



SHORT CUTS

10,000 Corewell nurses OK strike

Registered nurses at Corewell Health East, represented by Teamsters Local 2024, have voted by nearly 90 percent to authorize a strike. The 10,000 nurses across nine hospitals and campuses throughout Southeast Michigan have been fighting for their first union contract since June 2025.

Nurses are demanding safe nurse-to-patient ratios, fair wages, affordable health insurance, and improved workplace safety. The strike authorization, announced March 17, did not automatically trigger a walkout but gives union leaders the ability to call one if negotiations fail.

"This overwhelming strike vote shows that nurses are done being bullied into silence while executives put profits over patients and gamble with our safety and our licenses," said Rachel Szadyr, a nurse and member of the bargaining committee.

In November 2024, Corewell nurses beat back an aggressive \$1.7 million union-busting campaign by voting three-to-one to join the Teamsters. "The clock is ticking for Corewell Health East to offer Teamsters nurses the contract they deserve — or 10,000 nurses will take this fight to the streets," said Teamsters lead negotiator Tom Erickson, lead negotiator

Court sustains

Trump's union busting

The Trump Administration's elimination of union rights for about 1 million federal employees was upheld last month by a U.S. Court of Appeals panel.

The three appeals court judges overturned a lower court ruling that allowed 21 federal agencies to maintain their collective bargaining rights after an executive order last year by President Donald Trump stripped the workers of those union protections over security concerns and to remove obstacles to his agenda.

Officials from the two top federal worker unions, the Government Employees (AFGE) and the Treasury Employees (NTEU), are vowing to appeal to keep their collective bargaining rights. "The court addressed only whether a preliminary injunction should remain in place while litigation continues. The merits of this case are still very much alive," said AFGE President Everett Kelley.

Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court seems unlikely to side with the unions, based on a previous decision.

Without protections of a contract, the federal workers can now be fired at the president's whim. Trump has called the AFGE union "enemies."

Quotable

Dusty Baker, on batting advice he received from Atlanta Braves baseball Hall-of-Fame teammate Hank Aaron about fellow Hall-of-Famer, pitcher Bob Gibson.

Aaron: "Don't dig in against Bob Gibson, he'll knock you down. He'd knock down his own grandmother if she dared to challenge him. Don't stare at him, don't smile at him, don't talk to him. He doesn't like it. If you happen to hit a home run, don't run too slow, don't run too fast. If you happen to want to celebrate, get in the tunnel first. And if he hits you, don't charge the mound, because he's a Gold Glove boxer."

Baker: "I'm like, damn, what about my 17-game hitting streak? That was the night it ended."

—Johnnie B. (Dusty) Baker (1949)—
 —Hank Aaron (1934-2021)



SIX LEVELS HIGH and counting – the New Vision "Tower on Grand" project rises in downtown Lansing at 235 Grand St. The 28-story tower, managed by Christman, and related projects mark the largest development in downtown Lansing in decades.

New Vision tower begins to rise

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING – The "Tower on Grand" had risen to six of its eventual 28 stories in mid-March, but its post-winter schedule to rise one floor per week means it will be a few floors taller by time you read this. The tower is making its way up to its future status as the tallest building in the city.

Construction of the 320-foot-tall, 330,000-square-foot tower is proceeding past the (hopefully?) end of rough winter weather in a project managed by Christman Construction. Approximately 60 Hardhats have been employed on the project in recent weeks, a personnel number that will nearly triple in about a year as the project proceeds toward expected completion at the end of 2027.

"Winter was a beast," said Nate Hubert, who is managing construction for Christman. "We worked through it success-

fully, but it took a lot of terrific participation from the trades who did an excellent job under some extremely challenging conditions."

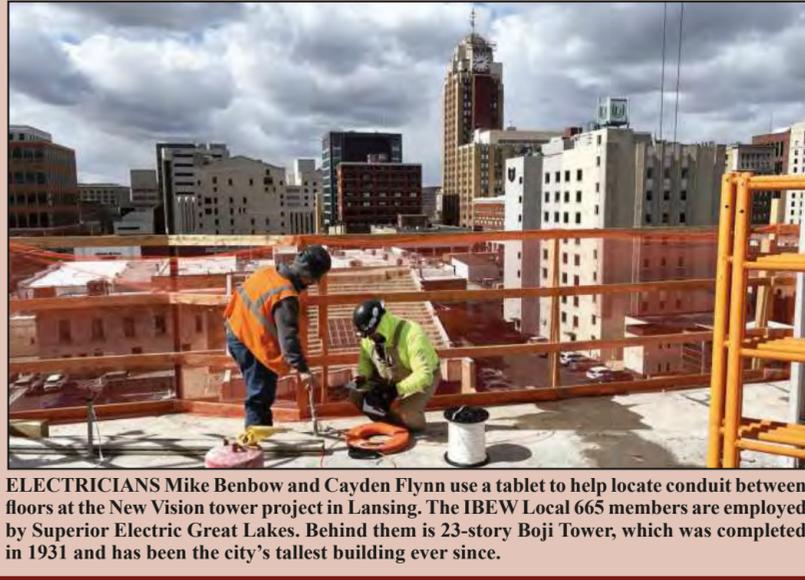
The \$315 million New Vision Lansing development will consist of five new buildings, two downtown, two in the city's Old

Town and one near the Capitol Building. Overall it will add nearly 600 residential units and 102,000 square feet of commercial and office space when its expected completion takes place in 2027.

Undertaking the series of (Continued on Page 2)



MIXING SAND and cement to plug holes in concrete at the New Vision project is Randy Norman of Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514. He's employed by Baker Construction.



ELECTRICIANS Mike Benbow and Cayden Flynn use a tablet to help locate conduit between floors at the New Vision tower project in Lansing. The IBEW Local 665 members are employed by Superior Electric Great Lakes. Behind them is 23-story Boji Tower, which was completed in 1931 and has been the city's tallest building ever since.

Michigan jobless agency cites 'transformative' operational changes. Well, we'll see...

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING – To be blunt, the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency deserves the lousy reputation it acquired from the state's jobless over the past decade-plus.

From the 2013 implementation of the deeply flawed "MIDAS" computer system, which falsely accused more than 40,000 jobless of workers of fraud, to pandemic-era backlogs, to billions of dollars in improper payouts and efforts to claw that

money back from claimants, the UIA has inflicted pain on thousands of unemployed workers the agency is supposed to help. In some cases, the mistakes by the UIA forced jobless workers into bankruptcy or near financial ruin.

But it's turning a corner – just ask the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency. On March 18 the UIA issued its "2025 Annual Report," which informs the public that "data-driven insights tell the transformative story of an agency committed to being a national model for fast, fair, and

Nonunion apprenticeship standards get boost from weaker DOL rules

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

March Madness, indeed. Perhaps inspired by the NCAA college basketball tournament, the U.S. Labor Department on March 9 issued new guidance regarding lowering standards for registered apprenticeship programs, of which the building trades unions are star participants.

Along with the new rules, the DOL is launching what it's calling a new online "shot clock" portal, to highlight the number of apprenticeship programs registered with the DOL during a given month. The nation's building trades unions, however, are more interested in the DOL's new watered-down rules that go hand-in-hand with that shot clock that will make it easier for nonunion

companies to get their apprenticeship programs certified.

The new initiative is part of the Trump Administration's efforts to bring 1 million apprentices into new employment.

"We're removing the administrative roadblocks that have prevented registered apprenticeship from scaling to meet demand," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer. "As we work toward President Trump's goal of 1 million active apprentices, the Department of Labor's commitment to faster decisions, clearer standards, and greater flexibility will enable employers across all industries to launch high-quality registered apprenticeship programs and help more Americans access high-paying careers."

(Continued on Page 3)



GOVERNOR Gretchen Whitmer accepts a plaque from (l-r) Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council President Greg Herman and Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell for her "undisputed legacy of service to the working men and women of the State of Michigan." We will have more on the 64th MBCTC conference in our next edition.

'A true friend of labor' Trades recognize Whitmer's historic impact on unions

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING – For the state's unions, Gretchen Whitmer's eight-year term as governor of Michigan, which ends at the end of this year, will leave with the most pro-union legacy since that of the legendary Gov. G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams from 1949-1961.

Whitmer urged and signed legislation repealing Michigan's right-to-work law, reinstated and strengthened prevailing wage, increased jobless benefits, dramatically increased spending to fix the damn roads, enhanced MIOSHA workplace protections, sought to widen availability of apprenticeship programs, appointed union members to state boards and commissions, and sought to limit

payroll fraud among employers.

At the Michigan Building Trades Council's 64th Legislative Conference on March 25, Whitmer's pro-union legacy was

(Continued on Page 13)

Year-to-year construction spending, starts rise despite new year dips

Construction spending slipped 0.3 percent from December to January as declines in both private residential and non-residential activity outweighed gains in public construction, according to an analysis of federal data released March 23 by the Associated General Contractors of America. The AGC said the data "highlights the continued impact of economic uncertainty on construction demand."

Meanwhile, month to month total U.S. construction starts declined 13.2 percent in February, according to Dodge Construction Network. Still, for the 12 months ending February 2026, total construction starts were up 5.2 percent. And, total U.S. construction spending rose 1.0 percent during that same 12-month period.

(Continued on Page 3)

UPCC celebrates U.P.'s top apprentices

HARRIS – The Upper Peninsula Construction Council held its annual Apprentice of the Year banquet at the Island Resort and Casino on March 14 to recognize outstanding apprentices in the construction industry.

And the top prize went to Brandon Waldrop of UA Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 111, who was named Apprentice of the Year from a field of 21 apprentices nominated for the title. Jersie Skrzyzniarz and Dan Cass, both of IBEW Local 906, were named finalists. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize, and finalists

receive \$500.

More than 250 people attended the event, where Joe Kiedinger, founder and CEO of Dignify, served as the guest speaker. With more than two decades of experience, Kiedinger is a nationally recognized leadership expert who helps organizations build cultures where people feel valued, heard, and understood.

"The Apprentice of the Year banquet celebrates the next generation of skilled trades professionals who are building the future of our industry," said UPCC Executive Director Mike Smith. "Each year, we see incredible dedication from apprentices across the U.P. who are learning their craft, supporting their fellow workers, and preparing to lead the next generation of the trades."

"Congratulations to Brandon Waldrop, our 2025 Apprentice of (Continued on Page 13)

CONGRATULATIONS to the finalists for the "Apprentice of the Year" in the Upper Peninsula. Shown here (l-r) are top prize winner Brandon Waldrop (UA Local 111); and finalists Jersie Skrzyzniarz and Dan Cass (both from IBEW Local 906).



Viewpoints



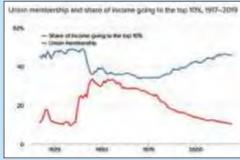
Unions add value

The “free market” doesn’t run on automatic. The rules of the economy depend on political decisions – such as tax laws, antitrust laws, and labor laws.

Since Ronald Reagan was president, the nation has lowered taxes on the wealthy and raised them (especially Social Security and state sales taxes) on average Americans. America has also allowed big corporations to monopolize the economy – which has given them the power to raise prices without worrying that a competitor will grab consumers away.

And what about labor laws? Take a look at this chart.

The blue line represents the percentage of the national income going to the richest 10 percent – that is, how much of every dollar earned in the United States goes into the pockets of the wealthiest tenth of Americans. The red line represents the percentage of workers that belong to a union. Notice a pattern? The 1940s and 50s saw a dramatic rise in union membership. Laws and public policies encouraged unionization.



That was also a time when a growing portion of the nation’s income went into the pockets of ordinary working people instead of the pockets of the richest 10 percent. That’s because unions give workers more bargaining power to get a larger share of the profits they helped generate. The benefits of unions helped nonunion workers too. In order to attract workers, corporations that didn’t have unions had to increase the pay of their workers, too.

As a result, by the mid-1950s, America’s economy was powered by the biggest middle class this nation had ever seen. Racial and gender disparities were still a big problem, but America was making progress on them as income equality trended downward. So what happened? As you can see, union membership started to decline in the 1970s.

That was after Lewis Powell – soon to be a justice on the Supreme Court – urged the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the leaders of American corporations to pour great wads of money into American politics. Corporations doubled-down on busting unions, while their allies in government weakened labor laws.

Then, starting with Ronald Reagan in the early 1980s, corporate attacks on unions got turbocharged. Reagan fired the striking air-traffic controllers. Legally, they had no right to strike, but Reagan’s move legitimized a far broader assault on American unions.

Today, the top 10 percent are doing okay, largely because they own 92 percent of the value of all the shares of stock owned by Americans, and the stock market is doing just fine. The real wealth of the nation has now concentrated in the richest one-tenth of 1 percent. And the bottom 90 percent are barely holding on.

My friends, this is not bad only for the bottom 90 percent. It’s also bad for the economy and dangerous for our democracy.

If we want to make sure our economy works for everyone, not just the super-rich, we need to build back union power. A resurgence of labor unions would go a long way toward fighting inequality, rebuilding a large and vibrant middle class, and making life better for all Americans. Which is why it’s vital that we support unions.

Robert Reich

Professor, University of California, Berkeley

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

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New Vision tower begins to rise

(Continued from Page 1)

projects is Gentilozzi Real Estate, which has a long history of building in Lansing. “It’s been a tough winter, but things are going well,” said New Vision Lansing LLC CEO Paul Gentilozzi. He said a buck hoist would soon be installed, which along with warmer weather, should help pick up the pace of construction. “Christman, the trades, they have all been great, they’ve been a great group to work with,” Gentilozzi added.

He said the ownership, design and construction team spends about 20 hours a week in meetings, communicating any issues and planning next steps. He said a significant amount of time is spent in “clash and conflict,” a term that’s not violent, but focuses on making sure construction processes are sequenced properly and fixtures are put where they are supposed to go. “There are so many details on a project this large,” Gentilozzi said, with the process helped by computer-aided design. “It takes a lot of time, but every pipe, every duct, every wire has a place. Planning all that out makes for a much better project.”

The project will include:

- A 20,000-square-foot outdoor amenity deck featuring green space, a hot tub, and golf and race car simulators – the latter a nod to the racing history of the Gentilozzi family
- A fitness center, yoga studio, and cold plunge
- A penthouse-level sky lounge with private dining and meeting spaces
- Secure indoor parking, direct access to the Lansing River Trail, and a Grand River-front terrace
- Retail, market, and office space at street level
- Live-work units with riverfront balconies, and three penthouse floors including two-story suites with private terraces

An enclosed pedestrian walkway over Grand Avenue that will connect the tower to Washington Avenue through the historic Art Deco Atrium Building, restored by Gentilozzi Real Estate during the 1980s.

UPON ITS COMPLETION, New Vision Lansing’s 28-story Tower on Grand will eventually loom over its next-door neighbor, the 16-story Grand Tower, which opened in 1991. Currently the city’s second-tallest building, the brown-bricked Grand Tower has primarily been used for office space by the State of Michigan. A rendering of the new tower next to the older one is shown at right.



Hey billionaires – leave your bunker, live a little

By Jim Hightower

Trust me when I say that a home on Indian Creek Island is not for you.

First of all, you’re not a billionaire. But even a billion bucks wouldn’t buy your way onto this island in Florida’s Biscayne Bay. It’s the exclusive

domain of such multi-multi-billionaires as Jeff Bezos, Larry Page, Ivanka Trump... and now Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook and Instagram.

Mark, nicknamed “Zuck,”

has just paid \$170 million for a piece of this very special speck of turf, including a “cottage” with nine bedrooms, 11 baths, a gym, a massage room, and a 1,500-gallon aquarium. Also, he built-in his own personal hair salon, plus a library with – get this – a secret passageway.

No clue as to whether he reads any books, or just uses the passage to escape.

Secondly, you wouldn’t really be happy on Indian Creek Island, because it’s a pretentious fake. This high-value enclave was constructed for low-value hucksters who’ve amassed outrageous fortunes by screwing over masses of workers, competitors, taxpayers, and others.

Even the “island” is fake

– it’s a man-made landfill built in the Bay so 10 very, very rich swells can isolate themselves from us commoners. Also, it’s more of a doomsday compound than a community, with each of the über-rich hunkered down in what’s been dubbed “Billionaire Bunker.”

These demigods of gross inequality can buy any piece of paradise, but then they’re so spooked they lock themselves behind \$170-million walls, afraid of their own shadows.

So, here’s my free advice to Zuck to soothe his plutocratic trepidations: Steal a little less, practice being slightly likable, maybe downsize to only a \$70 million mansion... and *live* more.

You’re welcome.

Just joking

A man walks into his bedroom and sees his wife packing a suitcase. He asks, “what are you doing?”

She replies, “I’m off to New York. I read that prostitutes there get paid \$500 for what I do for you for free.”



Later, on her way out, the woman walks into the bedroom and sees her husband packing his suitcase.

“And what are you doing?” she asks.

“I’m coming with you,” he replied. “I want to see how you’re gonna live on \$1,000 a year!”

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS

BOILERMAKERS

ELECTRICIANS

INSULATORS

PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

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- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Flint's Capitol Theatre HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE CAPITOL THEATRE at Second and Harrison streets in Flint was part of a larger commercial block of development when it opened on Jan. 19, 1928. The entertainment that night started with a screening of the 1927 Buster Keaton film “College” and included some vaudeville acts and a musical performance by “The Edna White Ensemble.” The description for its National Register of Historic Places application said the 2,000-seat Capitol is a “combination theater and commercial block. The structure’s facades are faced with buff brick and are two and three stories in height with store fronts in the first story and offices in the upper stories. The second-story windows are set between terra cotta twisted columns. Above each window is a round window. Finial-topped, terra cotta piers add rich decoration to the facade as do the florid window surrounds, spandrel panels and medallions, also executed in terra cotta. Built between 1927 and 1928 in what its promoters referred to as “15th Hispano-Italian style,” the Capitol Theater is an atmospheric-type theater whose interior design incorporates diverse Mediterranean architectural elements, executed on a grand scale.”

Photo credit: the Capitol Theatre

A decade ago, work began on the renovation and restoration of the Capitol Theatre in downtown Flint. Opened in 1928, the long-closed building was – wonderfully – ensconced in a different era, with interior and exterior architectural elements mostly unchanged and a non-leaking roof above.

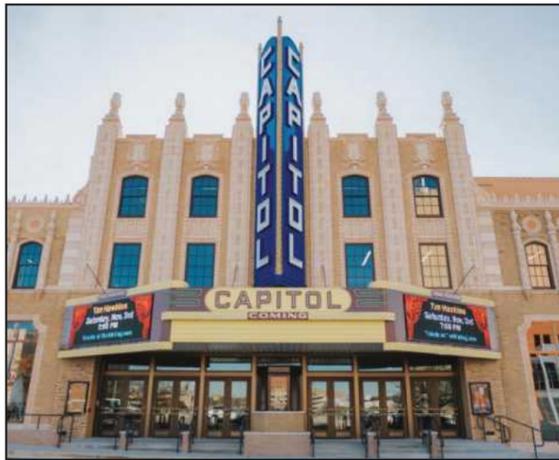
Flint, with chronic economic problems and what would soon become a horrific water system crisis, needed a win. And while no one would claim that the renovation of the historic theater would be an economic or downtown savior, the magnificent refurbishment of the Capitol and its subsequent reopening as a thriving entertainment venue has given people a reason to return to Flint’s downtown, as well as a source of local pride.

“With shows by world-class entertainers, fundraisers that support crucial civic services, and even a free concert series that presents and inspires local talent, the theatre is a vital organ in the city anatomy, sustaining its people with the power of performance, stewardship, and camaraderie,” says the Capitol Theater’s operator, the Flint Institute of Music.

As a thriving automotive manufacturing hub in the 1920s and with a population around 100,000, Flint was a logical place to build a lavish movie theater like the Capitol. Nationwide during the Roaring Twenties, theater owners were spending enormous sums to build movie “palaces” that would attract show-going customers to spend a couple of hours in a place unlike they had ever seen.

“The Capitol Theatre is an outstanding Michigan example of 1920s theater architecture and one that epitomizes the ‘atmospheric theatre’ concept of its architecture,” says the theatre’s (successful) application for a spot on the *National Register of Historic Places*. “The Capitol was the 74th theater in the Butterfield Theater chain and, at its completion in 1928, it was Flint’s largest theater and among Butterfield’s most lavish. Starting in 1901, W.S. Butterfield built and managed a circuit of theaters throughout Michigan and was responsible for bringing live entertainment and, later, motion pictures to many parts of the state.”

To design the Flint Capitol, Butterfield hired architect John Eberson of Chicago, who was the originator of the “atmo-



A RENOVATION of the Capitol Theatre in Flint that spanned from 2016-2018 resulted in a new blade marquee and signage, as well as restored buff brick and terra cotta exterior. Inside, the trades restored the auditorium’s ceiling and lighting effects, decorative plasterwork and statuary, updated the lighting and fixtures throughout, set reproduction theater seats, and enhanced acoustic, backstage and front-of-house facilities. A decade ago a spokesman for the project said “the building was in fantastic shape” when renovations began, “and that’s a testament to the original quality craftsmanship and design that went into the building.”

Photo credit: Explore Flint

spheric” theater scheme. It was a style very much in fashion at the time, which created the illusion of sitting outdoors under a blue or starlit sky in an exotic garden, courtyard or foreign city.

With the Flint Capitol theater opening in January 1928, Eberson highlighted it, as well as similarly styled new theaters in Kansas City and Richmond, in the June 1928 edition of *Theatre Management* magazine. His description for his theatre designs might seem a bit high-brow today, but maybe he was on to something.

“The Capitol Theatre,” Eberson wrote, “was designed in the manner of the Italian Renaissance. All motifs, ornaments, and the entire decorative scheme adhered closely to that style. The color scheme is extremely elaborate combining many shades of blues, greens, and reds on an old gold background. Atmospheric theaters of the sort herein described are filling a finer purpose in this country today, than just merely providing a pleasant attractive house for entertainment and recreation.

“In a subconscious, yet nevertheless definite manner, the culture, intelligence and education of the patrons who attend these theaters is enhanced. Much has been said and written from time to time regarding the advantages offered by the motion pictures, but thus far paltry credit has been given to the marvelous service performed

by the theatre structures themselves. A few years ago, with the exception of the museums and a few of the more prominent churches, the general untraveled public had little access to buildings magnificent in artistic architecture. But now, even in the small cities, through the advent of the beautiful atmospheric theater, the masses have an opportunity to improve their aesthetic sense.”

Well, good for the masses! The Capitol opened as a vaudeville house and later operated as a movie theatre and concert venue. The stage hosted all manner of entertainers over the years, including John Mellencamp, Buddy Guy, The Grateful Dead, AD/DC and Chuck Berry. It managed to stay open until its boiler failed in 1996. Temporary heat was installed and kept the pipes from freezing over the next two decades.

The \$37 million renovation of the Capitol Theatre that began in 2015 was undertaken by the Christman Co., its subcontractors and a slew of union trades workers. The price tag could have been much higher, but with the interior heated, the rain kept out, and urban scavengers finding locked doors, the building was kept viable for a savior. It came in the form of the nonprofit Uptown Reinvestment Corp. and a leading partner The Whiting, a member of the Flint Cultural Center Corp. who made the renovation possible.



A VIEW OF THE RENOVATED Capitol Theatre’s interior. Theatre restoration architect Paul Westland said the era of building such opulent theatres in the U.S. really only took place during a sliver of the last century, the decade of the 1920s. He said two dominant architectural styles emerged: the classical theatre, and the Capitol’s “atmospheric” style. It was created by architect John Eberson, “who was probably the most famous of all the designers of American movie palaces,” Westland said a decade ago as it was being restored. “So you have in this community a true treasure. You have a unique building type but you also have a theatre designed by the greatest architect of this building type right at the tipping point of talking movies, right at the apex of the style of the atmospheric environment, which simulated an outdoor environment. So it is one of the great treasures in America and it is probably the greatest unrestored movie palace in the United States.”

Photo credit: the Capitol Theatre

Nonunion apprenticeship standards get boost from weaker DOL rules

(Continued from Page 1)

Not a fan of the new rules is International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers General President Michael Coleman, who said the new guidance “would encourage apprenticeship programs to focus on speed instead of skill development, create a 30-day ‘shot clock’ for the DOL to rubber stamp new programs in a rush, and increase flexibility for employers – potentially reducing the current emphasis on protecting workers and creating opportunity for all apprentices.”

Coleman continued: “I’ve said since January 2025 that I’m committed to calling balls and strikes with this administration. Calling for 1 million new apprentices? That’s a strike. Getting to 1 million apprentices by lowering the standards and potentially damaging our union’s apprenticeship programs? That’s a ball, no question.”

“Our union’s registered apprenticeship programs are the bedrock of the sheet metal industry – for workers, for union contractors and for our country. Through our strong registered apprenticeships, working Americans get trained at the highest standards, make a living while learning the trade, and build the infrastructure that our communities rely on. This has set the bar for our industry and our nation for generations.”

The new DOL guidance toss-

es out a number of long-standing apprenticeship rules, which the federal agency views as limiting “flexibility” and prompt completion of apprenticeship programs.

For example, it eliminates the prior 12-month on-the-job learning requirement for competency-based apprenticeship programs. On-the-job training, is, of course, a bedrock of union construction training.

New rules also eliminate the 50 percent limitation on the amount of credit that may be awarded toward completion of an apprenticeship program based on prior work experience. Then the big question, of course, is how valuable and applicable was that prior work experience toward getting today’s journeyman’s card – especially since there is essentially no limit on it?

And the new guidelines also make clear that federal standards can supersede state apprenticeship standards if a state has processes that create “inappropriate barriers or undue delays in approving programs DOL deems qualified.”

The anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors, which has long railed against higher apprenticeship training standards set by the DOL, approved of the new rules.

Said ABC Vice President of Government Affairs, Kristen Swearingen: “ABC strongly supports the DOL’s bold new approach to addressing long-standing concerns with registered apprenticeship programs by improving flexibility for program sponsors and employers, as well as addressing state policies that impair worker access to these high-quality training programs. These policies align with our consistent advocacy for simplification of unnecessarily burdensome apprenticeship regulations, and ABC thanks the DOL for taking steps to implement our recommendations.”

SMART’s Coleman urged a shot-block of the new rules, instead of a shot clock to count programs that will allow newly approved apprenticeship programs to undermine union training standards. “There’s a lot more to be said about this dangerous guidance,” he said. “But I’ll get straight to the point: This is a threat to SMART members, our families, our apprenticeship programs and tradespeople everywhere. We urge the Department of Labor to change course, and we call on the president to stand up for our nation’s workers by strengthening the standards that protect them.”

Year-to-year construction spending, starts rise despite new year dips

(Continued from Page 1)

“Rising construction costs and uncertainty over the impact of tariffs, war in the Middle East, and a slowing economy are leading to slowdowns and cancellations of many project types,” said Ken Simonson, the AGC’s chief economist. “Aside from investment in data centers and residential improvements, other private construction categories have been slumping for the past year.”

Construction spending totaled \$2.19 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in January. Private construction spending declined 0.6 percent for the month and was essentially flat compared to a year ago. On a year-over-year basis, residential construction rose 2.3 percent. Private nonresidential construction slipped 0.4 percent for the month and was 3.0 percent lower than in January 2025.

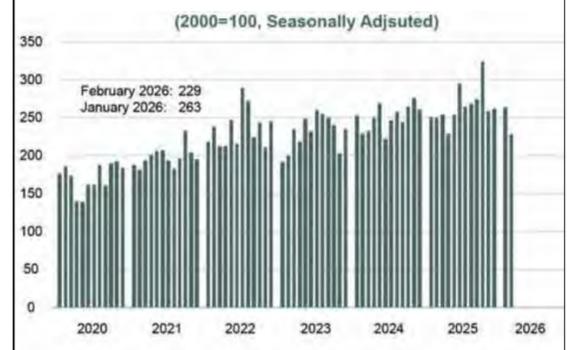
Notably, the largest category, manufacturing construction, tumbled 15.0 percent year-over-year. Private office construction (excluding data centers) slumped 13.0 percent over the past 12 months. Public construction spending increased 0.6 percent for the month and 4.5 percent year-over-year, helping to offset weakness in private activity.

“Private and public sector construction owners are continuing to navigate significant uncertainty around tariffs, escalating geopolitical risks, and volatile material costs, alongside ongoing labor market constraints,” said Jeffrey D. Shoaf, the AGC’s chief executive officer.

Dodge reported on March 20 that for the 12 months ending February 2026, total construction starts were up 5.2 percent. During that time, residential starts were down 6.3 percent, nonresidential starts were up 6.1 percent while nonbuilding (usually infrastructure) was up 17.0 percent.

“After a weak start to the year, nonresidential and residential building starts steadily rebounded throughout February,” said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecast at Dodge Construction Network. “Conversely, nonbuilding activity slowed down last month – normalizing from elevated levels in January.”

Dodge Index for U.S. Construction Starts



“Live each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each.”

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

“There is absolutely no inevitability as long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening.”

–Marshall McLuhan (1911 - 1980)

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Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm. at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083. Use the Banquet Entrance. ****IMPORTANT**** At this meeting, there will be a **Special Order of Business** regarding **DIVISION OF MONEY**. All members are encouraged to attend. This meeting will also include a presentation by a Union EAP Rep., our new partner for Member Assistance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREES NOTICE: There is a change to the April Retiree Luncheon. The date has been changed to 4/16/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. Please get in touch with the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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.

ANNUIITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone no. 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.

Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25. Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer, Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed. **Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer:** Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

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. Beyond wellness, they offer expert assistance with legal consultations and financial planning to ensure you have the support you need for every part of your life, all completely confidential.

Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915. A Union EAP rep will attend the 4/8/26 Membership Meeting to explain the services available through the program and answer any questions members may have.

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 contact 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.

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.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The new Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall now has hard copies if anyone is interested in having one.

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

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

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. 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 April 4, 11 and 25, and May 9, 16, and 30. 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.

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Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

- The next Statewide Meeting will be April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 1 March 12th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 March 17th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3 March 11th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- *Zone 3 June 4th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- *Zone 4 March 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 5 April 4th at 6:00 p.m.

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.

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

Zone 1 Info: Work in the Zone 1 area has started picking up recently and looks to remain strong throughout the year. 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 contact me and apprentices also let Tanner know as well. As reported earlier the Local 7 picnic has been canceled this year due to lack of campsites. Union dues are always due prior to the first of the month and keep me informed of any phone number or address changes. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in our area should be picking up soon. Dues are due the first of every month please make sure you are current. Please make sure you update your contact information with the Lansing office and Benesys if you moved or have a new phone number. Meetings

April 7th Zone 3 Wage Disbursement meeting at Freeland hall 6 pm
April 7th Retiree meeting is at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd
May 13th Zone 3 meeting at the Freeland hall

-In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our disbursement meeting will be on April 7th at the Kaliseum at 6pm sharp. Work outlook for our area is still steady with some nice projects starting soon. We are always looking for new apprentices so if anyone has someone interested in the trade or any issues contact me. Make sure you schedule your physicals (one year and one day after your last) and update your address and phone numbers with Benesys and Lansing. Please support the Nurses at Munson as they are working without a contract. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Spring is almost here, the work has been a little slow in Zone 4, the work outlook should be a good spring and summer. Also it is our contract year please don't forget to get me your surveys. On a more somber note we have lost two retirees in the past few weeks, Terry Johnson and Larry Drury. They will be missed so very sorry to the family and loved ones. **Thanks your brother Scott Brotherton.**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP should start to pick up in the next month. Don't forget to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at www.upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. Please watch your mail as the wage allocation meeting mailer should be going out soon. Reminder: 2026 union meetings at the hall in Gwinn have been changed to Saturdays at 10:00 am. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

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

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

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI 48910- 517-882-4064. **Local 7 Officers:**
Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752
Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) 989-225-0095
John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) 231-590-1112
Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552
Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

Local 292 cont'd

tration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

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



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is Tuesday, April 14 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday through Friday 7:30 - 4:00, unless otherwise indicated.

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday April 20, June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19 (annual party) & 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.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Joseph Rainey, Robert Madden, Zachariah Lane, James Carter, David Capps, James LoPiccolo, Benjamin Hebron, Andrew Sienkewicz, Mark Monette, Kevin Prus, Hunter LaCroix, Steven Grunenwald, David Sheprak, Seth Zamecki, Donald Dluze, Sergiy Bondarchuk, Anna Pilarz, Nicole Broomfield, Caleb Kaminski, Eric Vinci, Jonathan Bourcier, Steven Mead III, Eugene Hartsuck, Robert Augugliaro, Thomas Ashley, Justin Farris, Spencer Gall, David Hiller, Chris Bennett, Caden Becking, Zane Kelems, Dane Marino, Ethan Dunbar, Waide Groce, Nicholas Bular, Anthony Caracallo, Christian Ward, Joshua Pike, Henry Rodriguez, Peyton Dafoe, Jeffrey Johnson, Dalton Pennington, Walter Jankowski and Cameron Taylor.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available! Please join us on July 11th at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$125. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket! ***Tickets will not be held. Payment MUST be received to lock in your ticket/foursome***

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.

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

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

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1-20 and Sept. 1-20. 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.

NOTARY: We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge.

SAVE THE DATE: Golf Outing - July 11; Picnic - Aug. 1;

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 July 22, 2026. The deadline to apply is July 17, 2026. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by Oct. 5, 2026. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.

Upcoming Class: The Keith Klos Memorial Copper Class - Students enrolled in the Copper class will receive materials and instructions to build one copper project (copper lighthouse, hurricane lantern, birdhouse or rose). The class will meet on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks starting on Wednesday, April 1 from 5-8 P.M. Registration for Local 80 Members is open now. The deadline to register is Monday, March 30. The class is limited to 10 people.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">The Building Tradesman</h2>		ISSN-007-3717	Editor/Photographer Marty Mulcahy E-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net	Advertising Director Joe Hoshaw E-mail: btads@ameritech.net (734) 558-6955	POSTMASTER send postage returns to: The Building Tradesman 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216 Phone: (313) 961-3800 Fax: (313) 961-2467 <i>Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.</i>
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Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupat-dc1michigan.org

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

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

SICKNESS AND DEATH.
Local 2353 retiree and 50-year Member Gary Merkle Sr. passed away. The Merkle Family has 3 generations of members in the IUPAT. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.



ROBERT GONZALEZ

FTI of the GREAT LAKES / UPGRADE CLASSES

FTI APPRENTICESHIP WARREN LOCATION:

- Sexual Harassment April 2, time: 5 pm
- Architectural Drawings April 4, time: 9 am
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness April 16, time: 5 pm
- Aerial Lift Certification April 27-30, time: 5 pm
- And Saturday May 2, time: 9am
- FTI APPRENTICESHIP OWOSSO LOCATION:**
- Sexual Harassment April 2, time: 5 pm
- Fall Protection April 18, time: 9 am
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness April 28, 5 pm

Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up. (517)304-4425 or email dot at iupatdc1m.org

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID go to Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday May 4th, 2026 at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren Mi, 48088 at 5pm. If you are a member in good standing, please feel welcome to attend. Please make it a priority to attend.

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.

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

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

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union (Continued next column)



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.

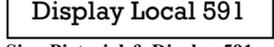
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

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.



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 who willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

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

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

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

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

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

– Business Rep. Don Stepp



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN – **UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, at 5:30pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, at 6:00pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

HOUGHTON MEETING: Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 28th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, May 6th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Ugo Pasquali** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 3/15/2026. Brother Pasquali had been a member for over 58 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother James Grobbel** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 3/17/2026. Brother Grobbel had been a member for over 59 years.

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.

BRETT GIERAK 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.

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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954
Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000

"I still need more healthy rest in order to work at my best. My health is the main capital I have and I want to administer it intelligently."

–Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961)

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting that day at 5:30 pm. Bill Papa Vice President of HealthCare Consulting NFP will be attending the meeting to go over current healthcare plan. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!
April 2026

James Davis-25 Years
Christopher Richardson-40 Years

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTsafe.com to update your MUST username and password.

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

Please get in touch with the local at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to aajrouche@opciami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustsafe.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.

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

Death Certificates: Please always notify the Union Hall 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 contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

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

Please refer to 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 Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316 or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are negatively impacting our market share. This year's work forecast looks better than last year's. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fined. Let's work together to secure 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 on your health care and pension, and whether you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please get in touch with the Local, and we will update your address with all fund offices.

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.

Access and make changes to your account in two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com

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

Select Get Started.

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

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

As always, if you have any questions or need help with any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office at (248) 645-6550 or 5600 New King Dr., Ste 330, Troy, MI 48098. The fund office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Plasterers and Cement Masons: It is your responsibility to complete reciprocity forms if you plan to work outside the local 514 area. This will ensure your hours are returned to your home fund. If you have any questions or need any forms, please get in touch with the Local.

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

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

Plasters and Commercial Cement Masons can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357.

All **Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

For the **INTERNATIONAL PENSION**, Call 1-888-880-8222 (Toll Free) or (202) 638-1996.

BeneSys
45 years of providing full-service third-party administration
BeneSys.com 877-923-6379

BenefitDriven
Powered by BeneSys
Comprehensive software solutions for self-administered funds
BenefitDriven.com 217-801-8911

BeneSys Inc.
700 Tower Drive, Suite 300
Troy, MI 48098



Local 190

**Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution**

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – The next UNION MEETING: is scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS (RATIFICATION/WAGE ALLOCATION SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING 4/4: a Special Called Meeting for the Michigan Gas Distribution members has been scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in the Ojibway Room 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. The purpose of this Special Called Union Meeting is for ratification/wage allocation effective May 1, 2026.

UNION HALL CLOSING: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 22 and all-day Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 26, emailed applications will NOT be accepted, please mail or return to the union hall. The UA scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution, this application must be postmarked no later than June 11 and mailed to the UA Office in Annapolis, MD.

MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security no., temporary password is the last four digits of your social security no. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

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

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

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

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 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, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page)

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

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

(Bernadette's office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked "Bernadette Maus - Benefits Manager".)

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

UA Local 190 will be hosting the 2026 Michigan Pipe Trades State Apprenticeship Competition this year from April 22-24 at the Greater Michigan UA Local 190 Training Center. Anyone who is available to volunteer is encouraged to contact the Training Center, retirees are especially welcome to help out!

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

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

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 Schedule - Mondays - April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 Schedule - Mondays - April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run until **May 22, 2026**, closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts Sept 8. 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). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts May 5. The third course starts Oct 13. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: **(Continued next column)**



Local 370

**Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters
and HVAC Service**

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 14th, 2026.**

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, April 6 at 9 a.m. (Notice not the day before meeting)

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 March 21 at 7:00am.

CPR March 18th. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

April Welding April 7-30. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

Backflow March 9 thru April 12. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

A2L (Safe Handling of Mildly Flammable Refrigerants) March 24th thru March 26th.

STAR HVACR Prep Class May 4-7, 13 & 14. (Test on May 14th) Submit application to training dept. by April 17.

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

Local 190, con't

ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

Med Gas Installer and Brazier Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts Sept. 1. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2026 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. **2026 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 2026**. 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 to be announced. Register through the website: ua190.org

Michigan 2021 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 2021 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.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 7 at the Union Hall. Join us for card games, pastries and coffee.

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

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, April 14th, 2026 at 4:00pm
FMR Committee – Tuesday April 14th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 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 MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our bylaws. 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 and fleece caps \$5. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 dollars each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com.

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

"Whatever you think, be sure it is what you think; whatever you want, be sure that is what you want; whatever you feel, be sure that is what you feel."

–T. S. Eliot (1888 - 1965)



**Local 85
Plumbers &
Steam Fitters**

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 p.m.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new website is up and running. Please check out www.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 should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

JATC News: Congratulations to our newest Journeymen Ethan Wonch, Jacob Spannagel, and Cole Sharrar!

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

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History 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.

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: 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

(Continued next column)

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

–Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)



Local 671

UA Local 671

MONROE – The next **union meeting** will be held on **April 16th, 2026, at 7pm**. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **April 16th, 2026, at 5pm**. If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

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.

Special Order of Business: There will be a Special Order of Business at our April 16th Union Meeting. This will be for the allocation of our raise beginning June 1st, 2026.

Retiree Luncheon: The next retiree luncheon will be Thursday, April 30th at noon at the Union Hall. All luncheons are the last Thursday of the month. I hope to see you there.

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

Congratulations: To Brothers Ralph Steinman, Michael Toburen, Don Horney, Floyd Gabriel and Gerald Freels on achieving Life Membership status on 50 years of dedicated membership in The United Association and Local 671. Your years of service have helped strengthen our organization and set an example for me and many others who worked with you over the years. We thank you for your contributions and dedicated service.

In Closing: We are in the middle of a couple outages at Fermi and the Monroe Power Plant. With outages comes long hours and fatigue. Working long hours without proper rest can lead to fatigue, which significantly increases the risk of mistakes, injuries, and poor decision-making.

As exhaustion builds, focus, reaction time, and awareness all decline, making even routine tasks more dangerous. Over time, fatigue can also impact physical and mental health, leading to burnout, stress, and chronic issues.

Prioritizing rest isn't just about comfort, it's a critical part of staying safe, productive, and reliable on the job. Please be safe during the outages and make sure you get plenty of rest.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com

Local 85, con't

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.

THE NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON: will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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

"Know how to listen, and you will profit even from those who talk badly."

–Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD)

"Have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things, in order to avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything."

–Sydney Smith (1771 - 1845)

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**Aluminum • Copper • Brass
Nickel • Alloys • Carbide
Radiators • Lead • Batteries**

<p style="text-align: center;">McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mcnicholsscrap.com (313) 365-6100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Detroit Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100</p>
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Local 636
Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING for the reading of our yearly financial report on Tuesday April 21, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.

There will be a **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of **Contract Ratification, & Allocation** held on **Tuesday April 28th, 2026**. Being held at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center. 39000 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150. Doors will open at 6:30am, meeting starts at 7:00am. As a reminder you must be a member in good standing to vote. Members should be prepared to present a membership card, driver's license or other form of identification. Please call the Local Union with any questions.

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANDISE STORE IS LIVE! Sign into the members section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.

Second Annual Scholarship Contest is upon us again. Deadline to apply is April 21, 2026. Applications will be accepted starting March 17, 2026. Applications are open to sons, daughters and grandchildren of members of Pipefitters Local 636 in good standing. Applicants must be a high school senior and be accepted to an accredited college, community college or trade school not in direct competition with the Pipefitters Industry Training Center or currently enrolled in such school. Please contact the Union Hall for more details.

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

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

January 1, 2026 Jeffrey Ashman, Frank Banasiak, Todd Valiquette **February 1, 2026** David Hatch, Lawrence Hale, James Juracek, Michael Johnson, James Whelan.

Deceased Members – 78 Year-Lifetime Member John J Galvin March 15, 2026 at 100 years old; **Lifetime Member Russell Albright** March 8, 2026; **35 Year Member James Polio**, March 1, 2026.

Our condolences to William Nelson on the passing of his wife Linda on November 12, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to: Stephen Ashley, Rebecca Blair, Michael Ferrante, Jason Howe, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Ian Martin, Jason McKim, Roger Pruiitt, Andrew Samiak, David Stone.

Congratulations to Mason & Payton Larkin on the birth of their daughter Hadley on March 22, 2026. **Congratulations** to Sharrieff Liddell and Adalina Rodriguez on the birth of their son Elijah James February 1, 2026.

DUES – 2nd 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 April 16, 2026. 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 11:00 am, excluding December. The meetings present speakers who 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. Also, we have begun day trips and at this time, two a year to different sites in Southeastern Michigan. Hope to see you at a retirees meeting. 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 number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website, while logged in as a member just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the website www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmdyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 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 mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.**

Training Center News.

Regular NIGHT WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified BRAZING CLASS: Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8.

ORBITAL TUBE WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with John Verran. Call Mike to sign up.

QUALIFIED BOLTING CLASS: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with Kurt Moran. Call Kim to sign up.

CSD with Kevin Burns Starts Monday April 13, 2026

BOILER TEARDOWN with Kevin Burns Starts Thursday April 16, 2026

****We will accept applications for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices on May 25, 2026 thru Jun 6, 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.pipefitters636tc.org**

"If you have a talent, use it in every which way possible. Don't hoard it. Don't dole it out like a miser. Spend it lavishly like a millionaire intent on going broke."

–Brendan Francis



Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters
& Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, April 9, 2026** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Seeking Volunteers for Operation United to Support West Michigan Veterans. The **2026 Operation United** event will take place on **Wednesday, April 22**, and focuses on helping veterans – particularly seniors and those living with disabilities – by completing projects that improve the safety and accessibility of their homes.

Volunteer projects typically include yard work, landscaping, and minor repairs designed to make homes safer and easier to maintain. Last year, more than 50 volunteers from Local 174 participated in the event, and we are hoping to build on that support again this year. In addition to volunteers for projects, we are also seeking volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers to assist with picking up and delivering materials throughout the week. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Nate Phillips for additional information.

Congratulations: Local 174 congratulates the members below for successfully completing their provisional Journeyman status obligations with the Local. This achievement reflects their commitment, professionalism, and dedication to the standards of our Union.

Brian Dillon, Landon Bittrick, Adam Felcoskie, Joshua Klaus, Christian Kolberg, Connor Garza, Andy Wright, Corey Hedberg.

2026-2028 UA Cards: The 2026-2028 UA Membership Cards are now available in the front office. If you have paid your window dues through January 2026 or beyond and have not yet received your updated UA card, please contact Therese or visit the front office to collect yours.

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

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

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.

Organizing Update: *Fortunately, warmer weather is coming and with warm weather, workers are more talkative and in better spirits. As an organizer, it's easier to communicate when it's not 12 degrees outside.*

You're going to run into a non-union worker when you least expect it, whether you are pumping gas or attending a sporting event. Remember we have more in common with them than what separates us! They are doing the work we do but getting lower wages and benefits that are more than likely being paid out of their checks weekly. Here's what you do, simply strike up a conversation, nothing pressing, just talking. Most workers on the non-union side are told all sorts of myths about unions; but I've always approached the workers as workers. Building relationships is key and then let them decide for themselves what's best for them, not their bosses!

Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION!

–Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551.

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

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

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (855) 878-4101

EAP: (888) 238-6232

Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

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

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10

Medicare Single \$123.63

Medicare Couple \$247.26

Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13

Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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.

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

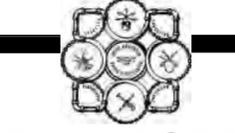
Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location. Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details.

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next classes will be held **Thursday, April 9 and Thursday, May 14,**

(Continued next column)



Local 357
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO - UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 14** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00 (note new time).

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

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 Kemps Miller and family on the birth of a son, Leeland.

Congratulations to Matt Trail and family on the birth of a daughter, Beau.

Congratulations to Ethan Kloostra and family on the birth of son, Tucker.

Local 174, con't 2026.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Wednesday, April 8, and the test to follow Thursday, April 9th at 5pm.

OPEN WELD: Welding lab is CLOSED for final upgrades until Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: The Training Center will be closed April 22,23 and 24th as the staff will be in Ann Arbor for the Contest. We will be available via email or cell phone during this time.

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



Local 111
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA - UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be held in **Marquette on Thursday, April 30** at 7:30 PM. This will be a special called meeting for wage and possible organizing contribution allocations. All members are encouraged to attend.

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 – Ext. #7; Job Line – Ext. #8.

MRA FUND: The IRS requires substantiation for all MRA debit card transactions. Many members have received request letters from Zenith American Solutions. It is YOUR responsibility to submit the requested documentation promptly. 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. For assistance, call 1-866-823-4730, ext. 1.

NEW MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Beginning Dec. 1, 2025, our Health & Welfare Plan is partnering with Ulliance to offer the Life Advisor Member Assistance Program (MAP). This confidential, no-cost benefit is available to members and covered dependents and provides 24/7 support for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eldercare or childcare referrals, and financial or legal guidance. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, crisis intervention, and community resources. To access services, call 800-448-8326 or www.lifeadvisor.com.

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.



REMERICA HOMETOWN
930 W Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
Cell: (734) 664-9090
Office: (734) 459-6222
Email: [louwasik@remerica.com](mailto:louwasi@remerica.com)
Website: hometownmoves.com



Lou Wasik
Realtor
Longtime member of Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25





Sprinkler Fitters

UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday April 8, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

Congratulations to Brother Cody Malanowski and his wife Jillian on the birth of their son Magnus Timothy Malanowski born 3/16/2026 as well as grandparents Brother Timothy and Patty Bieber

Congratulations to Jeff Gray, Adam Novak, Al McCreddie on being elected as delegates to the 41st UA Convention as well as Eric Reid, David Ryal, Butch Stewart, and Scott Ryal who were elected as alternates.

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.



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

On behalf of the officers and board members of Local 98, we want to wish you and your families a blessed and safe 2026 Easter and Passover.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: There will be a special order of business starting at 6:00pm Thursday May 14, 2026 immediately before our regular monthly meeting. At this meeting we will discuss and vote on allocations. Allocations may include wages, fringes, dues etc.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 4:30pm prior to the regular monthly meeting. The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

Journeyman License Renewal: Remember to renew your plumbing license by April 30th with the State of Michigan. The website is michigan.gov/lara and follow the steps to renew your license.

UA Membership Cards: All members who are current on their membership dues for 2026 may stop in the hall to pick up their new cards.

Membership Dues Reminder: Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues to avoid suspension fees and/or being expelled. If you have not paid your first quarter dues yet, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid interruption to your benefits.

Larry Moskal's Spring Yard Clean Up: Thank you to our brothers, Bruce Bennett, Jimmy Cools, Ron Lindsay, Daren Peel, Randy Salk, Connor Socrates and Grant Wilcox for another successful yard clean at Brother Larry's home. Brothers helping Brothers is what this is all about!

Marathon Health: Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) are scheduled to open on April 8, 2026. Contact an officer with any questions.

Retiree Dental: We are proud to announce we've been able to add Dental coverage for our retirees. Watch your mail in the upcoming weeks for more information.

Retiree Luncheon: The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at Noon.** Looking forward to seeing many of our retirees! Any questions, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

Adopt-A-Highway: Spring is just around the corner! Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is Saturday, April 11, 2026 (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, April 19). We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Construction Hike For Hope: Local 98 is joining in a group hike to help engage the construction industry on the importance of mental health on April 12, 2026 at Belle Isle State Park. Please call B.A Paul Smith for more details

Attention 98 Hockey Players: The Local 98 Hockey team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Tournament May 1-3, 2026. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon.

Annual Summer Picnic will be **Saturday, June 20, 2026** at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Boardwalk Picnic Shelter. Watch our website and social media pages for more information in the weeks to come!

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. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326. A Ulliance Representative will lead off our January 8th membership meeting to present and answer any questions.

Pipe Up is the official podcast of the UA General President. The program offers monthly stories, skills and a look into the lives of our membership. Access the podcast at ua.org/pipeup

Expelled Members: We currently have one expelled member as of March 1, 2026, Michael Shenkosky.

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

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.** If they are on the other line, please leave a message and they will get back to you promptly.

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 at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship

Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org.

(Continued on Page 9)



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333

UA Local 333

LANSING – April's union meeting will be held April 15, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm. May's union meeting will be held May 20, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

For members who have students going to college or trade schools, scholarship applications are available by calling Joni at the Jackson office 517-784-1106 ext.4.

A new contractors seminar will be held at 9am at Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7. If you are interested in attending, please call your regional office.

Please remember to sign up before attending weld class. We have limited space, and only those who sign up will be allowed to attend class.

Weld classes are ongoing.
Lansing Training Center,
16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Jackson Training Center.
3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm
Monday and Wednesday - we will schedule a class if we have sufficient sign-up

Battle Creek Weld Class (KCC)RMTc, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Monday and Thursday 4-8pm

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

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

Battle Creek Retirees' Breakfasts are held on the fourth Thursdays of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

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

Lansing Retirees' Breakfast will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 9am. 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Spread the word.

"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"

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

ATTENTION: WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFE CHANGE, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, BIRTH OF A CHILD, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE WITH THE UPDATED INFORMATION, REQUEST NEW BENEFICIARY PAPERWORK IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.

Deepest sympathy to Sheila Wolford on the loss of her husband Battle Creek member Robert Wolford who passed away March 19, 2026. He became a Life Member, October 28, 2019. We are so very sorry for your loss.

UA Local 333 would like to welcome our new contractor Smith Pumps & Plumbing to our Local. They have been in business for over 50 years doing commercial and residential work.



WE ASKED THIS GROUP of iron workers to come out from a dark fourth floor stairwell they were working in at the Lansing New Vision project to have their photo taken in some better light. From (l-r) are Local 25 members Dustin Kammerzell, Jim Kirby, James Viar and Nick DiGiovanni, about to roll a steel stairway landing into position for installation. At right is Local 324 operator Aden Viar, who lifted the section via crane onto the fourth floor. They're employed by Midwest Steel.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – The April Union Meeting is Monday April 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm and will be in-person only. All Union Halls will be open for in-person only. Please join your fellow brothers & sisters for camaraderie and solidarity! As always, we will have pizza on hand.

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

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday April 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

Local Union Election of Officers and Delegates to Convention will take place on Friday May 15, 2026. This Election cycle will be a hybrid election (as has been done the last 2-election cycles) with the option to vote by mail or to cast your ballot in person. Voting in person will take place in all Union Halls from 7am to 7pm Friday May 15th. A member is considered "eligible" to vote who is in good standing. Union Dues must be paid through April 2026 or better. Apprentice, pre-apprentice, probationary, honorary and lifetime members, not being full dues paying members, are NOT eligible to vote.

We will advise once ballots have been mailed; those ballots will be provided with a self-addressed stamped envelope with which to return your vote. Please account for mailing time as all ballots will be due back to the Post Office by Friday end of Business Day on May 15, 2026 (4:00 pm est).

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday April 29, 2026 from 8am to 12 noon; to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday May 6, 2026 from 8 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

The 2026 Iron Worker Picnic will be held on Saturday June 20, 2026 at the Local 25 Training Center, Wixom MI. Starting time approximately 11 am. Bounce house, music, food, face-painting, lots of fun!

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.

Resumes: We are accepting resumes for an Instructor at the Wixom Training Center. The instructor's job description can be found in the member only section of our website (www.ironworkers25.org). Testing and resume must be completed and turned in by Friday, May 1, 2026. Please contact the Wixom Training Center at 248-960-2130 to set up an appointment.

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 2025 or 2026 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule.

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.

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

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

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 new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the 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 your online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

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

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday April 7, at 8 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, April 21,

2026 at 10 am. All are welcome.

DEADLINE NEAR: Local 25 Retirees' Club 2026 Scholarship: Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026. Questions: please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.**

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, April 7, at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, MI 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be April 16 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 to be held 9 am April 17 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, MI, 48183. All are welcome.

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

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.

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.

In Memory: Honorary IW Daniel Norrod #964588 passed away March 14, 2026 at the age of 76. He was a member of 340/25 for 49 years. He is survived by his son Darren Norrod and many friends in the Ironworking Industry.

Former member Stacey Horton passed away March 15, 2026 at the age of 54. She was a member for close to 15 years and was the common-law-wife of Chris Lynn #1308494. She is survived by her brother Clayton Horton and 2 sons. Paul Woodward #718121, passed away March 11, 2026 at the age of 86. He was 60-year member survived by his wife Joyce.

Journeyman Rodman Eric Kochan #1284976, passed away March 21, 2026 at the age of 51. He was a 25-year member and is survived by his daughter Lauren and many friends in the Ironworking Industry. Leonard McAlpine #893163 passed away March 11, 2026 at age 71. He was a 53-year member survived by his wife Kim.

Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your loved one(s).

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (March 30, 2026 9 AM E.S.T.)-

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON Real Estate Training Inc. 901 Tower Drive, Suite 120 Troy, MI 48068 www.middletontraining.com 248-885-8311



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED: Our next regular membership meeting will be **April 27, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **April 20, 2026, at 5pm** at the same location. 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:
April 27th – General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.
April 27th – following General Membership meeting – Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting.
April 20th – 5 pm – Executive Board meeting.
April 20th – 5 pm – The last Resolution Committee meeting.
April 6th at 5 pm – Probationary Meeting.

I want to take a moment to recognize Brother Clark Gaither for his 50 years in the trade from April 1, 1976 to April 1, 2026, congratulations brother, that is quite an accomplishment!

Save the date: The Local 36 Annual Picnic will be July 25, 2026 at St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds, located at 11541 21 Mile Road, Shelby, Mi. 48315. More Details with follow as the date nears. Please contact Jon Bujan (586)787-1114 if you would like to volunteer.

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, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erickson (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.

Local 36 website is up and running, this is still a work in progress, and we would appreciate any feedback to improve the site to work for our members and retirees. Visit www.iueclocal36detroit.org. Please be patient as we continue to improve the site. If you have any questions, contact the hall.

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 (1) week waiting period.

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

If you are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, predrilled holes on machines/beams, door equipment already installed, or any other violation, take pictures and send them to the hall via email or text with
(Continued next column)



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Friday, April 10, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**, and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoffs to the Union Office. Leave the start/layoff date and the name of the contractor along with your name.



PATRICK WELCH

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls.

These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

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

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

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79 hour rule for all Retirees effective July 1, 2025.

DENTAL BENEFIT CHANGE NOTIFICATION:
-Starting January 1, 2026 all Active and Retired Participants will now have Delta Dental as your Dental Provider. You will be receiving a welcome packet along with your card in the mail shortly if you have not already. Your dental information will no longer be attached to your health insurance card. The card

Local 36 cont'd

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

Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.

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

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

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

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

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

you are being provided will not be necessary when using Delta Dental services, providing your Social Security number/card to a participating provider will be sufficient. Any Annual or lifetime benefits that were already utilized with Blue Dental will be carried over to the new coverage. If you have any further questions please call our Pension/Welfare Trustee Joshua Kroell, (989) 385-2671.

Invites for our 25th Annual Picnic have been sent out. This year's picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026. In order to make sure we have enough Food and Drinks for everyone please mail back your RSVP's before May 4th. The picnic will be held at Fitzgerald Park (site 6). And the address is 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

We are not taking Reservations for this year's Golf Outing, which will be held on Saturday, July 18th. If you would like to participate please Call or Text the Union Office at (517) 708-0665 with the names of your team along with whether each person would like Chicken or Steak for dinner. The cost of this year's outing is \$85/person or \$340/team. Please do not wait until the last minute to call in your team, spots fill up fast, and be sure to have your team in no later than July 3rd.

Per the Rules and Procedures:

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616-375-0538)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office, or go online to insulators47.com to fill out 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 for NO later than ten (10) days from the end

"You do ill if you praise, but worse if you censure, what you do not understand."

—Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)

"I don't think necessity is the mother of invention - invention, in my opinion, arises directly from idleness, possibly also from laziness. To save oneself trouble."

—Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976)

"Fall seven times, stand up eight."

—Japanese Proverb



HANGING HYDRAULIC heating pipe on the third floor of the New Vision Tower in Lansing are Coy Simon and Tim Dayrell. The Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 members are employed by Myers Plumbing.



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

We will be having a \$5.00 per ticket 50/50 raffle, with the proceeds benefiting the Breath of Life Foundation to support research for mesothelioma, lung cancer, and other asbestos related diseases.

INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS: The J.A.T.C. is accepting applications for instructors. If you are interested in applying, please submit your resume to marty@heatfrostinsulators25.org. If you have any questions regarding the positions, please contact the Apprentice Coordinator Marty Allen.

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

CONTACT UPDATE: We are now using admin@heatfrostinsulators25.org as our primary email address for all communication with the Union Hall. Please update your contact records accordingly.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25's Constitution & Bylaws Article III Section 5. Failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report a job start will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President. **PLEASE** call in all job starts so we can avoid fining members.

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

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. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out-of-work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50.00 fine.

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

"Minds, like bodies, will often fall into a pimpled, ill-conditioned state from mere excess of comfort."

—Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)

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

—Margaret Peters



Plumbers Local 98

(Continued from Page 8)
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 Kavalari, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalari@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. Phone # 248-585-1435 www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10th, 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 any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is April 22, at 4:30 pm. This is **not** a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul Baker** at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 **to register.**

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for May 5, 2026, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday April 22, and Wednesday April 29. **Call** the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN FALL 2026. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only.

All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 14, with a deadline to register by Aug. 28.

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

4 hour recert class July 21 & 22 Deadline is June 19
4 hour recert class Oct. 20 & 21 Deadline is Sept. 25

ASSE Backflow Tester (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

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): \$200
Hydronic Heating and Cooling: \$100
Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100
CAD/BIM: \$100

****2025 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 May 2, 2026. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

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

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

"The perfect bureaucrat everywhere is the man who manages to make no decisions and escape all responsibility."

—Brooks Atkinson (1894 - 1984)

"Every minute you are thinking of evil, you might have been thinking of good instead. Refuse to pander to a morbid interest in your own misdeeds. Pick yourself up, be sorry, shake yourself, and go on again."

—Evelyn Underhill

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IBEW 557

SAGINAW – UPCOMING UNION EVENTS - The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, at 6:00pm. At the Union Meeting in May, Local 557 will be conducting the annual Wage Allocation under New Business. May 5th is the date of that Union Meeting.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS - These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting. The current committee is in the process of organizing several events in the coming months. They will be looking for volunteers to march in the Freeland Walleye Festival Parade on Friday April 24. The parade starts at 6pm with report time at 5pm. The RENEW committee will also be operating a booth during the festival and is looking for more help with this as well.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION - The General Election date of May 5th will be here quickly. Labor Candidate Chedrick Greene and his team are looking for supporters to help canvas and get the word out to cast your vote. Volunteer opportunities are available for those that may want to help. Please consider taking some time to help in this important election.

SAGINAW TWP. SCHOOLS BOND - In addition to the Special Senate Election, May 5 will also be election day for the latest attempt from the Saginaw Twp. schools to pass a Bond for the school's planned constructions/renovations. If you live in the township, please support this initiative. We will also need volunteers to go door to door for this cause as well. If you have time to spend on this, please get with Evan at the Hall to coordinate.

LOCAL 557 RE-VAMPED WEBSITE & PAYING DUES ONLINE - The feature to pay dues online is now fully active. The credit card fee for using this feature is also less than the normal of providing your card information to the Hall either over the phone or in-person. To pay dues online, you will need to initially set up the new service by entering your card number as the username and the temporary password is your last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN.

Upon completing this, you will then be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing. If you haven't checked this out yet, please do as it is very convenient. Logging into this member portal also allows members to check positions on the Out of Work List and Job Calls when they are available. Please note that if there are no current job calls, you will only see a message displaying basic instructions for how to take a call when they are available.

JOBSITE SAFETY - 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.

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

(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW 948

FLINT – Meetings.

Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be April 13th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees' next meeting will be 9 a.m. April 7.

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.

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

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

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

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

Retirees - Congratulations to Martin Morris 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 David Botbyl. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

Local 557, con't

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 - Work has slowed on most projects for the time being, including Project Phoenix. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Positive news continues regarding the Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. We hope to have members working on this come spring or early summer. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring or summer as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Twp. area. There is also a solar project in the works in the Fremont Twp. area.

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

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

STAY CURRENT ON DUES - Please check to see if you are current. Paying dues through the website is now the easiest option for members. Phone in card purchases are still accepted, but the credit card fee is slightly more than utilizing the website's system.

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



Local 665

IBEW 665

LANSING – IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary: IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June 2026. Please save the date June 6th 2026 to celebrate with us at the Lansing Center. **Please be looking in your email and on Facebook because invitations will be mailed out at the end of February 2026. Please make sure to RSVP as soon as possible.**

WORK OUTLOOK: Projected to be busy throughout 2026. There are many projects going currently in IBEW Local 665 jurisdiction. The 26-story tower downtown Lansing, MI. LG battery plant is still going strong with more work to come. MSU plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four to five years and a possible 24MW data center downtown. Not to mention all the schoolwork this summer.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have 852 members in the Local. Of which 200 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

Upcoming events at IBEW Local 665: Retirement Seminar: Wednesday, April 29, at IBEW Local 665 Hall, 5-8pm. Food and drink will be provided. Spouses are welcome and encouraged to come. Everyone is welcome to come from JIW getting ready to retire to apprentices just getting started and everyone in between.

Veterans Shoot: Saturday, June 13th, 2026. This event is free to all veterans, not just 665 members. 50 targets – Trap and 5 stand. Shells will be provided. Shooting begins at 11am. Free Lunch for veterans, \$10.00 for guest. Pre – registrations and additional information please contact **Dan Kelley 517-202-2326 or CASLShotgun@gmail.com**

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

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING: The next CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING will be on April 28 from 5pm – 7pm at IBEW Local 665 Hall. Please contact LEJATC@517-483-9688 to sign up for training.

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

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

To apply, go to www.lejate.org and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

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 or your 18 must mods.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall. Remember that we have a wage allocation this year and nominations are in May's meeting for Business Manager, E-board, Recording Secretary and Delegates for the IBEW International Convention.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets on the second and third Monday of each month
(Continued next column)



PULLING WIRE in a ceiling at the New Vision- Tower on Grand project in Lansing are electricians Sean Archey and Carson Swamp. The IBEW Local 665 members are employed by Superior Electric Great Lakes.



IBEW Local 445

IBEW 948

FLINT – Meetings

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be April 13th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees' next meeting will be April 7th, 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 with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

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

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

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

Retirees - Congratulations to Martin Morris 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 David Botbyl. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

IBEW 665, con't

starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #366. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

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

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

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.

"Speak properly, and in a few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood."

-William Penn (1644 - 1718)

"Language most shews a man: Speak, that I may see thee."

-Ben Jonson (1572 - 1637)



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, April 6th, 2026.**

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, April 20th, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. Brothers and Sisters, I have been having conversations with Training Director Casey Stoike and his team circling around the opportunity of offering classes to our membership who have surpassed the apprenticeship school in their career. The upcoming opportunities approaching for continuing education in the electrical industry are Arc Flash Training and also a class on Medium Voltage Terminations.

The first class revolves around Arc Flash Safety. The Arc Flash course will teach proper personal protective equipment, safety boundaries, and various other safety related topics revolving around Arc Flash potential. Please Contact Training Director Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A date for this class will be determined once we have the number of members interested.

A medium voltage cable terminating class will also be held in the near future. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Training Director Casey Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A certificate of completion will be offered upon completion of course. A class date will be determined once the class has been filled.

2026 IBEW International Annual Golf Tournament. The 2026 IBEW International annual golf tournament is being held in Akron, Ohio followed by Columbus Ohio in 2027. This year's 3-day tournament will be held Aug. 19-21. Included are 3 rounds of golf and a banquet on the last day with awards and prizes. Additionally, open bar daily with food and snacks, all for \$275.

Interested members can contact Terry Brandenburg (586-854-3447). **Registration deadline is Monday, June 1st.**

The work report in our jurisdiction remains solid.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in this spring. Work being called off for weather conditions has recently been an issue on this site.

Bay Valley Electric will be starting a nice dorm project in Alpena.

Clements Electric's work at the Mersen in Bay City and Midland's Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as work at the Bay County Health Department is wrapping up. Work on a mixed-use development in Downtown Bay City has started. Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission projects have been secured with work to start soon. Clements was also awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Conti Electric will have shutdown projects ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility, also some work at Michigan Sugar. Phase 3 of Little Trout Solar in Hawks has commenced and may require additional manpower.

Countyline Power has secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Escon Group has some work in Midland's I-Park and has also been recently awarded both McLaren's West campus (late spring) and Bangor Schools (summer).

John's Electric continues work at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks.

J. Ranck Electric will be adding a battery storage facility on the Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush this spring.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission. Master has also picked up a couple small jobs out to CMU.

Nelson Electric is still on site at Bay City Powertrain and has access control and security work at the Amazon warehouse in Clare.

Northern Power has secured summer work at Alpena Schools.

Northern Valley continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and has secured Alpena's Meijer remodel set to start in April.

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

Swan Electric has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg.

Teds Electric continues work at Clare Schools.

Van Ert Electric continues work on their solar project in Gladwin, calls for this project have been coming in.

Consumers Energy has recently announced plans for future work in our jurisdiction. Essexville's Karn site plans to add a new battery storage facility and two new gas-fired turbines to replace units 3 & 4. Three large solar sites will start civil and dirt work this spring and require substantial manpower in 2027. Those sites are in Prescott, Spruce, and Harrisville.

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

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers' Report. Job calls are now posted on our website, www.ibew692.net.

A newsletter, *New Member Minute*, has been created to inform wiremen and apprentices about topics such as benefits, contracts, dues, referral procedures, etc. All members are welcome to request being added to the list to receive these informative newsletters by emailing organizers.

Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klaphish 989.252.9225

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

Retirees Lunch. The April retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 16th at Barney's Bar & Grill, located at 800 Michigan Avenue in Bay City.

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

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

Important links & numbers Health Plan & Pension Fund

855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300



IBEW Local 498
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Apr. 13, 2026 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting- The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Apr 13, 2026.

Office Closings- April 3, 2026- Good Friday closed at 11:30am; April 6, 2026- Easter Closed all day

Election year- This year will be our year to elect new officers for the local. If you are interested in being involved please call Dylan and he can fill you in on the different positions available and review the election process with you.

The regular meeting in May will be Nominations and the election will be at the June regular meeting. As in the past, all ballots will be sent out via USPS to all eligible members and returned to a PO Box for the Election judge and Tellers to take care of. There will be an official election process notification in a later edition of this newspaper as well as by email since we were able to amend the By-Laws to include that form of communication.

Resale Items – We still have Tee shirts for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

Scholarship – Past charter member 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 who 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, 2026 – \$164.10/Quarter.

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

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.

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

"Indolence is a delightful but distressing state; we must be doing something to be happy."

–Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)

"Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity."

–Frank Leahy (1908-1973)

"Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new."

– Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



Local 275

IBEW 275
MUSKEGON – Work Outlook:

Work in the jurisdiction remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275. We have solar calls coming weekly for both Hart and Freshwater solar as well as local contractors picking up jobs.

Building Corp Meeting: Please join us for the next Building Corp meeting before the union meeting on May 12th at 6pm. We will be discussing the 3 options that the body voted on at our prior meeting. **Please note the change of the meeting date for both Building Corp and Union meeting to May 12th at Local 275's hall.**

Allocation Meeting: Allocation for the final year of our current agreement will be held at the next union meeting on April 21st at 6pm. Location of the meeting will be the UA 174 in Coopersville. Please note the IBEW hall will be open until 6 for those that need to pay dues.

Golf Outing: Please join us for the 4th annual IBEW Local 275 golf outing on Saturday, June 13 at Gracewil Country Club in Grand Rapids. It will be a shotgun start at 9am, and 18 holes with a cart is \$55. You must register and pay with Kaleb Kerkstra by no later than June 5th. To Register, call or text Kaleb at 231-780-7625.

Volunteer Info: With the new year please keep in mind volunteer reward points have reset. We will keep updating any opportunities for volunteer events as we get them.

West Michigan RENEW/ 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. The EWMC have a challenge coin that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last. Please note that May's meeting will be in person at the hall.

If you have any interest in helping re-launch the Local 275 Renew committee, please reach out to Mark at the union hall.

Veterans' Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

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

The JATC is now 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.

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

For any members still using the 1-800 number to call the Union Hall Offices, please note that we removed that line several months ago. If you are having trouble reaching the office, please double check that you aren't using that number.

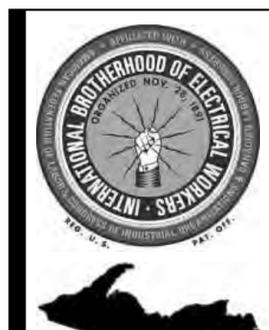
As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

Monthly dues are still \$50.90 per month, and as of this writing we have not heard of an increase. If you pay for 1 years 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: Jamie Butcher, Ruben Cortez, Henri Creed, Ruban Cortez, Ronnie Dunmore, and Chris Hanson - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

"The smaller the mind the greater the conceit."

– Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC)



IBEW 906

UPPER PENINSULA – MEETINGS.

There will be normal unit meetings in April:

First Tuesday- 7:00pm 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI EST
Second Tuesday- 7:00pm 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI CST

Second Wednesday- 7:00pm 1219 1st Avenue S Escanaba, MI EST

For the month of April there will be normal unit meetings.

For the month of May there will be a general membership meeting held at the Marquette Township Community Center located at 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 at 1:00pm EST. There will be no unit meetings in the month of May. Allocations will take place at this general membership meeting so we encourage everybody to attend!

Work Outlook- Work is starting to pick up. Upcoming projects include Amazon warehouse in Escanaba, Harden Hall 1st floor remodel in Marquette, VA Hospital in Marquette, Crystal Falls Compressor Station, Tilden Mine Tray Replacement.

We currently have a 1 man call for J. Ranck Electric in Sault Ste Marie and a 1 man call for Pieper Electric in Ironwood. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in this call.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email cfeuryibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

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

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.

Retiree Lunch- There is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

Website/App- We have a new 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.

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.

Fringe Benefits- Please make sure to 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.

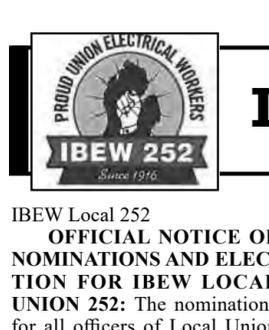
New Journeyman- Congratulations to local 906's newest Journeyman, Phillip Hood and Samuel Peterson.

"We are continually faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."

–John W. Gardner (1912 - 2002)

"When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber."

–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)



IBEW Local 252

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR IBEW LOCAL UNION 252: The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to 252electionjudge@gmail.com that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, that they will accept the nomination.

No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. Nominations will proceed in order of office as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years: Nominations will be taken to fill the following offices: President/ Delegate to International Convention, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary/ Business Manager/ Delegate to International Convention, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected).

Additionally, nominations will be held for 5 delegates to the International Convention in the manner described in Article VIII, Section 2 of the local union bylaws. The President and the Business Manager shall be candidates for delegate positions contingent with their offices as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws. This leaves 3 delegate positions open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for offices of Business Manager or President may be nominated for the at-large delegate positions if they are delegates by virtue of their offices.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues, and has been current for two years preceding the nominations. No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union unless they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so that they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect. 14).

Pat Ulanowicz was appointed Election Judge on Feb. 8, 2026 (IBEW Constitution, Art. 16, Sect. 11, Amendment 30). The IBEW Local 252 President will appoint Tellers as required. None of these may be a candidate for any office. All Tellers will be vetted for a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252 by the Local 252 Financial Secretary (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11).

In order to vote you must have a dues receipt not more than 3 months in arrears (paid through March 2026). The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Union Hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.

The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media, or other appropriate place by the close of business on the day following the election.

In the event a runoff election is required, same shall be held a special called meeting on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. The same rules shall apply to the runoff election as were applicable to the regular election.

Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the runoff. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, or emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of

IBEW LOCAL 252

the election. Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing.

Absentee ballots received at the Post Office after 1:00 p.m. on June 6, 2026 will not be counted. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the Post Office.

The candidate themselves may be the observer. Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge as soon as possible before the election is certified. Once the election is certified, any protests of the election are to be filed in writing with the International Vice-President of the District within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice-President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice-President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2026 IBEW Local 252 election can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com, or consult by phone (517) 918-8948.

TRAINING CLASSES 2026: All classes start at 5 p.m.

BICSI Installer 1- Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

OSHA 30- April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14

BICSI Fiber/ Tech- Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

Fire Alarm- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21.

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)

CPR- June 2 & 9, September 1 & 15, December 1 & 8.

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 PM.

JATC INSTRUCTORS NEEDED: The JATC is looking to hire additional full-time instructors. If you're interested, please submit your resume and cover letter no later than April 30, 2026, by email to cparks@aaejatc.org, or in person/mail to AAJATC, 13400 Luick Drive, Chelsea MI, 48118, Attn: C. Parks

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

RETIREE'S 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.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date.

You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2026, 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 second quarter dues (April through June) are due now.

Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES: June 30, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 2nd Quarter Dues

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

UPDATE – Sub Pay has been resumed for Inside & Limited Energy. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have any 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. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, Please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Look at your Dues Receipt: if your paid through date shows 09-30-25, you are not current and have lapsed membership. You will have to call the Union Hall and request an E-board appointment for Reinstatement. If your paid through date shows 12-31-2025, you are not current and owe a reinstatement fee of \$30.00. It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. Dues statements will be mailed this week for the second quarter dues for 2026.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The April Board meeting is happening Wednesday, April 8 at the local union hall in the main conference room. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

All retirees who will be receiving 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75-year pins at our Annual Pin Party on Saturday, April 25 at the local union hall, should have received an invitation in March. Mark your calendars now, to save

the date. If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest (with rsvp), all others will need reservations, the cost is \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

Dues expired on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). Thanks to all of our members for your prompt dues renewals. Delinquent notices will be going out in April.

Details are set for our annual September Bus Trip to New York City. The trip is happening Sept. 10-16. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$1050. Balance of trip is due July 3, 2026. Questions, call Dave Riley, 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 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 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 contact the Training Center at 586-751-6600 for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option.

Our 2026 DPSCD March Reading event was a huge success. Thank you to all of the members, family, Building Trades, Labor Unions, Politicians and community groups that came out to read with us on 313 Day. A special thank you to the following for donating books to read and joining in with us for the special event: Source Booksellers, Birdies Bookmobile, Next Chapter Booksellers, and 27th Letter Bookstore.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 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 8:00 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916.

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

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20 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.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 13, 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.

Local 58's Women's Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) Email at 58women-scommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The 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 you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 4.99% APR.

Local 58 Senior Softball: Looking for seniors 55+ years old to join and have some fun. Beginning in May 2026 on Monday and Wednesday mornings. For more info please contact: Dennis Schwiager 586-725-0452 or Jim Miles 586-933-3551.

Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Members: This year the 2026 Wiremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 306, Akron, OH on Aug. 18-20. The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Double Tree by Hilton in Akron/Fairlawn, OH ((330)867-5000) Entry fees for this year are \$275 per man for the Tournament and an additional \$75 per man for the optional scramble. **ALL MONIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 24, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you are mailing your payment please mail to: Ron Krajenke, 20244 Edinberg Drive, Macomb, MI 48044. Questions, call Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

UPCOMING EVENT: The CHOOCH Foundation is partnering with IBEW Local 58

to bring the upcoming A Mind in Motion: Mental Health Maintenance Fair to the Local 58 Union Hall in Detroit. The event will bring together trades families and community members for a day focused on mental wellness, connection, and practical support. Founded in honor of Justin Shilling, the organization was created with a clear mission: break the stigma surrounding mental health and provide real, accessible tools that help individuals and families thrive.

Event Details: June 6 IBEW Local 58 – 1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226 10 AM – 4 PM

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: James Anderson, Martin Bringard, Todd Calhoun, James Coughlin, Michael Dedenbach, Bryon Henrikson, Michael Seffens and Scott Sweppy. We wish you all the best as you begin your new journey.

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. **Gregory Bowman**, Pension member, 47 year IBEW membership; **Bethany Crandall**, Widow to the late Pension member Randolph Crandall; **Harry Doan**, Pension member, 54 year IBEW membership; **Raymond Domas**, Pension member, 65 year IBEW membership; **Michael "Mike" Meier**, Former Business Agent at IBEW Local 58 and Pension member, 46 year IBEW membership; Son to the late Pension member John Cornwall Sr; Brother to John Cornwall Jr, Pension member, 41 year IBEW membership; **Guy Kiefer**, Pension member, 30 year IBEW membership; **Frederick Ouellette**, Pension member, 27 year IBEW membership; **Richard Parks**, Pension member, 67 year IBEW membership and **Kenneth Walters**, Pension member, 58 year IBEW membership.

"In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield."
–Warren Buffett (1930 -)

"Facing it, always facing it, that's the way to get through. Face it."
–Joseph Conrad (1857 -)



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131 KALAMAZOO – IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch: Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131". You can create a log in on either the web page or the app and it will work for both platforms. The app allows members to bid available jobs, access the contract, by-laws, benefits information, licensing information, Ulliance services, our calendar of events and much more. Please keep in mind that we are working to integrate our systems with the app and webpage, so please be patient.

You can download the new app by scanning this QR Code:



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.

DBRF Assessment: In 2025, a new bylaw was approved to increase the Death Benefit Retirement Fund to \$10 per member for each retiree/decedent with 10 years continuous good standing prior to retirement/death. This benefit is to be assessed once per year at the end of the year. This means each member will be assessed \$10 for every Local 131 member who retired or died as an active member after April

(Continued on Page 13)

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Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **April 10, 2026, at 8 pm** at the United Trades Building, 119 South Front Street, Marquette, MI. 49855

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

Dinner Dance information: May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel in Mount Pleasant, MI. The cost for a room is \$279 make sure you use boilermaker code **BM051526**.

There are a limited number of rooms, so please book soon. Cut off date for the rooms is April 23, 2026. If you plan on attending, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$50 to the union hall with the number of attendees for you.

We need you to send checks to confirm your attendance as it gives us an accurate number of people eating. We will return your check to you when you arrive. If you use a money order and show up, we can put it towards your monthly dues.

Congratulations to Matt Root, he will be representing our Local at the regional apprentice competition in Hobart, Indiana the first week of June. We wish him luck. Ballots were mailed out on March 25 for the delegates for the 35th Convention. Please make sure you vote and return before April 23, 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, Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880. Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants, please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

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

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on April 15, at the Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858. 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, the corner of County Rd 553 and County Rd. 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller \$55 for 2XL, \$60 for 3XL and \$70 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. Contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.com or on our Facebook page.

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

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill.



Local 149
Roofers & Waterprooferers

Roofers Local 149

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

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.10 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.90 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

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

Brother Robert "Bob" Lauzon Jr. Brother Lauzon was 77 years old and a 31-year member. Brother Lauzon passed on 3/18/2026.

Rest in Peace Brother. Thank you for your years of service.

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.

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 the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

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

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

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.

"The world is not yet exhausted; let me see something tomorrow which I never saw before." – Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

"Risk! Risk anything! Care no more for the opinions of others, for those voices. Do the hardest thing on earth for you. Act for yourself. Face the truth." – Katherine Mansfield (1888 - 1923)

"Love doesn't sit there like a stone, it has to be made, like bread: remade all the time, made new."

–Og Mandino (1923 - 1996)
"Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out."

–James Bryant Conant (1893 - 1978)

"Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them are not really progress at all, but just terrible things."

– Russell Baker (1925 - 2019)

"Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation."

–Henry Kissinger (1923 - 2023)

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

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

The publication above is as 3/30/2026, 1:30pm

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

IBEW
Local 131

(Continued from Page 12)
25th, 2025. DBRF assessments have begun appearing on monthly assessment. The anticipated assessment will be \$70. This assessment will appear on your next monthly dues payment, if you have not already paid it.

The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on April 6th @ 6PM.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Monday April 20th 5PM @ the hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: June 4th @ 5PM, American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

The Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20.

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ's beginning at 3:30. 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

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

Upcoming Events:
General Membership Meeting – Monday April 6th (Official) Steward Training – June 11th

Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22nd

Allocation Meeting – May 4th, Food Truck will be on site so come hungry

Retiree Quarterly Meetings – June 3rd @ 3PM, Union Hall – meeting to discuss retiree issues

New General Membership Meeting date (2nd Tuesday of the Month) begins June 9th @ 6PM Local 131 Picnic – August 1st

Local 131 110th Anniversary – September 12th @ Gun Lake Casino. Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – October 10th

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. As work slows down there, more members are taking calls at Palisades Nuclear Facility.

The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady through spring. Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026. They are clearing ground, but we don't expect manpower need on new construction until 2027.

Palisades recommissioning work continues to require manpower with PCI Energy, Champion, Martell, and Allied Power still placing manpower requests. That work is expected to continue until at least June. Liberty Solar Project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak. It is an NMA Project, scheduled to begin in April of this year and run until April of 2027.

Retirees' lunches at the following Locations:

April 15th @ 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo

May 20th @ 11AM, Yogi's Diner, 2070 VW Ave E, Vicksburg

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage, MI @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 S. 9th Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Acreas or More: Grant Beach, Jeffrey Berner, Eric Lockwood, Justin Prisk, Cory Werner-Hoskins.

Jonathan Current Business Manager IBEW Local 131



PARTICIPANTS in the Upper Peninsula Construction Council's Apprentice of the Year competition gather at the March 14 banquet.

UPCC celebrates U.P.'s top apprentices in 2025

(Continued from Page 1)
and is expected to complete in the Year, and to finalists Jersie Skrzyniarz and Dan Cass, and all the nominees who represent the very best of the trades."

Some background on the finalists, provided by the UPCC:

2025 Apprentice of the Year – Brandon Waldrop: Brandon began his apprenticeship in March of 2024 and is projected to complete in May of 2026. He leads by example and is respected by his peers as a leader who will take time to help them with skills they are struggling with. Brandon has a thirst for knowledge and commitment to achievement, he has learned much during his apprenticeship. "His layout and workmanship as a pipefitter is among the best that I have seen," said UA Local 111 Apprenticeship Coordinator John Antoncew. "He strives to be a highly skilled employee and will be representing Local 111 as a pipefitter at the 2026 Michigan Pipe Trades apprentice contest in April."

2025 Finalist – Jersie Skrzyniarz: Jersie began her apprenticeship in August of 2021

and is expected to complete in 2026. She is respected by her peers and superiors as a leader who has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and achievement. Jersie was selected to address the 400 delegates from five states at this year's IBEW Local 906.

Kurtis Monroe, Business Manager IBEW Local said "she knocked it out of the park and we could not be prouder." She is passionate about her craft and hopes to one day achieve a leadership position in her union.

2025 Finalist – Dan Cass: Dan began his apprenticeship in August of 2021 and is expected to complete in 2026. He is passionate about his craft and is known as a leader among his peers and superiors. Dan is currently the vice president of IBEW 906 Renew Committee and one day hopes to foster a sense of unity and purpose amongst the next generation, ensuring the community remains strong, vibrant, and prepared for future challenges.

Loran Lamberg, Project Manager at B&B Electric, referred to Dan as the "go-to-guy" and said he is "100 percent confident in his abilities to become an outstanding journeyman electrician, foreman, general foreman, and project manager."

The selection committee was composed of Don Maki, FMCS, retired; Mike Andary, Northern Michigan University; Michael Fornetti, Mead/WE Energies, retired; Stan Kaczmarek, Gundlach Champion Inc; Ryan Stern, Michigan Building Trades Council; and Nate Anderson, Billerud Escanaba.

Sponsors of the event included Bay College, Billerud, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 2, Closser Construction Company, Gundlach Champion Inc, Payne + Dolan Inc, B&B Electrical Contractors, CR Meyer, SMART Local 7 Zone 5, Operating Engineers Local 324, WDI, Ironworkers Local 8, Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights Local 1510, Eagle Mine, Enbridge, IUPAT Local 1011, Michigan Building Trades Council, UP Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 111, and IBEW Local 906.

Trades recognize Whitmer's historic impact on unions

(Continued from Page 1)
what they earned. We will always fight to protect your wages and your well-being so that you can keep doing what you do best which is to build the things we all rely on."

An under-the-radar aspect of Whitmer's administration has been establishing a pro-worker mindset at state agencies. "The team that I've had by my side the past seven-plus years at the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity with Director (Susan) Corbin and Deputy Director (Sean) Egan (an IBEW Local 275 member) have been some of the really important voices that have led the work that we have been able to get done in the capitol. I want to honor them and thank them, and thank you all for being such wonderful partners on all these fronts. I appreciate you, and I know that I wouldn't be governor without the trades, and I know every single day that my job is to make sure that I am delivering as much for you and all of our members."

The building trades aren't the only union to recognize the support of Whitmer. "Michigan's labor movement has made historic achievements under Governor Whitmer's tenure. We repealed the anti-union 'right-to-work' law, restored prevailing wage, and invested in Michiganders pursuing the skilled trades," said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. "These victories have given more Michiganders paths to good-paying, union jobs and decent lives – but there's more work to be done."

Whitmer's legacy with labor isn't perfect – her non-support of construction of a new Line 5 tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac is a sore point, as, for many, is her response affecting workplaces during the Covid pandemic. And the state Unemployment Insurance Agency during her watch and that of predecessor Rick Snyder has been an embarrassment. But overall the pro-union agenda she pursued during her two terms in office have been historic, aided by the 2023-24 "trifecta" of Democratic-control in Lansing.

"Michigan is proud to be union strong," Whitmer told the building trades delegates. "And while we move Michigan forward we've had your back. We are the first state to restore workers' rights in this country in almost 70 years.

"I signed the repeal of the retirement tax that put more money back into the pockets of people who work hard and deserve to keep more of their money. We restored prevailing wage, so that workers can get paid quality wages for quality work.

"Michigan is home to over 200,000 construction workers and over half a million union workers. And that's why we repealed right to work – it not only was the right thing to do it was a way we could help working people get ahead, keep more of

why I think it's important that we continue to stay focused on what we can do, how we build these structures so that they sustain the work that we've done, and that we continue to grow. That's what I would stay focused on."

Given to Whitmer by MBCTC President Greg Herman and Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell in front of conference delegates, the plaque recognized her "undisputed legacy of service to the working men and women of the State of Michigan. Her unwavering advocacy for workplace health and safety, defense of collective bargaining rights, and dedication to policies that uplift working families will leave a lasting impact on Michigan. The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council honors her as a true friend of labor."

Whitmer received the plaque having just completed remarks to the building trades delegates. She reminded them that although she signed legislation in 2024 making Michigan the first state in 70 years to repeal right-to-work – the law can be resurrected just as fast with a governor and Legislature that are unfriendly toward organized labor.

"I'm proud of the work that we've done," Whitmer said. "I also know, that in a mere seven years, we turned a lot of things upside down. And we are making great headway. I share that with you because we can do it that fast – but it can be undone that fast. Those of us who lived through the right-to-work debate in Lansing know how fast that times can change. And that's precisely

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Outdoors

Da bears awaken



(From the Michigan DNR)
With spring here and Michigan's estimated 12,450 black bears emerging from their dens – many with new cubs in tow – here are a few important things to remember:

- Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell and memory. They can smell food from a mile away and remember food locations for years, including that backyard bird feeder or grease-spattered grill.

- When bears get used to human-associated food sources, they are more apt to roam neighborhoods – not flee when harassed by people – and even break into homes and outbuildings for food.

- A bear raiding your bird feeder is not cause to contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to request the animal be relocated. Remove the bird feeder for at least two weeks and the bear should stop coming around and move on to other food sources. Talk to your neighbors about taking the same action.

“Michigan is bear country,” said Jared Duquette, human-wildlife interactions specialist for the DNR. “And as bears come out of their winter dens, it’s important to remember that we can live responsibly with these magnificent animals and avoid conflicts by following some basic best practices. Take down bird feeders especially in the spring and summer, clean grills after use, don’t leave pet food outside and wait until collection day to put your trash out.”

People in high-density bear areas should consider using bear-resistant trash bins. Ask your trash company if they provide these containers.

There are an estimated 10,350 black bears throughout the Upper Peninsula, while the Lower Peninsula is home to 2,100 bears, according to a 2024 DNR survey. Lower Michigan’s bear population is concentrated mainly in the northern part of the peninsula, although bears have been pushing south into urban areas of mid-Michigan.

In March, some black bears



HUNGRY BLACK BEARS are emerging from their winter dens and can smell bird seed and the grease on a backyard grill from a mile away.

MDNR photos

leave their dens to walk around, stretch their legs and then go back to sleep. Other bears leave their dens for good. Drowsy and lethargic, they drink plenty of water and eat lightly at first – mainly old berries, rose hips and acorns along with winterkill deer carcasses.

Eventually, bears will go

searching for more substantial meals, so now is a good time to make sure anything around your home and property that could possibly attract a hungry bear is stored out of sight, smell and reach, according to *BearWise*.

If you see a bear in the woods before it notices you, stand still, don’t approach and enjoy the mo-

ment. Then move away quietly in the opposite direction.

If you encounter a bear that’s aware of you, don’t run, as running may trigger a chase response. Back away slowly in the opposite direction and wait for the bear to leave. Bears prefer to avoid people whenever possible, but they are powerful wild animals and may defend themselves when surprised or feeling threatened.

Many sows will emerge from their winter dens with new cubs. Female black bears typically produce offspring every two years, giving birth to two to three cubs in January or February while still in their winter dens. Black bear cubs typically stay with their mother for 16-18 months.

As the cubs get older and more mobile, mother bears often leave their cubs to go forage for food as much as two miles away. But as cute as bear cubs are, if you see one in the wild, do not approach it or pick it up, *BearWise* warns. Further, never get between a mother and her cubs. If you find yourself in this position, move away from the cubs in a direction that allows the mother to quickly reconnect with them.



A DNR WILDLIFE representative holds a female bear cub during a routine den check near Cadillac on Feb. 27. The cub and her two sisters were soon reunited with mom back in their den, although as they weather warms they’ll be out and about for good. Yes, they’re cute, but if you see cubs in the wild, don’t approach them or pick them up, the DNR says.



MICHIGAN DNR crews will collect milt (sperm) and eggs from approximately 520 adult fish this spring.

Springtime a good time to collect 35.4 million walleye eggs

(From the Michigan DNR)

Planning to fish the Muskegon River this spring? Be on the lookout for Michigan Department of Natural Resources personnel collecting walleye eggs below Croton Dam in Newaygo County. Egg collections with electrofishing boats were scheduled to start the week of March 23 and conclude by April 17.

Four days of egg collections are planned this spring. The date those collections will begin depends on water temperatures and the presence of ripe fish (fish that are ready to spawn); the schedule may change based on conditions.

The Muskegon River has the largest run of walleye in the Lake Michigan watershed, south of Green Bay, and its adult walleye population is primarily stocked fish. These walleye contribute to populations in other areas, based on fish tags that are returned to the DNR by anglers. Walleye from the Muskegon River have been recaptured in Lake Macatawa, Spring Lake and Pigeon Lake (Ottawa County), Manistee Lake (Kalkaska County) and the Grand, Kalamazoo, Pere Marquette and White rivers.

The DNR plans to collect approximately 35.4 million walleye eggs from the Muskegon River this year. Some of the fry (fish that have just hatched) from these eggs will be directly placed in waters throughout the Lower Peninsula and some will be sent to rearing ponds. Walleye fry transferred to ponds will be raised to fingerling size (approximately 1.5 to 2.5 inches) and stocked in late spring or early summer in lakes and rivers throughout the state. A smaller number of fish will be reared through the summer months in select ponds and stocked as fall fingerlings (approximately 6 to 8 inches).

Lake Michigan and many inland lake walleye populations in the Lower Peninsula depend on the fingerlings produced from Muskegon River eggs. The number of spawning walleye in the Muskegon River has been estimated at 40,000 to 50,000 fish. DNR crews will collect milt (sperm) and eggs from approximately 520 adult fish on-site this spring. These fish are immediately returned to the river – except for 60 fish, which will be collected for routine, annual health and disease surveillance testing at Michigan State University.

The egg-take zone runs from Croton Dam downstream to the Pine Street Access Site, so anglers who wish to avoid the walleye collection activities should fish downstream from the Pine Street Access Site. Anyone fishing near the egg-collection zone should use caution when fishing near the electrofishing boats. For safety, anyone wading will be asked to exit the water when electrofishing boats approach.

Electrofishing usually begins at Croton Dam each day at 8 a.m.

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