please contact the JATC to get signed up for the class 231-943-4193.

Office Closings:

Closed All Day Thursday, Dec 24, 2026 Christmas Eve

Closed All Day Friday, Dec 25, 2026 Christmas Day

DEC 2026 Meeting Date Change – Regular Meeting change to Friday, Dec 11, 2026 to help with traveling Brothers and Sisters to attend the Christmas Party after the General meeting. Please bring a dish to pass. Postcard reminders will be sent out soon.

Santa Party –The Santa Party is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 12. Please bring your kids! We need your kids here to meet Santa and submit their Christmas wish lists. Food and snacks provided. Postcards will be sent out in November to RSVP. Please remember to RSVP so we can plan for supplies and gifts for everyone attending.

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
Jan 1, 2027 $164.10/Quarter.
Dues increase July 1, 2027 $170.10/Quarter.

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

Remember to check the hall recorder Job line at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext 2.

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING
MIDDLETON
Real Estate Training Inc.
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120
Troy, MI 48098
www.middletontraining.com
248-885-8311

IBEW LOCAL 906

IBEW Local 906

UPPER PENINSULA–

MEETINGS. There will be normal unit meetings for the month of December, 2026.

Marquette – Dec. 1, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855

Iron Mountain – Dec. 8, 2026 @ 7:00pm CST. Located at 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Escanaba – Dec. 9, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 1219 1st Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829

Happy Thanksgiving brothers and sisters!

Work Outlook- Work is holding steady. Upcoming projects include: Veterans home in Marquette, Republic Solar, Brimley Solar.

We currently have a 1 man foreman call for MJ Electric, a 4 man call for J. Ranck Electric in Sault Ste. Marie, a 1 man call for Northern Power, a 1 man foreman call for Pieper Electric and a 1 man call for Code Electric in the Marquette area. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in any of these calls.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email cfleuryibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

Union Hall Hours of Operation- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm Eastern Standard Time.

Upcoming Events-

IBEW Local 906 Christmas Party, Jan. 8th @ the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, MI. Please call the hall to sign up.

Merchandise- To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app. We have new baseball caps and new broadcast tee shirts.

Retiree Events- There is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11 am EST.

There is a retiree breakfast the first Saturday of every month at Hardees in Iron Mountain at 8:00am CST.

There is a retiree breakfast the fourth Thursday of every month at Burger King in Houghton at 10:00am EST.

Website/App- We have a website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at ibew906.org and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you are in arrears, you will not be able to pay on the app or website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall and ask for Collin.

RENEW- There is a RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers) zoom meeting held the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm est. To get the zoom link please reference the calendar section of the app or website.

Union Dues- A friendly reminder that dues are $49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026. If you are paying for the whole year at one time you receive a free tee shirt.

Fringe Benefits- Please make sure your beneficiaries are updated, especially if you've recently been married, divorced, had children etc. Beneficiary forms can be obtained at the union hall.

New Journeyman- Jim Bleau. Congratulations brother Bleau!

Members that have passed away- Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends our of fallen Brothers and Sisters.

Labor History- IBEW Local 906 is looking for labor history in the Upper Peninsula for our local/union. If you have any information that you'd like to submit or meet up for an interview please call the hall.

IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – **The next General Membership meeting:** will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

UPDATE – Sub Pay is NOT available at this time. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

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, $100. If you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers, contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Please check your dues receipt. If your dues receipt has a paid-through date of 06-30-2026 you owe the $30.00 reinstatement fee, and dues. You will lapse your membership at the end of the 4th quarter, (Dec. 31, 2026), if your dues are not paid. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. The dues office is closed on Nov. 26, Dec. 18 at 12 pm, Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

If paying dues on the APP/Website, they need to be paid by Dec. 23. If you pay your dues by phone/in person, they must be paid by Dec. 30 by 4:00 pm. Please plan accordingly to make your dues payment. Billing statements for the first quarter of 2027 have been mailed. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Mark your calendars for the Annual Christmas Party that happens on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the local union hall. We are working on some enhancements to the party, including a gift giveaway. We will also be enjoying live music. Doors open at 11 and lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are $25 per person, (checks payable to the Retirees Association), please send your checks and reservations to IBEW #58, Attention Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885 for more information.

Dues ($8 per person, $8 for your spouse) expire on 12/31/2026, there is a renewal form in the December Newsletter. On the renewal form we are asking a question about future luncheons and would appreciate your input. If you are not a member, but would like to be, call the local 313 963-2130 ext. 3013, for an application. Questions, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

The 2027 September Annual Bus Trip has been put in place. Traveling to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort, SC. Travel dates: Sept. 12-18, 2027. The trip is $975 per person based on double occupancy. $75 holds your spot. Questions: Contact Dave Riley at 586 206-8075.

Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees (Fringe Benefits Office) – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

Retirement: The NEBF pension applications are no longer available at the Local 58 union hall. They are available either by contacting NEBF directly at 301-556-4300 ext. 557 or through your online account at NEBF.com. Standard processing time for NEBF pension applications has been 90 days. Please allow at least 3 months prior to your retirement date to submit your application to NEBF directly for processing. The IBEW PBF (International Pension Benefit Fund) applications can still be obtained at the Local 58 union hall.

For questions regarding the NEBF or IBEW PBF pensions, please call Rebecca at 313-963-2130 ext. 3013. Questions regarding the Local 58 Pension or Annuity should be directed to the Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center - Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please inquire with the Training Center at www.detroiteitc.org for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund: Next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 pm. The 24th Annual Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Sunday Fundraising Dinner will be on Feb. 14; Doors open at 4 pm. Bring your Sweetie and come enjoy the game on big screen tv's while enjoying food & beverages provided by volunteers of DEWBF and Local 58. Raffle tickets are $20 each. If you attend the party, it's $20 entrance fee for your food and drink. Grand Prize Raffle item electric fireplace with surround sound system. Other prizes include TVs, speakers, wireless headphones, etc. Electronic payment options available – Venmo: @BELLY58BF or CASHAPP: $BELLY58BF.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 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 a.m. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail).

Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m. The annual Children's Christmas Holiday Party is on Dec. 6 at 11 a.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21 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.

Thank you to everyone who "showed up" and "showed out" for our "Tux & Chucks Casino Night Party." A fun time was had by all. The food was on point. The drinks were plentiful. The raffle prizes were coveted. And we were able to raise funds for our Coats for Kids Giveaway. Stay tuned for next year's event. We appreciate being able to give back to the community and will continue to support efforts that make a difference in the lives of the children and families that we engage with. It's that time of year again so get ready to be involved in our annual Kids Coat Give-Away and the Adopt-A-Child Christmas Program. If you are interested in adopting a child or two for the holidays, please reach out to Sister Felicia Wiseman. Let's get this done!

The Grassroots Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 P.M. at the Local 58 Union Hall. Food will be provided and a Zoom meeting option will be available.

Mission Statement: Our continuing mission is to educate, include and involve members from every aspect of our Local into learning, engaging in and becoming more active members. To improve and promote solidarity and unionism. To share stories and experiences that share and provide insights to our union history and that allow us to see the direction we are headed in.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, December 14, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

The IBEW Veterans Committee serves all those who have served, building community and strengthening veteran voices within the IBEW and throughout the entire electrical industry. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm at the hall with an option to attend via Zoom. At our next meeting we plan on reviewing the Veterans Committee field manual that has been put together by the I/O.

In recognition of service to country and union, all IBEW members who have served in the military can claim their free challenge coin by visiting the website: https://ibew.org/about-ibew/affinity-groups/veterans-committees/

Local 58's Women's Committee – There will not be a meeting in December due to the holiday. The next committee meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Milam (586-291-8014) Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org.

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

The RENEW Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 5:30 p.m.at the Hall and on Zoom.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6 pm.

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is http://WWW.EWCU.NET (313) 963-6060.

Electrical Workers Credit Union is offering ***New Auto loans*** starting at **3.99%** and ***Used Auto loans*** starting at **4.99%** Give the Credit Union a call to see if you qualify! 313-963-6060. Credit Union hours are Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm; Closed Friday between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for lunch). You may now apply for membership online. Go to ewcu.net.

Dormant accounts! Please call the credit union to see the options to make your account active.

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with **any** changes to your phone number, address, email and beneficiaries. If your marital status has changed, please be sure to **update any beneficiary forms** for the Local 58 Pension and the IBEW.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: David Linenger and Jeffrey Patricca. We wish you all the best as you begin your new journey. Thank you for your years of service with the IBEW.

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. ***Maurice Luther,*** Pension member, 54 year IBEW membership; ***David McCreary,*** Customer Engineer for NCR Atleos; ***Una Touchton***, Widow of the late Pension member Noah Touchton.

Local 665

IBEW Local 665

LANSING – **WORK OUTLOOK:** Local 665 continues to be busy for the rest of 2026 and next year in 2027. Notable jobs include the LG Battery Plant, various jobs on campus at MSU, and an upcoming GM LGR extended shutdown.

UPCOMING EVENTS: IBEW Local 665 Euchre Tournament and Chill Cook Off: Jan. 23.

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: If you are interested in completing the online Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program, please contact the LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to register.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Contact LEJATC to register at 517-483-9688.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: To apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program, go to www.lejatc.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

The next FIRST AID/CPR class is scheduled for Dec. 10, 2026. Contact the LEJATC to register at 517-483-9688

CONDUIT BENDING CLASSES: We are offering a Conduit Bending Class this fall starting next month. This will be at LCC West Campus starting promptly at 4:30 pm

Class Schedule is as follows:

Day 1- Monday, November 9
Day 2- Monday, November 23
Day 3 Monday, November 30
Day 4- Monday, December 7
Day 5- Monday, December 14
Day 6- Monday, December 28
Day 7- Monday, January 4

Contact LEJATC to register at 517-483-9688

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

OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #370. Please look at your dues receipt to ensure that you are current.

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

Eric Bullen 11/01/26, Brian Thompson 05/26/26, Charles Vanhorn 05/09/26, Ronald Bullen 04/09/2026, Steven Goodine 03/17/2026, James Foster Jr. 02/28/2026, Joseph Perkins 02/20/2026, Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2025, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2025, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2025, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon "Bill" Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25.

Local 275

IBEW Local 275

COOPERSVILLE – **Work Outlook:** Work has slowed down a bit, but calls are still coming for the battery storage project as well as other calls. The compressor station in Six Lakes was delayed due to drawing being incorrect and is expected to start in January.

Vacancy of Recording Secretary: The November Union meeting we received communication that our Recording Secretary has resigned. We will be working with the Executive Board to fill the remainder of the term, and the President has appointed Niko Jend to serve Pro-tem. We thank Brother Christophersen for his years of service as Recording Secretary, and thank Brother Jend for stepping in.

Merchandise: Hoodies are back in stock and we re-used the Blues Brothers logo by popular demand, available in 2 colors, $60. We are in the process of doing a pre-order for a Local 275 Hockey Jersey as well! $50 preorder must be placed by 12/30 and remainder due on delivery. The design was done by one of our Local Brothers, Ben Thies. We have snap back hats on order as well as beanies that should be coming soon as well. We have a bunch of older designs in size small that we are looking to clear out and most are fire sale pricing! Come by and see what we have. All VRP points expire on Dec. 31.

Building Corp: We have finally closed on the building in Walker and have begun work to start the transition to the new building. Our tentative move is planned for January, and we will keep the body updated as it gets closer.

Volunteer Info: We will be looking for volunteers to help with setup in the new building. We will be setting up times and would appreciate help! This will count towards volunteer reward points and community services.

West Michigan EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app.

RENEW: Renew continues to meet monthly and discuss future events. Join us for our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Training: Apprentices- Please pay attention to Tradeschool for updates to schedules for classes for the 26/27 year.

The JATC is offering master's Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjatc@gmail.com Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

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

The Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The office will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm and is closed from 12:30-1pm for lunch.

Monthly dues are still $50.90 per month. If you pay for 1 year's dues at once, there is a challenge coin that can be picked up at the hall.

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Alan Kimball and Jaden Thomas. Please make every effort to get caught up.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – **ESTA MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER:** Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America have filed a new federal lawsuit regarding ESTA. We continue to get favorable decisions from Michigan Wage and Hour Division, but those decisions are currently on hold due to the new lawsuit. If you are requesting ESTA payment from your employer, we are asking you to email those requests to your employer. If denied ESTA pay, please file a complaint to the State of Michigan Wage and Hour Division at http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim. The act references substantial fines and penalties for failure to comply, but you must file your complaint with the State.

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE- All active and retired members will be receiving a mailing from American Income Life (AIL) in the next few weeks. AIL provides an accidental death and dismemberment policy at no cost. They also offer many other programs including a no cost will kit, no cost child safe kit, and many other useful programs. You do not need to fill out the beneficiary form you receive in the mail to receive accidental and dismemberment benefits. If you do fill the form out you will be contacted by AIL to discuss other options that AIL offers. Please contact the hall if there are any issues with AIL.

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: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM

1. First Aid/ CPR- Dec 1, Dec 8

2. NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information)

3. Transformers with grounding and bonding- Jan 4, 11, 12, 25, Feb 1 and 8

4. BICSI Technician - TECH, Mo days March 1, 2027 through June 7, 2027. BICSI ITSIMM book is required. $240. Digital ITSIMM = $290. Exam certification fee is $400. The exam is required to receive the TECH credential. You must have 3 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.

5. BICSI Installer 2 Fiber - INSTF, Mondays June 7, 2027 through Aug. 30, 2027. BICSI ITSIMM book is required. $240. Digital ITSIMM = $290. Exam certification fee is $400. Exam is optional. You must have 2 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.

6. Journeyman prep - Tuesday nights starting Jan 5 thru Feb 9

Transformer and transformer grounding - Monday nights Jan 11 through Jan 25

Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. 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 p.m.

LOCAL 252 HOLIDAY PARTY: Please join us for our annual holiday party on Dec. 12, 2026. The local is providing the entertainment, beer, set-up, and dinner. A donation by cash or check may be made the night of to the IBEW L.U. 252 Entertainment Committee. The party will begin with hors d' ouvres at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. A DJ will provide music following dinner.

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.

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

RETIREES' BREAKFAST: will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at **9 a.m.** at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

DUES PAYMENTS ONLINE: We can now accept payments for union dues online. Visit our website www.ibew252.org and click on "Pay Dues". Follow the instructions to create your account through the payment portal. Your dues receipt will be mailed to you.

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE: We are looking for veterans to join our veteran's committee. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Union Hall. If you would like more information, please contact John Gilbert at (517) 920-1422.

EWMC WARM CLOTHES DRIVE: Help keep our community warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves and other winter essentials. Donations can be dropped off at the school or hall through Dec. 5. Donations will benefit Dawn Farm. Contact Yohance Jennings at (313) 283-3294 if you have questions.

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

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

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

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

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

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Leon Steers, who passed away on Nov. 8, 2026. Leon was the son of Marshall Steers, father of Kurt Steers, grandfather of Dan Beck, ex father-in-law of Bill Beck, and cousin of Michael Gehringer.

The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Richard Wilbur, who passed away on Nov. 15, 2026. Richard was the father of Michael Wilbur.

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 9/2026, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for "A" members are $143.25 by cash or check, or $147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for "BA" members are $73.80 by cash or check, or $76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your fourth quarter dues (October through December) are due now. **Payments for fourth quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

•November 26-27, 2026: Hall closed for Thanksgiving

•December 12, 2026: Holiday Party

Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25

SOUTHFIELD – **SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, at 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033. This will be a **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING** for elections. Apprentice attendance is **MANDATORY.**

ELECTIONS: Elections will take place Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026. The polls will be opened 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The following members are running for the following positions:

President- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Connie Vincent

Vice President- 1 position, 1-3- year term; Nominees: Damion Hunter, Marty Allen

Financial Secretary- 1 position, 1 -3 year- term; Nominees: Micah Vincent

Executive Board- 3 positions, 3-2-year terms; Nominees: Eddie Grzelak, Zach Forester, Jeff Matties, Micah Vincent

Pension Trustee- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Mark Grzelak

Welfare Trustee- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Micah Vincent

S.U.B. Fund Trustee- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Connie Vincent, Zach Forester, Eddie Grzelak, Damion Hunter

J.A.T.C. Trustee- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Zach Hare, Zach Forester, Eddie Grzelak, Connie Vincent

Union Trustee- 1 position, 1-3-year term; Nominees: Mark Grzelak

Entertainment Committee- 2 positions, 2-1-year terms; Nominees: Connie Vincent, Jeff Matties, Maurice Cain

SGT-At-Arms- 1 position, 1-1-year term, Nominees: Damion Hunter, Robert Ducker

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: For absentee ballot procedures and information refer to Article XX, Sect. 13 and 14 of the International Constitution and Bylaws.

PANCAKES WITH SANTA: The Union will be hosting Pancakes with Santa at the Union Hall on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Santa will be joining us from 9 a.m. until noon.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mark your calendars for the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. This year's celebration will be held at **The Henry**, at **300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn**. Invites have been mailed. Please RSVP using the QR code on the invitation.

WEBSITE: Visit our updated website at **www.heatfrostinsulators.org** to access helpful links and additional member resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 is pleased to introduce a new text messaging service to improve communication with our active and retired members. An introductory text message was recently sent to members and retirees to announce this new method of communication. If you did not receive the message, please contact the Union Hall to update your contact information to ensure you receive future communications and important updates.

REPORTING JOBS: A reward will be provided to any member that reports nonunion or union mechanical installing insulation under our scope of work. Members with valid leads should contact Eloany Rodriguez at (248) 750-4992 and you will receive a $50.00 gift card.

PLEASE report all job starts promptly so we can avoid having to fine members. Reporting is now easier with our **QR code** --- simply scan, fill out and submit your jobs. Visit our Facebook page for additional information and access to the QR code.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization activated. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes including hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within 48 hours.

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

Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Notified Meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.



PATRICK WELCH

The meeting will be held at Local 47's Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. Please note: This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices. The purpose of this meeting is for the Elections of Officers.

Please make sure to call or text all starts and layoffs to the Union Office. Be sure to leave your name, the contractor name, and the start or layoff date.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees continue receiving Robo Calls, please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. Several members currently have this number blocked and therefore are not receiving important notifications. 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 Union Office so we can verify your phone number and ensure the number has not been blocked. Please notify the Local Union Office of any phone number or home address changes.

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.

ATTENTION RETIREES: Effective Oct. 1, 2026 the 79-Hour rule will be waived thru January 2027. Retirees are able to work to work as much as they want without being penalized.

Notice: Election of Officers will take place during the Notified Meeting on Friday, Dec. 11, 2026. All ballots have been mailed out. Once you receive your ballot, please be sure to fill it out and send it back in right away. All ballots need to be received by Dec. 11, 2026, anything received after this date will be invalid. In order to ensure your ballot is received in a timely manner please be sure to mail your ballot in no later than Nov. 27, 2026.

If you have not received your ballot, please call the Union Office and we will mail a new one out to you.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
(800) 323-8079 • (517) 321-7502
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell is available by phone to answer questions regarding Pension, Welfare, Vacation Funds, and Special Benefits.

To all Active Members: if you have not submitted your Coordination of Benefits Form, Spousal Form, or Birth Certificates for your children to TIC, no one will be covered under our insurance plan until these items are received. Please contact TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and submit the required documentation as soon as possible. Coverage will be reinstated retroactively once the information has been received.

Members with questions regarding Pension and Welfare Funds may contact TIC International at the numbers listed above or visit http://www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org. Please also remember to complete and return all Working Spousal Forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616) 375-0538.

Applications are now open for the Apprenticeship Program. Please call the Union Office or visit insulators47.com to complete an application.

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



IN FRONT OF GLASS they installed at an entrance of the Michigan Medicine Eisenberg project in Troy are Bryan Horner, Mark Rayner and Dan Bright. The Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 357 members are employed by Madison Glass.

Laborers' International Union of North America — LiUNA! LOCAL 1191 — Feel the Power

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 Mon-Fri 8 AM – 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: All General Membership Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at 7 PM at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change.

The General Membership Meeting for December 2026 will be Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 PM (Note: At the Dec. 4, Membership Meeting there will be a holiday meal served to all Members in Good Standing in attendance). *The January 2027 General Membership meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8 at 7 PM in observance of New Year's Day.*

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: are held on the last Friday of each month at 11 AM at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. ***The Retiree Council's next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will take place on Jan. 29, 2027.***

Union Dues For 2026: Regular monthly dues are **$35.00 for Active Members**. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same at **$8.00**. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at **www.laborerslocal1191.org!** To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

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

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

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. ***FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference between being sent to work or not!***

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following months: March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list.

***Example:** If your name is on the list in April and/or May and you don't re-register by June 5th your name will be removed from the list.

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Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues, Dec. 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues, Dec. 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The Mid-Michigan meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 13, 2027, at 6 pm. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

In Memoriam. It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Brother Harry Popko, Sr., who passed away on Nov. 13, 2026. A remarkable 72-year member of Roofers Local 149, Brother Popko represented the very best of our Brotherhood. His decades of membership reflect a lifetime of dedication, hard work, solidarity, and pride in the union movement.

For more than seven decades, he stood among the men and women who helped strengthen our Local and pave the way for future generations of roofers. His unwavering commitment and loyalty leave behind a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time.

May Brother Harry Popko, Sr. rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy of service and commitment forever remain a part of Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149.

2026 Commencement Ceremony & Retirees' Christmas and Holiday luncheon. Mark your calendar, the annual Commencement Ceremony and the Retiree's Christmas and Holiday luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19. The luncheon will take place at the IBEW 58 Union Hall on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10 am through 3 pm. IBEW Local No. 58 is at 1366 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48226. One block east of our Union Hall. An invitation will be sent to the Brothers and Sister regarding the 2025 Commencement Ceremony luncheon to those receiving their 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65 years of service.

Retirees and those receiving their pins need to RSVP. Calling us will give our Hall a count of the food we will need for the catered lunch. Additionally, please let us know if your spouse or a date will be joining us.

Retirees Association. Mark your calendar, the annual Retirees Christmas and Holiday luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19. See the details above.

Being part of this association, you will be eligible to participate in several different events. Including but not limited to, our annual Christmas party, fall picnic outing, card games, and the camaraderie of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood, to name a few. The Association members are constantly seeking new and exciting things to do.

Being part of this association, it is required for you to pay a yearly fee. The yearly dues will cost you ($40.00/yr.), in addition to your monthly Union dues. The Association does not require the surviving spouse of a member to pay the yearly dues. The Members of the Retirees Association vote to set the amount of the yearly dues.

The Retirees Association has a Chain of Command and every 3 years the association will vote on a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Trustees, etc. If you are a retired 149 member and you would like to receive any additional information about the Association or would like to join, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0.

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

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

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-206-7620, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood

(Continued next column)



SETTING UP FLASHING ON a wall at the University of Michigan- Eisenberg Center project in Troy is Randy Lietz of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Dixon Masonry.

Snapshots from the U-M Eisenberg-Troy project



WE ASKED ELECTRICIANS Mike Conflitti and Jason Reschke to pause for a photo while working on the first floor at the University of Michigan Medicine-Eisenberg Center project in Troy. The IBEW Local 58 members are employed by Slifco Electric.



AT WORK ON THE EXTERIOR of the Michigan Medicine- Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care are Paul Johnson and Damen Boller. The Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 members are employed by Liberty Sheet Metal.



WELDING A COLUMN BASE at the University of Michigan Medicine Troy project is Louis Creview of Iron Workers Local 25. He's employed by Briston Steel.

Roofers Local 149, continued

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.

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 we will contact the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

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.

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 date of this publication above is 11/20/2026, 2:00pm

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

"I find that a great part of the information I have was acquired by looking up something and finding something else on the way."

– Franklin P. Adams (1881 - 1960)

"You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it."

–Robin Williams (1951 -

Michigan Painters District Council 1M

Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members,

DC1M WEBSITE: **www.iupat-dc1michigan.org**

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding lost, damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI UPGRADE CLASSES

REMINDER: Dec. 4th is the last day to sign up for AMPP C3/C5 training.

Warren FTI School:

Dec. 10- Personal Finance: 5pm; Dec. 12 – Fall Protection: 5pm; Dec. 17 – Fall Protection: 5pm

Owosso FTI School:

Dec. 5- Fall Protection: 9am; Dec. 8: 5pm; Dec. 15 Fall Protection: 5pm

Contact Director Shawn O'Neill for more information or to sign up, (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdc1m.org

***ONE UNION * ONE FAMILY *ONE FIGHT**

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

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

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

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes

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 – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 7 at 5pm. We will suspend business, and get right into eating, drinking, and getting everyone attending some swag. Please make it a priority to attend.

Our CBA expires on June 1, 2027. We will begin negotiations with the GCA in early spring. Start thinking about what you are looking for in this new contract, if you haven't already.

There are upgrade classes offered weekly now between the Warren, and Owosso locations. Please get your certifications, and stay up to date.

We still have several Local 357 members currently laid off. Please make every effort to make sure your certifications are up to date. This will help get you back to work.

Apprenticeship School is back in session. If you have a question about your schedule please reach out to Frank Tate, the apprenticeship coordinator.

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.

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.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-066; phone 248-641-4957

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

(Continued next column)

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday Dec. 1, at 6:00p.m. trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

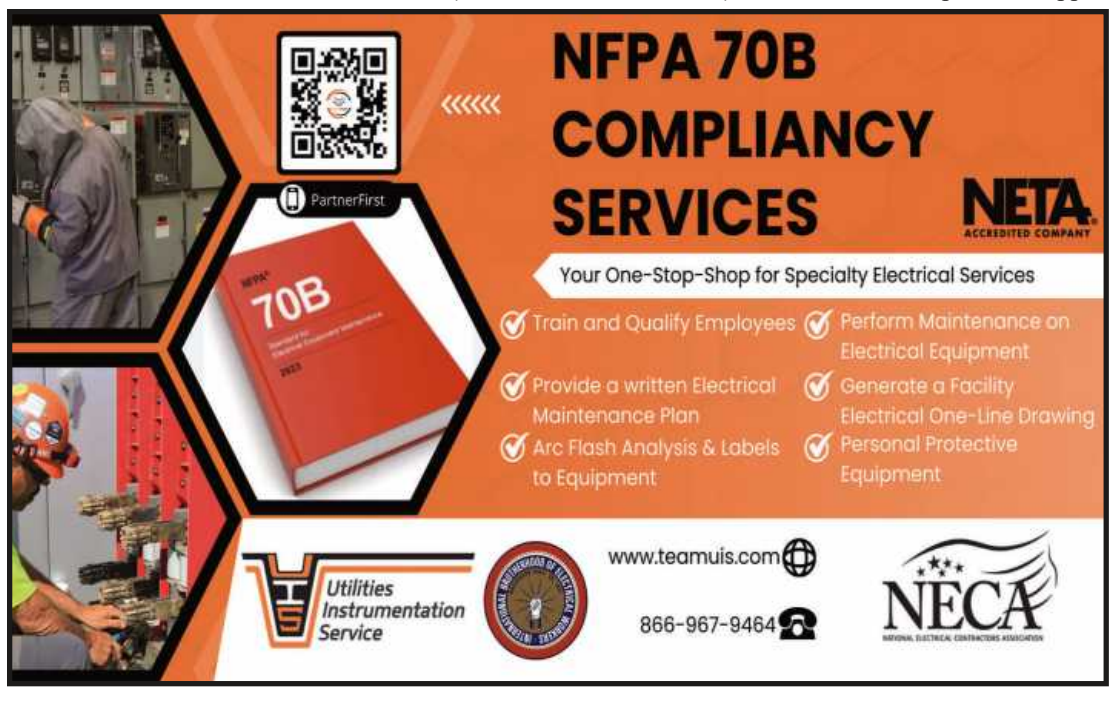
Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

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

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

Local 357 cont'd



Outdoors

Backcountry camping in the Porkies

By Heather Johnson Durocher
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

We're carefully walking single-file across a narrow, wood-planked bridge at the south end of Mirror Lake – steps from where we're about to pitch our tents for the night – when Katie slows to a stop and looks out at the calm, aptly named body of water whose shores are lined with towering old-growth hemlock, white pine and a mix of hardwoods.

"You might hear a strange sound in the middle of the night," she says, leaning slightly against her smooth, hand-carved Smokey Bear walking stick clutched in her right hand.

Before she can say more, I'm picturing mischievous raccoons scurrying and sniffing after dusk. Or possibly – hopefully not – a mama black bear, picking up a scent and investigating the half dozen tents our group of backpackers will use for sleep here in the backcountry, beneath a black velvet night sky dotted with stars.

But Katie's explanation is unexpected: "You might hear the slap of a beaver's tail on the water," she says as we take in the scenic, seemingly untouched view before us, the just-starting-to-turn maple trees casting crimson reflections across the water's still surface. "It can be pretty loud."

Beaver tail-slapping, Katie goes on to share, is a classic alarm signal – a defensive warning used when a beaver detects a predator, another beaver or a human near its lodge or territory.

It's yet another interesting nature tidbit shared during our three-day beginner backpacking trek at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the western Upper Peninsula.

A couple of weeks after this late-September trip, I'll tell my colleague Katie Urban – one of our two backpacking guides and the park interpreter at the Porkies – that these wildlife wonders and fascinating flora and fauna stories along the trail were big highlights of my hiking experience with her and six others.

I'll ask her how intentional she is about sharing such details, which included pointing out the exact spot on the trail where barred owls like to hang out, the surprising "pop" of spotted jewel weed we came across and held between our fingers, and the oldest exposed rocks in the park (andesite and rhyolite, formed about 1.1 billion years ago) that rise up along certain sections of trail.



YOU CAN EXPECT breathtaking views of the forest and Lake Superior in the distance when hiking the trails at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Standing at an overlook (left to right): Sarah Andrerson, backpacking guide and park interpreter at Tahquamenon Falls State Park; Heather Johnson Durocher, writer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and Katie Urban, backpacking guide and park interpreter at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

MDNR photos

"Oh, that is 100 percent park interpreter," she laughs, saying it's simply how she's wired. "We just can't help ourselves – that's pure, 100 percent nerd energy. 'While we are here, let me talk about this!'"

I'm grateful to have such knowledgeable backpacking guides in Urban and her co-guide Sarah Anderson, park interpreter at Tahquamenon Falls State Park on the eastern end of the U.P.

Together, they provide not only interesting information about the landscape, but also everything we needed to know to feel confident about backcountry hiking and camping.

Come to find out, tackling such an adventure can challenge you in all the right ways.

"Backpacking is an activity that helps build self-confidence and our sense of self," Anderson said as she reflected on this most recent backpacking trip offered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Skills Academy. "Completing a trip feels like a huge accomplishment and a way to deeply reconnect with nature and friends. If you're not afraid of getting a little dirty, are open to learning new things and challenging yourself, joining a class or tagging along with an experienced companion is a great way to find out if backpacking is for you."

But I'm getting a little ahead of myself – let's go back to how this epic weekend excursion got underway. I've convinced my husband Joe to join me on this work assignment. Here's more about this experience, what I learned along the way and why you might want to also explore being a first-time backcountry hiker and camper.

Backpacking 101: Don't pack more than you need. The beginner backpacking trip at the Porkies is one of numerous offerings available through the DNR's Outdoor Skills Academy. Whether you're wanting to try something new in Michigan's great outdoors and need help getting started, or you're looking to brush up on your skills and learn tips and tricks from the pros, the Academy can help.

Day one of our trip at the Porkies starts early Friday afternoon and gives us plenty of time to be as prepared as possible. Before we even hit the trail, we went through, with our guides' help, what we brought with us.

A list of required and recommended items was provided to us beforehand, and while I'm confident about most items we've packed – water bottles, headlamps, a compact camping cook kit, weather-appropriate clothing, broken-in hiking shoes, for example – I am worried about our older backpacks we'd bought years ago (and rarely used) and the yoga mats we're thinking might suffice for sleeping pads.

In the kindest way possible, Urban nixes the yoga mats ("Nope, not even close," she smiles, pointing to a blue tarp on the ground that she and Anderson have coined "the tarp of shame" and where we are to set all of our not-suitable-for-backpacking items).

Thankfully, plenty of gear, including inflatable, insulated sleeping mats, are available from the DNR for any of us to borrow.

After this exercise, we practice packing up and safely getting our packs on our backs (resting firmly on our hips, so as not to adversely affect shoulders and backs, is important). We also weigh our packs – they should be no more than 30-35 pounds, we're told – and then we're off for our first hike of the weekend, a short jaunt not far from the park's visitor center.

This first evening, we pitch our tents and sleep close by, in the group-use site across from Lake Superior, after practicing setting up camp and going over ways to filter water that we'll need in the backcountry. We also discuss plans for breakfast in the morning: hello, hot coffee, oatmeal and freeze-dried chorizo and eggs!

Miles of magic, deep in the woods. Throughout this trip, our group will hike just under six miles total, with most of these miles spread over Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Following a must-see stop at Lake of the Clouds to take in the iconic, panoramic views of the park, we head for South Mirror Lake Trailhead and begin our trek toward the interior.

What I'm struck by the most is the peacefulness that washes over me with each step on the trail. It's early fall, and the colors aren't yet popping, so we're treated to vibrant green in every direction. At one point, we reach a boardwalk that takes us over a winding creek, and we pause to take in the low-lying brush and tall grass waving in the warm wind.

Eventually, we reach our campsite for the night – an area nestled between a ridge and the lake – and we're told to find a spot where we'd like to set up our tent. Joe and I choose a flat spot near the shoreline and get ourselves settled for the evening, though before we sleep Urban tells us we'll be learning to "throw a bear bag."

Black bears are among the wildlife calling the Porkies home, though with the right precautions we likely will not run into any. This means packing up any food or other scented items each night (even something like Chapstick) and placing it in a bag that we learn to hang from a site's bear pole or tree branch that is 10 feet away from the tree and 10 feet off the ground.

One of my favorite parts of the trip is learning how to safely gather water – a flowing body of water is the safest – and filtering it so we can drink it. Urban and Anderson have several different kinds of systems to share with us, and we take turns using each of them at a bubbling stream not far from our campsite.

Incomparable vistas, a first-timer's ideal spot. With its 60,000 acres of old-growth forest, roaring waterfalls, Lake Superior shoreline, rivers, trails and ridges, it's easy to see why the Porkies – Michigan's largest state park – is a haven for backpacking.

Between Sept. 1, 2025, and Aug. 31, 2026, more than 7,400 people obtained backcountry permits at the Porkies, said Mike Knack, park manager. This includes approximately 3,700 backcountry campers and 3,700 people who stayed in the park's cabins and yurts.

Park leaders will tell you the Porkies is an optimal spot for first-time backcountry campers.

"The Porkies is a great space because you can come and be alone and enjoy being in nature," Urban said. "We have wilderness – we are a wilderness state park, and you have to be prepared for that space because it can be dangerous – but you're not completely alone; you're seeing other people on the trails. And even if you're miles in the backcountry, (park staff) could still get to you. It's a good transition park if you're looking to go from camping for a few nights to something else like out West, where you're putting in more miles and not really seeing people."

Knack calls backpacking in the Porkies "a unique experience for the Midwest."

"You have 114 miles of trails to choose from, and nights at cabins and yurts can be added to your itinerary," he said. "And the variety of trail and campsite options include hiking and camping along the escarpment, at one of the inland lakes, along one of the Carp rivers or along the Lake Superior shoreline – all provide a different experience within the park."

On the final morning, when we made our way along South Mirror Lake Trail back to our parked vehicles, I told myself to savor each remaining step. I knew I wouldn't soon forget this adventure – and I'm also looking forward to backpacking again, hopefully very soon.

Both beginner and intermediate backpacking trips are being planned for the coming year, though no dates have been set yet. Learn more about upcoming Outdoor Skills Academy classes, including future backpacking trips, at Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills.

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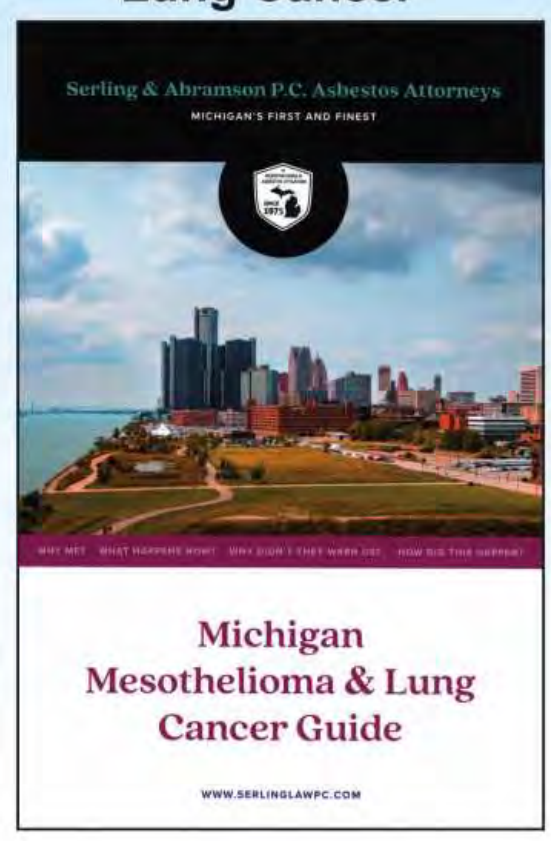
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