



SHORT CUTS

Primary election set for Tuesday, Aug. 4

The state's Tuesday, Aug. 4, primary election is rapidly approaching. The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local councils have compiled on Page 4 a limited list of endorsed candidates for the primary.

When you go to cast your ballot either absentee or at your local polling place, remember that in a primary election in Michigan you can only vote straight Democrat or Republican – cross-over voting will spoil your ballot.

Local 149 sends thanks for solidarity

As we went to press on July 21, Roofers and Waterproofers Local 149 and other union trades were preparing for a major picket line action at the Stellantis Mega Hub Distribution Center project in Van Buren Twp. Local 149 Business Manager Brian Gregg said “as always, our mission is to stand up for Michigan workers, defend the NMAPC, and hold Stellantis accountable for bypassing union contractors and undermining the Building Trades.”

Gregg asked us to communicate his appreciation of union solidarity with the rest of the trades:

To: Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council / All Affiliated Building Trades Unions; Detroit Area/ State-Wide Business Managers & Officers

Brothers and Sisters, I want to take a moment to express something that is honestly hard for me to put into words. Over the last week, the response pouring in from every corner of the Michigan Building Trades has been overwhelming. Every trade, every local reaching out with support for this movement, it has moved me more than I can say.

To see the solidarity, the Brotherhood, and the Sisterhood standing shoulder to shoulder with Roofers and Waterproofers Local 149... it's powerful. It's emotional. And it's something I will never forget.

This isn't just support. This is unity. This is Michigan labor showing exactly who we are when one of our own is disrespected or ignored. The calls, the messages, the commitments to stand with us, they've brought real pride to my heart. I've been in this industry a long time, and I have not seen a moment like this in years.

I want every one of you to know how deeply grateful we are. Your solidarity means everything. Your willingness to stand with the Roofers and Waterproofers Union means everything. And your belief in this movement reminds me why Michigan labor is the strongest in the country.

Thank you, truly, for standing with each other, and for showing the kind of unity that can't be bought, broken, or ignored.

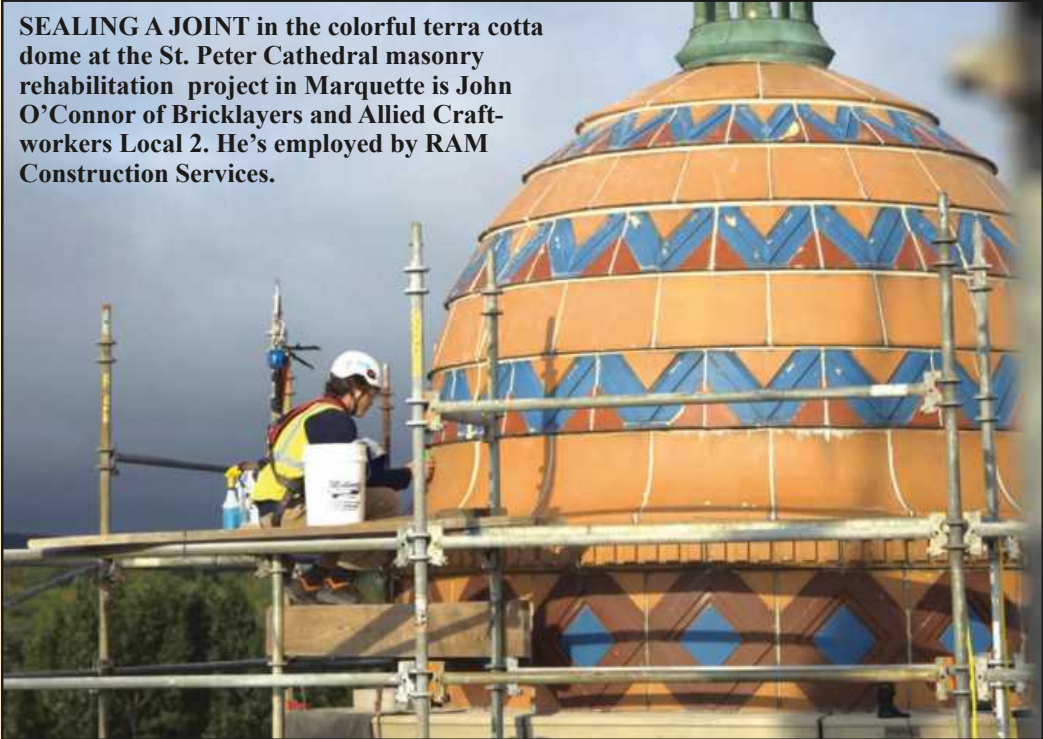
In Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Brian Gregg Roofers and Waterproofers Local 149

Quotable

“Nobody has things just as he would like them. The thing to do is to make a success with what material I have. It is a sheer waste of time and soul-power to imagine what I would do if things were different. They are not different.”

—Dr. Frank Crane (1861-1928)

SEALING A JOINT in the colorful terra cotta dome at the St. Peter Cathedral masonry rehabilitation project in Marquette is John O'Connor of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by RAM Construction Services.



Masons rise to the challenge, restore iconic Marquette cathedral

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

MARQUETTE – Over the past year, masons and laborers who have been refurbishing the exterior of St. Peter Cathedral have had perhaps the loftiest perspective in the city, caulking, re-pointing, repairing and replacing masonry on the front of the historic church and on its prominent pair of bell towers.

Employed by RAM Construction Services, the workers have toiled on the cathedral's front and on its twin 140-foot-tall bell towers, performing all manner of masonry repairs and waterproofing. Their work will restore and stabilize the cathedral's exterior for future generations after chunks of masonry began falling, creating the need for barriers below to protect passers-by and church-goers.

“I realize – and this is something I think our whole crew recognizes – that we're working on an iconic building in the city of Marquette, and we're proud to be able to work on it,” said Bill Klein, a Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 member who is the project's foreman for RAM. “Whether you're Catholic or not, this is a historic monument, and a unique opportunity for us.

People from the community come up to us all the time asking for pieces of stone as a memento.”

Known as “the mother church of the Diocese of Marquette,” St. Peter Cathedral has been a site of worship for local Roman

Catholics since the first church was built from 1864-1866 at 311 W. Baraga Ave. After the original wooden cathedral was destroyed by fire in 1879, construction of the current

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SOMETIMES, SCAFFOLDING itself is a piece of art, as evidenced by the neat job around the twin 140-foot-tall spires at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette. Masons and Laborers from RAM Construction Services and Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 have been using the scaffolding in 2025 and 2026 as a platform to rehabilitate the failing masonry on the front of the church and the spires.



AT WORK ON ONE of the pair of towers at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette is Rod Lamere of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by RAM Construction Services.

Photos courtesy of RAM Construction Services

Trades council joins group seeking to ‘elevate facts’ on data centers

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

Every now and then, a public issue, cause or project comes along that may splinter a group usually joined by a common cause, while at the same time fusing the interests of groups that traditionally don't always see eye to eye.

So it is with the construction of data centers in Michigan – the subject is a hot potato in our state, and in most states. A significant number of tradespeople are opposed to their construction – especially in their own community – while there are plenty more who are right now earning a paycheck from them and rightfully see present and future data center construction as the source of a paycheck.

The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, the umbrella advocacy group for unionized building trades unions in the state, has taken up the banner of supporting data center construction, but only if they're built with the proper safeguards, under state regulations while following the necessary permitting processes.

The council has joined an advocacy group called “Michigan for Responsible Data Centers,” which calls itself a “cross-sector coalition” committed to bringing together “trusted Michigan voices to elevate facts, correct misinformation, and support responsible development that delivers real community benefits and strengthens Michigan's long-term competitiveness.” The group's website can be found at <https://mifordatacenters.org>.

“Across Michigan and the country,” the advocacy group says, “data center proposals face public opposition, often fueled by misinformation”

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Palisades work marks ‘methodical march’ toward plant re-start

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

COVERT TWP. – A “watershed moment” in the process of re-starting the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant took place after some major tasks were completed last month.

One of the two major items checked off the to-do list was placement of the plant's turbine generator on turning gear, which followed extensive inspections, maintenance, testing, and refurbishment activities. Another major achievement announced by plant owner Holtec was installation and testing of a new fuel-handling machine, which completes the upgraded fuel-handling system.

Holtec announced July 2 that “the last of the major projects were successfully closed out and the site transitioned from large-scale activities to the remaining routine maintenance, testing, inspection, and operational readiness work required before startup. What Holtec did not announce was the expected completion of the work and reopening of the plant, which had been announced for the end of 2025 then early 2026.

“While more 5,000 individual work activities remain, this transition represents an important milestone in the historic restart effort,” Holtec said, calling the work part of a Palisades’ “methodical march toward restart.”

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They don't call it the ‘Mighty Mac’ for nothing

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

ST. IGNACE – Dr. David Steinman, the chief engineer of the Mackinac Bridge, was frequently asked what kind of damage would happen to the span if a lake freighter would strike one of its piers.

“Well, it might scratch the paint,” was one of his cheeky responses. Steinman also said: “the boat would sink with serious loss of life.” And 69 years after the five-mile-long bridge was opened to traffic, Steinman's confidence in his design has proven to be on the mark.

On July 8, the Mackinac Bridge Authority announced its review of a report from a consulting engineering firm it hired, that confirms the bridge is “at a lower risk of collapse due to a vessel collision than nationally established thresholds.” The report is a follow-up on an evaluation requested by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

“This report confirms what we've long believed to be true, that the risk of the Mackinac Bridge collapsing due to being struck by a vessel is extremely low,” said Bridge Director Kim Nowack. “We

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THE TWO MAIN 550-foot-tall tower piers of the Mackinac Bridge plunge an additional 210 feet below the Mackinac Straits and anchor into bedrock.

Credit: WMrapids, Wikipedia Commons

Trifecta of trouble targets organized labor

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

Anti-worker bias evident with NLRB tossing cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Center for American Progress, a labor-backed policy center, released an analysis last month that said since the second Trump Administration took office, workers and unions who file charges of unfair labor practices against employers are more likely to see them dismissed by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) compared with 2024.

From Jan. 1, 2025, to April 29, 2026 the study found the NLRB dismissed 34.7 percent of unfair labor practice charges filed by unions, an increase of 14.2 percentage points compared with 2024. The NLRB dismissed 67.4 percent of charges filed by workers that allege employers committed unfair labor practices, which is 10.7 percentage points higher than in 2024.

“The NLRB general counsel appointed by Trump,

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Big hit for labor agencies as budget plans unfold

WASHINGTON, D.C. – One of the first budget skirmishes among lawmakers arguing over funding for the Labor Department in the next fiscal year didn't end well for federal agencies that administer workplace rules – and

ultimately, workers.

The GOP-run House Appropriations Committee, at its June 9 work session, voted to determine how many fewer federal dollars the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services would get in the fiscal year 2027. The proposed cuts are substantial, but the full

House of Representatives, and then the Senate, still must vote on the budget.

An oddly specific Republican ban (on legislation that involved money, not health) was placed on a Democrat

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Labor Dept. issues new financial reporting rules

‘Drown unions in paperwork’

WASHINGTON, D.C. – More stringent financial reporting rules are on the way for the nation's labor unions.

A federal judge on July 1 declined to stop the new rules set by President Trump's Labor Department, even as the AFL-CIO said the regulations are part of “an effort to drain union resources away from organizing and representing workers.”

“The rule adds excessive, burdensome financial reporting requirements on unions in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act and other laws,” the AFL-CIO said upon release of the ruling. “The policy, known as ‘the LM-2 long form,’ is designed to drown unions in paperwork and drain them of resources needed to organize, collectively bargain, and

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Viewpoints



Data centers and Hardhats

The Citizens Research Council of Michigan, which bills itself as a non-biased, privately funded, non-profit public affairs research organization, released a report last month on the impact of data centers in the state. The report was referenced by the Michigan for Responsible Data Centers advocacy group found in the article on Page 1. A synopsis of the report, *Data centers in Michigan: Evaluation of policy controversies regarding hyperscale data center development*, follows:

In December 2024, Michigan enacted a state law exempting large “enterprise” data centers from sales and use taxes to attract investments to Michigan. This law was passed just as tech companies accelerated global investment in hyperscale data centers, largely to support the development and deployment of new artificial intelligence (AI) tools. In 2025, multiple data center proposals in Michigan prompted resistance from many citizens and local governments, bringing data center development policy into focus.

Not all data centers are created equal. Large ‘hyperscale’ data centers demand immense amounts of electrical power, may consume millions of gallons of water for cooling, and can impose quality-of-life issues for nearby residents. Some hyperscale data centers have been blamed for noise pollution, air pollution, and increased electrical rates. If permitted without due diligence, hyperscale data centers can be disruptive to local communities.

Not all data centers have such disruptive potential. One public database lists about 70 data centers already operating in Michigan. Many of these have operated for over a decade. The full count of data centers currently operating in Michigan is unknown, but may number in the hundreds. Most data centers are indistinguishable from office buildings.

Data centers are well established as a critical component of the global economy. They allow the internet to operate and have become indispensable to society. The task for policymakers is to evaluate trade-offs to best capture the benefits of these tools while minimizing harm. When evaluating a data center development, it is important to focus on the details of the project rather than reacting to the general idea of a data center. Adopting strict prohibitions or moratoriums on data centers that include smaller traditional facilities is unnecessary and could have detrimental impacts on local economies.

The economic benefits of data centers are modest (except for one key group that wears hard hats on the job). Technology companies have announced plans to invest trillions of dollars globally in data centers over the next few years. Many public officials and economic development professionals have focused on attracting some of this investment to boost state and local economies.

Economic development often relies on a ‘multiplier effect’—an assumption that investments in new developments promote additional economic activity.

While data centers certainly do have some multiplier effects, the effects are likely far more limited, dollar-for-dollar, than most any other economic development strategies. For example, a large investment in a manufacturing facility may create hundreds of direct jobs and thousands of local indirect jobs through supply chain and service industry demands. An equivalent investment in a data center creates maybe a few dozen direct permanent jobs with minimal supply chain or services needed for operation.

The largest economic impact of data center development is during construction. Construction of a hyperscale data center may require over 1,000 workers on site during peak activity, including many skilled trades professionals. This is likely to support local jobs and attract workers from around the region, providing temporary but substantial benefit to the local economy in a variety of ways.

There’s a reason it’s the ‘Mighty Mac’

(Continued from Page 1)

hope this gives greater assurance to everyone who crosses the bridge that there is very little danger of such a tragedy here.”

Following the March 2024 collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore after a pier was struck by a 984-foot-long container ship, the National Transportation Safety Board called on 30 owners of 68 bridges in the U.S., including the Mackinac Bridge, to evaluate their structures for risk of collapse.

The Key Bridge collapsed into the Patapsco River, killing six road workers and forcing temporary closure of the Port of Baltimore. A replacement span is not expected to open until 2030.

The Mackinac Bridge was the only one in Michigan on the list because others like the Zilwaukee, Blue Water spans, International, Gordie Howe and Ambassador have piers on land and are protected by vessel strikes, or were built recently enough to be within federal design standards.

The Mackinac Bridge Authority contracted with consultant engineering firm Parsons to evaluate how the Mighty Mac lines up with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design guidelines. The evaluation found that the risk of the Mackinac Bridge collapsing due to a vessel collision was “below the annual frequency of collapse threshold,” the authority said.

The analysis by Parsons took into account the bridge design and structural capacity, the characteristics of the Straits of Mackinac, and the size, type and frequency of vessels navigating near the bridge.

The Mackinac Bridge review by Parsons revealed some pretty low probability numbers for the span’s collapse from a ship strike.

“The AASHTO Method II vessel collision analysis determines a total annual frequency of collapse of 0.000097, corresponding to a return period of approximately 10,350 years, which is below the AASHTO limit of 0.0001 for critical bridges. For one-way vessel traffic, the calculated annual frequency was 0.000045. Both results lie comfortably within the acceptable probability thresholds established by AASHTO for critical infrastructure, confirming that the Mackinac Bridge meets the prescribed reliability criteria.”

By comparison, the authority said the NTSB found that the Key Bridge was almost 30 times above the acceptable risk threshold for critical or essential bridges, according to AASHTO guidance.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION of the Mackinac Bridge’s main tower piers in 1954, a section of a double-walled tower caisson pokes up above Lake Huron. The outer ring was filled with dolomite stone, which acted as weight to drive it down. The “overburden” material that was placed inside the ring – rock, sand, and mud – was removed by crane and clam bucket and dumped over the side. The weighted cutting edge drove the sharpened caisson edges down into bedrock, like a cookie cutter. When positioned the whole caisson was filled with aggregate and grouted to make it one solid mass – 931,000 tons of masonry. The bridge piers have been struck by vessels over the years – the most significant was in 1968, when a pier was hit by a Greek freighter during heavy fog. It resulted in only minor damage to the bridge. The freighter suffered major damage but managed to make it into Chicago for repairs. Bridge engineer David Steinman designed the tower piers with a safety factor of 20 – meaning they can handle 20 times the maximum theoretical pressure that a giant wall of ice could create against them in Lake Huron. That same engineering factor is expected to prevent the piers from experiencing any major damage from a strike by a Great Lakes freighter.

Photo credit: Mackinac Bridge Authority

Beware the AI billionaire bailout

By Jim Hightower

Step right up folks! Please don’t crowd! No need to shove, plenty here for everyone! Welcome to the AI boom! Silicon Valley billionaires are now proposing a scheme to deliver an unbelievable windfall to “every citizen.” Tech titans like Sam Altman of OpenAI are pushing the federal government to create a “public wealth fund” to let us commoners be investment partners in build-



ing the AI wonderworld.

Let’s worry that this might be a corporate scam, note that Donald Trump, the deal-maker-in-chief, exults that letting the American public buy into the tech booms is a sure bet to “make them rich.” And Altman adds that a public investment fund would allow Joe and Jill Schmo to “participate directly in the upside of AI-driven growth.”

Wow – benevolent capitalism! But wait... aren’t AI barons infamous greedheads who constantly rig the system for themselves, sneer at the public, and openly disdain government programs? Well, yes.

They say we would “share in the upside” of AI, but what about the downside?

Far from profitable, all of the industry’s powerhouses, including OpenAI, are losing hundreds of billions of dollars while carelessly adding trillions in new debt and – shhhh – quietly admitting that their razzle-dazzle computer fantasies might not work.

They won’t tell you this, but going bust is a real possibility. And that is why AI’s private-enterprise whizzes are now so desperately pushing us taxpayers to become their socialist “partners.” If and when they fail, your and my role is to save their bacon by demanding that “the public” deserves a government bailout.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

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BUILDING MICHIGAN!

K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A POSTCARD VIEW of the air-traffic control tower at the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Marquette County, circa the 1960s. The 110-foot tower is still in place today – it’s the only airport tower in the U.P. The K.I. Sawyer base played an important role in the nation’s northern air defense system during the nearly four decades it was controlled by the Air Force. Re-converted to civilian use and opened in 1999, today the Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport covers about 3.3 miles.

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport is today what it was when it opened in 1935 – an airport.

But a lot has gone on at the Upper Peninsula airport in the 91 years since it opened, including its run of nearly four decades of hosting an important Cold War-era Air Force base.

Over the course of the 20th Century, Sawyer had three major constants and advantages that set the course of its history, and its usage. It was close to Canada and our northern border, it was in a consistently cold climate in the continental U.S., and it had a really long runway.

“Driving through the heart of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, just south of Marquette,” wrote Davin Wiitanen in 2017 for the *Military History of the Upper Great Lakes*, “the winding two-lane road leads to a gated entrance with a sign that reads ‘Welcome to the K.I. Sawyer A.F.B.’ At one point in time, the entrance booth would have contained an attendant and the road would lead to the bustling compound that was once a fully operational United States Air Base, formally called the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

“Surrounded by the Escanaba River State Forest, the vast compound was once a contributor in United States’ success in the Cold War preventing and monitoring attempts of Soviet invasion. This led to the men and women who were stationed there often being referred to as the ‘Guardians of the North.’”

The “guardian” role of the facility’s most significant claim to fame is its legacy as an Air Force Base from 1957-1994, sandwiched between its time as a civilian airport. During its peak years, about 4,000 active duty military and 1,000 civilian employees worked at Sawyer. And including dependents, about 12,000 residents contributed to the Marquette County economy.

In the 1930s, aircraft took off and landed at various locations in Marquette County, until the first official county airport opened in Negaunee Township in 1937. It was soon evident a larger airport was necessary. The economic advantages of establishing a single permanent airport for the growing region, especially to serve travel related to the iron ore industry, was promoted by Kenneth Ingalls Sawyer, a civil engineer and Marquette Road Commissioner.

In 1941, Sawyer proposed that an airport be constructed in southwest Marquette. He died in 1944, and his name was later attached to the K.I. Sawyer Airport that opened with a single strip on the site in 1949.

Sawyer Airport, located in Gwinn, hosted both private and commercial air traffic until 1954, when the Cold War came to the U.P.

Photo credit: Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport



THE RECENTLY RENOVATED Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport serves American, Delta and United airlines, with direct connections to Chicago and Detroit. While still capable of handling larger Boeing 747s or 777-200s, on a daily basis the airport serves smaller jets, which carry about 115,000 passengers per year. The new airport takes up less than half the space of the former military air base’s 8.5 square miles. Today a number of plane and helicopter manufacturers use the Marquette airport to test de-icing and other cold-weather aviation systems.



PERHAPS THE SIGNATURE feature of the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force base was its 12,700-foot-long runway – one of the longest in the region. “In 1960,” says the *Open Skies Project*, “strategic Air Command (SAC) assigned the 923rd Air Refueling Squadron and the 526th Bombardment Squadron to the base, and with them KC-135A tanker aircraft and B-52H Stratofortress strategic bombers. SAC had recently adopted a ‘dispersal’ strategy of scattering their large nuclear bombers across numerous bases so that they couldn’t all be destroyed in the event of a Soviet first strike. The 2.3 -mile long runway at K. I. Sawyer was specifically designed to support the takeoff and landings of these enormous bombers. The B-52s were kept at full readiness at all times and could be airborne with nuclear weapons at a moment’s notice.” The runway has since been shortened to 9,060 feet to save on maintenance costs, but it is still the third longest in the state.

Photo credit: USGS, 2006

“With the growing concerns arising from the Cold War,” Wiitanen wrote, “the government made the decision to build new bases across the country. As tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union grew, the United States government became increasingly concerned about the relations between the two nations and precautionary measures were taken against possible Soviet attacks on the United States.

“Recognizing that the military needed a better ‘view’ of the north, K.I. Sawyer was chosen along with bases in Grand Forks and Minot, North Dakota and Glasgow, Montana. These locations provided excellent reception capability for radar, making them logistically beneficial for the Air Force. This is due to the position along the Canadian border. These bases would be the first locations to recognize and notify the government of potential attacks from the north.”

The federal government entered into negotiations with the county for a lease at Sawyer, and offered to construct a \$12 million jet base available to both the USAF and private and commercial aircraft. The Marquette City Commission accepted the offer in January

1955, and shortly thereafter the federal government signed a 99-year lease.

Construction of support facilities soon began, but it would take two years before the site’s infrastructure, including an adequate runway, could host its assigned F-89 Scorpion Interceptor, part of a fighter-interceptor defense against an enemy bomber attack.

The Air Force soon wanted the Sawyer all to itself, and in 1956 a \$447,000 federal appropriation allowed for the construction of a civil airport in Negaunee Twp., allowing military sole use of the base.

Sawyer initially acted as an early-warning northern network radar site to detect a Soviet bomber or missile attack from over Canada.

Subsequent missions for the base included hosting the 56th Fighter Group, the 410th Bombardment Wing which included massive B-52H Stratofortresses, and the KC-135 Stratotanker. From the 1960s through Operation Desert Shield, the base at various times hosted newer generations of fighter squadrons, as well as communications and flying training squadrons.

The Cold War ended abruptly in 1989 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Not long afterward, Sawyer—which had evaded closure numerous times over the years – finally joined the list of hundreds of military bases being closed.

“In 1994,” says history provided by Sawyer Airport, “after almost 40 years of operation, the U.S. Air Force base closed. This eliminated 4,600 military and civilian jobs and left the county with a small city containing dozens of buildings, their contents, utilities, a 12,700-foot runway, and a vast expanse of land. In 1999, Sawyer International Airport officially opened and was soon a strong economic force in the central Upper Peninsula.”

Anti-worker bias evident with NLRB tossing cases

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Crystal Carey, claims that the NLRB is protecting workers’ rights by resolving cases more ‘promptly.’ In reality, new charges filed against employers are simply far more likely to be dismissed,” the analysis said. At the same time, several labor lawyers report charges are being dismissed due to procedural changes.

Workers depend on the NLRB to remedy allegations of unfair labor practices, such as threatening or firing workers who discuss workplace matters with their co-workers or try to organize a union.

Ongoing budget cuts, staff shortages and a blatant anti-union Trump Administration political agenda are all likely contributing factors to the cases going against workers.

The NLRB has long faced difficulties maintaining enough

staff to meet its caseload, but these challenges came to a head after the second Trump Administration assumed office and more than 10 percent of NLRB staff left the agency throughout 2025, the Center for American Progress said. “For years, the NLRB has received very few increases in its budget, leading to chronic staffing shortages, especially at the regional offices that investigate allegations of unfair labor practices.”

In 2025, rather than try to hire enough employees to meet the 23 percent staffing shortfall in its field offices, the agency only hired eight new workers while more than 150 departed. As a result, investigations slowed and a backlog of open cases built up.

The analysis also said the NLRB made changes to its case-handling procedures in December 2025 to try to “improve efficiency and reduce delays.” But its new

protocols make it easier for charges to be dismissed because they require a charging party to submit supporting documents within two weeks of the charge being filed, and if sufficient documentation is not provided, the NLRB issues a dismissal letter within just a week or two of the deadline.

“The Trump Administration has consistently attacked the NLRB’s ability to fulfill its mission of overseeing most private sector union organizing,” the analysis said. “Despite his promises on the campaign trail to “be a champion for the American worker,” President Trump replaced NLRB leadership with former management-side lawyers – and shortly after taking office in January, fired one of the NLRB’s members. This effectively shut down the operations of its five-member decisional board for almost by leaving it without a quorum.

Big hit for labor agencies as budget plans unfold

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attempt to allow implementation of workplace rules to prevent on-the-job, heat-related sickness.

Even Republican-appointed National Labor Relations Board members were crying foul at the proposed agency cuts. At a separate subcommittee hearing, NLRB General Counsel Crystal Carey and NLRB Chair James Murphy recently testified that proposed budgetary amounts were “far below what we’ll need” and would require a “disastrous cut in agency operations” for the long-understaffed agency.

•The already-reduced National Labor Relations Board would see a whopping \$99 million cut in funding – that’s one third of its budget. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., a Painters union member, tried to restore that money putting the board back at \$294 million, which it had during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. In the closest vote of the day, he lost 28-30. Trump proposed a \$9 million NLRB cut, to \$285 million.

The funding cut would force NLRB layoffs and slowdowns in judgements of worker-boss disputes and union elections.

•OSHA’s proposed budget was cut by \$52 million, to \$582 million. And to add to the anti-worker “icing on the cake,” GOP lawmakers inserted a ban on OSHA writing a rule that would allow more stringent standards to prevent workers’ excessive heat exposure. A vote to reverse that lost 26-33.

OSHA’s National Enforcement Program, targeting the worst industries for “proactive enforcement” against heat exposure, lapsed in April and the Labor Department didn’t renew it, said Jessica Martinez, co-executive director of the labor-backed National Council on Occupational Safety and Health. That left it up to OSHA to write a permanent rule limiting and banning exposure. The ruling Republicans voted to stop any such effort by OSHA.

“We already know what works,” Martinez said when the prior enforcement lapsed. “Water. Shade. Rest. Acclimatization. Training. These are simple, evidence-based steps. But without a standard, they are not guaranteed. They are not enforceable. When OSHA steps back, workers are left exposed to preventable harm.”

•The Wage and Hour Division, which enforces minimum wage and overtime laws, was cut by \$25 million (9 percent) as Trump proposed, to \$235 million.

“House Republicans are advancing a budget that asks working people to pay the price so the billionaire class can keep cashing in,” said Brian Bryant, International President of the Machinists union. “After receiving the largest tax break in American history, wealthy corporations and billionaires are once again demanding more at the expense of working families.”

“These proposals would gut worker safety enforcement, slash Job Corps programs that help young people escape poverty and homelessness, and strip resources from the National Labor Relations Board. That’s not fiscal responsibility. That’s balancing the books on the backs of working people.”

Labor Dept. issues new financial reporting rules

(Continued from Page 1)

advocate for their members – especially for smaller unions who are particularly challenged to take on the additional administrative burden.”

Ruling on the lawsuit brought by the AFL-CIO seeking to stop the implementation of the new financial rules, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington, D.C., said the new regulations had not been shown to cause unions irreparable harm.

The Labor Department said on May 29 that the new rules “reflect the growth and expansion of labor organizations’ financial operations since the passage of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act” in 1959.

The department said the Office of Labor-Management Standards last substantially revised the applicable union reporting form in 2003 and has not updated reporting thresholds since 1992.

“Modern unions are financially complex organizations,” said Office of Labor-Management Standards Director Elisabeth Messenger. “The final rule fine tunes reporting requirements for larger labor organizations – many of which report tens of millions of dollars in assets each year – and adjusts thresholds for smaller labor organizations to increase transparency for America’s hardworking union members and ensure reporting requirements keep pace as labor organizations evolve.”

The AFL-CIO offered a different take, especially given the lack of corporate accountability on spending to oust unions, and the use of “dark money” in political giving.

“The Trump administration is hellbent on making it harder for working people to come together in a union and take collective action, and this new policy is just the latest example,” said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. “Whether they’re stripping one million federal workers of their collective bargaining rights or illegally springing unnecessary reporting requirements on unions, they’re using every tool in the toolbox to come after workers.”

Palisades work marks ‘methodical march’ toward plant re-start

(Continued from Page 1)

Holtec is undertaking two historic projects its plant on the Lake Michigan shore, about five miles south of South Haven. The Palisades plant’s 777-megawatt pressurized water reactor, which began operation in 1971, was shut down in May 2022 by then-owner Entergy, who said its operation was no longer commercially viable.

Holtec purchased the plant to decommission it, but instead in late 2023 opted to go through the process of renovating and upgrading its works in the effort to place more than 800 megawatts of baseload power back on the grid. It marks the first-ever reopening of a U.S. nuclear power plant.

Later, Holtec announced that the Palisades site would be home to the installation of two “small modular reactors” – SMR-300s – which will add a total of 600 megawatts of power capacity. They are expected to come online in 2030, and will be the first of their type installed in the nation.

Palisades said the projects that were completed in June “represent the culmination of a series of major efforts carried out across the station. They mark an important transition in the Palisades restart, which included reactor vessel inspections and replacement of reactor head penetrations, primary system chemical decontamination and passivation, steam generator tube refurbishment and secondary-side cleaning, fuel receipt and inspection, operator training and requalification, and numerous equipment upgrades and modernization projects.”

Hundreds of building trades workers have toiled on the re-start project at Palisades. A \$1.5 billion federal loan guarantee and \$1.3 billion in awards will support site work and power purchase agreements.

“These accomplishments reflect the tremendous amount of work performed across the station throughout the restart effort,” said Holtec Enterprise Unit Head Steven Soler and Site Vice President Michael Schultheis. “We’re now focused on safely executing the remaining testing, verification, and operational readiness activities required before startup. The plant is coming back together, and the professionalism and dedication demonstrated by our workforce continue to move the project forward.”

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Local 149

Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – **Attention.** This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.
General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is set for Tues, Aug. 4, 2026, at 7 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216
Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Aug. 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216
Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan meeting is set for Tues., Oct. 13, 2026, at 6 pm. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.
Statewide Election for Business Agent & one Executive Board
We recently had one E-board member resign to run for the BA position.
We have two Pension Trustee positions up for election.
We will be taking nominations for the position of Business Agent, Trustees, or Executive Board at the Aug. 4 Union Meeting. The newly elected Business Agent, and Executive Board member will be sworn in at the September 8, 2026, General Membership Meeting. This election will be conducted by Statewide Mail-In Ballot. We strongly encourage every member to participate, your vote matters.
Eligibility Requirements. To be nominated for Officer or Trustee:
- You must be a Journeyworker member in good standing.
- You must be nominated by a Journeyworker member in good standing.
- No member may be nominated for more than one office.
Additionally — and this is extremely important:
If a current officer intends to seek nomination for Business Agent, they must resign from their current office before accepting a nomination. This is not optional. This is not flexible. This is the rule.
Any member considering running for Business Agent should take the time to understand the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of the position. This is not a title. It is a full-time commitment to the membership, the contractors, and the industry.
Detroit Training Center Information
The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows: Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, July 20, 2026
Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, July 21, 2026
BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday July 22, 2026
BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, July 23, 2026
Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, July 23, 2026
All classes begin at 6:30pm
Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.
Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.
If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-206-7620, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.
Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.
Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.
If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368 to make arrangements.
Clearance Cards. Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and we will contact the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.
Out-Of-Work. When con-



Local 169

Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **August 21, 2026, at 8:00pm** at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Address is 1755 Fairlane Dr, Allen Park, MI 48101.
Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of 55.85 for 2026.
We have successfully ratified a new CBA our new wage sheets are on our web site, and new agreement books are being printed. I would like to thank our negotiation team for a job well done.
Attention members: Scott Ivey is the new Business Agent for Area 3, he will take over all the duties of agent including dispatching and out of work list his contact info office (989)662-6491 cell (989)274-6974.
Congratulations to the elected delegates to the Thirty Fifth Consolidated Convention. Mike Card and Don Fajardo by Office, Elected Tony Herrera, Jamie Ratliff, Terry Sullivan, Scott Ivey and Brad Dame. These delegates will represent the members of Local 169 at the convention which will be held July 20 through July 23, 2026.
Congratulations to Matt Root, he placed 2nd at the Great Lakes Apprentice of the year contest in Hobart Indiana the week of June 2-4 and will represent Local 169 at the National contest Aug. 10-12 at Local 549 in Benicia, CA. We wish him good luck.
Boilermakers Local 169 Area Picnics.
Area 1 - Picnic will be Aug. 8, 2026, at Camp Dearborn noon until 7 pm. We will also have food, drinks, adult and kids raffle prizes, games, cornhole tournament, bounce house, face painting, and fun for the whole family. If you can meet at 8am to help set up, we could always use the help!
Area 2 – Picnic will be Sept. 7, (Labor Day) following the parade. More information to come.
Area 3 - Picnic will be Aug. 1, 2026, at Sanford Lake Park noon until 7 pm. We will have food, drinks, adult and kids' raffles and prizes, fun for the whole family. Sanford Lake is filled up now and has a splash park for the kids. Please bring a dish to pass.
Area 4 – Information will be coming soon.
OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more information.

Local 149 cont'd
tractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.
Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.
Are you moving? If you have a new address please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.
Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information for recruitment purposes, and hopefully to get a picture of our members for Facebook.
The publication above is as 7/20/2026, 2:00pm
In Solidarity, Brian Gregg
Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Scott Ivey at (989)662-6491.
Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.
Retirees: Retiree luncheons.
Area 1 Retirees luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar located at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.
Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons the first Thursday of every month at 11 am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd. Muskegon MI. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.
Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on Aug. 19, 2026, at The Boulevard Lounge. The address is 316 S. Saginaw Rd, Midland, MI 48640. As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.
Area 4 Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.
Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50.00 XL and smaller 55.00 for 2XL, 60.00 for 3XL and 70.00 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.org or on our Facebook page.
The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.
Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.
Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Just joking

My friend couldn't afford to pay his water bill. So I sent him a get-well soon card. ...



My friend David was on vacation when someone stole his ID. He's called David now. ...

I was at a local bar, when the woman sitting a few feet away sneezed. Her glass eye popped out, bounced once on the bar, and I caught it. I handed it back to her and she popped it in and said thank you.

She was a beautiful woman. As she was getting ready to leave she came up to me and asked for my number. I looked at the chair behind me... Surely she must've been mistaken.

I said, "Who me?"

She said "Yes, of course you. I don't usually do this kind of thing, but you just caught my eye."



Local 1191

Laborers' Local 1191
DETROIT - (2161 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208)
LABORERS RISING: Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.
Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the “Laborers’ Local 1191” Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.
Member Personal Information Updates: Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.
Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The General Membership Meeting for August 2026 is scheduled for Aug. 7, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for September 2026 will be held on Sept. 4, 2026.**
Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The August Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for Aug. 28, 2026. The September Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25, 2026.**
Union Dues For 2026: Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! To make online dues payments, click the “Pay Dues” tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.
Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**
Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union.



Election: Tuesday, August 4

Vote in the statewide Michigan Primary Election.

Here are Building Trades endorsements



Following are candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its local affiliate councils for the statewide Aug. 4 primary. This list will continue to be updated prior to the election. Updates can also be found at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Governor: Chris Swanson
Attorney General: Eli Savit
Secretary of State: Garlin Gilchrist

U.S. House of Representatives
District 4: Sean McCann
District 6: Debbie Dingell
District 10: Tim Greimel

Michigan Board of Education: Judith Pritchett
Michigan Board of Education: Tiffany Tilley

Michigan State University Trustee: Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay Zemke

University of Michigan Regent: Paul Brown, Amir Makled
Wayne State University Board of Governors: Shereef Akeel, Richard Mack

Michigan Senate:

District 4: Darrin Camilleri
District 5: Matt Koleszar
District 6: Mary Cavanagh
District 7: Jason Hoskins
District 8: Dayna Polehanki
District 10: Amanda Treppa
District 11: Veronica Klinefelf
District 12: Kevin Hertel
District 13: Sean Carlson
District 15: Felicia Brabec
District 19: Julie Rogers
District 27: John Cherry
District 35: Chedrick Greene

Michigan House of Representatives

District 5: Candace Calloway
District 6: Melanie Macey
District 8: Helena Scott
District 13: Mai Xiong
District 16: Stephanie Young
District 17: Laurie Pohutsky
District 18: Kelly Garrett
District 19: Samantha Steckloff
District 22: Lisa McIntyre
District 23: Jason Morgan
District 27: Jaime Churches
District 28: Sherry Berecz
District 31: Shannon Dare Wayne
District 32: Jimmie Wilson Jr.
District 38: Joey Andrews
District 44: Jim Haadsma
District 46: Jan Maino

District 48: Jennifer Conlin
District 53: Brenda Carter
District 54: Sarah Pounds
District 55: Alex Hawkins
District 56: Sharon MacDonell
District 57: Tom Turner
District 58: Katrina Manetta
District 61: Denise Mentzer
District 66: Ned Zimmer
District 68: Matt Schlinker
District 71: Stephen Shlaack
District 73: Julie Brixie
District 74: Harold Pope
District 75: Penelope Tsemoglou
District 76: Angela Witwer
District 86: Joseph McClusky
District 96: Christopher Girard
District 109: Anna Rink

Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council Macomb County
39th District Judge, non-incumbent (Fraser): Derek Boedecker

Oakland County
Oakland County Community College Trustee: Robin McGregor
Oakland County Probate Judge: Jessica Ann Hallmark (non-incumbent)

Wayne County
Wayne Executive: Warren Evans
Wayne County Commission- District 5: Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
Highland Park City Council- District 2: Scott Boswell
River Rouge Treasurer: Mike Bowdler

Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee Building Trades Council
Flint City Mayor: Sheldon Neeley
Genesee County Probate Court Judge: Ashley Prew, Andrea L. LeGendre
67th District Court Judge (Fenton area): Cheryl A. Lopez, Lina Stamos

Upper Peninsula Building Trades Council
Marquette County Commission- District 1: Cody Mayer
Marquette County Commission- District 3: Jenna Smith
Ishpeming City Council: Colin Fleury (IBEW Local 906 member)
Gladstone School Board: Brandon Langenfeld (SMART Local 7 member)
Masonville Township Trustee: Travis Cary (IUPATDC Local 7 member)

Trades council joins group seeking to ‘elevate facts’ on data centers

(Continued from Page 1)

contractor associations, utilities, private companies, and chambers of commerce.
The website has straightforward information on many of the issues that can potentially give people heartburn about data centers. Water usage, and concerns about increases in electric bills, noise, and tax implications are some of the subjects covered.
There is certainly no polling on the subject, but by the nature of their jobs, building trades union workers might be considered at the center of the data center debate. One worker might be opposed simply on principle to data centers, with their close ties to artificial intelligence. Another might not want them built nearby. Others might be concerned about data centers' environmentally, or impact on the grid.
For other building trades

workers in Michigan, building a data center is how they earn their livelihood. The largest data center in the state, Related Digital's \$16 billion project in Saline Twp. is being managed by Walbridge.
Walbridge said that at peak employment, 2,500 union jobs will be created at the “Stargate” project, which would make it the largest construction project employer in Michigan history. When that peak employment level is reached, the Washtenaw County project will be employing about 2.5 percent of all unionized building trades workers in Michigan.

“It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into.”
– Jonathan Swift (1667 - 1745)



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Steve Claywell
Secretary-Treasurer

Greg Herman
President

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1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216
Phone: (313) 961-3800
Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.



UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge located 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
aaalexander@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 Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

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

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund:

Print Unemployment Payment History located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for 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 at (989) 799-5261.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

(Continued next column)



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall, 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, Aug. 6** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

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

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

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows:

1st year \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30

\$10.80 over 3 years.

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

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

The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

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

Organizing Update: *Brothers and sisters, thank you so much for speaking to the unrepresented workers, it's definitely having an effect! I don't know how many phone calls I've received because you have been talking to them and giving them my number, this is how we grow and increase our market share. We're all doing the same work and we all deserve a contract!*

I've been focusing on a lot of social media videos; if you have any cool pictures or videos of welding, plumbing, HVAC rigging, pipe fitting - please send them to me. I would love to include them in the videos and show everyone why we are proud to be in the UA! As always, thank you!

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

(Local 85, con't)

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, **August 11, 2026** at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.
Fraternally,
Justin M. Pomerville
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Local Union 85

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia and the Lakeshore have merged their meetings and are now held on 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / in Local 174's Assembly Hall.

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

Training News:
APPRENTICE EVALUATIONS: Apprentices have been issued their on-the-job evaluation forms. These evaluations are to be completed by their Journeyman or Foreman and returned to the Training Center by the end of the month. It is important that these evaluations are completed honestly and candidly. Please take the time to discuss both strengths and areas needing improvement with your apprentice before returning the evaluation.

Your honest feedback is critical to the success of our apprenticeship program. **The Local 174 Standard is the standard.** We need to know where each apprentice currently stands in relation to that standard and, when necessary, how we can help raise them to meet it. Just as importantly, we need honest evaluations to identify apprentices who are not demonstrating the work ethic, attitude, or commitment expected of a Local 174 apprentice. Our goal is to continue developing the BEST tradespeople.

TRAINING CENTER NOTICE: Day classes will **not** be held during the month of August. During this time, our instructors will be preparing for the upcoming training year and participating in instructor development. Although classes will not be in session, Training Center staff will remain available and can be reached by phone or email. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we prepare for another successful year of training.

ATTENTION: Members must notify the Training Office when licenses are renewed so records can be updated. Failure to report renewals may affect dispatch.

EPRI Valve Repair Technician Certification: Local 671 will be offering a one-week course. Availability will be limited, call to get more information and sign up. Monday, Aug. 17, 2026 - Saturday Aug. 22, 2026 (Saturday will only be used if necessary) 7am-330pm. Cost: \$100 (Includes book to keep).

MED GAS INSTALLER: Scheduled to start on **Monday, Aug. 31, 2026 @ 5 pm.** Class will run weekly on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings @ 5:00pm-9:00pm. Deadline to register is August 24, 2026.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month - unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm. The next class will be held **Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026.**

WELD TEST: No test event will be held in August. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, Sept. 8 and the test to follow Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5pm.

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

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.

July 24, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



UA Local 671

MONROE – The next union meeting will be held on August 27th, 2026, at 7pm, due to the National Convention. We will send a push notification out in the App. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **August 27th, 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.

The next Weld Test will be Thursday, July 30th at 5p.m.

The annual picnic is set for August 29th. Please mark your calendars.

Health & Welfare: Just a reminder, If you use your MRA card to pay for dental or vision, make sure you inform Carly at the Union Hall so your MRA can be refunded from your dental and vision account.

Effective June 1 the hours required to qualify for Health insurance will go back to 145 hours per month. There will be a notice coming out in the coming weeks.

Retiree Luncheon: There will be no Retiree Luncheon in August due to the picnic. We will see you all in September.

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

In Closing: Courage and faith in the future is fundamental to success. There will always be temporary dips in our economy; however living standards in our country continue to march forward, and always will. The best time to plan and forge ahead is when others are afraid.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: Kirk@ualocal671.com

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

"In the name of God, stop a moment, cease your work, look around you."

– Leo Tolstoy (1828 - 1910)

"Luck is the residue of design."

– Branch Rickey (1881 - 1965)

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his job depends on not understanding it."

– Upton Sinclair (1878 - 1968)

Local 190, con't

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 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Aug. 11** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00.

UNION PICNIC: We give a special Thank You to Mark Little who did an **OUTSTANDING** job with this year's picnic. It was well attended and very encouraging to see all the members and kids. We will be looking forward to next year's event.

GOLF OUTING: You can now Sign Up for the Annual Local 357 Golf Outing to be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Pineview Golf Course. The price this year is \$75 per person = \$300 per foursome. Single players need to team up with others to make a foursome and may sign up and pay at the Union Hall. You must pay for your golf prior to the outing date. The price of your golf gets you breakfast (7:30-8:45), refreshments, 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner and prizes. All participants in the outing must be signed up and paid by Sept. 4. Anyone interested in helping at the Golf Outing – Please contact Lori at lhatfield@ualocal357.com.

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: Retire lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage. Phone no. for the location: (269) 337-9800.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status, for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change. **There also seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 & 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).**

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Tim Clapp on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Tim Eising on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Nathan Scharrer and family on the birth of twin girls, Mary Lou and Sandra Kay.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to Gabe Radke and the rest of his family on the passing of his wife.

Condolences to the family of retired member, Doug Addington, who passed away recently.



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Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636
DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting 7:00 pm on Tuesday August 25, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075. ATTENTION!!! The August membership meeting will be on August 25th due to the UA National Convention.

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

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

Trades Women Build Nations – The 16th Annual Trades Women Build Nations will take place in Houston TX October 9-11 2026 hosted by North American Building Trades. This event is the largest gathering of Union Trades Women and growing each year. Featuring conferences, workshops, speakers and a banner parade through the host city. If interested in attending please contact the Union Hall. Reminder, registration does fill fast.

Local 636 Annual Picnic will be held August 29, 2026 from 11-4 pm at the Sara Club 3945 Club Dr. Brighton, MI 48114. Please join us for food, drinks, kid's games & prizes, swimming and fishing. To volunteer or for more information please call Tony Sievert 248-939-3636.

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!**

March 2026 – Edward Bolin April 2026 – David Marcy, Anthony Kleinsorge, Mark Petzke, and Mark Solomon June 2026 – David Manney, David Dobis, Daniel Mosey.

Get Well Wishes to: Tim Tabin, Daniel Albergo, Rebecca Blair, Douglas Detomaso, Michael Ferrante, Daniel Foltz, Ryan Hartmann, John Holcomb, Winston Jones, Michael Kovak III, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Anthony Lumetta, Roger Pruitt, Allen Snider Jr, Christopher Sovey, Fred Stiehr, David Stone, Jeremel Ducharme, Mike Marshall, John Pastorius.

Deceased Members; 35 Year Member Robert Howe July 10, 2026.

Our sincere condolences to Jason Howe and his son Jacob on the passing of his father & grandfather Robert Howe July 10, 2026.

Congratulations to Sean and Madison Fitzpatrick on the birth of their daughter Lucille Fern Fitzpatrick July 6, 2026. Congratulations to Joshua and Chelsea Gentry on the birth of their daughter Oakland Gentry July 8, 2026.

DUES – 3rd 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 August 20, 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 which are very helpful with regard to your retirement and officers are there to answer any questions, you are also brought up to date on the activities of Local 636. Lunch is served for \$7.00 with refreshments and desserts. Also, our next day trip will be to the Detroit Institute of Arts Friday, September 25th. We will meet in the parking lot of St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 and board the bus 8:30 am – 9:15 am. Secretary Michael N. Sylvester

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

For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The customer service number for Empower is 833-569-2433. For account information please create log in at empowermyretirement.com or download the Empower mobile app.

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

Are you “Work Ready”? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be “ready” when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work training.

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

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

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

Co2 Class with Jason Blouin Starts Monday July 27th from 5-8pm, 20-hour class

Ice machine maintenance a 2-day class with Kevin Burns Starts Thursday July 27th, from 5-8pm

**We will accept applications again for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices beginning in Dec 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.pipefitters636tc.org

“If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed and color, we would find some other cause for prejudice by noon.” – George Aiken

“He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.” – Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

“We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.” –Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)



Local 370

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.

Condolences to the family and friends of Gerald D. Adams. Brother Adams passed away Sunday July 20th and was a 41-year member. You will be missed, brother. Rest in Peace.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, August 10th at 9:00 am.

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:

Rigging: Sept. 8th thru Oct. 8. 4-7:30p.m. Testing Oct 12-16.

CPR: Sept. 16th @ 4:30p.m.

Braze Test: July 30, 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday Aug. 11th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, Aug. 11th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, Aug. 11th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Aug. 11th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, Aug. 11th, 2026 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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.

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

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

We are now able to accept (Continued next column)



UA Local 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING(AUGUST): The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 10 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION MEETING (SEPTEMBER): Please be informed the awards banquet will take place on Monday, Sept. 14 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. All members are invited to attend this wonderful event. Due to this event, normal business will be suspended. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSING FOR AN UPCOMING HOLIDAY: Our office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4 and will be closed all day on Monday, Sept. 7 to observe Labor Day. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

52nd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: will be held on Saturday, July 25. Our event will be held at Whitmore Lake Golf Links. Tickets are available to purchase at the union hall. Check or cash payments only, no credit card payments. If you have any questions, please contact Karen at (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

LOCAL 190 SUMMER PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE: Aug. 29 the picnic will be held at Hudson Mills Metro Park, at 8801 N. Territorial Rd. Dexter, MI 48130 from 12 Noon – 4 p.m. You will be receiving an invitation soon. Please RSVP by Aug. 14.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: Members can now pay your 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: All members who get laid off or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work

Local 370, con’t

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 \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our by-laws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

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

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

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

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

“We are here and it is now. Further than that all human knowledge is moonshine.”

–H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

“The worst loneliness is not to be comfortable with yourself.”

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

“The safest course is to do nothing against one’s conscience. With this secret, we can enjoy life and have no fear from death.”

–Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

“Our patience will achieve more than our force.”

–Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

“I have discovered that all human evil comes from this, man’s being unable to sit still in a room.”

–Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)

“To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.”

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Local 190

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.

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.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

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

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:

Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation 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 Monday’s and Wednesday’s at Local 190’s office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

(Please Note: Bernadette’s office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked “Bernadette Maus – Benefits Manager”) Please use this entrance door for Bernadette.

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

INFORMATION-TRAINING CENTER: Congratulations to UA Local 190’s 2026 Graduates! 12 individuals became Journeymen on May 1st, 2026.

Welder Re-Qualifications for Gas Distribution Welders will be held at the end of June at the training center. Any questions please contact Pat Duffy 734-424-0962.

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

The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. 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 – July 27, and Oct. 5, 2026. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 Schedule – Mondays – July 27, and Oct. 5, 2026. 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 certifica-

tions (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: Open welding is closed for the summer. The welding lab will reopen on Sept. 8. Welding lab is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). 2026 Schedule: 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: 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: ua190.org Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.

Med Gas Installer and Brazing Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. 2026 Schedule: 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 Update (8hrs): This is a two-day course.

2026 Schedule: 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 TBD. 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 determined according to demand. Please 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. and be held on Thursday, Aug. 6 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333

UA Local 333

LANSING – August’s union meeting will be held **Aug. 12, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm. THIS IS THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.**

September’s union meeting will be held Sept. 16, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: We have a new phone system, so when you call please listen carefully to the prompts as they have changed.

DUES: Effective immediately we are no longer able to accept money orders as a due’s payment.

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 Retiree’s Breakfasts are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

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

“The 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. 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 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 our 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.

Sincere condolences to the family of Lansing member and Life Member Pat Ray, who passed away July 17, 2026. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this sorrowful time.

Congratulations to all our members on your newborn! Wishing your family endless love, joy, and happiness as you welcome this precious little one. Congratulations to Michael Ehinger who became a Life Member June 15, 2026. Thank you for your dedication to Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 333.

Get well wishes to Bryce Smith, we are wishing you a very speedy recovery.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on **Thursday, July 30 at 7:30 PM.** All members are encouraged to attend.

SUMMER PICNIC: Mark your calendars! It’s time for our UA Local 111 Summer Picnic. Bring the family, bring your appetite, and join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and time with your union family. **Aug. 1 from 1-5pm at the JATC Training Center in Escanaba.** RSVP to the hall ext. 4 (Rose).

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

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

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

MRA FUND: Members are reminded that the Local 111 Health & Welfare Fund’s Medical Reimbursement Account covers **eligible expenses** such as copays, deductibles, coinsurance, eligible self-pay medical costs, non-covered dental and vision services, non-covered medical services and prescriptions, and durable medical equipment. The MRA **does not** cover home exercise equipment, sporting equipment, hot tubs, saunas, mattresses or bedding, beauty products, recurring memberships, fitness trackers, vitamins, vacations, or other expenses that are primarily for general health and wellness. Please refer to the Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) for complete details or **contact the Fund Office at (866) 823-4730 with any questions.**

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.

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

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 unconstruction.org under the MSHA Calendar.



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Local 98 is proud to announce the recipients of our 2026 Detroit Plumbers CARES Scholarship. This year we awarded five \$2,000 scholarships to the children of our hard-working members. These scholarships continue to recognize the discipline, academic achievements, and promising futures of our next generation.

Congratulations to the following recipients: Vanessa Critchfield, Dejah Taylor, Anika Gaber, Devon Critchfield and Cassidy Watkins. Local 98 and our Scholarship Committee are incredibly proud of these students and their families! This opportunity would not be possible without our annual Detroit Plumbers CARES Golf Outing, so a huge thank you to our Members, Contractors, and Vendors for the support. Please continue to participate and make these awards attainable!

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 6:00pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026 at 4:30pm. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, Aug. 12 at Noon** at the Plumbers Local 98 hall. Please contact Dave Schroeder or Dominic Fanto if you have any questions, or call the hall.

Labor Day Parade: Save the Date, Monday, Sept. 7. Please come march with fellow Local 98 members and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council on Labor Day Sept. 7. We encourage all members to come and bring their families to the Parade. Details to follow.

Adopt-A-Highway: Save The Date – Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is Saturday, Sept. 19, 8am to Noon (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, Sept. 25). We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Marathon Health: Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) are now open. For more information, please see their website at my.marathon.health or call 866-434-3255. Participants enrolled in the Fund’s Medicare Advantage program are unable to utilize Marathon Health. Contact an officer with any questions.

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

Benefit Update: To better serve you, Local 98 has changed record keepers for our Defined Contribution plan from BeneSys to Empower. Empower can be reached at (833) 569-2433. We have also changed our HRA tracking portal. Any questions on setting up your new accounts please call an officer.

Detroit Plumbers CARES 2026 Scholarship Golf Outing will be held at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford on **Saturday, Aug. 1.** 9am shotgun start. We are pleased to announce the golf outing is sold out. Sponsorship opportunities are welcomed.

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 second quarter dues yet, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid interruption to your benefits.

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

Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by

Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

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, 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 Kavalor, Business Agent (313) 938-1554 jkavalor@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, Dec. 18, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

MED GAS INSTALLER RECERT. Register by Friday Aug. 7. Class days will be Tuesday, Sept. 1 and Thursday Sept. 3rd. \$100 to reserve place in class.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is **pending.** This is **not** a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call 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 Aug. 4, 2026, we have an available evening to come in and practice for it, Wednesday July 29. **Call** the Training Center if you are interested in attending. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 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. 28th.

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

4 hour recert class Oct. 20 & 21 Deadline is Sept. 25

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): \$200

A SSE 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

(Continued next column)

July 24, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



UA Local 704

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

Reminder there is no meeting in August.

Thank you to all the members and associates that made it out to the golf outing. A special thank you to Vickie Erpelding and brother Jason Sears for all the hard work making the day at the golf course run smoothly

Our condolences to the Pierce family on the passing of brother Gregory Pierce, a 54-year member

Condolences to the Kessler family on the passing of brother Frank Kessler, a 28-year member. Rest in Peace brothers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 98, con’t

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100
CAD/BIM: \$100

2026 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be Sept. 12. 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 – Open welding is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can’t find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

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

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

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



Local 36 Elevator Constructors Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **July 27, 2026 at 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter St. Detroit 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **July 20, 2026, at 5pm** at the same location. **Our Aug. 24, 2026 regular membership meeting has been cancelled.** 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.

Attention All Members, The International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 36 cordially invites **you and your IMMEDIATE family** to join us on Saturday, July 25 for our Annual Local Picnic at St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds, 11541 21 Mile Road, Shelby, Mi. 48315. **YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR UNION CARD TO ENTER THE PARK**

The park will be open from: 10:30 A.M. until 6 P.M. Refreshments will be served from 11 A.M. until 5:30 P.M... Food will be available from 12 Noon until 4:00 P.M. Ice cream and candy will also be available throughout the day to satisfy everyone’s sweet tooth!

Our fun and games schedule will be as follows: Kids Games will begin at 12 Noon. **Adult Bingo** will begin right after the kids’ games. Our committee is providing tons of fun for the kids and everyone. Zipline and other attractions will be available from 12 Noon until 5 P.M. We will also have a waterslide and slip and slide this year so make sure to bring your swimsuits and towels. Lots of fun for everyone!

We remind everyone that this is a FAMILY AFFAIR, and all members will conduct themselves accordingly.

We also remind everyone that beer and seltzers will be available TO THOSE MEMBERS AND GUESTS WHO ARE 21 YEARS OF AGE. ID WILL BE REQUIRED.

Upcoming meetings:
Aug. 10 – Probationary Meeting at 5pm.

Aug. 17 – Executive Board Meeting at 5pm.

July 27– General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.

Save the date: The Kyle Owsley Memorial Golf Outing will be held on **Saturday Sept. 26 @ Links of Novi 50395 West 10 Mile Road, Novi.** To register contact Justin Smith (248) 709-0341 or Mike Waker (734) 389-9633 or go to, <https://www.eventregisterpro.com/event/annualiuecclocal36golffouting>

If you haven’t already signed up for the IUEC Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) Plan for short-term, Long-term, Life and AD&D insurance, there are two enrollment dates, the first enrollment will be open from Aug. 1-31, 2026 and effective Sept. 1, 2026 and the second enrollment will open Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, 2026 and effective Nov. 1, 2026. This will be the ONLY chance to sign up for this till 2027. www.IUEC-VIP.com or call (224) 487-5030

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 Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586) 482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com or Ricky Azzopardi (Local 36 Co-Chair) (586) 719-7465 or email him at rickenpardi@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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**

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IBEW
Local 498
“Powering Northern Michigan
Since 1949”

IBEW 498
TRAVERSE CITY – **Meetings.**

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Aug 10, 2026 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Aug 10, 2026.

PICNIC –The picnic this year will be held at Timber Ridge Resort & Campground on **Aug 29**. Please watch your mail for a postcard to RSVP this week. For those not familiar with Timber Ridge it is a campground that also has cabins for rent. There are a lot of kid’s activities and they will have access to use all of them. You can access more information at their website at www.timberridgeresort.net.

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 Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship ‘Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment’ for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gtcrf.org/scholarships/. Local 498 Union members’ children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

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

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-855-633-4584

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan). 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES.

Jan 1, 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.

“Develop interest in life as you see it; in people, things, literature, music - the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself.”

–Henry Miller (1891 - 1980)

“I am patient with stupidity but not with those who are proud of it.”

–Edith Sitwell (1887 - 1964)

“It’s the friends you can call up at four a.m. that matter.”

–Marlene Dietrich (1901 - 1992)

“You’re not to be so blind with patriotism that you can’t face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it.”

“Every mile is two in winter.”

–George Herbert (1593 - 1633)



IBEW
LOCAL 557
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

IBEW 557
SAGINAW – **NEXT UNION MEETING & ELECTION DAY** - The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, **Aug. 4 at 5:30pm**. This is also Election Day. Please make plans to vote and attend the union meeting. Our endorsed candidate for Governor – Chris Swanson – needs your vote!

GOVERNOR CANDIDATE CHRIS SWANSON ENDORSED – IBEW Michigan has endorsed Sheriff Chris Swanson to be the next Governor of the State of Michigan. Mr. Swanson addressed the membership and was well received a couple of months ago. He is a fighter and a champion for the working class. Please do everything you can to spread the word about this amazing candidate for Governor who is a great friend of Labor and a card-carrying union member.

LOCAL 557 GOLF NIGHT –Tee times are 6:00pm every Thursday at Twin Oaks.

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

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

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm**. The next CBA recognized holiday is Labor Day, which falls on Monday, Sept. 7.

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and register on Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or rence@ibew557.org

WORK OUTLOOK- Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, wastewater plants, and other various jobs. Calls have begun for Battery Energy Storage System (B.E.S.S.) projects in multiple locations within the Local’s jurisdiction. We will need our members to take these calls as well as calls at the Solar Field in the Freemont Township area. New contractor W.S.G. has the Freemont Solar job. The Ingersol Twp. Solar Farm has been delayed with no clear resolution in sight. Local 557 is expecting a great deal of calls to be coming in shortly that may prove to be challenging to fill. It is very important to fill these calls to protect our market share and contract conditions.

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

(Continued next column)



IBEW
LOCAL 948
FLINT, MI

IBEW 948
FLINT – Meeting.
Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be August 10th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be August 4th, 2026 at 9:00am.

Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and 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 members Hunter DeVasher and Alex Gregory. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Robert Bishop and Rolland Eastwood 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 Keith McKenzie & Floyd Dodge. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

IBEW 557, con’t

healthy lifestyle.

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

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

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

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

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

In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager

“Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.”

–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)



IBEW
LOCAL 906

IBEW 906
UPPER PENINSULA – **MEETINGS.** There will be normal unit meetings for the month of August, 2026
Marquette- 119 S Front St. First Tuesday @ 7:00pm EST
Iron Mountain- 1800 N Stephenson Ave. Second Tuesday @ 7:00pm CST

Escanaba- 1219 1st Ave S. Second Wednesday @ 7pm EST
Work Outlook- Work is busy. Upcoming projects include Harden Hall 1st floor remodel in Marquette, VA Hospital in Marquette, Brimley solar, and Republic solar.

We currently have a 1 man call for B&B Electric in Escanaba, a 1 man call for K.A.T. at the Soo Locks, a 2 man call for Michels Power in Naubinway, a 1-man foreman call for MJ Electric, and a 1 man call for Code Electric. Call the hall 906-226-7497 if you’re interested in any of these calls.

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

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

Golf Outings- IBEW Local 906 is once again the title sponsor for the Project Jade golf outing on Aug. 23 at Wawonowin Country Club in Champion, MI. Shotgun start at 9 am.

Merchandise- To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app. We have new challenge coins and pins so please be sure to take a look!

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

There is a retiree breakfast the 1st Saturday of every month at Hardies in Iron Mountain, 8 am CST.

There is a retiree breakfast the fourth Thursday of every month at Burger King in Houghton at 10am 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 questions 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 pm est. To get the zoom link reference the calendar section of the app or website.

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

Fringe Benefits- 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 Dylan Krause, Jessie Skrzyzniar, Dylan Trudell, and Dan Cass.

Retirements- Congratulations to Joel Smith and Gary Laurila on retirement!

Members that have passed away- Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends our of fallen Brothers and Sisters. Brother **John Hogan**, Pension member, 60-year IBEW membership

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



Local 275

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – **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 as well as local contractors picking up jobs.

Healthcare coverage: At the April 2026 allocation meeting the body voted to add vision coverage as an additional benefit. Benefits will be in effect as of Aug. 1, we are still working with the administrators for the cards. Some members have reached out about their special fund cards expiring. Please keep an eye on your mail for new cards coming, your current card will remain working until the end of the month.

PICNIC: Mark your Calendar for Aug. 8 to join us for the annual Local 275 picnic. The picnic will be held at the union hall with more details to follow. You **MUST** RSVP to receive a member’s gift, please do so by calling Nicole at the hall or RSVP online via the website. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the hall or Niko Jend to sign up.

Labor Day: Please join Local 275 in the Muskegon Harbor Day parade. The parade will be on Monday, Sept. 7, with the parade starting at 11 sharp. Please keep an eye on all our media platforms as to where we will be in the parade (assignments haven’t been given out as of this writing) for lineup. We once again will be doing tie dye shirts for all those that participate in walking with us. As a reminder, you must walk or ride with Local 275 to get the tie dye. As a reminder, the hall will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Volunteer Info: Please keep an eye out for future volunteer events.

West Michigan EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. Please Join the EWMC on Oct. 11 at Millennium Park in Grand Rapids as we walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention. Check in starts at 11, and the walk starts at 1pm. All are welcome to attend! The newest EWMC coin is at the hall for sale! Coins are \$20 cash and you may purchase up to 5 coins.

RENEW: Local 275 had a successful first meeting of RENEW on Thursday, July 16. Thanks to all those that attended, and please consider attending future meetings if you are able. The next meeting scheduled is on Tuesday Aug. 11 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: Apprentices- Please pay attention to Trade-school for upcoming schedules for classes for the 26/27 year.

The JATC is offering master’s Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjate@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.

We’ve had a few instances of inappropriate comments on the job site. Be aware that the IBEW Constitution that we’ve all sworn an oath to uphold states, in part; *“This Brotherhood will continue to oppose communism, Nazism, racism, sexism, fascism or any other subversive “ism”.*”

We have adopted a Zero Tolerance approach to these behaviors and NO ONE - black, white, brown, gay, straight, male or female should have to endure that treatment from anybody. If you are the victim of this behavior, let your Business Manager, Jonas Talbott know and it will be dealt with.

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

(Continued next column)



IBEW
Local 445

IBEW 445

BATTLE CREEK – **Come enjoy IBEW 445’s Night at the Ballpark** on Aug. 1. The gates open at 6 p.m.; game starts at 7:05 p.m.

IBEW 445 Golf Outing is on July 25 with 8am tee-off.

Save the date for the IBEW 445 Picnic on Aug. 15 at Binder Park Zoo. We will be giving out Service Awards at 11am and then eating at noon with zoo tickets available after lunch.

The First Aid/CPR training will be on Sept. 14 after the Union Meeting.

If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be charged a \$10 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

Death Benefit Assessments Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due’s payment.

Organizing If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states **“The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry”**.

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

2026 dues structure. The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago in 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of **Jan. 1**, the following due’s structure:

JIIWs: Monthly \$61.00 •

Quarterly \$183.00

Apprentices: Monthly \$50.00 • Quarterly \$150.00

The new IBEW Local 445 App/Website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

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

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com. Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

2026 Personal information Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

Executive Board E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. **Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary**

IBEW 275, con’t

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 office will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm and is closed from 12:30-1pm for lunch.

Monthly dues are still \$50.90 per month, 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: Dave Daum, Dan Foster, Andrew Kruithoff, and Jeremy Rinehart. Please make every effort to get caught up.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – ESTA MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: Several NECA contractors have recently stopped paying ESTA despite favorable decisions from the Michigan Wage and Hour Division. We will continue to work diligently to try to resolve this matter for all members. If you are requesting ESTA payment from your employer, we are asking you to email those requests to your employer. If denied ESTA pay, please file a complaint to the State of Michigan Wage and Hour Division at <http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim>. The act references substantial fines and penalties for failure to comply, but you must file your complaint with the State.

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

TRAINING CLASSES 2026: All classes start at 5 p.m.
1. **First Aid/ CPR-** Sept 1, Sept 8, Dec 1, Dec 8

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

3. **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)

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.

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

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: The Retirees' Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor.

DUES PAYMENTS ONLINE: We can now accept payments for union dues online. Visit our website www.ibew252.org and click on "Pay Dues".

MICHIGAN WIREMAN'S GOLF OUTING: This year's tournament will be Saturday, Aug. 29 at Lake Forest Golf Club, 3110 W. Ellsworth Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Registration at 7 a.m., shotgun start 8 a.m. Cost is \$160/person and includes golf and cart, hospitality room, dinner and prizes. There is an additional \$10 membership fee for first time golfers. The hospitality room is open Friday, Aug. 28 at the golf course from 5-8 p.m. There are 15 tee times blocked for practice rounds on Friday starting at 8 a.m. Please RSVP for hospitality night to John Brzozowski. Please send entry forms and checks made payable to John Brzozowski to

1076 Westfield Dr., Jackson, MI 49203. For questions or to RSVP contact John at (517) 795-8347.

LOCAL 252 PICNIC: This year's picnic will be Aug. 15 at 12 p.m. at Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Orban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240. All food and beverages will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Beck at (810) 858-0033.

UNION 4 LIFE GOLF OUTING: Join Union 4 Life on Saturday, Aug. 22 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St. Chelsea, MI 48118 for their charity golf outing to benefit University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center's breast cancer research fund. This event will take place 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fee is \$125/player, \$500/team and includes 18 holes + cart, lunch, dinner, & drinks, contests & prizes. Contact Hope Salyer hopes@aacjatc.org (734) 475-1180 with questions. Register online at union4lifecharity.com.

DETROIT TIGER'S UNION DAY: The Union Day Tiger's game will be on Sept. 26 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets are \$30 and include entry to the game, bus transportation, and \$10 fun money to spend at the park. The bus will depart from the union hall at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are first come, first serve, and will not be held until they are paid for. Call or stop by the union hall to sign up.

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE: We are looking for veterans to join our veteran's committee. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact John Gilbert at (517) 920-1422.

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

CONDOLENCES: The local sends our sincere condolences to John Iverson for the passing of his wife on July 2, 2026.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 6/2026, 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 third quarter dues (July through September) are due now.

Payments for third quarter are due no later than 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES:
August 15, 2026: Picnic
Sept. 9, 2026: Retiree's Night
Sept. 30, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 3rd Quarter Dues
Oct. 24, 2026: Trunk or Treat
Dec. 12, 2026: Holiday Party



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW 131

KALAMAZOO – Local 131 Summer Schedule.

Aug. 1 Local 131 Picnic: We will continue our annual Summer Picnic tradition on Saturday Aug. 1 from 3-7 PM. We will have catered BBQ from Q It Up, inflatable obstacle courses, yard games, Tie Dye stations, and of course the park has its own Splash Pad. We hope to see you there.

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."

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 5PM @ the hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: 5:30PM Sept. 1 @ the South Haven American Legion, 129 Michigan Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

Executive Board: meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 17 @ 5PM
Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ's beginning at 3:30. 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday Aug. 1: Local 131 Picnic @ River Oaks Park in Galesburg. We have booked the Morrow Lake Shelter from 3PM to 7PM
Saturday Sept. 12: 110th Anniversary Dinner and Party @ Gun Lake Casino 5-11 PM

Saturday Oct. 10th: Member Orientation Breakfast 8AM-10AM for the IBEW than its own members becoming signatory contractors

Death of Members: 45-year member Betsy Rice passed away on Sunday June 14. Betsy was a Journeyman Inside Wireman, served as Recording Secretary for many years, served on the 6th District Women's Committee Advisory Panel, and also ran for the Michigan House of Representatives in 1992 and 1994. A celebration of life is being planned for Betsy at a future date.



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

UPDATE – Sub Pay is NOT available at this time. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have 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 who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

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

Local 58 Dues Department – Please Look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid through date shows 12-31-2025, you have lapsed membership and need to call the hall to set up an appointment with the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt has a paid-through date of 03-31-2026, you owe the \$30.00 reinstatement fee, plus dues and will lapse at the end of the 3rd quarter if your dues are not paid. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Our next BOARD MEETING will be on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at the local union hall in the main conference room. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC, happening on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 will be back at Rotary Park in Livonia. The picnic starts at 11 a.m. with lunch served at 12:30 p.m. Put this event on your calendar, we look forward to another great outdoor picnic this year. 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 at 313 408-5885.

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 inquire with

the Training Center at www.detroitelite.org for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next meeting will be Tuesday August 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Our next golf outing will be the Brad Ballard Memorial Golf Outing. This year it will be Friday, August 28, 2026 at Pine Valley, a month earlier due to the IBEW International Convention. Please make sure to save the date! Registration is now open and registration forms are available at the hall.

The Benevolent Fund will have a tent set up at the annual Local 58 Picnic at Camp Dearborn on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026. Please stop by and check out the merchandise and new shirt for this year.

Anyone looking for appliances or electronics, please contact Ryan Heinrich at ABC Warehouse 734-981-7780. Ryan has helped out the Benevolent Fund with many purchases and is always willing to help out anyone in the Building Trades.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 11 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 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

The IBEW Local 58 Annual Summer Picnic is Saturday, August 1st. The tri-folds have been mailed out, be sure to bring the prize slip to the picnic. If you haven't received one, you can get one from the hall or at the check-in station at the picnic.

Remember to keep your address current in your member information at the hall.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

The fourth coin in the series for our challenge coin fundraiser is now available for sale. Our IBEW car flags are also in. We will be selling them at any upcoming union events and Membership meetings.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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

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

Local 58's Women's Com-



mittee – The next committee meeting will be Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Milam (586-291-8014) Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org.

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

The RENEW Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

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

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

Electrical Workers Credit Union is offering a short time special for **Auto Refinancing** starting at 4.25%* **Terms: Must come from another financial Institute, up to 60 or 72 months.** Give the Credit Union a call to see if you qualify! 313-963-6060. **Credit Union hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Closed Friday between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for lunch.** You may now apply for membership online. Go to ewcu.net.

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

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

Local 58 Senior Softball:

"Rumor travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth."
– Will Rogers (1879 - 1935),

"Few things are more satisfying than seeing your own children have teenagers of their own."
– Doug Larson

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 maintain offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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

www.ssdfighter.com





IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Aug. 3rd, 2026.**
The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Aug. 17, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. 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.

Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction remains solid. We have had open calls recently in Zones 1 & 2.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy’s Karn Solar site in Essexville. Although weather has been an issue, more calls are still expected.

Bay Valley Electric is finishing work at a nice dorm project at Alpena Community College.

Clements Electric’s work at the Mersen in Bay City and Midland’s Center for the Arts and Dow continues, as work at the Bay County Health Department is wrapping up. Work on a mixed-use development in Downtown Bay City, Water Street Lofts, 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 addition to a handful of other local projects.

Conti Electric has ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility and Consumers Energy’s dams along the Au Sable. Phase 3 of Little Trout Solar in Hawks is wrapping up late summer.

Countyline Power continues work at Midland Waste Water, has upcoming work on the Tittabawassee dams, and secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar.

Escon Group has some work in Midland’s I-Park and McLaren’s Bay City West campus and Bangor Schools.

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 late this summer. J. Ranck has begun pole testing at solar sites in West Branch and Cheboygan to fully mobilize in 2027.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission and has also picked up a couple nice projects out to CMU.

Nelson Electric is wrapping up projects at Bay City Powertrain and continues 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 AMRIZE Cement Plant and has started Alpena’s Meijer remodel. Work at Alpena Community College’s solar field is also ongoing. Their residential and generator divisions continue to secure a fair amount of work.

S&G and Hardies Electric are keeping their crews busy 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 will again pick up soon.

Consumers Energy has recently announced plans for future work in our jurisdiction. Essexville’s Karn site plans to add a new battery storage facility (Rauhorn Electric) and two new gas-fired turbines to replace units 3 & 4. Three large solar sites will start civil and dirt work this summer 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. The out-of-work list has been updated with additional information such as ding detail, a job log, and a list of recently rolled members. Please note initial sign of the out-of-work list should be in person at the hall. Re-signs after rolling can be done by emailing, texting, or calling Business Manager Ryan Charney.

Solar calls may become a great onboarding opportunity for unrepresented licensed electricians. If you know anybody currently working non-union who may be interested working those jobs, please have them reach out to organizers. The latest solar call has been filled with Book 2, 3, and 4 applicants.

Apprentices will be receiving COMET and PAL training courses over the next two months. COMET stands for Construction Organizing Membership Education Training, while PAL stands for Politics, Activism, and Livelihood. Any members or retirees interested in sitting in for either course should contact Deon or Kevin.

Brendon “Deon” Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 989.252.9225

Registrar’s Report. Please check you emails for information on which candidates received IBEW endorsements for Michigan’s August 4th Primary. IBEW Michigan and Local 692 have endorsed Chris Swanson for Governor. Sherrieff Swanson will be at our Union Hall on Monday August 3rd at 2 PM for his final campaign stop before the Primary. Please feel free to attend.

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

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

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

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

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

“So much of what we call management consists in making it difficult for people to work.”
–Peter Drucker (1909 - 2005)

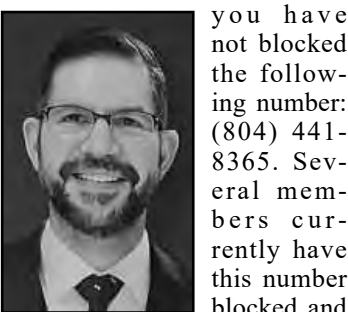
“If you would cure anger, do not feed it. Say to yourself: ‘I used to be angry every day; then every other day; now only every third or fourth day.’ When you reach thirty days offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the gods.”
–Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)



Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – **The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Local 47’s Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Road, Lansing, MI 48906.**

Please make sure to call or text all starts and layoffs to the Union Office. Be sure to leave your name, the contractor name, and the start or layoff date.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees continue receiving Robo Calls, please make sure



PATRICK WELCH

you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. Several members currently have this number blocked and therefore are not receiving important notifications. These calls are only used for important notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and funeral notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Union Office so we can verify your phone number and ensure the number has not been blocked.

Please notify the Local Union Office of any phone number or home address changes. We need current member information updated throughout our system, TIC records, and with the International.

If you are a Non-Active Retiree or a Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving the Building Tradesman, please contact the Union Office.

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

ATTENTION RETIREES: Effective Immediately, the 79 hour rule has been waived until further notice.

Congratulations to this years Golf Outing Winners: Wade Dunlap, Kevin Dowling, Rick, and Clinton!

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671

Allied Workers’ Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds
6525 Centurion Drive Lansing, MI 48917-9275
Toll Free: (800) 323-8079
Telephone: (517) 321-7502
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell is available by phone to answer questions regarding Pension, Welfare, Vacation Funds, and Special Benefits.

To all Active Members: if you have not submitted your Coordination of Benefits Form, Spousal Form, or Birth Certificates for your children to TIC, no one will be covered under our insurance plan until these items are received. Please contact TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and submit the required documentation as soon as possible. Coverage will be reinstated retroactively once the information has been received.

Auto and motorcycle accidents are not covered under our plan. These claims should be covered through your personal automobile insurance policy.

Members with questions regarding Pension and Welfare Funds may contact TIC International at the numbers listed above or visit <http://www.heat-frostlocal47benefits.org>. Please also remember to complete and return all Working Spousal Forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616) 375-0538.

Applications are now open for the Apprenticeship Program. Please call the Union Office or visit insulators47.com to complete an application.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 Part L, Page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states: “According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report no later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week.”



Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – **UNION MEETING:** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, August 13, 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.

ANNUAL PICNIC: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Picnic will take place on **Saturday, August 1, 2026.** The festivities will take place at Willow Metropark, Chestnut South Picnic Shelter, 23200 South Huron Road, New Boston, Michigan.

LABOR DAY PARADE: The 2026 Labor Day Parade will be held on **Monday, September 7, 2026.** Local 25 members will gather at 8 a.m. in the I.B.E.W. Local 58 parking lot, located at 1358 Abbott St. Detroit, MI 48226. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Step-off is scheduled for 9 a.m. Apprentices are reminded that participation in the Labor Day Parade will count as one union meeting towards the required six (6) meetings per year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mark your calendars for the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, 2026. This year’s celebration will be held at **The Henry, located at 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan, 48126.** Additional details will be provided as the date approaches.

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 the primary email address for all communication with the Union Hall. Please update your contact records accordingly.

REPORTING JOBS: A reward will be provided to any member who reports non-union or union mechanical installing insulation under our scope of work. Members with valid leads should contact Eloany Rodriguez at (248) 750-4992 and you will receive a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) gift card.

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 fifty dollars (\$50.00). 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 fourteen dollars (\$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 twenty-eight dollars (\$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 forty-eight hours. This includes employment changes for members, retirees, and travelers. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out-of-work list, and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine.

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

“Most powerful is he who has himself in his own power.”
–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



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

ROBERT GONZALEZ FINISHING TRADES INSTITUTE JOURNEYPERSON UPGRADE CLASSES

WARREN FTI SCHOOL

AUG. 4TH Aerial Lifts Training 5PM

AUG. 8TH Aerial Lifts Training 9AM

AUG. 11TH Scaffold Awareness Training 5PM

AUG. 15TH Scaffold Awareness Training 9AM

AUG. 19TH Fall Protection Training 5PM

AUG. 25TH Respiratory Protection Training 5PM

AUG. 29TH Respiratory Protection Training 9AM

OWOSSO FTI SCHOOL
AUG. 1ST Confined Space Training 9AM

AUG. 5TH Aerial Lift Training 5PM

AUG. 8TH Aerial Lift Training 9AM

AUG. 12TH Scaffold Awareness Training 5PM

AUG. 15TH Scaffold Awareness Training 9AM

AUG. 17TH Rigging/Signal-ing Part #1 5PM

AUG. 18TH Rigging/Signal-ing Part #2 5PM

AUG. 22ND Rigging/Signal-ing Part #1 & #2 9AM

AUG. 26TH Respiratory Protection Training 5PM

AUG. 29TH Respiratory Protection Training 9AM

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE MADE (1) ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF CLASS:

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

FTI of the GREAT LAKES looking to hire a Paint Instructor.

The FTI Apprenticeship School is looking to hire a full time Paint Instructor. Experience with all aspects of the Painting Industry is a plus, i.e. Commercial, Wallcovering, Industrial, etc. Some travel involved in the State of Michigan.

Please submit your resume to FTI Director Shawn Oneill at dot@iupatdc1m.org or contact with questions at 517-304-4425.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – The July union meeting has been cancelled due to falling close to the holiday.

Our next regular union meeting will be Monday, Aug. 3, 5 pm. 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.

This year’s annual STAR safety picnic will be held Sept. 19 at the Warren District Council. In order to be eligible to come, you must be an active working member in good standing, with at least 8 hours of upgrade training, and zero work related injuries.

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



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, Free-land, 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 Sept 1, at 6p.m. trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474



Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

it’s a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

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

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

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in.

– Don Stepp

“You can’t help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself.”
–H. Norman Schwarzkopf (1934-2012)





Local 292

Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **August 12, 2026, at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, July 29, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be on 8/6/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice to catch up and stay 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.

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

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

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

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

Please note that all existing credits will also be increased.

HRA BENNY CARD APP: We want to share an important update regarding your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and your Benny Card. Effective June 8, 2026, your HRA will move to a new platform designed to make managing your benefits easier, faster, and more convenient. To access the Mobile App, search for the **BeneSys Member Reimbursement** app in your app store. Our Member Services team is still here for you. If you have questions or need help during the transition, please don't hesitate to contact the Fund Office at 248-641-4992

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

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

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance. UNION EAP. Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. 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.

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.

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

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

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

DUES: Membership dues must be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday; therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late.

To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paid online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on July 11, July 20 & July 25, August 8, and August 29.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

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

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled 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, August 25th at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield. *There will be a tentative ratification/allocation vote at this meeting, more details to follow* *Nominations for Warden will be held at the August 25th Meeting*

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield. *Notice date change*

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday August 17th, October 19th (annual party) & December 21st. 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

JASON GRUNENWALD

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

NOMINATIONS: At the August 25th meeting we will be taking nominations for Warden. In order to be nominated or elected your dues must be paid prior to the first day of the current month, for example August's dues must be paid prior to August 1st. Candidates must have a record of continuous good standing for a minimum of 2 years prior to the nomination, election or appointment.

CONTRACT RATIFICATION: There will be a tentative ratification/allocation vote at the August 25th union meeting. More details to follow.

PICNIC: Please join us on August 1st for our annual picnic. The picnic will be held at the Knights of Columbus Park 11541 21 Mile Rd. Shelby Township. Gates open at 11 am with activities from 12 pm to 4pm. Come enjoy food, ice cream, sweet corn and great company. There will also be bingo, bike raffles, games for the kids, face painting and bounce houses. To enter into the member car & motorcycle show please call Dave Hartsuck at 586-559-9099.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Robert Caswell, Gordon Peans, Chris Farley, Robert Taylor, Charles Wash, Steve Norman

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 3pm on Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to staff@smw80.org

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

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

SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements:
Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff to avoid forfeiting benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

To apply:

- Complete the SUB application at the hall.
- Provide a pay stub for the week.
- The hall will submit your information to the fund office.

Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE:
Picnic – August 1st
Training Center News:
Upgrading Classes: Upgrading Classes for the Fall 2026 term begin the week of September 14th and enrollment starts Monday, August 3, 2026. To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule. To enroll in a class, call the training center starting at 7:30am on Monday, August 3, 2026 - 586-979-5190.

"If you would not step into the harlot's house, do not go by the harlot's door."

–Thomas Secker (1698-1763)

"A minute's success pays the failure of years."

–Robert Browning (1812 - 1889)

July 24, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11



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 Aug. 13, 2026, at 6 p.m.

*Zone 1 September 10th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 July 28th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 September 9th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)

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

*Zone 4 September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 August 14th 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.sheet-metal7.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 looks good through the rest of summer and on into the fall. If your employment status changes, please let me know. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is July 28th at 6:00pm.

Work safe and Thank You, Mike Adams

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area remains steady. Make sure to contact me if you are out of work, there is travel work available.

Be sure to check your dues receipt to make sure you are current; dues are due before the first of every month.

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

The next zone 3 membership meeting is Sept. 9 at Freeland Hall. Next zone 3 Retiree meeting is September 22nd at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City.

In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next meeting will be August 6th at 6pm. Work is strong and will continue into next year. Please exercise your right to vote on August 4th. Local #7 has endorsed Chris Swanson in the Primary Election for the Governor position. If anyone needs assistance with anything, contact me. If you haven't done so, schedule your physicals for this year then send proof to SASMI to get your \$200. Mine Safety Training should be updated as there will be two projects that are coming up that will require it. Work safely out there! – **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work is really picked up in our area. We have everybody working. Looks like it's going to be a great summer and fall. Don't forget about the Local 7 golf outing at Briar Ridge in Montrose this Sept 12, registration forms available on website. I hope everyone has a great summer. **Thanks, your brother Scott Brotherton.**

ZONE 5 Info. **We have a date change for Zone 5 area meeting, **New date is Friday Aug 14 at 6pm (was originally scheduled for Sat Aug 8th).**

Work in the UP is back in full swing. 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. Also, if you still have not responded to the Education/Training text I sent out on the 18th of June, please send me your top 3 choices. - **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/DuSquesnoy) 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

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GATHERING FOR A PHOTO on the scaffold at the St. Peter Cathedral project are (l-r) RAM Foreman Bill Klein, bricklayer Robert Barrett, laborer Dennis Emanuelson, bricklayer Shawn Pietila, bricklayer Chris McCormick, bricklayer John O’Connor, laborer Daniel Flynn, laborer Shane Cromell, bricklayer Lucas Flygare and not pictured bricklayers Antwan Stone and Brian Lantto.

Photo credits: RAM Construction Services

Masons rise to the challenge, restore Marquette cathedral

(Continued from Page 1)

Cathedral was completed in 1890. The aftermath of another fire, in 1935, brought about the building’s restoration, reconstruction and expansion using surviving elements of the structure. That work was completed in 1938.

“The actual restoration of the cathedral began in February of 1936,” says a history of the building provided by St. Peter Cathedral. “It was larger in every way in that the steeples were higher and adorned with colorful blue and red domes with raised crosses covered with gold leaf. The nave of the church was extended. A Bishop’s Chapel was added. In the sanctuary, they installed intricate grill work and furnishings of solid oak. Marble altars were added as well as a Bishop’s throne of marble...”

Baraga Chapel, which was completed in 2014 as an addition to the main church, holds the remains of the Bishop Frederic Baraga (1797-1868), a Slovenian missionary and the Catholic Diocese of Marquette’s first bishop. The Catholic Church declared Baraga as “venerable” in 2012, one of the steps leading toward sainthood.

Writing for the Society of Architectural Historians’ *Archipedia*, Kathryn Bishop Eckert said St. Peter Cathedral was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012.

“Constructed of variegated Marquette brownstone, it took 10 years to complete,” Eckert wrote. “Since no architect capable of creating a building of this magnitude and grandeur resided in the Upper Peninsula in the 1880s, the church was designed by a noted Milwaukee firm.

“Triple arches mark the main entrance of the church. The plan has a single-aisled, barrel-vaulted nave and two small side aisles and short transepts. The church is profusely decorated with memorial cathedral glass windows from George A. Misch of Chicago and with woodwork from Hager and Johnson of Marquette. The cost and beauty of the church’s material, its large size, and the elegance of its design and finish reflect the struggle of the Catholic Church, through the Diocese of Marquette, to establish its identity in a burgeoning youthful city on the American frontier.”

Working to refurbish the domes of the bell towers, the Ram masons working on the bell towers’ scaffolding have had some of the best views anyone will get of the City of Marquette – and much of Marquette County. Along with contrasting limestone elements, the bulk of the cathedral’s exterior consists of brown sandstone block, originally taken from a quarry about a mile from the church that closed after it flooded more than a century ago.

Klein said in order to find matching sandstone replacement elements, RAM took the trouble of going to the current owner of the quarry site and getting permission to cut sections from still-accessible boulders. The RAM masons then cut the replacement stone to fit. “That was pretty neat for us to be able to do,” Klein said. “It’s a real rarity being able to go back to the original quarry – sandstone is pretty valuable up here and they re-use it a lot from building to building. But some of the sections here, especially up top, were really thin, weathered down and they were cracking.”

The main culprit in the demise of the stone, not surprisingly, has been wind, rain and snow incursion, and the freeze-thaw cycle. The project has also included the re-pointing and replacement of brick inside the bell towers, replacement of rusted steel supports behind the masonry, and repair and some replacement of the colorful terra cotta domes.

RAM Construction Services’ work on the \$2.5 million project began in 2025. The pastor of St. Peter, Fr. Brandon Oman, expressed confidence in RAM when he wrote to parishioners a year ago as the project got underway: “Founded in 1918, RAM is the oldest and most experienced waterproofing and restoration contractor in the United States.”

More than a year into the project, Fr. Oman told us last month: “The weather had taken its toll on the bell towers, and we had the choice of either taking them down or repairing them. With generosity from the parish and community benefactors, we went ahead with the restoration. RAM workers have done a wonderful job with their craftsmanship. And Bill Klein, he really knows what he’s doing.”

There have been about 10 masons and laborers on the project employed by RAM, which is based in Livonia. Klein said they were also grateful to hometown Closner Construction for coordinating to make available Local 2 masons to help move the project forward, and they are always looking to hire more from the U.P.

“This project offers an example of an IMI (International Masonry Institute) training course, all in a nutshell,” Klein said. “We’re doing everything from re-glazing terra cotta, to sandstone repair, brick replacement, re-caulking, joint repair – just a conglomeration of different applications.”

The project is expected to be complete in the fall. And while the church building has other significant renovation needs, Fr. Oman said the condition of exterior masonry on the building’s side and the back “are not bad at all.”

“This is a beautiful, historic church, and people say the bell towers are the first thing they see when they come into Marquette,” said Fr. Oman. “And we’re glad to be able to keep it a beautiful place. And with RAM, we feel we have the right people in place to do the work, along with using local people on the job.”

“But in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”
–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)



AT WORK IN one of the St. Peter Cathedral towers is Robert Barret of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He’s employed by RAM Construction Services.



BAC Local 2 WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 at 10:30AM, BAC Local 2 Union Hall, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

ALL AUGUST CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED – EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER AND HOUGHTON MEETINGS - DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 8TH, 2026.



BRETT GIERAK Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother Steven Wicker (Bricklayer) who passed away on 07/17/2026. Brother Wicker had been a member for more than 3 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother Cesidio Casamatta (Bricklayer) who passed away on 07/14/2026. Brother Casamatta had been a member for more than 39 years.

MEMBERSHIP GOLF OUTING: Come out on Sept. 12, 2026, to golf with your fellow brothers and sisters at our 13th Annual Membership Golf Outing. It will be held once again at Hawk Meadows Golf Course in Howell, MI with check-in at 7:00am.

Sign up is based on first come, first served with a PAID registration. Your spot cannot be guaranteed without pre-payment prior to the outing. This event has sold out in the past, so register early to secure a spot for you and your foursome. To participate, one person on each team MUST be a good standing BAC Local 2 member with their dues paid up to date. Registration forms can be found on our Facebook page, emailed directly to you or call the Warren office to sign up & pay with a credit card.

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

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

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month.

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.

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.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION:

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362
Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)
Michigan Masonry Trades Pension – (248) 641-4954
Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000



ST. PETER CATHEDRAL in Marquette, prior to the rehabilitation of its masonry.

Photo credit: Bobak Ha'Eri/Wikipedia Commons



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 pm. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting that day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations!

August 2026
Ricardo Chapa-25 Years
Marc Grams-25 Years
Jerry Griffith-25 Years
Daniel Pumford-25 Years
Duane Villarreal-30 Years
Dennis Jackson-40 Years
James Plowman-40 Years
Joe Solano-40 Years
Robert Venturi-60 Years
Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opciami.org

Please contact the local office at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to ajrouche@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 bebsm.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, (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!!

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date; some plant jobs require the MUST modules. You can go online at www.mustonline.org or call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

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 you can contact the Fund Office at (248) 645-6550.

**Local 36
Elevator
Constructors**

(Continued from Page 7)
(800)523-4702 and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one week waiting period.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanic's that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP. **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.**

Attention All Apprentices, if you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJT's till you get your passing results.

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

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

It's with a heavy heart that I must announce the passing of Honorary Brother James Straka, please keep the Straka family in your thoughts and prayers. We would also like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.



Iron Workers 25
NOVI – **The July Union Meeting is Monday, July 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm and will be in-person only.** All Union Halls will be open for in-person ONLY. NO ZOOM FOR JULY. We would like to encourage members to come in person to the July meeting for solidarity & fellowship.

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

The July Lansing Steward meeting will be July 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be July 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

The 125th Iron Workers Local 25 Anniversary Celebration & Gala was a huge success this past Saturday. It was great to see such a fabulous turnout of ironworkers, contractors, and partners come out to celebrate with us on this historical occasion. We are eternally grateful for the partnership of each and everyone and we look forward to our next 25 years together! We want to personally thank the 125 Committee for their time & hard work they put into organizing this event. The evening was a great success! Thank you again.

The 42nd Annual International Iron Workers Festival will be held August 7, 8, 9, 2026 in Mackinaw City MI. Please plan ahead and reserve your hotel room(s). **There is no camping at the festival.** For more information, please go to www.mackinawchamber.com/events

Awards Night will be held on Monday, SEPT. 14, 2026 THIS YEAR at the Novi Union Hall. **A LETTER WILL BE MAILED SOON to those eligible members.** We will have a social hour with appetizers/beverages starting at 5pm. Awards ceremony starts at 7pm. **All are welcome.**

Awards Night is not being held in August due to the International Convention commencing on

**Local 25
Iron Workers**

Aug. 31 this year. Furthermore, there will not be Union Meeting in August.

The 10th Annual Local 25 ICIF Fundraiser will be (one week later than usual) Saturday **SEPT. 19, 2026** at the Novi Union Hall at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 each and can be bought at the door or through any Business Agent. **Join us for food, drink and comraderie. We have great prizes to raffle off as we've done in the past!**

Organizer Wanted: We are seeking a Local 25 JIW in good standing to work as on Organizer to help build our Unions capacity by increasing our Market Share & Signatory Contractors throughout our jurisdiction. Requirements: Self-motivated, team-player, coachable, confident, exceptional listening skills, & high energy. Flexible work schedule. Please send your resume & cover letter by Friday July 31, 2026 to union@ironworkers25.org

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday July 29 from 8am to 12 noon; to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns. Walk-ins are welcome!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday Aug. 5 from 8 am to 12 noon. If you have questions, call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome!

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

Apprentice applications accepted electronically. Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can apply online, 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.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a variety of training requirements, offering over 100 online

courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: <https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/>

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

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2026 Block Schedule, Roster or 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.

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

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

July 24, 2026 **THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 13**

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 login)

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

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

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 8:00 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday August 18, 2026 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet **Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2026** at 9:00 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 Oct. 15, 2026; 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 July 31 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, 48183. All are welcome.

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

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. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

In Memory: Lifetime Ironworker Darrell Weaver #522348 passed away July 12, 2026 at the age of 94. He was a 73-year member of Local 25. He is survived by his brother Raleigh Weaver #699169 along with Darrell's ironwork grandsons TJ Weaver and Michael Weaver, and Raleigh's grandsons Hunter Deal and Brimmer Deal and many friends in the ironworking industry. Stephanie Fischer passed July 12, 2026 at the age of 61. She was the beloved mother of JIW Marlana Prime #1599808.

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

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (July 20, 2026 9:00 am E.S.T.).-

"First there is a time when we believe everything, then for a little while we believe with discrimination, then we believe nothing whatever, and then we believe everything again - and, moreover, give reasons why we believe."

–Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742 - 1799)

"Freedom is a possession of inestimable value."

–Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

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Outdoors

Reel-world learning at schoolhouse



By Aileen Kemme
Communications coordinator
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

“How can we design and create fishing lures that will attract the fish we’re fishing for and sell well in our area?”

It’s the kind of question you might expect to hear at a tackle shop before the spring opener or batted around between experienced anglers after a long day on the river or lake.

Instead, the question came from a handful of third- and fourth-grade students inside one of Michigan’s last one-room schoolhouses that is still operating.

By focusing on that question, elementary school students from Crawford School in Kalkaska County, also known as Excelsior School District No. 1, turned the region’s fishing culture into a project-based learning experiment that seamlessly blended science, art and economics with local tradition and inquiry-based education.

The tiny school, which has remained in operation for more than 140 years and is one of only 20 working one-room schoolhouses left in Michigan, was transformed into a student-led business throughout the course of the project.

“One-room schoolhouses create community,” Rochelle Balkam, the president of the Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Association, said. “A lot of the things that we think of as innovations today in schools, like peer education, really came out of how education took place in these schools. They served as the heart of their community because they brought everyone together.”

At Crawford School, fishing is more than just a shared pastime among the school’s 50 or so K-8 students. It’s a multi-generational tradition and a key part of the community’s culture and heritage.

Located less than 10 miles from the school is the village of Kalkaska, which has been home to the National Trout Festival since 1931. The festival is so be-



A COLLECTION OF perch rigs made by the students.

MDNR photos

loved by the local community that schools even close for the day to allow students to participate in the annual spring celebration. A giant, 17-foot-long brook trout statue stands downtown as a reminder of the event for the remainder of the year.

“Teaching in a one-room schoolhouse means you really get to know your kids,” said Karie Saxton, the third and fourth grade teacher for Crawford School, “I knew I had a lot of kids who loved the outdoors, and even though I don’t know a lot about fishing, I knew I could find some people who could help me.”

The students’ curiosity and passion for fish floated to the surface during a Nature Awaits field trip to the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in nearby Cadillac, when the students explored a state park on a guided hike with an educator from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

While on the field trip, the students studied species found in inland lakes, discussed food webs and watched as fish darted through the nearby canal.

Once students were back in the classroom, the essential question took center stage: how do we design lures that can catch fish and attract potential customers?

Framed as an economics lesson, the project led students to

spend several weeks brainstorming, planning and eventually rotating through a series of hands-on stations with additional help from local community members and staff from the DNR and the

MiSTEM Learning Network.

Without even realizing it, the students achieved state curriculum standards in science, math, English and art – all through the familiar lens of fishing.



A student at the station for gyotaku, a traditional Japanese art style.

At one station, they learned to assemble crawler harnesses, a trailing rig designed to spin with hooks and beads to attract fish like walleye. At another, they learned to build perch rigs, a multi-hook lure that sinks and uses live bait to catch panfish.

Once each lure was completed, the students would carefully calculate the cost of constructing it and price it accordingly.

Nearby at the marketing station, students designed packaging for the lures and a display for their booth at an upcoming craft sale, while another station introduced students to gyotaku, a traditional Japanese art style. At that station, students used realistic rubber fish as stamps to create detailed prints of different species, which allowed them to learn fish anatomy and build their observation skills.

During the project, students were not forced to stay quietly confined to desks or to work only within the lines of a worksheet. Instead, they learned by tying clinch knots with their own small hands, by passionately debating the merits of catching bluegill versus perch with their fellow classmates and by relying on the northern Michigan community firmly rooted around them.

“The support of our community made this project possible,” Karie Saxton said. “Everybody that I reached out to was like ‘absolutely – tell me what time,’ and they were there, in our classroom, helping our kids learn.”

Research supports how powerful an experience like this is and consistently shows that students retain more information and engage more deeply when learning feels active, collaborative and connected to the world they know.

“Karie was able to ask her students questions and get them at a headspace where they found freedom within the structure of the project,” said Laura Quist, an educator for the DNR who helped with the project. “All of it became a learning opportunity, and they didn’t even realize that they were learning at some point. The kids had 110 percent ownership of the project from start to finish, which was amazing to see and help support.”

In addition to help from the DNR, this project was made possible through support from MiSTEM, a statewide initiative focused on expanding access to science, technology, engineering

and math education.

MiSTEM helps fund programs that connect students to real-world career pathways, particularly in underserved communities. In rural communities like Kalkaska, organizations like MiSTEM and the DNR’s Nature Awaits program help schools turn nature and their local communities into a backdrop for deeper and more impactful learning.

“The best part of my job is being able to connect schools with business partners and to connect schools with opportunities,” Sarah Roche, the Region 13 director for MiSTEM, said. “At the end of the day, projects like this are a little bit trickier than worksheets and tests, but the content and the engagement is just top-notch and worth it.”

In the project’s final phase, the students sold their brightly packaged lures and colorful gyotaku art prints at a booth they designed for a local craft fair.

Within hours, they sold out.

When it came time to decide what to do with their profits, their teacher gave them one rule: At least half of the money needed to benefit someone outside the school.

After brainstorming ideas and narrowing them down through multiple rounds of sticky-dot voting, the class chose to donate a portion of the proceeds to their local animal shelter.

When the shelter’s director explained its biggest need was money to pay for emergency veterinary care, the students agreed to donate directly to the shelter’s veterinary fund, instead of purchasing items like food or toys for the animals.

“If that’s what they need, then that’s what we should give,” one student said. The students then decided to use the remaining profits for a class celebration and an ice cream party for the entire school.

Designing a successful fishing lure required students to think critically and make connections, and their final creations didn’t come from the latest cutting-edge technology. Instead, they came from the personal connections the students made to nature and their local community.

And it all began with a simple question about fishing lures.

Learn more about Michigan’s fish and how to catch them at Michigan.gov/Fishing.

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