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SHORT CUTS

Laborers removed as OSHA advisors

The Laborers International Union, which has a very active and effective Health and Safety Fund advocating on behalf of its members and other construction workers, has seen its advisory relationship with OSHA “ended abruptly” on July 1.

That’s when the federal Department of Labor issued a final new rule that removed OSHA’s federal obligation to consult with the members, including the Laborers and other unions, with OSHA’s Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH).

“The mandate to consult with ACCSH existed so both employer and worker representatives could take part in the regulatory process,” said Laborers Health and Safety Fund Management Co-Chair David Rampone. “In an industry like construction, the real-life experience of members and contractors on the frontlines is irreplaceable.”

For more than 30 years, staff at the Laborers’ Health & Safety Fund of North America have advocated directly to federal OSHA on behalf of LIUNA’s members and signatory contractors.

“It appears OSHA revoked this ACCSH statute to comply with the president’s ‘Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation’ executive order,” the Laborers reported, “which directs agencies that for each new regulation issued, at least 10 prior regulations be identified for elimination.” The revised final rule on ACCSH makes reference to this, citing that “compliance with these regulations would needlessly delay the Secretary of Labor’s regulatory agenda.”

Access to the OSHA committee, said Laborers General President Brent Booker, “has created a seat at the table for LIUNA members and made sure our voice gets heard.”

Now that “seat at the table” has been removed.

Repair the roads, but at what cost?

LANSING – At press time, there was a Republican plan in place to fix the state’s roads, and fund the rest of Michigan’s government in 2026.

The GOP-controlled House on Aug. 26 adopted a \$54 billion Fiscal Year 2026 spending plan that puts \$3.4 billion in new money toward roads, which is essentially what independent estimators say is needed in Michigan as a permanent funding fix. But in the state Senate, Democrats who are in control are balking at the funding package and see a whole lot of other painful cuts that the GOP is proposing elsewhere in state government.

The GOP plan cuts \$100 million from public health, and \$2.7 billion from human services – both seen as disastrous by health professionals. The Republican budget would eliminate 4,300 state jobs, cut \$63 million from the Michigan State Police, and set a 12 percent revenue sharing cut for counties. The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity would see a \$1.1 billion funding loss.

Two months late for the July 1 statutory deadline to set a budget, Michigan lawmakers are facing a budget settlement deadline of Oct. 1 before state government would be faced with a shutdown. The difficulty finding new money for roads, at the expense of other priorities, continues to vex lawmakers.

Quotable

“Always be nice to people on the way up; because you’ll meet the same people on the way down.”

–Wilson Mizner (1876-1933)



THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE in leadership at the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. Congratulations to newly elected Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council officers (l-r) President Greg Herman and Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell. Here they are sworn-in to four-year terms on Aug. 21 at the building trades’ convention by West Michigan Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 174 Business Manager Ryan Bennett.

Claywell, Herman elected to top MBCTC positions

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – Delegates to the 53rd Convention of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council have elected Steve Claywell as the organization’s Secretary-Treasurer and Greg Herman as President. Both will serve four-year-terms, and the officers began their duties immediately after being sworn in before convention delegates on Aug. 21.

Claywell, who hails from

IBEW Local 445 in Battle Creek, had been serving as the council’s President. “Over the past eight years I have been honored to serve as your president,” Claywell told the delegates. “Going forward, we’re going to roll our sleeves up, and all of our affiliates will be given an opportunity to be a part of what we’re doing. We understand that the path forward isn’t going to be easy. But the new paths and new directions will include all of us, and we will all have to do our part.

“That’s because this morning, we got up and went to work, and so did the men and women of the Michigan building trades, who lace up their boots up every day and build Michigan. We will do what we believe is best for them. That’s what they deserve from us.”

Claywell was first elected MBCTC President in 2017 and served two terms. He and Herman ran unopposed.

“So despite the challenges
(Continued on Page 2)

Helmets to Hardhats

Michigan success story ‘really does restore lives’ for vets

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – Military veterans are typically good fits for work in the building trades. Soldiers who have left the service are adaptable, disciplined, punctual, and are accustomed to staying on task and taking orders.

If you’re wishing that the greenhorn apprentice next to you had more of those same qualities, you get a better understanding for why Helmets to Hardhats has been such a success in Michigan and around the country. The program was started 23 years ago, but in the past three years in Michigan, the number of military veterans embarking on building trade union careers has risen by 28 percent, in good part because of a state grant that allows Sam Dougherty to keep doing what he’s doing on behalf of the military community.

Sam was a speaker Aug. 19 at the 53rd Convention of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. A Marine Corps reservist for six years, and a Laborers Local 355 member, Dougherty now serves as Michigan state representative for Helmets to Hardhats. He told Michigan building trades delegates that the availability of



MICHIGAN STATE Director of Helmets to Hardhats, Sam Dougherty, said the H2H program, which facilitates the transition of military veterans into building trades careers can be the perfect prescription for the vets, who often struggle with mental health and finding a direction in life after leaving the service. Here Dougherty gives an update on Aug. 19 about the program to the Michigan Building Trades’ 53rd Convention.

a unionized construction apprenticeship is a lifeline for veterans to give them that option, to talk to them about the great benefits, talk to them about the pension, the insurance, about taking care of the whole family. You see a change in their lives. I’ve seen it multiple times.”

The transition from military to civilian life can be difficult
(Continued on Page 3)



Michigan sees a little dip, but construction remains robust

Overall, it’s still a good time for construction employment in Michigan.

The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics employment numbers, released Aug. 19, show that despite a small pullback between June and July, Michigan has continued to maintain its status

as a top-10 employer for Hardhats among the states. The BLS numbers show Michigan gained 10,100 construction workers between July 2024 and July 2025 – that represents a 5.1 percent gain, ranking us No. 9 among the states for job gain percentage during those 12 months

Trump blows down \$1.3B wind project

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

A \$1.3 billion ocean-based wind project under construction off the shore of Rhode Island that would provide more than 700 megawatts of power was halted Aug. 22 by the Trump Administration. Union trades have built the Revolution Wind project, which was 80 percent complete with 45 of its 65 wind turbines already in the water, according to the Danish owner, Orsted.

The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which issues permits for offshore wind projects, cited a Jan. 20 memo by President Trump that indefinitely pauses federal reviews on offshore wind projects. A letter from the federal agency to the project’s owner cited “concerns related to the protection of national security interests of the United States and prevention of interference with reasonable uses of exclusive economic zone, the high seas, and the territorial seas.”

“Let’s call the Department of the Interior’s stop-work order for Revolution Wind what
(Continued on Page 4)

NLRB’s existence hangs by a string with appeals court ruling

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

For nearly a century the National Labor Relations Board has been an indispensable source of justice for aggrieved workers and unions.

Administering the National Labor Relations Act, the NLRB has adjudicated and remedied unfair labor practices, safeguarded workers’ right to organize a union, conducted secret ballot elections during organizing drives, while ostensibly protecting workers’ and/or employers’ rights as they investigate charges and facilitate settlements.

But that was then. This is now – an era when workers never seem to get a break. On Aug. 19, the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals panel took up a case brought by billionaire Elon Musk and his company, SpaceX, that sought to bar the NLRB from prosecuting workers’ unfair labor practice

Case’s ‘seismic’ implications a win for Musk, Trump

charges on the grounds that the structure of the board violates the U.S. Constitution. Notoriously anti-union Musk swung for the fences to get federal labor regulators out of his face – and he hit a legal home run.

“The Fifth Circuit just handed SpaceX, and two other employers, a significant victory in their fight with the National

Labor Relations Board,” wrote Tashayla Billington, a union-management relations attorney for CDF Labor Law. “The August 19 ruling with potentially seismic implications for the NLRB upheld preliminary injunctions that barred the NLRB from prosecuting unfair labor practice cases on the grounds that the Board’s
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Weight of corporate pressure wins again, as ‘catastrophic snap’ awaits U.S. labor law

By Harold Meyerson
The American Prospect

A federal appellate court finds the National Labor Relations Board to be unconstitutional.

And just like that, it frees Elon Musk – and any fellow employers – to violate whatever rights their workers thought they enjoyed.

The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) – that pillar of American democracy that gives workers the right to bargain collectively with their employers – was enacted 90 years ago this summer. Its constitutionality was upheld two years later by the Supreme Court, and no successful challenge to its constitutionality has been brought in the subsequent 88 years. Until last month, when the avowedly far-right Fifth Circuit decided otherwise.

Today, the NLRA hovers somewhere between *de facto* and *de jure* nullification. It’s been slowly eroding for at least half a century, as employer resistance to it has heightened, and as the penalties to employers for violating its terms have weakened.

Currently, the fact that the five-member National Labor Relations Board is down to just two members – not enough to constitute a quorum – means the Board can make no rulings. This enables employers who’ve been found to have violated workers’ rights

There were some weaker job numbers for Michigan at the beginning of this year, and that trend reappeared in a relatively minor way from June to July, when the state dropped 300 construction workers. Michigan was one of 28 states that saw construction
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PRESIDENT TRUMP has called a halt to construction of the remainder of the off-shore, union-built Revolution Wind project.

Last month, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals circumscribed the NLRB’s power even more. Before the court was a suit that Elon Musk’s SpaceX had filed against the Board, concerning a pending investigation from one of the Board’s regional attorneys into claims that SpaceX had violated its workers’ rights by firing eight of them for going online to opine that Musk’s online verbal outbursts and abuses actually hurt the company’s standing.

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Viewpoints

C'mon. Fix the damn roads

It's long been said that Michigan has two seasons: winter and road construction.

That has never been more true than over the last few years, as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's road bonding program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law turbocharged investments to repair and enhance Michigan's crumbling transportation infrastructure. But as ubiquitous as the construction barrels have been, the job is nowhere near done, and the progress we've made is at risk of being undone by broken politics in Lansing.

By failing to pass a budget and a long-term road funding plan, Lansing politicians are putting good-paying construction jobs, vital infrastructure projects and our state's economic future in jeopardy. Every year Lansing delays increases the price tag of the work that has to be done. Every highway project put off adds to the costs Michigan families pay in vehicle repairs. Every excuse for inaction signals to the world that the state is stuck in neutral; unable and unwilling to deliver basic government services so essential to supporting and securing economic growth.

When we invest in infrastructure, we invest in more than smoother commutes and safer bridges. We invest in Michigan families and businesses. A carpenter isn't just rebuilding an overpass — they are building a career that supports their family, buys a home and keeps spending power rooted in their local community. An operating engineer and a laborer repaving a highway in Grand Rapids isn't just moving dirt and asphalt — they are laying the foundation for businesses to grow, for supply chains to run efficiently and for Michigan to compete for the next generation of jobs.

This is what economic growth looks like: skilled workers turning taxpayer dollars into lasting value that benefits all.

The carpenters, operators, laborers and others who put on their tools every day to do the work aren't asking for handouts. They're simply asking for the opportunity to keep doing their jobs, building and repairing the infrastructure every Michigan family and business depends on.

They've trained for years through rigorous, tuition-free union apprenticeships. They've committed themselves to safety, quality and productivity. They stand ready to go to work.

What's missing is the Legislature doing its job so they can do theirs.

Michiganians understand what's at stake. They're tired of potholes, detours and excuses. They want safe roads, dependable bridges and a government that reflects their priorities. They want a state that invests in itself, not one that limps along from crisis to crisis.

Skilled tradespeople across the state are ready to do the work. But they can't pour concrete into political gridlock. They can't form bridges out of empty promises. They can't pave over legislative inaction.

Michigan's Legislature must do what skilled tradespeople do without fanfare every day: their job. It's long past time legislators pass a budget and a road funding plan — because the cost of waiting is too high, and the opportunity before us is too great. Let's get it done.

**Tom Lutz, Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights
Detroit News Labor Voices, Aug. 26**

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.
**By mail: Building Tradesman Editor,
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216
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Claywell, Herman elected to top MBCTC positions

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that have arisen," Claywell continued, "I know that I speak for Greg that we will be committed to work together to find unity and to move this organization in a direction that you will all be proud of, and create opportunity and prosperity for our members. And from what we have seen in the past few years, we have had more wind in our sails and more opportunity than ever before.

"The innovation, the creativity that our individual affiliate unions have displayed not only in organizing but in meeting the needs of the industry in Michigan has been great. But there's more work to be done. We cannot rest, and I want to commit to all of

you that Greg and I will work to do what we believe is best for the Michigan Building Trades, and the best for our members."

Herman takes over as President after having served as Business Manager of Southfield-based Sprinkler Fitters Local 704 since 2011, and Business Agent for 10 years prior to that.

"I want to thank you for your vote of confidence and giving me the opportunity to prove that we can make things work together," Herman said. "Give us time, and this ship will go right down the line. My job is to work with every one of you, to find out what the differences are, what the problems are, and come to a solution."

The building trades conven-

tion, held every four years, took place this year in a ballroom at the Marriott Hotel in Detroit's Renaissance Center.

Claywell succeeds Patrick Devlin, who since 1999 had been either the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council or Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's Secretary-Treasurer.

Established in 1957, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council has acted as an umbrella group and advocate and for the state's construction labor unions, promoting fair wages and benefits, job safety standards, worker-friendly laws and effective relationships with contractors and owners.



DELEGATES TO THE 53rd Convention of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council met in Detroit Aug. 19-21.

Tesla board makes sure Musk can't lose

By Jim Hightower

Just a few months ago, the prancing right-winger was constantly in the news.

Today, though — poof! — he has vanished from media coverage. But fret not — Elon always finds money to take care of Number One.

Indeed, this month he was handed a \$30 billion pay raise by his car company. Yes, BILLION. Odd, since his stewardship of Tesla in the past couple of years has been disastrous. Sales, profit,

quality, and market share are in the ditch, along with his own reputation. Yet, in a gushing letter to shareholders, the corporation's board of directors asserted that its \$30 billion handout was a "critical" gesture to induce Elon to show up for work. Apparently, \$29 billion would not have been enough.

Who are these board members who supposedly "govern" the corporation and its CEO? One is Kimbal Musk. Yes, Elon's brother! Others are close pals and lackeys, each of whom is extravagantly paid. For example, the board member who "negotiated" that ridiculous giveaway to His Supremeness has pocketed more than half a billion dollars in profits from Tesla stock options

Michigan sees a little dip, but construction remains robust

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employment decline from June to July.

"The number of states with construction job gains continues to slip, on both a monthly and a year-over-year basis," said Ken Simonson, the chief economist for the Associated General Contractors. "Owners have delayed project starts in the face of ever-changing tariff, funding, and labor force policies, while contractors are experiencing sudden losses of workers."

California lost 51,000 construction workers during those 12 months. It was the largest drop in workers in the nation, even if was a relatively modest 2.0 percent downturn. Percentage-wise, New Jersey (-4.9 percent) and Washington (-4.3 percent) were at the bottom of the state rankings for construction employment losses in those 12 months.

New Mexico (+14.3 percent) and West Virginia (+12.3 percent) easily led the nation in construction employment from July 2024 to July 2025.

AGC officials noted that private sector developers appear to be delaying or cancelling some projects amid uncertainty about construction costs and ongoing questions about future interest and tariff rates. They continued to urge the Trump Administration to conclude trade agreements "that will provide more certainty about tariff rates." They also urged the administration to "refocus its immigration enforcement activities on undocumented workers who are engaged in additional criminal activity."

"The more the administration can do to eliminate economic uncertainty, the more private sector demand is likely to rebound," Simonson said.

"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."
—William Blake (1757 - 1827)

"Our patience will achieve more than our force."
—Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

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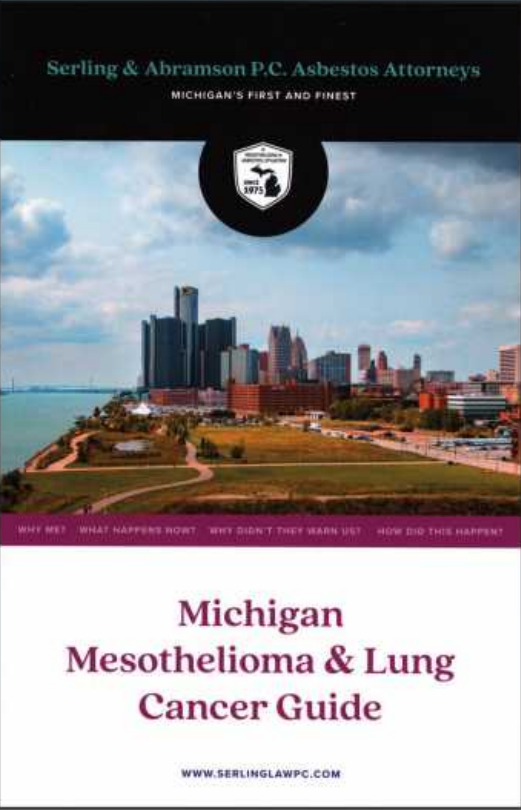
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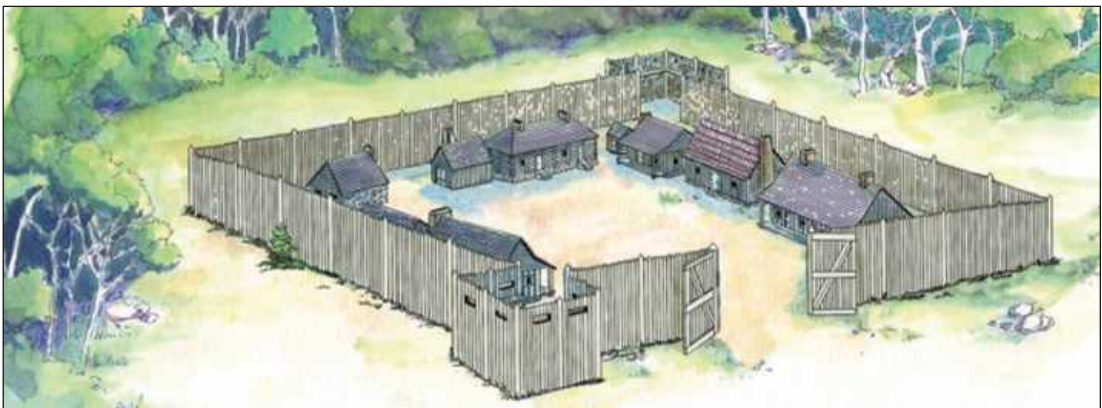
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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Fort St. Joseph HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



FORT ST. JOSEPH in Niles doesn’t exist any more. In fact, no one knew exactly where it was located until researchers from Western Michigan University solved the mystery in 1998. It was constructed by the French in 1691 more as a key post for trading and exerting its national influence than for military use. In 2010, a foundation wall and corner posts of one of the original buildings were discovered. This rendering represents an educated guess about the installation, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. French military engineer Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban’s design used bastions, the projections at the corners of the stockade. Weapons positioned in bastions could fire down the length of the fort’s walls if attackers managed to get close to the walls.

Image credit: Archaeological Conservancy

French voyageurs and missionaries traversing what would become Michigan and other Great Lakes states in the 1600s didn’t go to the trouble of building a fort without due consideration.

Forts were more than just military installations. Yes, they contained barracks for soldiers and were set up to repel invaders. But forts were also a social and religious center, containing homes and shops, while hosting the trading of goods, and acting as a permanent physical space for the French royal government to impose its influence in North America.

The French had governing authority, or at least controlling influence in Michigan for nearly 150 years until they ceded control to the British in 1763 after the French and Indian War. But the scarcity of their established forts in land that would become Michigan, illustrates how important those five installations were to French governance.

One of them, Fort St. Joseph, wasn’t built in the Lake Michigan town of St. Joseph, but 25 miles southwest in Niles, just above the Indiana border. Fort St. Joseph was first established as a mission in the 1680s by French Jesuits. The land was granted to the Jesuits by King Louis XIV, and Fort St. Joseph was constructed in 1691.

“Officially established by the French, Fort St. Joseph housed a small garrison and served as a trading post located along two significant trails, the Sauk Trail and the Grand River Trail,” says a history prepared by the City of Niles. “It was also located in proximity to a portage that connected the Great Lakes watershed with the Mississippi River. Fort St. Joseph was occupied for 90 years from 1691 to 1781. Control of the area shifted during this time from the French, to the British, to several Native groups (including the Potawatomi and Miami), and then briefly to the Spanish.”

The *Encyclopedia of French Cultural Heritage in North America* said “Fort St. Joseph was one of the most important 18th Century frontier outposts in the western Great Lakes region. Initially established by the French as a mission in the 1680s, the site became a hub of religious, military, and commercial activity for local Native American populations and European colonial powers for nearly a century.”

The fort never saw significant military action. Prior to the French and Indian War (1756-1763) Fort St. Joseph held a tiny French garrison of 10-20 soldiers, and a commandant. It also had a blacksmith, Catholic priest, interpreter, and 15 households. When the British took control of the fort after the war, they maintained it as a center for fur trading.

“The military played a substantial role in the establishment of New France,” says Western Michigan University’s *Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project*. “They constructed fortifications for use by soldiers, fur traders, and Jesuit priests. Many were built hastily and at little cost to spread French influence and to facilitate communications throughout the area.”

During the Revolutionary War, the British used the post to supply allies among the Native people against American rebels. The Spanish raided the fort in 1781, and briefly claimed it as their territory. After the new Americans won the war, western settlers eventually arrived, and thus we have Niles’ nickname, “The City of Four Flags” – it is one of the rare cities in the nation that have operated under the flag of four nations.

The *Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project* is an ongoing partnership between Western Michigan University, the City of Niles, Support the Fort, Inc., and other community groups. The project hosts open houses, sponsors archaeological digs and displays uncovered artifacts from the fort, which is long-gone but continues to offer researchers an opportunity to learn how the first European settlers in the area lived.

“Documentary sources indicate that the fort was constructed with entrances on the north and south palisade lines and that the palisade enclosed a small commandant’s house, a building that could accommodate 20 soldiers, a military storehouse, and some buildings to store trade goods and furs,” says a report by the *Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project*. “In 1753, the post was estimated to consist of 15 houses, though not all of these buildings were necessarily within the palisade. The fort became an important link in the chain of similar frontier settlements that staked out the far reaches of New France and facilitated the trade between the French and Native peoples in furs.

“For almost 80 years, French priests, enlisted men and traders lived at Fort St. Joseph in close contact with Native groups also living in the area, specifically the Potawatomi and Miami. Wives (in some cases Native wives) and children of the French men, as well Native slaves, were also present and no doubt played major roles



THE FIVE FRENCH FORTS built in what would later become Michigan include the state’s most recognizable, the re-built Fort Michilimackinac (built in 1715 in Mackinaw City). Other forts constructed by the French included Fort Miami (1679, St. Joseph); Fort De Buade (1683, St. Ignace), and Fort Pontchartrain du Detroit, or Fort Detroit, (1701). The latter four forts no longer exist, but researchers say the construction of French forts in the Great Lakes region were often of a similar style.

in the commercial and social functioning of the post.”

In 1781 a small contingent of French and Natives supported by the Spanish governor at St. Louis raided the fort, claiming it for Spain, though they remained at the site for only a day. Then essentially abandoned, Fort St. Joseph became overgrown and forgotten over the centuries

“Over time the exact location of the fort was lost and the town of Niles developed around it,” a history by the city said. Then in 1913, “a commemorative boulder was dedicated at the Fort’s approximate location.”

It wasn’t until 1998 that the fort’s location was confirmed. An organization called Support the Fort, Inc. asked Dr. Michael Nassaney of Western Michigan University to search for the fort. “Dr. Nassaney was able to definitively locate the area that once contained the fort itself,” said the City of Niles. “Ongoing excavation and research are revealing information about the appearance of the fort, its occupants, and their role in the fur trade and colonialism.”



POST-IN-GROUND wall construction by the French in the Great Lakes area is illustrated.



ACCORDING TO Western Michigan University’s *Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project*, French fort walls were generally made with rounded or split logs placed vertically, and sunk 4-9 feet. The preferred wood was cedar or oak, but that was dependent on local forests. For the walls and interior building foundations, builders simply sunk posts or set them on stone foundations excavated into a hole or ditch up to 4 feet deep. In between the posts the walls were filled with stone and mortar (“pierrotage,” depicted above) and/or a mixture of clay and straw (“bousillage”). Flat glass found at Fort St. Joseph suggests that some buildings had windows. (Container glass is curved). Flat glass was a precious commodity, it had to be shipped from Europe and panes were generally cut small to prevent breakage.

Image credit: Fort St. Joseph Archeological Project

Michigan success story ‘really does restore lives’ for vets

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— especially when it comes to a veteran looking for employment. Helmets to Hardhats was created in 2003 by the nonprofit Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment. H2H is a nonprofit joint labor-management driven entity that connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard members and reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry.

Since 2003, the group says nationally they have helped close to 50,000 military personnel successfully transfer into civilian careers in the construction trades.

Since a state Labor and Economic Opportunity grant was made available about two-and-a-half years ago, allowing Michigan to have a full-time H2H director in the person of Dougherty, he said interest in the program has increased 300 percent. About 2,700 veterans have since visited the group’s website, created profiles, and have been exposed to the trades during outreach programs as a valuable option for a career.

Michigan, Dougherty said, is one of only three states with a dedicated director funded by a state grant, and is about fourth in the nation when it comes to Helmets to Hardhats participation. H2H has partnered with all 15 building trades international unions, who the group said, “have made a commitment to help our military heroes successfully transition to civilian life and work. Through these partnerships, Helmets to Hardhats connects transitioning military members with fulfilling, family-sustaining, middle-class careers in the construction industry via gold-standard, earn-while-you-learn registered apprenticeship programs.

“We connect participants with employers as well as educate them on how to use their G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while completing their training.”

The first step for veterans considering employment in the

building trades starts with a visit to www.helmetstohardhats.org. Vets can input their military occupational specialty, create a profile, learn about career opportunities, then will receive an automatic email from Sam with his contact information.

Noting the heightened mental health issues and suicide rates among veterans, Dougherty told delegates that shortly after he started his position he discovered that H2H “is the answer to so

many things needed for the transition of veterans. I truly believe that the veterans that I talk to here in Michigan have jobs because of you, your locals, that we truly are saving lives, we’re restoring families, we’re breaking the cycle. These are Michigan residents who are coming into the trades, and that’s a great thing, because the structure that we’re used to as veterans, the structure works, the brotherhood, the sisterhood, and it really does restore lives.”

NLRB’s existence now in doubt with appeals court ruling

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very structure likely violates the United States Constitution.”

The 3-0 appellate court ruling was made by three Republican-appointed judges. In this case, arguments by Musk and other employers responding to worker complaints basically looked at the complaints and said instead of arguing over this, let’s just blow up the system.

The argument by Musk and the other employers centered on the president’s limited ability to remove any of the five members of the NLRB and the board’s administrative law judges. They argued that the National Labor Relations Act only allows the president to fire board members for “neglect of duty or malfeasance in office,” and can only remove ALJs for “good cause.” SpaceX and others “argued this double-layer of job security improperly ties the president’s hands,” Billington said. “The Fifth Circuit majority agreed.”

Wrote Judge Don Willett, an appointee of President Donald Trump, in agreeing with Musk and the others: “Because the executive power remains solely vested in the president, those who exercise it on his behalf must remain subject to his oversight.”

The five-member board has basically been paralyzed and unable to issue decisions during the Trump Administration, since he fired member Gwynne Wilcox in January. That firing, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in May, left the board with only two members, and without a quorum. The AFL-CIO said the Supreme Court’s decision to allow President Trump to fire Wilcox “is a gift to union-busting CEOs and a slap in the face of every worker.”

Now what? The case will certainly go to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it’s almost a cinch to be upheld by the conservative majority. Indeed, Judge Willett pointed to the Trump Justice Department, which declined to defend the NLRB’s fired administrative law judges on March 5, and which will almost certainly decline to defend this case before the Supremes.

When it comes to workplace law, the ruling does indeed blow up 90 years of labor law stemming from the 1935 adoption of the National Labor Relations Act. But the ruling could prove to be a workplace wild card, setting workers free from a corporate-created obstacle course that allows employers to use the existing system to delay and deny worker complaints as well as union organizing cases.

Without an NLRB as the first place for workers to take their case, that leaves the court system, which will place cases before judges who won’t have the benefit of NLRB fact-finding and who will likely have little experience with the nuances of workplace dispute resolution.

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WHILE CURRENT HEALTHCARE

news highlights threats to Medicaid, Medicare and an across-the-board healthcare affordability crisis, it’s important to remember that we’ve faced challenges before, complete with setbacks, detours and defeats along the way.

Over time, multiple generations have worked on the issue of healthcare until we’ve come to today’s patchwork of a system. We keep struggling to make it work better, and we trust that generations to come will continue that work.

Here’s an example worth remembering.

Back in 1943, Michigan Congressman John Dingell Sr. sponsored a bill to create a system of national health insurance funded by a payroll tax. Dingell’s bill sought to do for American healthcare what the Social Security Act of 1935 had successfully done for the nation’s elderly: harness revenues to ensure dignity for hard working Americans, this time, by providing healthcare for all.

Labor supported the John Dingell Sr. bill in 1943, and when it was killed by insurance companies, physician organizations and the pharmaceutical industry, unions didn’t stop searching for ways to protect their members’ health.

National Healthcare Detour

A different path presented itself during World War II. Employers and unions were incentivized to provide health insurance benefits to workers instead of wage increases. A healthcare benefit would provide something of value to workers without fueling inflation. That move laid the groundwork for today’s system of employer-sponsored healthcare—one that quickly became the main way most Americans receive coverage.

But the idea of a national health plan wasn’t obsolete or forgotten.

Every Generation Has To Win It Again

Some of the most important milestones in U.S. healthcare came about because labor and progressive movements refused to back down.

Healthcare Progress

The bill that John Dingell Sr. sponsored in 1943 didn’t survive the relentless opposition from groups that stood to profit from the private system, but that didn’t stop John Dingell Jr. – who replaced his dad in Congress in 1955 – from working with a broad coalition of labor and progressive social groups to achieve many healthcare victories.

Some of the most important milestones in U.S. healthcare—Medicare in 1965, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and even the expansion of the National Institutes of Health—came about because labor and progressive movements refused to back down. None of these programs has ever been perfect, which is why the push for something better must continue.

AEPC: Labor Has A Say

We are proud of AEPC’s labor roots, and the trailblazing work that local labor leaders such as Phil Schloop of the Operating Engineers did in the 1980s and 90s to ensure that prescription drug and health care benefits could be affordable and of high quality for union groups.

When Phil started the process that eventually became AEPC, it wasn’t at all assured that it would be a success. But succeed it did, and we are inspired by those who continue to step up, often doing invisible and thankless work. We appreciate you.

Facing Tomorrow

Today’s healthcare landscape is troubling. Cuts to Medicaid and

Medicare won’t just hurt the most vulnerable—they’ll also drive-up costs for everyone with employer-sponsored insurance.

People who lose these public safety net plans won’t stop getting sick. It just means many will delay treatment until their health problems become serious. By then, care is far more expensive, and those costs ripple through the entire system—showing up as higher premiums, higher hospital bills, and higher prices for all of us.

What do we do? Take a lesson from the Dingell father and son team that never gave up on healthcare reform. We keep at it.

Fighting for healthcare rights and other labor movement goals is not easy work. And this isn’t the kind of work that moves in a straight line toward victory.

There’s a labor song from the 1960s called “Pass It On” and its lyrics call on every generation to protect the gains that have been made and struggle for more:

Freedom doesn’t come like a bird on the wing

Doesn’t come down like the summer rain

Freedom, freedom is a hard-won thing

You’ve got to work for it, fight for it, day and night for it

And every generation has to win it again

Pass it on to your children, mother
Pass it on to your children, brother

You’ve got to work for it, fight for it, day and night for it

Pass it on to your children, pass it on.

AEPC is a labor-management purchasing coalition with a proven track record of delivering the best price, service and expertise for benefits. For more info about our programs and health and wellness information, visit our website: www.aepc.us or on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25
NOVI – **The September Union Meeting will be Monday Sept. 29th, 2025 at 7:00 pm** and will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will also be available.

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

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, September 17th at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, September 25th at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday September 28th at 6:00pm. All are welcome.

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 from 8am to 12 noon; to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday October 1, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

The 9th Annual Local 25 ICIF Fundraiser is Saturday SEPTEMBER 6th 2025 at the Novi Union Hall at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be bought at the door or through any Business Agent. Join us for food, drink and camaraderie. We have great prizes to raffie off as we’ve done in the past!

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

The username is the member’s book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN
Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “Welding Test Certifications” where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests.

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org) to view the 2025 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the Trade-School Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee

online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check your online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/
HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three (3) years.

The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees’ Club: The Retirees’ luncheon will be Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 8:00 am. All are welcome.

Get well wishes to Gary “Meathead” Jankens, and Ken Anderson!

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The Northern Michigan Chapter Retiree luncheon to be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 11:30 am; at the **Brown Bungalow** 100 28th St., US 31 South, Manistee, MI 49660. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be in October 16, 2025; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw

Mi 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter’s** next quarterly Retirees breakfast is to be held 9am October 17, 2025 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

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: Jerry Templeton #1004496 passed away August 15, 2025 at the age of 69. He was a 20-year member. He was predeceased by his dad JIW Jerry Templeton Sr. #415451, and he is survived by his sister Valerie Templeton (retired Secretary for the Training Center). Jerry Preston Thomas III #1590289 passed away Friday August 15, 2025 at the age of 33 and was a 5-year member who had many friends in the ironworking industry.

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 (Sept 2, 2025 11:00 am E.S.T.).

Just joking

Jesus, Moses and an old man go golfing. First at the tee is Jesus. He takes his shot, and his ball lands in the lake. He walks on the water and reaches down to grab the sunken ball. He takes a one-stroke penalty after he plays it on the fairway.

Then it’s Moses’ turn. Bad luck, his shot also goes in the lake. So he spreads the water into two parts, grabs the ball out of the muddy bottom and walks with it to make a ball-drop on the fairway. He also takes a penalty.

Next, it’s time for the old man to play. His ball hits the top of a tree and lodges between some branches. He slowly walks toward the tree. Suddenly, a squirrel races up the tree and dislodges the ball. An eagle swoops in, picks up the ball, flies over the first hole’s green, drops the ball, and it rolls into the cup.

“Hole in one!” the old man proclaims. Moses looks at Jesus and says: “This is why I hate playing with your father.”

unlock good jobs and American-made energy. They believed his promise to bring down the cost of living. They have been betrayed.

“Workers have already performed 2 million work hours on the \$1.3 billion Revolution Wind energy project. The project has already undergone a rigorous permitting process. The impact is deep and far – investors are not



Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **September 19, 2025.** This meeting is at the Operators Union Hall. The address is 802 Clark Street, Gladstone, Mi. 49837.

I would like to thank all the members and their families who attended the Labor Day parades in your area. We celebrated 130 years and led the parade in Detroit! The turnout was great followed by a picnic at our Union Hall. If you didn’t make this one, try to make it next year.

Scholarship Contest: We have no eligible applicants for this year’s Scholarship Essay contest by the August 15th deadline. We are extending the deadline to September 30th. If you have a child enrolled in their first year of college, please have them submit an essay. The rules are posted on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn at the Union Hall.

SPECIAL MEETING. A special meeting has been called for Monday, September 15th at the Union Hall. The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. Please make every effort to attend.

I encourage every member to make safety your number one priority. The busy workload looks like it will continue throughout the year so please make every effort to safeguard yourself and your Brothers and Sisters on the job.

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

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

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

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required

Local 169 Boilermakers

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

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

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be September 17, 2025 at 11AM. This month the location is Wood Shop Social, located at 2336 S. Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858. 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 \$45.00. 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.

Corporations win again, as ‘catastrophic snap’awaits labor law

(Continued from Page 1)

SpaceX had sought an immediate injunction overturning the Board’s right to investigate those charges, saying that it inflicted “irreparable harm” on the company, even though it was the fired workers who suffered harm and even though the only entity inflicting irreparable harm on Musk’s companies has been Musk himself, through the very outbursts and bigoted behavior that his employees had warned against. (See, e.g., Musk’s effect on Tesla sales.)

In seeking SpaceX’s injunction to stop any investigation the Board might order, its attorneys, from the union-busting firm of Morgan Lewis, based their claim on the argument that the Board itself was unconstitutional, since it had been established, and had been operating for the past 90 years, as an agency that the president couldn’t completely control. The two Trump-appointed judges and the one George H.W. Bush–appointed judge who heard the case found for SpaceX, in a ruling that will now extend to any and every case brought against the NLRB or against employers or unions that the NLRB would adjudicate in the Fifth Circuit, which encompasses Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

And in this era of judge shopping, mega-companies that may have one part-time employee or a single post office box in one of those states “may now flood the Fifth Circuit” to avoid any enforcement of decisions upholding workers’ rights, former NLRB general counsel Jennifer Abruzzo told me in the wake of the court’s ruling.

The neutering or repeal of the NLRA has been in the works for several years. Both Musk and his fellow world’s-richest-human competitor, Jeff Bezos, had initiated lawsuits last year claiming that the act – the only act that gives workers the power to bargain with their employers and seek remedies when those employers violate labor laws – was unconstitutional.

Even before then, Musk had publicly proclaimed that he was “opposed to the idea of unions.” And just as Musk’s SpaceX had contested an NLRB finding by seeking an injunction against it premised on the act’s unconstitutionality, so Bezos’s Amazon had filed a similar lawsuit seeking a similar injunction on similar grounds. In the Amazon case, the company was opposed not only by the NLRB but by the union of the affected workers, the Teamsters. (That case is still in the works.

The SpaceX workers neither had a union affiliation nor were seeking one, so the only parties to the case were the company and the agency.

But the NLRB is now inert at the top, and has an acting general counsel put there by Trump. Trump’s nominee for permanent general counsel, Crystal Carey – a former partner at Morgan Lewis, the firm representing SpaceX in this case – was asked by Bernie Sanders in her Senate confirmation hearing last month whether she believed the NLRB was constitutional. That, she answered, was up to the courts, declining to say whether she herself believed it was, and raising the possibility, verging on probability, that she wouldn’t have the agency oppose the argument that SpaceX was making. As of now, Carey remains unconfirmed, as her over-the-top support for employer rule over workers alienated at least one Republican member of the Senate committee.

The Fifth Circuit could have ruled that it was the act’s language forbidding presidents to make at-will firings that was unconstitutional. But by going beyond that to flatly declare that the Board itself was unconstitutional, it completely blocked workers from any attempts to have the act’s protection of their rights upheld by, or even heard by, federal courts in those three states. By granting that immediate injunction, it nullified the NLRB attorneys’ power to simply investigate allegations.

Abruzzo, whose service as NLRB general counsel during Biden’s presidency ranks as the most brilliantly pro-worker tenure of any federal official since Sen. Robert Wagner, the NLRA’s author, has some ideas about what can be done if the NLRB remains deactivated or is abolished altogether. “States have to step in,” she told me, “if the NLRB is no longer functioning.” Already, some states have enacted laws banning employers from compelling their employees to listen to anti-union propaganda. Many have extended bargaining rights to workers excluded from the protections of the NLRA.

But if the NLRB is no longer functioning and, for instance, can no longer hold union affiliation elections for a company’s workers, then states should consider holding such elections, she suggested. And even if the NLRA is struck down *in toto* (as a whole) she noted, workers would still retain their fundamental right to recourse. The years immediately preceding its 1935 enactment, she recalled, were filled with boycotts, strikes, and even general strikes that closed cities down. Workers will “still have the power to withhold their labor,” she said.

For now, it’s important to remember that the federal assault on workers’ rights isn’t all Trump’s doing, or Musk’s, or Bezos’s. Republican officials and American CEOs and mega-investors have been opposed to workers’ rights and power for a very long time, just as many Democrats – not a lot, but enough to make a difference – have been lax in defending them. Today, the bough has been bent to the point that it’s almost broken. A catastrophic snap may come soon.

Trump blows down \$1.3B wind project

(Continued from Page 1)

it is: President Donald Trump just fired 1,000 of our members who had already labored to complete 80 percent of this major energy project,” said North America’s Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey. “A ‘stop-work order’ is the fancy bureaucratic term, but it means one thing: throwing skilled American workers off the job after they’ve spent a decade training, building, and delivering.

“And with the stroke of a pen late on a Friday, President Trump personally signed off on killing these jobs and creating chaos. He pulled the plug on an almost-finished project, taking jobs, paychecks, and food off the tables of working families in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

“The ripple effects of this decision will be felt across the entire country. Projects and industries nationwide are frozen by inconsistent rhetoric and direct actions from this Administration.”

Trump has long complained about the visual appearance and bird-killing potential of on- and off-shore wind turbines. The closest turbines to the coast in the Revolution Wind project are sited

15 miles from land.

Said Laborers International Union President Brent Booker: “Workers who had good family-supporting union jobs on Friday are out of work today due to chaotic, reckless and senseless action by the Trump Administration. Many of these workers supported the president. They believed his promises of permitting reform that would

unlock good jobs and American-made energy. They believed his promise to bring down the cost of living. They have been betrayed.

“Workers have already performed 2 million work hours on the \$1.3 billion Revolution Wind energy project. The project has already undergone a rigorous permitting process. The impact is deep and far – investors are not

likely to invest and create jobs in the future when the whims of a president can undermine their billions of dollars.”

On a smaller scale, Trump’s job-killing action is reminiscent of an executive order by President Joe Biden, who similarly enraged the building trades by revoking a federal permit for the \$6.9 billion Keystone XL pipeline in 2021.

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Local 190

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

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING – SEPTEMBER: Please be informed the *awards banquet* will take place on Monday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. 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.

MEETING FOR GAS DISTRIBUTION MICHIGAN AND OHIO MEMBERS: An informational meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Local 190 Union Hall, 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor. Breakfast will be at 8 a.m. and the meeting will start at 9 a.m. and end at approximately noon. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security number, temporary password is the last four digits of your social security number. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

125th ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS: Go to our website WWW.UA190.ORG, click on tab for EVENTS, download your photos you wish to have, the PIN CODE you will need is 3402.

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

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN: If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at out Training Center to get information on a UA21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

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

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

MICHIGAN 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 2025: need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2025. Please remember to bring in the 2025 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

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: 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., 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.

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. Closed for Holidays. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online.

The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MD-HHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

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

Available Journeyman classes:

OSHA 10/30 Online: Members interested in taking the **OSHA 10- or 30-hour** training online should contact Kristyn to register. Participants will need internet access through a computer or tablet.

M.U.S.T Safety Online: Members interested in taking **M.U.S.T Safety** training modules online should contact Kristyn to register. Participants will need internet access through a computer or tablet.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 **Schedule - Mondays, Feb. 17, April 21, July 21, and Sept. 29, 2025.** Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

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 **8 hours on Saturdays, Oct. 18, through Nov. 22, 2025.** There will be a refundable **\$150 deposit** to hold a spot. Deposit will be returned upon completion of the class. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

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

Welding Lab: Currently open welding lab is **Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm.** There is limited space and first come first served. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

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

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE **PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to **\$85** for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** The third course starts **Oct 14.** Courses are **(Continued next column)**



**Local 333
Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

UA Local 333

LANSING – September’s union meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, at 6:30pm, Gene Davis & Sons Catering Hall, 3575 Francis St., Jackson, MI. 49203.

October’s union meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm

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

Weld classes, 10 weeks starting September 8, 2025, for all three Regions.

Lansing: Monday and Wednesday evenings: 4:30-8:30pm. 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906

Jackson: Monday and Wednesday evenings: 4:30pm-8:30. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI. 49201

Battle Creek: Monday and Thursday evenings: 4:30-8:30pm (KCC) RMT, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Orbital Welding: Class will start in September. Date to be determined.

Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will start in early October. Please sign up and you will be called with a start date.

Pipefitter math, Advanced pipefitting, CPR/First Aid, Backflow and Med-Gas will be scheduled when we have 6 or more signed up. You will be called when the class is scheduled.

Tube bending class starts September 15, 2025, 4:30-

Local 190, con’t

on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

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

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

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **8 hours on Saturdays, Sept. 6 through Oct. 11.** There will be a refundable **\$150 deposit** to hold a spot. Deposit will be returned upon completion of the class. The class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **the course is to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

CONDOLENCES: Our member Jeffrey Kitchen passed away Aug.15. Jeff initiated Dec. 4, 2020. To all family members and friends, may the love of family and friends comfort you during these difficult days, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

Our member Andrew Bronson passed away Aug. 18. Andy initiated Nov. 12, 1984 and retired Feb. 1, 2024. To all family members and friends may you all take comfort in knowing that he is now peacefully resting, we send our deepest condolences.

Our member Thomas Wells passed away Aug. 23. Thomas initiated Aug. 11, 2000 and retired April 1, 2006. To all family members and friends may you find comfort and peace, we send sincere condolences to all of you.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and coffee.

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

8:30pm for 6 weeks.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Ultimately it is the member’s responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

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

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

Retirees’ Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 am at the Alpha Coney Island, 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.

If you have a change in address or phone number, birth of a child, marriage or divorce, or to update your beneficiary paperwork. Please contact the Lansing office to make the necessary changes.

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.

If you or if you know of a member who has been in a branch of military service. Please have them contact the Lansing office. We are updating our “Honoring Our Military” wall.

September 5, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



Sprinkler Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, September 10, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month. Please sign up for **MDLive**. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

A special election will be held to replace the outgoing Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer. A nomination meeting will be held on September 22, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. at the Local Union Hall located at 23475 Northwestern Highway, Southfield MI, 48075. The election will take place on Friday, October 17, 2025 at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. In case of a tie, a runoff will be held that evening with voting members in attendance until a winner is determined.

Any current officer desiring to run for a vacant office of Business Manager/ Financial Secretary -Treasurer must have a resignation letter on file with Local 704 no later than the close of business on September 9, 2025. Such a resignation letter should state that the officer is resigning his current position effective on the date that new officers are installed to fill vacancies.

Per the Constitution of the United Association, Section 124 (a) “No member shall nominate candidates for or vote in any election of any description unless he has been a member in good standing in the Local Union where the vote is being taken for a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to nominate candidates for or vote in any Local Union election...”

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

“We should every night call ourselves to an account: What infirmity have I mastered today? What passions opposed? What temptation resisted? What virtue acquired?”

– Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

“The function of science fiction is not always to predict the future but sometimes to prevent it.”

– Frank Herbert (1920 - 1986)

“Sometimes a good exit is all you can ask for.”

–Sean Stewart

“Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.”

–John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801 - 1890)

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress.”
– Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

**HAPPY 2025 LABOR DAY FROM
THE ATTORNEYS AND STAFF AT**

WPC&P

WATKINS, PAWLICK, CALATI & PRIFTI, PC

Proud to serve

**BUILDING TRADESMEN AND TRADESWOMEN,
BUILDING TRADES UNIONS,
AND EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUNDS.**

1423 East 12 Mile Road
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071
(248) 658-0800
www.wpcplaw.com



UA Local 85
SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM.

NEW DATE: The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, at 7 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

Contact Information:
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513
jpomerville@ualocal85.org
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514
tdanielak@ualocal85.org
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330
csteele@ualocal85.org

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515
aalexander@ualocal85.org
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512
rjanderson@ualocal85.org
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511
ktuthill@ualocal85.org
Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

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

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

JATC News:
Congratulations to our newest Journeyman, Carlos Bautista!

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

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 CHECKSTUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them (Continued next column)



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671
MONROE – The next **meeting** will be held on **Sept. 18, 2025, at 7pm**. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **Sept. 18, 2025, at 5pm**. If anyone would like to come to 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.

Condolences: We would like to express our deepest condolences to Brother Jim Cheff on the passing of his Mother Debra Cheff on August 22. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Brother Cheff.

Congratulations: I would like to congratulate Brother Joe Krajcz and his wife Rachel on the birth of their daughter Jacqueline Victoria Krajcz on Aug. 13, 2025.

I would also like to congratulate Brother Brent Thompson and his wife Alisha on the birth of their Daughter Railynn Mae Thompson on August 22, 2025. We are wishing the new babies and their parents health, happiness and a lifetime of love.

Local Picnic: I would like to thank all the Volunteers for the Annual Local picnic. We cannot be successful without you, and you are very much appreciated. A special thank you to Larry Vanisacker, Jerry Payment, Brian Martin and Vinnie Fenech for working hard to complete the smoker and all their hard work in the kitchen.

Retiree Luncheons: We want to remind everyone that the Retiree Luncheons are always held at the Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 12pm. The only exceptions are **August, November, and December** due to the Picnic in August, and proximity to the Holidays in November and December. We always look forward to seeing everyone there!

The next retiree luncheon is **Sept. 25**, I hope to see you there.

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 Vinnie at the Union Hall.

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

If you are not receiving the Push Notifications from the App, please contact Mike!

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

In Closing: I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Labor Day. Thank you to all who participated in the Monroe Labor Day parade and festival. Traditionally Labor Day marks the end of summer and back to school for the kids. Please keep this in mind when driving to and from work. Keep an eye out for children at the bus stops and crossing the intersections. Also give yourself extra time in the morning to yield for all the buses. We hope you and all the children have a safe and productive school year.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

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

Local 85, con't

down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Duane Henning who passed away on July 31, 2025.

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



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local 98.*

Congratulations to our Local 98 Scholarship winners: At July's membership meeting we awarded \$2000 scholarships to five children of our hard-working members. Rylee Limberger, Faith Thomson, Benjamin Moore, Vivienne Wisniewski, and Leona Wisniewski. These Scholarships recognize the discipline, academic achievements, and promising futures of our next generation. Thank you to the winners who came to the last meeting to receive your scholarship award.

New UA Membership Cards: Please ensure you have the correct spelling of your name and current address on file with Local 98 as our new UA membership cards will be printed in November for the period of 2026-2028. Any changes need to be submitted to the UA by mid-October for the printing of the new membership cards.

Prescription Coverage: Effective Sept. 1, 2025, Express Scripts ("ESI") will be the new Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for the Plumbers Local 98 Insurance Fund. You should have received a welcome kit from ESI with important information regarding your pharmacy benefits including prescriptions, mail-order information, and specialty pharmacy information, along with new ID cards that reflect the new PBM information. You must show your new ID Card to the pharmacy on or after September 1, 2025.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 at 6 pm.

Retiree Luncheon meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 12-2:00pm.

The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings. **The next board meeting is Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 at 4:30pm.**

Union Meeting Date Changes: Due to a scheduling conflict the OCTOBER meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

By-Law Change: At June's membership meeting a motion that was accompanied by the signatures of 20 members in good standing was made to change the times of all membership meetings. "Union meetings shall be called to order promptly at 6:00pm and adjourn no later than 9:00pm." The motion was passed with a vote 74 to 6 on Aug. 21, 2025. Vote carries. New meeting time is 6:00pm starting with Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.

Labor Day Parade: We had excellent weather and a great turnout for this year's parade. We were honored to have the Mayor of Detroit, Mike Duggan, marching alongside of us wearing a Local 98 shirt. Continually Mayor Duggan has shown his support for Local 98 and all of organized labor.

Adopt-A-Highway: It's that time of year again, fall is here. Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is **Saturday, Sept. 20**. We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalier so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Awards Night Save The Date: Our annual years of service award dinner will be held Oct. 30 at 5:30pm at Club Venetian. Cost is \$25 per person (refunded if you attend). We will notify you if you are up for an award.

Local 98 Detroit Plumbers Scholarship Golf Outing was held on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Mystic Creek Golf Course. Thank you to all of our sponsors, members and families that joined us for this event honoring the Detroit Plumbers CARES charity. It was a fun day filled with comradery by all who attended.

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

Expelled Members: Currently we have no expelled members.

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

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

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

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. All this is confidential and lead by our health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887.

In Memoriam. Our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of deceased Brother Robert J. Fill, initiated 2-14-1963. He was a member for 62 years; Brother Ronald W. Muellenhagen, initiated 7-27-2000; Brother Neil "Skip" Sullivan, initiated 2-2-1955. He was a member for 70 years.

Additional information can be found at ualocal98.org
CONTACT INFORMATION:
Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org

Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org
Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org

Jeff Kavalier, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalier@ualocal98.org

Rob Moses, Organizer (248)763-2187 rmoses98@ualocal98.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, Jan. 2, 2026. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

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

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Nov. 4, we have an available evening to come in and practice for it, Wednesdays, Oct. 22, and Oct. 29. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

First Aid Classes. Please call the Training Center to register for the following first aid classes. Sept. 17, 18, 23, Oct. 9, 22, 23, Nov. 12, 13.

OPEN WELDING – is available on Wednesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

****2024 brazing and welding sessions** will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be September 6th, 2025. ****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the (Continued next column)**



Local 370 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm** and is designated as **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of **Contract Ratification and Wage Allocation**. This meeting is also designated as **Refreshment Meeting**.

A Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, Sept. 8 at 9 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 for 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:

A2L Sept. 15,16, 18, 23, & 24. 5pm-8pm.

Welding Sept. 8-29. Mondays and Thursdays. 4pm – 7pm

CSD1 Oct. 20-23, 5-8pm.

Rigging Sept. 8 thru Oct. 8, Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00pm until 7:30pm.

Testing will be Oct. 13-17.

First Aid & CPR Sept. 17 at 4:30pm

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, September 9th,2025 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday

September 9th,2025 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday,

September 9th,2025 at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday,

September 9th,2025, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday,

Sept. 9th,2025 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday,

Sept. 9th,2025 at 6:15pm

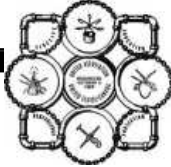
JATC Committee – TBD

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.



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Sept. 9** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

GOLF OUTING: For those of you who are playing in the Golf Outing on Saturday, Sept. 13, registration begins at 7:30 am and includes breakfast. There will be a Shot Gun start at 8:45 am. Door Prizes and Dinner will be provided after Golf. Contact Lori at lhathfield@ualocal357.com or phone (269) 720-7718 with questions.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the first Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. for the location is (269) 337-9800.

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

(See Pages 6 and 27 in the *Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification*).

Local 370, con't

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. Check it out at ualocal370.org

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

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 and fleece caps \$5.

Local 98, continued

test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification: Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. 8 hour recert class October 21 & 22 Deadline is September 26

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



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGE: Due to a conflict of dates with the UAMCA Conference, the October membership meeting will be changed to Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025 in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O’Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The retiree breakfast will still be held **Thursday, October 9, 2025** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Day of Caring: On Friday, Sept. 12 we will be participating in the Day of Caring in Newaygo County at Camp Newaygo. The day will start at 8am and run through early afternoon depending on what needs to be done and how many volunteers we get. If you want to help, please contact Jason Finch at the Union Hall.

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special-called meeting on July 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.

Organizing Update: *I appreciate the continued emails, phone calls, and text messages about unrepresented workers - this is a team effort. If their experience is minimal or none at all, they will have to apply for the apprenticeship application process in February. If you know someone who has a plumbing license or is a HVAC Tech or pipe welder, send them my way or give them my phone number. It's a perfect time to get market share!*

Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION! Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551

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

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

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

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@ual174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

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.

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location

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

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

Training News: ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to the following apprentices on fulfilling their apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174’s most recent Journeyman!

William Mazur, Edward A. Ryan, Sean C. Scott, Nathan J. Voss

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next class will be **Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025.**

Medical Gas Installer: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, Oct. 6 @ 5-9 pm. The class will run weekly for four weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 5-9 pm. In order to be eligible to take this class, a minimum of 4 years piping experience is required.

COMBO WELDING: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 16th @ 5-9 pm. The class days will be weekly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings through Oct. 30. If you plan to take a weld test following the class, the November weld test event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13 @ 5pm.

OPEN WELD: Weekly on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook ‘Local Union 174 Members’ group page for any updates.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, and the test to follow Thursday, Sept. 11 at 5pm.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your **welder certification status cards are now being emailed** instead of sent via USPS mail. If you have turned in your continuity but have **NOT** received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

****WAITING LIST:** Effective immediately, the Training Center will no longer maintain a waiting list for upcoming classes. When a class is scheduled, the dates and times will be announced in the following locations:
The Building Trades article
The Local 174 Members Facebook page
The announcement screens at the Training Center
Going forward, it is your responsibility to call and sign up for a
(Continued next column)



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

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next regular Union meeting is September 16, 2025 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

The 15th Annual Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference is happening again in Chicago, September 19- 21 2025. All Tradeswomen and allies can attend. The ladies will be selling their raffle tickets to raise funds. The winners will be drawn at the September Union Meeting. If you are interested in attending you can contact the Union Hall.

Thank you to all the volunteers at the Local 636 Picnic, especially Tony Sievert, Nikki Labute, Adam Ridener, and the army of apprentices! Also, congratulations to the winners of the first annual corn-hole tournament, Tony Mastroianni and his son-in-law! The picnic was a huge success and we hope this event grows in participation every year.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held September 18, 2025.

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

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

Congratulations to Eric & Alexandra Hamel on the birth of their son Rowan, August 2, 2025.

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!**

May 2025: Brian Dyer
June 2025: Robert Desandre, Stanley McClure, David Yuhn;
July 2025: Robert Buchanan, John Dozbush, Tanya Holland, David Jarzab, David Machcinski, Michael Polio, Ted Richardson.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Ira Swinney July 31, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to; Matthew Burt, Duane Barton, Dung Phan, John G. Skiver; James Davis, Marty Sosnowski, Ray Sterna, Larry Cirillo, Ed & Noreen Nys, Rashad Dooley, Chris Fye, David Hochstein, Thomas L. Williams Jr, Justin Morgan, Ron Sarata, Zen Adams, Joshua Allan, Andre Bali, Robert Cabanaw, George Costigan, Luke Dacy, John Fackler, Lindsay Falk, Gregory Firth, Robert Fraser, Paul Graham, David Hatch, Jason Howe, Jacob Humpert, James Juracek, Hunter Kiger, Charles Lozon, David Marcy, Ian Martin, Phillip Mayne, Daniel Mosey, Christopher Orosco, Matthew Pukey, Aaron Schley, Eric Swinburnson, Matthew Tusset-Myers.

DUES – 3rd Quarter Dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an **auto-pay system** for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

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.

New 988 crisis helpline. 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.

S.U.B. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY.

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

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday.

After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

Direct Deposit is now available, members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website or you can call the Local for one.

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. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984.** Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local’s Website. Just click on the “Defined Contribution login here tab” and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution **corrected** website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys.

Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmd-dyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the “My Dashboard” page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement?

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

Are you “Work Ready”? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at 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 payment.

lips 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.

September 5, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

MARQUETTE – UPPER PENINSULA – This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

ATTENTION: The next Union Meeting will be in Marquette, September 25th at 7:30pm.

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

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

MRA FUND - This is a reminder that you are required by the IRS to provide proper substantiation for your MRA debit card usage. Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 111 Benefit Fund office, Zenith American Solutions. If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1.

As per IRS regulations, the use of the MRA card must be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan.

These IRS requirements are mandatory, and the Fund cannot make exceptions.

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

Failure to respond to these Substantiation Request letters will result in suspension of your MRA card until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1. **Thank you for your attention to this matter.**

New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach

“It is only prudent never to place complete confidence in that by which we have even once been deceived.”

–Rene Descartes (1596 - 1650),

“Come to the woods, for here is rest. There is no repose like that of the green deep woods. Here grow the wallflower and the violet. The squirrel will come and sit upon your knee, the logcock will wake you in the morning. Sleep in forgetfulness of all ill. Of all the upness accessible to mortals, there is no upness comparable to the mountains.”

–John Muir (1838 - 1914), *Atlantic Monthly*, January 1869

“It’s a dangerous business going out your front door.”

–J. R. R. Tolkien (1892 - 1973)

“A weapon is a device for making your enemy change his mind.”

–Lois McMaster Bujold

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com





Local 292
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: ****NEW LOCATION****; **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083** 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **September 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm**. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **September 23, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREE'S NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 10/2/25 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. Please contact the union hall via our website 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.

Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25.

Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer, Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed.



PAUL GUALDONI

Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer: Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment

schedule will continue on time and in full.

LABOR DAY PARADE: Thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters and their families, who came out to march in solidarity with all the Building Trades Locals at the Annual Detroit Labor Day Parade. We had a great turnout this year. We celebrated our holiday, shared a delicious BBQ lunch, and enjoyed the beautiful weather.

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-38-6466. 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: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic, or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at **1-800-448-8326** or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is **available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year**. Services are of no cost to members and their dependents.

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.

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

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.

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. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 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 paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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

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

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

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. 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.

(Continued next column)



Local 80
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Sept. 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

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



JASON GRUNENWALD

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2025 Retiree Meetings: Monday, Oct. 20 (Holiday Party) and Monday, Dec. 15. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the Local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Thomas Haggerty, Justin Brown, Norman Sharay, Kenneth Schaffhauser, Timothy Roberts, Michael Boyle Jr, Theo Coatney, Giancarlo Iacono, Daniel Whitsett, Joshua Stine, Robert Field, Austin Putnik

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.

SEPTEMBER RE-REGISTRATION: If you are laid off prior to Sept. 1 and do not have a work assignment you will need to re-register to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may do so at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. If you send an email or fax please include your name, current address, current phone number and your membership number. You CANNOT re-register over the phone and cannot reregister before September 1st. Please call the hall with any questions.

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 Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list 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.

Proof of UIA benefit payments due 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.

Local 292 continued

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on September 6th, September 13th & September 27th, October 11th, October 18th, & October 25th.

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

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

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

"It is a sign of a creeping inner death when we no longer can praise the living."

– Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."

– Sam Levenson (1911 - 1980)



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 Oct. 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 September 11th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 September 11th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 September 10th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)

*Zone 3 October 15th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 September 9th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 October 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

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

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order 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 in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelscanitreport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info. Join Us for the Local 7 Golf Outing! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 6th**, as we tee off at **The Lynx Golf Course in Otsego** for this year's Local 7 Golf Outing. This will be the **last time the event is held in the Zone 1 area for the next few years**, so don't miss out! Enjoy a great day of golf, **tons of prizes**, and wrap it up with a **delicious steak dinner**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same with just a handful of members off. Thank you to all the members who came out to the Labor Day Parade and walked with their fellow brothers and sisters, it was a great time. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is September 16th at 6:00pm, it will be at VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores, MI. Please keep me informed of any address or phone number changes and dues are always due prior to the first of the month. **In Solidarity, Your Brother, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Next Zone 3 meeting is September 10th at the Freeland hall.

Please call Lansing office (517) 882-4064 if you have changed your phone number or address.

Please make sure you are current on your dues. They are due the first of every month.

Next retiree meeting is Sept 23rd at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work is slowing down in the area, if you need help with unemployment or SASMI contact me. Don't forget to set up your yearly physicals and go to www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/benefits to register for your H&W and local pension status. For the National Pension Fund, go to www.smwnpf.org and register to see your future benefit. We still have many that have not signed up for the SASMI Active HRA account. This is an active benefit to help cover RX co-pays, vision deductibles and many basic everyday medically necessary items. No job is more important than going home to your family at night, please work safely. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work is still strong on the Zone 4 area should be a good fall for our guys. Our fall classes are full so stand by for winter classes. Please don't forget to call in when you are going out of your zone!! **Your brother Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP remains steady and should stay that way through the rest of the year. If you still need Mine Safety Training please sign up for that at www.upconstruction.org I also want to thank everyone that came out to the Labor Day parades and showed support for the working class. **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 selection.

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Excess on occasion is exhilarating. It prevents moderation from acquiring the deadening effect of a habit."

– W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

"A bore is a man who deprives you of solitude without providing you with company."

–Gian Vincenzo Gravina (1664 - 1718)

"To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment."

– Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

"Don't think there are no crocodiles because the water is calm."

–Malayan Proverb

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BAC Local 2
WARREN – UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS
KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Switched to WEDNESDAY,



Sept. 10, 2025 at 6 PM, 11847 Shaver Rd., Schoolcraft, MI 49087, for the **September Meeting ONLY**
M A R - BRETT Q U E T T E GIERAK CHAPTER: Monday, Sept. 15 at 7 PM, 119 S Front St., Marquette, MI 49855

HOUGHTON MEETING: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025 at 7:00pm, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

Our **sincere condolences** go to the family and friends of **Brother Mansfield Barge** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 10/27/2024. Brother Barge had been a member for over 55 years.

Our **sincere condolences** go to the family and friends of **Brother Keith Bostic** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 7/27/2025. Brother Bostic had been a member for over 31 years.

Our **sincere condolences** go to the family and friends of **Brother Bruno Kalmeta** (Marble Mason) who passed away on 6/2/2025. Brother Kalmeta had been a member for over 38 years.

Our **sincere condolences** go to the family and friends of **Brother Justin Walters** (TMT Finisher) who passed away on 8/25/2025. Brother Walters had been a member for over 7 years.

APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL: Turning in hours monthly on the Engage Portal is a requirement of your apprenticeship in order to keep up with your raises. This is all completed online must be filled out with details of what you have done for the month. If you need assistance getting access to the portal or need help on how to turn in time there are resources available online or please contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

BAC LOCAL 2 APPRENTICE COMPETING AT INTERNATIONAL CONTEST: The **2025 BAC/IMI International Apprentice Contest** will be held September 26–27 at the Huntington Place Convention Center in Detroit, Michigan. This event showcases the skills of highly trained up-and-coming craftworkers from the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC).

The competition draws BAC’s top apprentices from across the United States and Canada to compete for the title of International Champion in their trade. Apprentices must first participate and place in regional contests before advancing to the international stage. Contestants will demonstrate their mastery through building challenges and written tests, with first, second, and third place winners awarded in each of the eight craft categories: Brick, Cement, Tile, Marble, Terrazzo, Plaster, Pointing-Cleaning-Caulking/Restoration, and Stone.

BAC Local 2 Michigan will be proudly represented at this year’s competition. **Alex Draper** will compete in Pointing-Cleaning-Caulking/Restoration, while **Isaac Rodgers** and **Brett Payne** will compete in Cement. Local 2 extends its best wishes to all of our apprentices as they showcase their skills and represent our union in this prestigious international event.

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 online training classes.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current
(Continued next column)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT –The next membership meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 p.m. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!
September 2025
Kenneth Gibbs-25 Years
Frank Sinelli-25 Years
John Daniel-30 Years
Salvador Gutierrez-30 Years
Douglas Nowak-40 Years

As vacation time approaches, please complete the PAYEE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT by Oct. 27. If you don’t have the form, you can call the hall or the fund.

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

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustb-safe.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 members email address.

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

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

Local 2, con’t

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. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954

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

benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

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

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

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

The Local’s website is: www.opcmiami.org. Please refer to the website for updated information.

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

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

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

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

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

Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons: You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, www.Principal.com or at 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com
If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/WelcomeSelectGetStarted

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

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

UPDATE – Sub Pay is currently paused for both Inside & Limited Energy. If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130. If you have any questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors 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. For questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department –Please look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid through date shows 12-31-2024, you have lapsed membership and need to call the Hall to set up an appointment for the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt paid through date is 03-31-2025 you owe the \$30.00 reinstatement fee, plus dues and will lapse at the end of the 3rd quarter, (September 30, 2025), if your dues are not paid. Dues Statements have been mailed. You can pay on the APP/ Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. Please keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 10 in the main conference room at the Union Hall. The meeting starts at 10.

Our next luncheon is taking place on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at The Gazebo, 31104 Mound Road, Warren 48092. Doors open at 11 and lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person, send your checks (payable to the Retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756. For reservations or questions please call Elaine Crawford, at 313 408-5885.

Local 58 Senior Softball Team: 55+ Senior Softball. Practices starting in April with games starting May 12, 2025. For more information, please contact Jim Miles at 586-933-3551.

Local 58 Senior Golf: The Senior golf outings are scheduled as follows:

Sept. 18 – The Myth Golf Course – Oakland County – Begins at 9:00 am

Oct. 2, 2025 – Dunham Hills Golf Club – Hartland, MI - Begins at 9:00 am

Jeff Gregory will be running these golf outings from now on. They are open to all Local 58 members and guests. Anyone who would like to participate, please text or call Jeff at 248-240-7449 for reservations. It is important to get a head count for the golf course.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 7. Next event will be Brad Ballard Memorial Golf Outing on Friday, Sept. 26 at

Pine Valley Golf Course. Cost of a foursome is \$600. Many sponsorships are also available. Funds raised will support the Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund for member assistance and Local 58 Women’s Committee for the ARC Scholarship. Registration Link is Active on Eventbrite. Any questions, please contact Michael Bellhorn 586-612-5964.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 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). 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 meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 15 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date.

Thank you to everyone who helped to pack and distribute backpacks with the Black Caucus Foundation.

We are moving forward with our challenge coin fundraiser. The second coin in the series 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.

If you missed out, we will be looking into placing another order for the EWMC “What Up Doe?” jackets. We have to have a commitment of at least 10.

It’s time to select the delegates for the 2026 Annual EWMC Leadership Conference. Our chapter always makes a positive impact on the conference and we will continue the tradition. Please let Brother Crook know if you are interested.

Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 8 at 5:30 PM.

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

Local 58’s Women’s Committee - The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 25 at 5:30p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

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

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: website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060.

Exciting things are on the way... NEW SYSTEM UPGRADE!!! Our office will be closed 11/3/25. No Shared Branch Services 11/1/25-11/3/25. No ATM/Debit Card services the evening of 10/31/25-11/3/25. You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers-Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system upgrade. Checks-Your MICR line will change to a 14-digit format (currently 8) You can continue to use your current checks. New checks will have the updated MICR. ATM/Debit Card and pins-Your existing cards and pins will continue to work after our system upgrade. Please note: System will be down for conversion beginning the evening of 10/31/25-11/3/25.

YOUR CARDS WILL NOT WORK UNTIL 11/4/25.

Please plan for your cash needs. Direct Deposit-Will continue to post to your account without delay. Bill Pay- Your existing payees, ebills, and recurring payments with other merchants will not transfer to our new system. No new bill payments can be made or scheduled during the time that Bill Pay is unavailable. We recommend you take note of all payees as the system will not transfer. Online Banking-Starting 11/4/25 members will be required to re-enroll in our new online banking. Visit our website at ewcu.net and click on the Online Banking button.

You will need to enroll by selecting the “First time user” link, and then follow the onscreen instructions to have a unique code emailed or texted to you. New Mobile App- Our current mobile app has been deactivated as of 6/30/25. Our new Mobile Banking App should be available from your app store shortly after our system upgrade. Please be on the lookout for communications at ewcu.net.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Kenneth Blaisus, James Chomontowski, Robert Garber, David Gawronski, Michael Kloc, James Lupo, Scott McLean, Donald Porter, Michael Timek and Steven M. Wright.

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

James Audette, Pension member, 73 year IBEW membership; **Ronald Danko,** Pension member, 56 year IBEW membership; Brother to Jan Danko, Pension member, 53 year IBEW membership; **James Fellwock Sr.,** Pension member, 55 year IBEW membership; **Donald LaFleur,** Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; **Jerald Peter,** Pension member, 56 year IBEW membership; **Daniel Radtke,** Pension member, 50 year IBEW membership; **Margaret Schiete,** Widow to the late Pension member Richard Schiete; Mother to JIW Glenn Schiete; and **Enoch Stewart,** Pension member, 33 year IBEW membership.



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IBEW
Local 131
Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916


IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership** Meeting will be held on Sept. 8, at 6 p.m.
The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Wednesday Sept. 10, at **CJ’s at 5 p.m.**
The Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.
The Veterans Group will be meeting on Sept. 4, 5 p.m. (at the hall)
Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month and is moving back to **CJ’s from 3:30 to 5:30p.m.** 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local’s FB page.
Hall Hours: Beginning Sept. 1, the Hall has moved its lunch hour from 11:30-12:30 to 12:30-1:30 so the hall will be available during our members’ typical lunch period.
Upcoming Events:
WMU Season Tickets – Local 131 has sponsored WMU Athletics and purchased 50 season football tickets for our members. You can sign up for game at ibew131.com. Login to the site to find the link at the bottom of the menu, or keep an eye out for the link in our emails. You can sign up for as many games as you wish to attend. Tickets that are not spoken for prior to the game will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis at our anticipated tailgating location in the parking lot of Lawson Ice Arena. Keep an eye out for final tailgating location on our Facebook Group Page.
Sept. 24, The Kalamazoo Tools and Trades Expo: This is a networking event, organized by Local 131 and the Building Trades, for the entire construction industry. There will be hands-on demos of the latest and greatest tools, equipment, and technology in the world of Construction. Please join us!
Oct. 11 Member Orientation Breakfast: Breakfast will be provided to any members who wish to join. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wishes to learn more about the Local’s benefits, referral system, contract, and history. It is also a great way to meet our new members!
Sept. 8th @ 6PM General Membership Meeting: Moved due to the holiday, we will be grilling before the meeting. We hope to see you all there.
Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to go until at least December, paying \$57.78 with another \$5 an hour retention incentive. Keep an eye out for calls, if you are interested. Work outlook for the fall appears slow, however. Blue Oval is expected to begin scaling back for some contractors, while Pfizer remains slow and the work outlook at Zoetis is uncertain for the fall and winter. GPI and USG do not expect large projects for the fall. While Winter appears slow in 131, Local 153 will continue to have very heavy demand for their data center, battery plant, and Cook Nuclear’s fall shutdown. If you have any information about work outlook, please let me know. You can email, text, or call me.
Earned Sick Time: NECA’s lawsuit against the State of MI, which sought to deny our members the legal right to paid sick time, has been **dismissed with prejudice in its entirety.** Local 131 members are entitled to earn 1 hour of sick time for every 30 worked for up to 72 hours a year. This is enforceable by the State of Michigan but is not under the terms of the 131 Inside Wireman Agreement. Please contact me if you are denied this benefit, jcurrent@ibew131.com. You can find a link to the Michigan Earned Sick Time Complaint form at ibew131.com as well.
Update: Several contractors in the jurisdiction are honoring sick time, including KEI, Champion, and (now) Hi-Tech Electric. To our knowledge Moore Electric and Martell are not honoring ESTA.
Retiree’s Lunches @ 11AM at the following locations:
Sept. 17: Berries Breakfast & Brunch, 4311 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo, Mi. 49008
October 15: Heroes Food & Spirits, 121 S. Grove Street, (Continued next column)



IBEW
Local 445

IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – **Local 445 Family Picnic** is scheduled for Sept. 6, 2025, at the Hall. Bring your kids for some good family fun. We will have Binder Park Zoo tickets available this year that will be good through the end of the zoo season in October.
If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed 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.
There will be a Benefits Workshop on Nov. 18, 2025, at 5pm. Please RSVP if you plan on attending. There will be pizzas and cookies to keep you happy.
Death Benefit Assessments Please contact the Hall to verify if you have Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly dues payment.
Organizing If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states **“The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry.”**
The Retiree monthly breakfast is at 9am at Lux Café at 2587 Capital Ave SW. Mark your calendar for the third Thursday of each month to attend.
2025 dues structure. The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention in 2022 approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.
Accordingly, effective Jan. 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to “A” members only, and \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. Effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita.
As of **July 1, 2025**, the following due’s structure:
JiWs:
Monthly \$61.00
Quarterly \$183.00
Apprentices:
Monthly \$50.00
Quarterly \$150.00
IBEW Local 445 App/Website. The new app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.
The General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month, it starts at 5 p.m. at the Hall.
Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. **IBEW445.com.** Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites.
2025 Personal information Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.
Executive Board E-Board meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary

Local 131, con’t
Delton, MI. 49046
November 19: Wyman’s Café 8675 Portage Road, Portage Mi. 49002
Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage @ 10 a.m.
On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac’s Cekola’s Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.
Members Three Months in Aears or More: Scott Edison, Easton Lovell, Joseph Mayne, Kyler Munro, Sebastian York.
Jonathan Current Business Manager



Local 665

IBEW Local 665
LANSING – **HALL RENOVATIONS:** Local 665 has finished most of the renovations to our union hall. The modifications are coming along nicely.
IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary: IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June of 2026. Please save the date June 6, 2026 to celebrate with us that evening. Please look here and in your email for more information.
WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters. Call the hall for the most up to date information. 665 will be experiencing unfilled calls for all of 2025.
Financial Strategies Group open house: FSG will be hosting an open house on Oct. 23 at Lansing Brewing company at 5pm. If you’re looking for financial planning this will be an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss options with a company that understands our benefit structure. You will receive an invitation via the mail if you have any questions please contact the hall.
CODE UPDATE: Code update classes have passed. If you still require code update class to renew your state license. Feel free to contact Flint JATC (810) 720-0583 or fsejtc.com. Flint has an online version of the code update class.
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just passed 800 members in the Local. Of which 180 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman’s job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.
EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejtc.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.
HARASSMENT TRAINING: has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to LEJATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejtc.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.
APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665’s apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejtc.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.
FIRST AID/CPR: will be held on Sept. 23, 2025, at IBEW Local 665 Hall from 5pm – 7pm. Please contact LEJATC to sign up First Aid/CPR Class.
DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your, 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.
OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.
DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #358. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.
BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.
IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon “Bill” Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25, Raul Torres 10/19/24, Ronald Oberlin (Continued next column)



IBEW
LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948
FLINT – **Membership Meeting** - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be September 8th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.
Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be October 7th, 2025 at 9:00am.
Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.
Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns.
Dues Reminder - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.
Seeking New Membership - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Eric Crites.
New Store Stock - To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.
New Membership - Welcome to our latest members, Jacob Buning. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.
Retirees - Congratulations to Robert Caylor 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 Larry Braidwood. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.
“I never trust people’s assertions, I always judge of them by their actions.”
—Ann Radcliffe (1764 - 1823)
“I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there.”
—Richard Feynman (1918 - 1988)
“Make voyages! - Attempt them! - there’s nothing else...”
—Tennessee Williams (1911 - 1983)
“Our great weariness comes from work not done.”
—Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)
“In giving advice, seek to help, not please, your friend.”
—Solon (638 BC - 559 BC)
“In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield.”
—Warren Buffett (1930 -)
“The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of.”
—Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)
“There are 350 varieties of shark, not counting loan and pool.”
—L. M. Boyd (1927-2007)
“There are two ways to slide easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking.”
—Alfred Korzybski (1879 - 1950)
“It hurts to find out that what you wanted doesn’t match what you dreamed it would be.”
—Randy K. Milholland
“If you would not step into the harlot’s house, do not go by the harlot’s door.”
—Thomas Secker (1693-1768)

Local 665, con’t
12/16/24, Dale Battley 11/14/24, Stephen Bair 09/16/24, Jackie “Jack” Heart 04/21/24, Stanley McLellan 04/17/24, Arthur “Dave” Benzing 03/28/24, James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23.



IBEW LOCAL 692
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** Due to the Labor Day holiday, the September monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Sept. 8th, 2025.**
Executive Board Meeting. The September Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Sept. 22, 2025.**
Message from the Business Manager. Please be your Brothers’ and Sisters’ keeper on our jobsites. This is a saying that is often tossed around but we really need to be vigilant in performing that task. In my opinion, there is not a more dangerous job on the planet than what we do every day as Union Electricians. We take that for granted at times in our industry. The most important responsibility we have each and every day is not only making sure we go home safe to our families but our Brothers and Sisters do as well. Please be Safe!
Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction continues to be very strong. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include:
Thiel Electric is working on a remodel of the K wing at Delta College.
Motor City Electric continues to work on the new line at Bay City’s GM Powertrain site. They will continue to hire for this project.
J. Ranck Electric is continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility through October at this point. Ranck is also nearing completion on their 250MW Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush.
Master Electric has work on phase 2 at Bangor Schools.
Countyline Power has ongoing work at the Bay City and Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facilities and Harrisville Pumpstations. Countyline Power has also a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.
Clements Electric’s Clements Electric has new work at Mersen USA, where they have also recently been awarded a maintenance contract at Mersen. Work on the Midland Center for the Arts, and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues. Summer work includes a small raceway project in Michigan Sugar and a fire alarm project at Bangor Schools, as well as work at Bay County Health Facility about to kick off.
Conti Electric has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility.
Escon Group is wrapping up work at Mersen USA in Bay City’s south end and work is ramping up within the I-Park.
Ted’s Electric has work in Mt. Pleasant Schools.
Bay Valley Electric has work this summer at Bullock Creek schools and Bay Valley Resort.
Zone 2 ACC’s dorm project is likely to go fair as union shops submitted the two lowest bids.
John’s Electric has secured a considerable amount of work in Alpena Schools and a nice project ay Bay View Park. John’s work at CMU Tower was stalled following the storms but will pick back up soon along with new hangers at Alpena Airport later this summer. Clements Electric has some work at the Oscoda airbase.
Hardie’s Electric has completed the sawmill in Tower and has ongoing work in Cheboygan.
S & G Electric has hired another Journeyman for multiple projects across the northern jurisdiction.
Northern Valley continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda’s Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls. **Pierce Powerline** is wrapping up work in the Oscoda Schools and a commercial remodel in Mio.
AZCO has begun work on a larger Solar Project at Consumers Energy’s Karn site in Essexville. Calls have begun to come in and will continue through the fall.
Multiple Prevailing Wage projects in Bay City have been bid or will be bid soon. Calls are starting for another Solar Project will begin late this summer or early fall in the Gladwin area. This Solar project has seen many delays but finally seems to be starting to move.
We do need some wiremen to man our local work or market share will be lost. Open calls continue to be available on a weekly basis. We saw this scenario play out in our past, let us not repeat our mistakes. Rest assured, your organizers will be working diligently to fill all open calls with qualified hands by any means necessary. 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
Union Dues. Effective July 1st, 2025, dues increased to \$49.20 per month. This increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.
If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.
Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*
To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.
Death Benefits. Brother Stanley “Stas” Yascolt, Card Number D320156 who passed away on July 4th, 2025. Brother Yascolt was born on June 3rd, 1941. He was initiated on January 21st, 1974. A small service was held last month.
Brother Kenneth Cislo, Card Number D680364 who passed away on July 29th, 2025. Brother Cislo was born on May 3rd, 1949. He was initiated on December 5th, 1988. Ken’s Funeral Mass and Celebration of Life is planned for November 7th, 2025 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington, Michigan.
Retirees Lunch. The September retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, September 18th at Deckers Lounge located at 402 Elsworth Street in Midland.
Fringe Benefits. REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.
REMINDER: If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list.
Important links & numbers
Health Plan & Pension Fund 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

“Don’t join the book burners. Don’t think you’re going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed. Don’t be afraid to go to your library and read every book...”
—Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969)
“A perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell.”
—George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950),
“Do thou restrain the haughty spirit in thy breast, for better far is gentle courtesy.”
—Homer (800 BC - 700 BC)



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IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW Local 557
SAGINAW – UNION NEWS-Reminder – Local 557’s Monthly Union Meetings are now starting at 6pm due to a large number of members working overtime.

GOLF LEAGUE 2025 Winding Down - Golf League at Twin Oaks Golf Course continues. Tee times will begin to move up shortly due to the end of golf season. If you are a returning golfer or a first timer – all are welcome!

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES BEGINNING- September 20th is the home opener for the Saginaw Spirit. This year, the Local has the reserved Eagle’s Nest Suite for this game along with 80 more tickets in the next section over. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Hall to see if tickets are still available. We will also continue to raffle off season tickets as the year goes on.

HALEY MILLER FUND-RAISER EVENT – Local 557 apprentice Mike Miller’s wife, Haley, has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She is currently battling to beat this. There will be a fundraiser for her and her family on September 27th at the American Legion on Weiss Street in Saginaw Township. The event starts at 2pm and a Cornhole will start at 3pm. If you would like to attend or make a donation, please call 989-297-4821.

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

EARNED SICK TIME ACT- Michigan’s new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA), is now in effect. All members working in the State of Michigan have rights to utilize this law. Recently, a decision was made through the Michigan Court system to DISMISS a lawsuit filed by the Michigan Chapter of NECA.

The lawsuit claimed that Locals in a current CBA could not participate in the ESTA benefits until their CBA expired. An appeal of this ruling has unfortunately been filed. In the meantime, it remains to be unclear how the law will be treated while the appeal is waiting to play out. It is suggested to go forward and use this law to your benefit.

LOCAL 557 EXPANSION – If you have not heard, Local 557 has plans in the works to purchase the property directly to the west of our Union Hall. This purchase will help with the ongoing parking problems we have seen recently due to the Local’s increase in membership. This process will take some time to finalize completely but it is an exiting time at the Local. With that expansion, we’ll be looking for volunteers to help over see the expansion. If you are interested, please reach out.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZ-ING- With work being the best it has been in Local 557 (and throughout the State), organizing is as important as ever. Local contractors are continuing to do the traditional work in the area on top of the Mega Projects. These projects are extremely important to the Local and we need to do everything we can to keep manning that work.

Whether work in the Hemlock area continues for a prolonged period or not, it is vitally important to keep all other work of the IBEW in mind. Moving forward, Local 557 will be focusing hard on keeping these projects successful. The future of the Local depends on this work.

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

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work on the Mega Project remains steady. As of this writing, there are currently over 590

IBEW members referred to the project. Calls have slowed for the project as they have possibly gotten close to all of the necessary manpower needed for the project. Stay current on monitoring work in Local 557 by looking on the Job Line website or calling the dispatch telephone option. This is updated throughout the day to provide the latest information regarding calls when they are being filled. If you are on Book 2, please reach out to the Local through the jobline@ibew557.org email address and you will receive a reply as soon as possible. Through the jobline email address, you can receive updates as to your spot on the out of work list.

MEMBERSHIP MEET-INGS- The next membership meeting is October 7th and will start at **6:00pm. Please note the change to a 6:00pm start time** due to Overtime being worked in the area.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.** Please make a note of this as this change has recently gone into effect to better serve the members due to the surge in manpower running through the Local.

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 referral, you must come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings.

If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or renee@ibew557.org.

WORK OUTLOOK- Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by contacting their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Project Phoenix is nearing the manned-up point and calls have recently slowed for the project. Breckenridge Solar for J. Ranck will continue to hire. These calls have been hard to fill and we will need all the help we can get on this project. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Help will be needed throughout the summer on a number of projects in the area.

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.bcbm.com. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

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

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

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

STAY CURRENT ON DUES –Please check to see if (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 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.

September Union Meeting Date Change: Due to scheduling conflicts around the 6th District Progress Meeting, the general membership meeting for September is being moved back one week to Tuesday, September 23rd @ 6pm. Please make adjustments to your calendars if you plan to attend.

Balls for Brotherhood: Please join us for our 2nd annual 18 hole golf scramble on Saturday, September 13. Tee off will be at 8am at Hickory Knoll Golf Course in Whitehall. Please contact Kaleb Kerkstra to register.

Annual EWMC Euchre Tournament: Mark your calendars for October 18th for the annual euchre tournament. More details to come!!

Labor Day Parade: Thanks to all of the members and their families that joined Local 275 to walk in the parade this Labor Day! We had the best turnout we’ve ever seen with well over 100 folks walking this year!

Volunteer Info: For any apprentices looking to get community service credits, keep your eyes and ears open for Labor Rings the Bell, as that is just around the corner.

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

Veteran’s Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm at Muskegon Community College Tech Center in downtown Muskegon. (388 W Clay Ave.) Room 125.

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

The JATC is now offering Master’s Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjeatc@gmail.com

Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

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

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

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

Monthly dues will be increasing by \$1 in July of 2025. Please adjust any automatic payments to reflect the new monthly dues amount of \$50.90.

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Michael Donahue, Scott Erb, Shaun Frantz, Damien Keglovitz, and Jeffrey Vandewater. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

Local 557 cont’d
you are current. The Hall can accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service. You can pay for these purchases over the phone if you wish.
CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org
In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce Business Manager



IBEW LOCAL 275 members, family and associates gather behind the union’s banner on Labor Day Parade day in Muskegon. The union had one of its best turnouts ever for the annual parade, with more than 100 participants.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – HALL REMODEL: Beginning July 7th, the Local 252 suite at the Union Hall will be under remodel. If you have in-person business at the Union Hall, staff will be working out of a suite on the South side of the building.

EARNED SICK TIME ACT (ESTA): NECA was not successful in their lawsuit against the State of Michigan over ESTA but appears to be appealing the court’s decision. Local 252 urges all members that are trying to use available ESTA hours to put in writing to your employer: date you are requesting to use earned sick time, how much time you are requesting, general reason for time requested. If your request is denied, we recommend filing a complaint with the State of Michigan at: www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/ber/wage-and-hour/complaint.

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

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

CPR/First Aid: Tuesdays, September 2, 9 and December 2, 9

Instrumentation EPRI Part A: Mondays, September 8 through December 15

OSHA 30: Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 2 through September 25

BICSI Installer 2 Copper: Mondays, September 8 through December 1. BICSI ITSIMM book is required. \$240. Digital ITSIMM = \$290. Exam certification fee is \$400. Exam is optional. You must have 2 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.

Conduit Bending: Every Other Tuesday starting September 23 for 6 classes

Journeyman License Prep: Mondays September 8 – October 13

All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.

If there’s interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there’s enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.

TRUCK FOR SALE: The Business Office is opening it’s 2022 Chevrolet Colorado to bids starting at \$20,500.00. The truck is black, automatic, 4WD, and has 95K miles. If interested, turn in your sealed bids to the Union Hall by October 1st. If you would like to look at the truck, please contact or stop by the Union Hall.

2025 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2025 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA’s 2025 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2025! Beginning Monday, January 6, 2025, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! These calendars make great Christmas gifts for the hunters/gun enthusiasts in your life or just treat yourself for a chance to win! Online calendar registration is available until April 15, 2025. Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after that date. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be

purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.

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

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

RETIREE’S BREAKFAST: The Retiree’s Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at **9:00 a.m. (new time)** at Leo’s Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

UNION 4 LIFE CHARITY GOLF OUTING: The 2025 Union 4 Life Charity Golf Outing will be on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118. Registration at 7:30 a.m., tee off at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds benefit the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center’s Breast Cancer Research Fund. This outing is open to the public. Registration is \$125.00/ player, \$500.00/team and includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, and two drink tickets. The tournament will be played in scramble with 4-person teams. To register, visit www.union4lifecharity.com or contact Hope Salyer at (734) 475-1180.

RETIREE’S NIGHT: This year’s Retiree’s Night will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Please make every effort to attend. This meeting is in honor of our retired members who have worked so hard to make the Local what it is today.

Members receiving their 50-year pins are: Dean Alexander, Ed Allen, John Babbitt, George Brown, Jerry Hearn, Thomas Johnston, Kenneth Kalmbach, Melvin Knox, John Kreger, Larry Lestyany, Thomas Mayne, David Molton, Gary Ruggles, Jack Sherburne, and Michael Wilbur.

Members receiving their 55-year pins are: Earl Coffey, Edward Colone, Frederick Coontz, Robert Cummings, Russell Hough, Richard Jabkiewicz, Paul Ketola, George Kildau, Ronald Page, Thomas Pahl, David Sisk, Jack Strieter, and Robert G. Veder.

Members receiving their 60-year pins are: John Campbell, Harold Hite, and David Wheeler.

Gerald Swartout will receive his 65-year pin. Members receiving their 70-year pins are: Gerald Hopkins, Orville Koepp, and Richard Straith.

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

ERTS: Please make sure that you are signed up for the Electronic Reciprocity Transfer Sys-

tem. You must be signed up for ERTS before working outside of Local 252’s jurisdiction or your benefits will not be transferred back.

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

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

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

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 06/2025, 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 for third quarter 2025. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card for third quarter for 2025. 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 dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, September 30, 2025.**

UPCOMING EVENTS (more information to follow):
OCTOBER 29: TRUNK OR TREAT
DECEMBER 13: HOLIDAY PARTY

“The price one pays for pursuing any profession or calling is an intimate knowledge of its ugly side.”

–James Baldwin (1924 - 1987)

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Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat & Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

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

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

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

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

Per the Rules and Procedures:

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079

Phone Number: (517) 321-7502

Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

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

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

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

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



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators 25

SOUTHFIELD – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Question: Why did the bike fall over at work? **Answer:** Because it was "two-tired."

LABOR DAY PARADE: Thank you to the members, retirees and their family members that came out to participate in the Detroit Labor Day Parade. We had approximately 30 people represent Local 25 in some BRIGHT YELLOW SHIRTS. We were not hard to spot!

BY-LAW CHANGE: At the September 11, 2025 membership meeting, a third and final reading of an amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on.

APPRENTICES: The first week of class for the 2025-2026 school year will begin the second week of September. A letter with more detailed information has been mailed to you. If you have not received it, please contact the Union Hall to ensure we have your most current contact information.

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

Union Hall Contact Emails: bob@heatfrostinsulators25.org, eloany@heatfrostinsulators25.org, connie@heatfrostinsulators25.org, marty@heatfrostinsulators25.org, finsec@heatfrostinsulators25.org

PANCAKES WITH SANTA: The Union will be hosting Pancakes with Santa at the Union Hall on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Santa be joining us from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Save the date for the Annual Local 25 Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. The event will take place at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25's Constitution & Bylaw's Article III Section 5. Failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report job starts 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, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization turned on. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

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

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

"Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn whatever state I am in, therein to be content."

– Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

"It's never too late to be who you might have been."

– George Eliot (1819 - 1880)



Laborers' Local 1191

(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

DETROIT – 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 am – 4 pm to provide necessary contact information.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7 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 next General Membership Meeting will be held on Oct. 3, 2025. The November General Membership Meeting will be held on Nov. 7, 2025.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next monthly Retiree Council Meeting will be held on Sept. 26, 2025. The October Monthly Retiree Council Meeting will be held on Oct. 31, 2025.**

Union Dues For 2025: 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. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at **(313)-894-2241** to have one mailed to you. **FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!!**

New Projects: Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets.**

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following months: **March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list.**



Roofers 149

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

The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

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

Labor Day 2025: The 2025 Detroit & Mid-Michigan Labor Day Parade and Picnic was a huge success! Business Manager Brian Gregg thanks all volunteers who busted their butts on Saturday and on Labor Day to make this Labor Day Parade and picnic was a huge success. We could not have this event without help from our volunteers, and our generous sponsors.

A special thank you to the 2025 Labor Day Gift Sponsors: AsherKelly Attorneys at Law, BeneSys Inc., DENCAP Dental Plan, Detroit Roofers Training Center Instructors, IUEC Local No. 36, Lutz Roofing, M.W. Morss Roofing, McKnight, Canzano, Smith, Radtke & Brault, P.C., Monica Woltkamp Fund, O'Sullivan Associates Inc., Officers, Trustees, & Members of LU No 149, PRO, Ram Construction Services, Roofers & Waterproofers I.U., Royal Roofing, Schena Roofing, Schreiber Roofing Corp., Scott + Scott Attorneys at Law, T.F. Beck Roofing, The Brice Group, Wesley, Haddad & Co. CPA, Office Staff of LU No. 149

Congratulations to ALL of our winners and participants!

Pictures of the 2025 Labor Day Picnic are posted on Facebook @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

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

Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

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

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

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

Every Thursday from 6:00pm – 8:00pm until further notice

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

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

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

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

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

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.

DAD's Day Strikeout Juvenile Diabetes. We're excited to announce the launch of our First Annual Strikeout Juvenile Diabetes event, a fun and meaningful way to come together as a union while giving back to our community. This event will be open to all members and their families. All proceeds will go directly to Dollars Against Diabetes (D.A.D.'s Day) which helps us make a real impact where it matters most.

We are working on date and location. We will have additional information in upcoming publications.

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 9/2/2025, 2:00pm

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

"Not the power to remember, but its very opposite, the power to forget, is a necessary condition for our existence."

–Sholem Asch (1880 - 1957)

"Be a craftsman in speech that thou mayest be strong, for the strength of one is the tongue, and speech is mightier than all fighting."

–Maxims of Ptahhotep, 3400 B.C

"There is no nonsense so arrant that it cannot be made the creed of the vast majority by adequate governmental action."

–Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

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Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M

WARREN - Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union card, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

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

ROBERT GONZALEZ

LABOR DAY MARCH - A

DAY TO RECOGNIZE LABOR** Thanks to all the Members and their families that participated in the Labor Day Parade. We had a great turnout making our parade a great success.

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/UPGRADE CLASSES

Warren FTI:

Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Silica and Asbestos Awareness 5pm

Saturday September 27, 2025
Silica and Asbestos Awareness 9am

Owosso FTI:

Thursday, September 11, 2025
Silica and Asbestos Awareness 5pm

Saturday, September 13, 2025
Silica and Asbestos Awareness 9am

Please register for all upgrade classes a week prior to the class.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store,
For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

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

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Local 357



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN - We had an outstanding turnout for this years 2025 Labor Day Parade. Thank you to the several hundred DC1M/357 members, and families who came out and participated.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on October 6th, 2025, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren MI 48088 at 5 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

This year's annual STAR picnic will be on Saturday, September 20th. Camp Dearborn in Milford. Please watch your mail-boxes for your invitations. If you worked injury free, and attended a minimum of 8 hours upgrade training you will be eligible to attend. More details to come....

We still have several Local 357 members currently laid off. Please make every effort to make sure your certifications are up to date. This will help get you back to work.

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

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

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



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep - Ed Bracamontes

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052

Business Rep - Jake Fluty

Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

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.

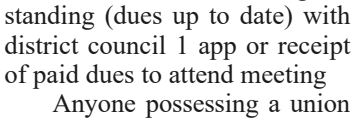
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Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

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(Continued next column)



Elevator Constructors

Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT - ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **Sept. 22, 2025, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **Sept. 15, 2025**, at 5pm at the same location.

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

Upcoming events for 2025 are as follows:

Our Annual IUEC Local 36 Kyle Owsley Golf Outing

is on Saturday September 6, 2025, located at the Links of Novi 50395 W 10 Mile Road 48374. Registration is at 7am. **We have shut down four-some registrations and we officially have 220 golfers.**

September Union Meeting,

nominations for delegates to the convention, Monday, September 22, 2025, located at 1640 Porter Street, Detroit, MI 48216 at 5:30pm.

October Union Meeting,

vote for delegates to the convention, Monday Oct. 27, 2025, location 1640 Porter Street at 5:30pm.

There was a motion presented by a member in good

standings and signed by five members in good standings at the regular membership meeting on June 23, 2025. The motion was to change the local Constitution and Bylaw **Article V** Duties of Officers, **Section 7:** Business Manager/Financial Secretary, **6.** The Business Manager/Financial Secretary shall be paid 45 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate, and the Business Agent will be paid at 40 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate.

The motion for the change reads: The Business Manager/ Financial Secretary shall be paid 50 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate, and the Business Agent will be paid at 45 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate. The first reading was at the June membership meeting, the second reading will be at the July meeting and the third and final reading will be at the September meeting followed by a discussion and vote.

If you haven't enrolled in the IUEC's new National Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, enrollment ended 9/1/2025; there won't be another opportunity to join the IUEC VIP Plan until the fall of 2026. These tax-free benefits can help you continue to get paid when you're unable to work due to illness, injury, surgery, mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment, or death. The benefits are paid in addition to other benefits you may receive, providing a financial safety net when you need it most. If you need more information contact the hall

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison was appointed to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans. You don't have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran's benefits has done for him and I'm a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work-related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work.

The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one-week waiting period.

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

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

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

NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.**

Attention All Apprentices, fall classes have started, if you have any questions, contact your teacher or the hall. If you are

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

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month **at the Union meeting.** If you can't make the Union meeting

(for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall **NEXT MORNING.** If 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.

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

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

Be safe and stay healthy!

"If we value the pursuit of knowledge, we must be free to follow wherever that search may lead us. The free mind is not a barking dog, to be tethered on a ten-foot chain."

—Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. (1900 - 1965)

"It is not fair to ask of others what you are unwilling to do yourself."

—Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

"Ask not what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive... then go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

—Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

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**SEPTEMBER 24th
9AM TO 8PM**

@ THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY EXPO CENTER



By Zoi Goss
Forest Resources Division
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
What do you picture when you think of a forest?

Big, tall trees that have been growing for 100 years, lots of animals and birds and insects roaming and flitting around? Think a little smaller – actually, a lot smaller – in a more urban area and a great deal more concentrated. These are micro forests.

Microforests, also known as Miyawaki forests, were developed in the 1970s by Akiro Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist and ecologist who was inspired by Japan’s sacred forests to develop a new, small-scale method of forest building.

These forests are planted in urban areas and mimic the forest layers and biodiversity of much larger forests.

They can help absorb carbon to counteract climate change, remove pollutants from the air and improve the health of the people who live near them. They also are hotspots for insects and small animals in urban spaces.

Microforests can grow more than three feet per year and begin to resemble a regular forest in as little as three years because they are planted at a density of 20 to 30 times higher than a typical forest.

Asking the experts. To learn more about these forests, I reached out to Lawrence Law, an urban and community forester with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Marilyn Trent from the Rochester Pollinators. The group recently led an effort to plant a microforest in their Oakland County community.

Biodiversity – using lots of different species of plants and trees – is key in micro forests, according to Law. “These micro forests have a shotgun approach to trees in a community rather than precise plantings that most communities usually do,” Law said. “Having multiple species is meant to provide the most benefit to local wildlife possible and cre-

Outdoors Pint-sized forests



GROWTH IS SHOWN at the Detroit microforest 16 months after planting. Such forests host pollinators, create space for local wildlife, capture carbon and positively impact the local environment. MDNR photos

ate support between species that happens naturally in nature.”

Micro forests are usually planted in parks or spaces that see little use to enhance the urban landscape. Law said they are a great source of air and water filtration. They have all the benefits of regular tree plantings, but with the bonus of quick growth and community involvement.

Instead of planting large trees in burlap or containers, micro forests often are planted with small, bare-root seedlings, which are easier to plant for senior

citizens and children, helping to provide an engaging activity that can bring an entire community together.

“Plus, by design, those community members get to see the impact of their work since the micro forests grow faster than traditional, singular tree planting,” Law said. “Being able to visually see progress in a short amount of time helps foster a sense of importance and pride in community trees and the work that goes into it.”

So far in Michigan, Muskegon, Detroit and Rochester all

have their own micro forests. Warren and Sterling Heights will soon join the list.

Moving parts. Trent said the main inspirations for the microforest project in Rochester came from Green Communities Canada, which offered direction on how to plant a microforest using the Miyawaki method, as well as the work of Dr. Suzanne Simard, whose research shows how forests communicate through underground fungal networks some refer to as the “Wood Wide Web.”

These resources helped Trent

see the forest as a living, interconnected system, which she wanted to bring into Rochester’s urban environment. Trent said that putting together a project like this has a lot of moving parts. She worked closely with the City of Rochester’s Public Works and Parks Department.

They selected a vacant parcel of land that used to be a garbage dump. The city’s public works department excavated 4.5 feet of contaminated soil and replaced it to help support plantings of mycorrhizal fungi that helps trees grow strong and resilient.

Trent also was able to secure grants from First State Bank and the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester to fund the purchase of native trees, shrubs and soil.

A lot of people were involved in this project, including Rochester Pollinators, City of Rochester Department of Public Works and Parks Department, the Rochester City Beautiful Commission and the Rochester Tree Committee.

“This project has truly taken on a life of its own. Our microforest has sparked community engagement far beyond what we expected – drawing in young children, students, neighbors, volunteers and city leaders,” Trent said. “People want to be part of it. They want to see it grow.”

At a recent Community Outlook Breakfast, leaders from Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township and Rochester

Community Schools shared updates on recent projects.

Nancy Salvia, mayor of Rochester, spoke about the microforest project with pride. Four other communities have reached out to Trent so far about planting their own microforests, and the City of Rochester wants to plant another one next year.

Key to the microforest.

Planting a wide variety of taller and shorter trees, as well as shrubs, is key to packing the forest full of life.

The Detroit microforest is located at Jayne Lasky Park, which is also home to a mini golf course, a recreation center, a splash pad and soccer fields.

The park’s microforest contains an overstory (the tallest forest trees) of several types of oak, maple and hickory, among others and a subcanopy (middle forest layer) that includes juneberry, basswood, elm, dogwood, ironwood and maple and shrubs including spicebush, elderberry, choke cherry and witch-hazel.

The biological idea of a microforest really is about creating an ecological hotspot, space for native plants, animals and insects and helping to clear pollutants and carbon from the air.

The community aspect of microforests has grown over time, and Law and Trent have helped demonstrate the tremendous importance of community growth alongside plant growth.

Michigan has stocked 18.9 million fish in 2025

Spring and summer fish stocking bring fall fishing! This spring and summer, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked a total of 18,958,970 fish that weighed more than 331.5 tons and consisted of 10 different species and one hybrid.

Fish stocking is an important activity to provide both Michigan residents and visitors with quality fishing opportunities. These efforts help bring an estimated \$3.9 billion into the state’s economy through the sportfishing industry, tourism and related businesses.

To complete the task of stocking, it took 417 stocking trips and 2,345 hours. Crews traveled just over 91,000 miles in 17 specialized stocking trucks to get to the 716 stocking sites. Despite

the severe ice storm that affected northern Michigan, which caused a loss of power and transition to backup power for several days at Oden State Fish Hatchery, no fish were lost due to the storm, allowing the DNR to meet its stocking goals.

“We had another excellent spring and summer stocking season that will bring ecological benefits and fishing opportunities to Michigan anglers,” said Aaron Switzer, DNR fish production manager. Fish are reared in Michigan’s state fish hatcheries anywhere from one to 18 months before they are stocked.

In Michigan, there are six state hatcheries and two cooperative hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strain and size of fish needed for fisheries managers.

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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

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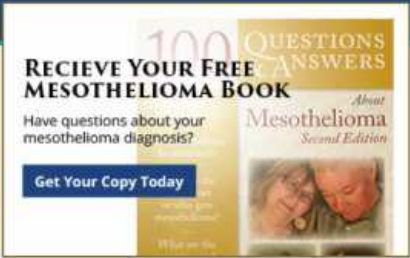
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