

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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## SHORT CUTS

### Michigan's economy: 'strong and stable'

LANSING – A political speech depicting the “state of the state” was scheduled to be delivered by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Jan. 24, but a deeper dive version of the state’s economic status was made Jan. 12 in front of a gaggle of state fiscal agencies reps and lawmakers.

The “Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference” was held that day by the state Department of Treasury officials in cooperation with nonpartisan House and Senate fiscal agencies in an effort to help set the state’s spending policies going forward.

“Today’s numbers reflect revenues that are consistent with expectations, and that’s not a small thing,” said state Treasurer Rachael Eubanks. “The economy is strong and stable...and we are returning to those pre-pandemic norms — or whatever a new normal may look like for us.”

The numbers show inflation dropping, low unemployment, and interest rates expected to fall this year. The presentation was made in conjunction with reports/presentations from the Chicago Federal Reserve and economists from the University of Michigan Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (RSQE).

“Long-term interest rates, mortgage rates, vehicle financing rates, have been falling recently,” said RSQE Director Gabriel Ehrlich. “We expect that to continue, but they’re still high from kind of a recent perspective, right now, and that’s going to be a challenge for some of Michigan’s rate-sensitive sectors.”

Ehrlich said the Federal Reserve has indicated it would ease up on interest rates, moving toward the 2 percent target, contributing to his group’s forecast that the economy would pick up steam later in 2024.

Michigan’s Treasury is expected to bring in \$31.5 billion in tax revenue in this fiscal year, which is a bit down from last year but should still result in a small budget surplus.

### UAW contract wins buoy nonunion

Nearly all companies that have nonunion auto plants have raised their workers’ pay, in the wake of the UAW’s big wins with the Detroit 3.

Now, even Tesla, a notoriously anti-union company, has also bowed to the pressure. “The employees can expect higher pay this year, although details have not been released,” *Labor Press* reports.

UAW President Shawn Fain has said the bumps in pay are simply an effort to get in the way of union organizing. Currently, the UAW is trying to organize Tesla’s electric vehicle U.S. plants.

The UAW said its organizing drive will target more than a dozen nonunion U.S. plants run by Toyota, Honda, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Mazda, Volkswagen, Mercedes, BMW and Volvo. Tesla also is on the list, along with EV startups Rivian and Lucid.

During a 46-day strike last fall, the UAW landed pay raises of at least 25 percent, and for some temps as much as a 168 percent raise, plus boosts in benefits.

### Quotable

“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)



SOMETIMES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION isn’t pretty, at least in the short term. As evidence of this, we show the current state of the facade of the historic National Theater (1911) in Detroit, which is being dismantled by tradesworkers employed by Grunwell-Cashero. Fortunately, the one-of-a-kind theater frontage will be preserved and re-assembled as part of a new \$800 million mixed-use development on the same site along Monroe Street. Unfortunately, plans call for the demolition of the remainder of the theater. The National Theater is the subject of our “History in the Making” feature on Page 3.

## National Theater’s façade saved in ‘Cadillac Square’ development

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

DETROIT – Rare are the “dismantling” projects that have a good ending for a building.

So it goes, sort of, with the historic National Theater building, whose façade is currently being dismantled – but it will be restored on site as part of the new “Development at Cadillac Square” project that’s being underwritten by Dan Gilbert and his Bedrock real estate team.

Unfortunately, the remainder of the 1911 theater on Monroe Street on the east side of downtown has been deemed too far ruined by the elements and urban scrappers to rehabilitate: its pending dismantling will be permanent. But the theater space and adjoining, cleared land is expected to be replaced by a project that will contain some 400,000 square feet of office space, up to 280 apartments and about 90,000 square feet of retail.

The theater’s restored façade is expected to be incorporated into a 2,000-seat concert venue at the site, which

is along Monroe and Randolph street next to Campus Martius and Cadillac Square. The new theater will be a “world-class music and performance venue,” according to

the developer’s press release. Trades workers from Grunwell Cashero began the National’s façade dismantling last fall.

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THE FACADE of the National Theater in Detroit, as seen in 2018. Covered in white terra cotta, the front will be saved: it features twin 64-foot gold-domed towers and a Romanesque arch over the entrance.



THE REBUILT National Theater’s facade will be moved on site and incorporated into a 2,000-seat concert venue that will be part of 1.5 million square feet of new office, apartment and retail space planned for the “Development at Cadillac Square.” *Rendering: Bedrock/Gensler*

## Contract let for great walls at the Soo

SAULT STE. MARIE – It’s the dead of winter and the Soo Locks closed for the season on Jan. 17, but plans for the New Lock at the Soo are still being implemented. And tradespeople are continuing to work through the winter to execute work on the new lock.

The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, Detroit District, which has jurisdiction over the new lock’s construction, released news last month that they awarded a \$213.8 million contract to build the new lock’s “chamber wall monoliths,” which essentially amount to a big, big concrete project. Winning the contract is the building team which has been

on site the past few years, Kokosing Alberici Traylor, LLC (KAT) of Westerville, Ohio.

The new “Contract Option 1B” includes construction of the lock wall monoliths, which are very large concrete wall portions that make up the sides of the chamber along the north and south side of the lock cham-

ber. The chamber monoliths span between both the upstream and downstream wide wall monoliths. The new lock will be 1,200 feet long.

“There are 21 chamber monoliths that make up the north wall and 21 chamber monoliths that make up the south wall,” said

(Continued on Page 13)

## For women in the trades, one size PPE does not fit all

### And enough with the pink already

(From the IBEW)

For a long time, Phoenix IBEW Local 640 member Xan Folmer just dealt with the risks associated with ill-fitting fall harnesses and other personal protective equipment.

“I didn’t know any better,” said the journeyman wirewoman. “Nobody told me there were other options, so I just used the harnesses and prayed I wouldn’t have to get a mastectomy.”

The harnesses used on many job sites require the chest strap to be fit right at the bust line, leaving those with breasts with few options, none of which are truly safe. Wear it as designed and risk damaging breast tissue, or wear it above or below and run the risk of a strap snapping or sliding out altogether.

“Those things are just not designed with women in

mind,” said Folmer, who is also a steward.

Fortunately, Folmer was able to persuade her employer to invest in better-fitting harnesses. But she’s far from alone when it comes to getting the right safety gear.

Roughly 4 percent of construction workers in the U.S. and Canada are women, but those numbers are growing.

They’ll have to if contractors want to keep up with the increasing demand for skilled tradespeople.

But in order to keep everyone safe, they’ll

IBEW Local 640 member Xan Folmer wears a well-fitted X-frame harness that she lobbied her employer to provide for her and other women electricians.

Credit: IBEW



## New year doesn’t change buoyant construction outlook

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Flipping the calendar into 2024 hasn’t changed the overall tenor of the nation’s construction industry.

Higher interest rates are still a concern. Prospects for new project groundbreakings, overall, are fairly positive. Material supply chain disruptions are lessening, but are still a factor on some projects. It’s still a great time to be a construction worker, with work opportunities abounding. But cue the broken record: finding new men and women to fill positions will remain a challenge.

“Looking into the coming year, experts are cautiously optimistic that a stronger construction market lies ahead, particularly in certain markets,” suggest an article lede earlier this month in the *Engineering News Record*.

A related headline this month from the Associated General Contractors (AGC): “Construction firms have mixed outlook for 2024 as expectations for demand remain mostly positive, but less upbeat than last year amid new challenges.”

The U.S. construction put-in-place forecast published by FMI

### Industry survey finds consistent, and persistent, challenges for U.S. contractors

Corp. predicts a slight drop of 0.2 percent in the total dollar value of construction in 2024 compared to 2023 after a 4.6 percent rise last year. “It’s really important that we maintain perspective looking at the forecast,” says Jay Bowman, a FMI principal. “(The forecast) is flat, but it sure is planted at a really high level even when you adjust for inflation.”

And this from Richard Branch, chief economist for the Dodge Construction Network: “As we go into 2024, we’re starting to see economic growth become more consistent and accelerating by the end of the year.”

An annual survey of construction contractors, released Jan. 4 by the AGC and partner Sage, is titled *A Construction Market in Transition: The 2024 Construction Hiring and Business*

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## Lawsuit aims to halt Biden’s new PLA policy

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Now comes the legal action.

The Associated General Contractors of America and its Louisiana chapter on Jan. 10 filed a lawsuit in federal court to block the Biden Administration’s effort to mandate project labor agreements on federally funded construction projects.

A month earlier, the anti-union Associated Builders and contractor pledged Biden’s rule “would face legal challenges,” although they have not since formally announced taking legal action. The ABC said that Biden’s PLA rule would “steer taxpayer-funded public works contracts to union-signatory contractors, granting union workers a monopoly to build these projects.”

The AGC, an association comprised of both union and nonunion contractors, said Biden “lacks the legal and constitutional authority to impose such sweeping labor policies that undermine current labor agreements for union firms and discriminate against open shop contractors.”

The Biden Administration established the PLA policy via a presidential executive order issued Dec. 18. The rule, put in place after a 22-month long

federal rulemaking process, establishes the use of PLAs on federal construction projects that exceed \$35 million. Project labor agreements are often used on both public and private construction projects. They vary from job to job, but usually establish pre-hire workforce policies involving drug testing, safety and training

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## DOL to dive deeper into independent contractor abuse of workers

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The Biden administration’s Labor Department will crack down, starting March 10, on bosses’ abuse of misclassifying workers as “independent contractors.”

The announcement from acting Labor Secretary Julie Su – whom President Biden has nominated to head the department – and top enforcement staffers drew cheers from congressional Democrats.

Bosses now arbitrarily name workers as “independent contractors,” not “employees,” to abuse them, exploit them, deny them worker protections – such as the minimum wage, overtime pay and workers comp – and to ban them from unionizing.

“We can’t build a high-road economy” for workers to enter the middle class “if we don’t combat the low road of misclassification,” Su told a Zoom press briefing before the rule’s release.

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# Viewpoints



## Another year of labor

When Alicia Weaver, a guest room attendant at the MGM Grand Detroit, went on strike last year with UNITE HERE, she didn't know how long she would be on the picket line.

All she knew was she and her co-workers deserved more: Better wages, after 24 years on the job; decent health care, so she didn't have to choose between a doctor's visit and paying rent; a chance to grow professionally and have a future at the company—something that hit home for Alicia as she looked down the strike line and saw her own son, also an MGM Grand Detroit employee.

After 47 days on the picket line in the Detroit winter—in rain and freezing temperatures—Alicia and her co-workers won historic raises, benefits, job security and opportunities to grow their careers. When people ask me why the labor movement just had its most dynamic and successful year in a generation, I tell them about workers like Alicia—people whose lives changed because they stood together with their co-workers. For all the talk about macro trends and economic factors, the driving force behind the “Year of Labor” was simple: Being in a union makes your life better.

We're in a moment of profound uncertainty and disillusionment across this country. Americans are fed up with politicians, institutions and the status quo. Approval ratings for Congress and most major institutions have plummeted to well below 50 percent. The labor movement is the one exception. Polling shows 71 percent of Americans believe in unions—more than two-thirds of people in this country, the highest number in the past 60 years. Unions are where people seem to have increasingly placed their hopes, their dreams and their aspirations for a better future.

It's not hard to see why. Look around at the wins workers have earned, together, and the real change it makes in their lives and their families' futures: UAW, which won 25 percent pay raises for employees' new contracts with the Big 3 automakers. The Teamsters, who took on UPS and won historic safety protections and wage increases. The Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA, who stood up to the Hollywood studios and won protections against artificial intelligence (AI) that provide security and peace of mind. Some 900,000 union members secured double-digit wage increases this year in their new contracts. That's the power of solidarity.

People also look at the labor movement and see that it increasingly looks like them. We're bringing together people of every background—white, Black, brown, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Indigenous; young and old; white collar and blue collar—to take on the absurd economic inequality. We are working in common cause, and we are winning.

So, where do we go in 2024? The AFL-CIO (where I serve as president) represents 60 unions and 12.5 million workers across this country, and our goal is simple: To make sure every working person has a good job that pays a living wage. A job where they are treated with dignity and respect. A job where they are free to come together and organize with their co-workers when things aren't right. For decades, whenever workers have tried to improve their lives in this country, they've run into roadblocks. Right now, we need to make sure every road leads to a union.

We're doing that by organizing the new sectors of the economy. All over the South, billions of dollars from President Biden's historic infrastructure packages are being invested in clean energy projects, many driven by companies like Blue Bird, an electric bus manufacturer, whose workers organized with the United Steelworkers (USW)—and we'll do the same thing across the South and the whole country, setting a standard that every job created by these investments is a good, high-wage, union job.

We're focused on training and apprenticeship programs, too, especially in the construction trades, where there is incredible opportunity for upward mobility—but, for far too long, women and workers of color have been left out. For any company that wants to add high-skilled, highly trained workers to its operation, they can access the best pipeline of talented workers they've ever had. We'll work together to maximize the opportunities for workers and companies.

More and more, Americans also are recognizing unions as a trusted source in a time of political upheaval. In 2024, we're going to lead the largest mobilization of working people the country has ever seen—tens of millions of workers coming together to protect our democracy and elect candidates who understand our challenges and our lives.

**Liz Shuler**  
President, AFL-CIO

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.  
By mail: Building Tradesman Editor, 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216  
or, e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

## Just joking

Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery.

Daffy turns to Elmer and says, “is this whiskey?”

Elmer replies, “yeah, not not as whiskey as wobbling a bank!”

I was in a shoe store this morning trying on a pair of sneakers. With the left shoe on, I said to the clerk, “this one's too tight.”

“Try it with the tongue out,” she suggested.

“Ith no gooth, ith thitill too tight,” I replied.

# Historic National Theater's façade saved

(Continued from Page 1)

“The Development at Cadillac Square leverages the potential of a central, yet underutilized footprint to further ignite downtown's offerings,” said Kofi Bonner, chief executive officer at Bedrock. “By enhancing overall access, options and connectivity, we will continue to position Detroit as an energetic city which ultimately benefits the broader community and creates a vibrant core for today and well into the future.”

The development, which has been scaled back from a plan announced in 2018 with an \$800 million price tag, will be built on surface parking lots at the corner of Monroe Street and Campus Martius. Bedrock said the long-delayed project will be broken into three phases, with the first expected to start in September 2024. Subsequent phases are expected to start in October 2026 and January 2028.

On the National Register of Historic Places, the National Theater was designed by Albert Kahn. It opened as a vaudeville house, and showed movies for a while. It switched to burlesque shows in the 1940s and then to porn movies in the 1970s, before closing in 1975.

It is the last building standing on the Monroe Block—a district that originally contained 13 buildings that were constructed between 1852 and 1911. Most were demolished in 1990.



DISMANTLING THE FACADE of the National Theater in Detroit are Anthony LaFata and Ryan Harding of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. Facade elements will be rehabilitated, stored and then re-built on site. The masons are employed by Grunwell-Cashero.

THE EAST SIDE of the National's ruined auditorium, which once seated 800. It is slated for demolition.



# DOL to crack down on independent contractor abuse

(Continued from Page 1)

“To employers who think it's cheaper to misclassify” workers, “our reply is ‘not on our watch.’”

The cheating bosses also escape paying Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes for “independent contractors,” leaving the workers themselves to shoulder both their share of those levies and the corporate share, too.

The corporate goal, as Su, pro-worker lawmakers and the AFL-CIO all pointed out, is to maximize their profits at the expense of the people who actually do the work. One estimate is that misclassification costs workers \$4 billion yearly.

In the final rule published in the Federal Register on Jan. 11, the agency set up six criteria firms must meet to call a worker an independent contractor. Su also emphasized “honest employers” who play by the rules will profit because the rule will curb low-road undercutters. One criterion which stands out is “who has control” over the worker's wages and working conditions.

Others include the boss's direction of the worker and whether the worker is “an integral part of an employer's business,” DOL Wage and Hour Administrator Jessica Looman told reporters. “Our rule will be in line with the totality of circumstances” surrounding workers, and with court rulings on independent contractors—including judicial dismissal of a last-minute pro-corporate Trump-era “independent contractor” rule which gave companies far more leeway.

Looman's DOL agency will enforce the new rule, targeting sectors where employer abuse of workers is prevalent, but also relying on tips and its own investigators, Looman said. She declined to say how much of Wage and Hours' time and workers would be assigned to enforcing the new rule.

Abusive sectors notably include construction, but also increasingly include other occupations, down to fast food. They also include “gig economy” firms such as Uber, Lyft and DoorDash.

When Su implemented a similar curb on independent contractors during her term as California Labor Commissioner, those three companies waged a successful \$200 million referendum campaign to get voters to overturn it.

The AFL-CIO praised the new curbs on independent contractors when DOL issued its draft of this new rule this past October.

“By restoring commonsense rules to determine who is an employee, and making it harder for employers to intentionally misclassify their employees as independent contractors, DOL's announcement will increase protections and expand benefits to so many working people who have been subjected to corporate work-arounds,” AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said then.

“Too many companies put profits over people, intentionally misclassifying their workers as contractors to avoid providing the pay, overtime, workplace rights and benefits employees are due under labor and employment laws. This proposed rule will ensure DOL has the tools to protect employees against the current and escalating problem of misclassification.”

By contrast, committee chair Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), yowled that “the modern economy is rapidly changing, and America's workforce requires flexibility to thrive. The DOL's rule is the polar opposite of flexibility. The livelihoods of independent contractors, app-based workers, freelancers, and self-employed individuals will be completely destroyed.”

Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., top Democrat on the Republican-run House Education and the Workforce Committee, said “pervasive misclassification of workers as independent contractors jeopardizes workers' access to fundamental workplace rights and undermines employers, taxpayers, and our economy. When unscrupulous employers misclassify workers, who should be treated as employees under the law, as independent contractors, they strip workers of basic protections that ensure they can benefit from and contribute to our economy.”

“Speak properly, and in as few words as you can, but always plainly; for the end of speech is not ostentation, but to be understood.”  
—William Penn (1644 - 1718)

“It is only necessary to make war with five things; with the maladies of the body, the ignorances of the mind, with the passions of the body, with the seditions of the city and the discords of families.”  
—Pythagoras (582 BC - 507 BC)

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# 2024 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

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Aiello Law Group has just released our 2024 Construction Worker's Daily Logbook in both a print and digital version! We have provided logbooks to Michigan's building trades for over 30 years.

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN: The National Theater HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

The mostly ruined, derelict National Theater building in Detroit, abandoned for the past half-century, now has zero hope of a future rehabilitation.

Since 1975, no one – save billionaire Dan Gilbert – has come up with a new use for the National Theater – and even his Bedrock company’s plan only saves the building’s wonderful, one-of-a-kind frontage on Monroe Street. Masons from Grunwell Cashero are currently disassembling the fascia, which will be restored and then put back up on site as part of Gilbert’s “Development at Cadillac Square” project. (See the front-page article). So, before the rest of the building becomes a pile of rubble, let’s distribute some ink to celebrate one of Michigan’s oldest and historic theaters.

With the trend of constructing opulent movie palaces still about a decade away, the National Theater got some national love from a contemporary article. Upon the venue’s opening in September 1911, *The Architectural Review* said “as a moving picture theater in Detroit by Albert Kahn and Ernest Whitby,” the National Theater “is undoubtedly the best designed of any of the houses yet erected for that purpose in this country.”

The theater was built on Detroit’s Monroe Block, a once-vibrant commercial strip. Between 1852 and 1914, the strip housed numerous tenants: grocers, saloons, pawn shops, etc.

“However,” said the Detroit Historical Society, “this district is most famous as the first center for movie theaters in Detroit during the early 20th Century. John H. Kunsky opened the first movie theater in Detroit, the Casino, on Monroe Avenue in 1906. Between 1906 and 1914, five additional movie theaters opened on Monroe Avenue: the Bijou (1906), the Star (1907), the 1,006-seat Columbia (1911), designed by renowned theater designer C. Howard Crane, the National Theatre (1911), and the Family Theater (1914).”

The 800-seat National Theater would be Albert Kahn’s only theater design. Rather than focusing resources on the lobby, auditorium or stage, the design put most of the building’s money where its “mouth” was – outside. And the theater’s frontal design – which was architecturally all over the place – was a pure original.

“Kahn and his talented design associate Ernest Whitby used glazed terra cotta to sheath the exterior of this hybrid Baroque-Beaux Arts-Moorish amusement park design,” said the *American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture*. “The exterior white terra cotta included two eagles, carved stone rosettes, cupids and other small Art Nouveau details on the facade. The front is dominated by twin 64-foot-tall towers topped by gold domes. Leading up to them are towers faced with open grill work and a recessed arch over the entrance. Inside, a small lobby opened into a serviceable but hardly lavish auditorium such as seen in the city’s Fox Theatre.”

The National Theatre was best appreciated in its heyday, and then, at night. “The twin towers, deeply recessed entrance arch, and colorful Pevabic tile work add to the exotic character,” the *AIA Detroit Guide* continued. “Originally part of a retail streetscape that was chock full of competing signs and sights, the National was less conspicuous by day, but dominated the streetscape at night with its dramatic lighting.”

Added *Historic Detroit*: “Originally, the archway featured a massive stained glass window. Both the Moorish towers and the arch were dramatically lighted up by hundreds of bulbs at night, giving the theater an amusement park-like vibe.”

Adding to the sheen was glazed terra cotta, a material that was becoming popular as a sheathing for commercial buildings, said *The Legacy of Albert Kahn*. “It provided smooth surfaces and ornamental detail at a fraction of the cost of stone. The National Theatre on Monroe Street gave Kahn an opportunity for an



NIGHT-TIME was the right time to visit the National Theater in Detroit, shown lit up here a century ago with good old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs behind some decorative screening.

Photo credit: Manning Brothers Collection, Detroit Public Library

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IF YOU DON'T HAVE PLANS on Tuesday, meet us at the National Theater for its grand opening. You'll get your dime's worth just seeing the top act, those singing blacksmiths – The Famous Quaker City Four. Bonus: the National is “absolutely fireproof” and we can't wait to breathe some of that “washed air ventilation.”

Credit: Detroit Free Press advertisement, Sept. 24, 1911

imaginative use of terra cotta in a theatrical non-baroque design, greatly enhanced by nightly illumination.”

Inside, *Forgotten Detroit* said the “interiors were equally impressive. The arrangement was typical of the early movie houses. The lobby was a narrow space covered entirely with tan Pevabic tiles. From here people passed into a tasteful auditorium containing 800 seats. Most of these were situated on the main floor. The remainder were on a sizable balcony and accessed with stairways in the side towers. The interior continued the decorative treatment of the exterior with a feast of plaster and colorful stencil-work.”

In less than two decades, the National Theater was surpassed in Detroit by venues built a few blocks away in the city’s new theater district near Grand Circus Park. The Fox, the State, the United Artists, the Opera House, were built, among others. All were much larger and more well-appointed.

“Like most theaters in the early 20th Century, the National opened as a vaudeville house and later switched to showing films,” said *After the Final Curtain – The Fall of the American Movie Theater*. “However, the 800-seat theater could not compete with the larger movie palaces that were built nearby,



THE NATIONAL THEATER had a nice interior, but more lavish movie palaces would be built in Detroit in the 1920s.

# New year doesn't change buoyant construction outlook

(Continued from Page 1)

**Outlook.** The nationwide survey of 1,293 contractors in 49 states found that “firms predict transitions in demand for projects, the types of challenges they will face and the technologies, including artificial intelligence, they will embrace. Amid these changes, contractors are struggling to cope with significant labor shortages, the impacts of higher interest rates and input costs, and a supply chain that, while better, is still far from normal.”

The survey’s “net reading” – the percentage of contractor-respondents who expect the available dollar value of projects to expand compared to the percentage who expect it to shrink – is positive for 14 of the 17 categories of construction included in the survey, the same as it was in 2023. However, the AGC/Sage survey said a smaller share of respondents this year compared to last year expects the markets they compete in to expand in the coming year.

“2024 offers a mixed bag for construction contractors: on one hand, demand for many types of projects should continue to expand and firms will continue to invest in the tools they need to be more efficient,” said Stephen Sandherr, the AGC’s CEO. “Meanwhile, they face significant challenges when it comes to finding workers, coping with rising costs and weathering the impacts of higher interest rates.”

Like no other industry, construction is big, diverse, and difficult to define under a single sector. The AGC/Sage survey found that prospects for the water and sewer construction sector grabs the highest percentage (32 percent) of U.S. contractors who are “net positive.” Similarly, positive prospects are seen for “federal projects” (+29 percent).

Contractors are encouraged about infrastructure spending, even though only 9 percent of respondents said they have worked on projects on the massive, but slow-to-unravel \$1.1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law adopted by Congress in November 2021.

Power project and hospital/health care construction are also sectors with high positive expectations from contractors. There is also optimism in both K-12 and higher education construction, as well as warehouse and manufacturing facilities.

Lodging, retail and private office construction are the only sectors with negative expectations.

Out on the streets, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association estimates total spending for highway and bridge construction will rise 16 percent in 2024, following a 15 percent boost in 2023. “Transportation construction market activity is expected to increase or be steady in 38 states,” says Alison Black, senior vice president and chief economist at ARTBA.

Following are some other nuggets gleaned from the AGC/Sage survey:

•Most construction firms anticipate adding workers in 2024 to accommodate the higher demand for projects. More than two-thirds (69 percent) of the respondents expect to add to their headcount, compared to only 10 percent who expect a decrease.

•Hiring difficulties are becoming baked into the construction contracting world: 77 percent of respondents in the AGC/Sage survey say they are having a hard time filling some or all salaried or hourly craft positions. That’s only three points fewer than last year’s number. And 55 percent expect that hiring will continue to be as

difficult, or will become harder (20 percent). Those numbers are similar for both union and the open shop.

•A large majority of firms took steps in 2023 to attract and retain workers. Sixty three percent increased base pay rates more than in 2022. Additionally, 25 percent of firms provided incentives or bonuses and 24 percent of the firms increased their portion of benefit contributions and/or improved employee benefits. Only nine percent of firms provided no increases in pay, incentives, or benefits in 2023.

•Only 23 percent of respondents say they have not had any

significant supply-chain problems, “a marked improvement” over the previous two surveys. “By far, the most frequently mentioned issues are with electrical items such as panels, transformers, and the switchgear used to control, protect and isolate electrical equipment. Numerous contractors also mentioned heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment,” the survey said.

•What are the top contractor concerns? Three worry categories were listed by more than 60 percent of contractors: rising interest rates/financing costs; an insufficient supply of workers, and an economic slowdown or recession.

# Lawsuit aims to halt Biden's new PLA policy

(Continued from Page 1)

standards, work schedules and pay rates. Employers usually require no-strike language in PLAs.

It’s not difficult to imagine why nonunion contractors who may not have Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship programs, or who pay substandard wages and benefits, or who have sketchy safety records, would call the higher standards imposed by project labor agreements “discriminatory.”

North America’s Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey said the PLA policy is “welcome news for the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Project labor agreements ensure that large-scale projects are completed on time, with the highest quality, efficiency, and safety. Time and again, PLAs have proven to address labor supply issues, prevent work stoppages, protect workers’ classification, strengthen health and safety standards, and achieve substantial, direct cost savings by standardizing contract terms for highly skilled craft workers. PLAs also boost community economies through local hiring goals and recruitment of workers into apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship job training programs that uplift historically marginalized communities into middle-class construction careers.”

The AGC said in its filing that the PLA policy “is beyond the scope of executive authority. Current laws governing federal procurement do not provide the president with the authority to impose labor policies as a precondition for securing projects.”

The AGC further stated that “government-mandated project labor agreements require a contractor to negotiate with unions – regardless of whether they have ongoing relationships with those unions – and gives the unions immense leverage to set the terms and conditions of agreements because the contractor is required to have an agreement as a condition of being awarded the project. This allows unions to impose more costly work rules and practices.”

The PLA policy goes hand-in-hand with Biden’s pledge to be the most pro-union president in history. The administration’s new rules replaces an Obama Administration policy that was still in place, which suggested, but did not require, the use of PLAs on federal projects exceeding \$25 million.

# New Year's resolutions

By Jim Hightower

I made a few New Year’s resolutions this month – not for me, but as self-improvement ideas for some of the people running our country.

No need for them to thank me – happy to help.

I drafted one for the GOP’s whole ultra-rightist gaggle of lawmakers who keep blocking passage of health coverage for poor people. “Resolved: We will forego the gold-plated socialized health care we now take from taxpayers, because it’s only right that we be in the same leaky boat as our constituents.”



Then there are America’s 735 narcissistic billionaires who obviously need to find a moral compass. They’re so self-absorbed they keep wasting their money and “genius” on phantasmagoric plutocratic schemes to separate their fortunes from the well-being of the rest of us.

Then they wonder why they are not beloved. So, rich ones, let me help. Resolve in 2024 to demonstrate a little less hubris/a little more humanity, less strut/more sharing. Practice in front of a mirror – try seeing beyond you to the Common Good. It’s a beautiful and deeply rewarding place if you can find it.

And I didn’t overlook you Washington operatives and Big Money donors of the Democratic Party. Please resolve to camp out in grassroots America this year – where everyday little-d democrats want and need your attention and support. Not just in safe Blue districts, but especially in rural, purple, and even in red areas. You’ve abandoned them in recent years, but they still yearn to build a progressive governing majority for America’s future.

Of course, the problem with New Year’s resolutions is keeping them, and my honorees can’t be counted on. So, we have to keep pushing them to do what’s right.

“Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted.”

–Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

“A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone.”

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

“The rule is perfect: in all matters of opinion our adversaries are insane.”

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

# The Building Tradesman

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Steve Claywell  
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# For women in the trades, one size PPE does not fit all

(Continued from Page 1)

also need to take a look at their PPE supply.

According to a survey of 2,635 tradeswomen and nonbinary tradespeople by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, only 19 percent said they were always provided with gloves or safety equipment in sizes that fit. A survey by the Center for Construction Research and Training found that nearly nine in 10 women said they'd experienced such a problem.

A Canadian study of roughly 3,000 women found similar results. It also noted that there's a "shrink it and pink it" mentality among manufacturers, where they take PPE designed for men, make it smaller and pink, then sell it as PPE for women, sidestepping any differences in body type.

"Despite scientific evidence that anthropometric differences exist between men and women, PPE continues to be designed for 'all workers' based almost entirely on male anthropometry. In reality, what this means is that most PPE standards are not gender neutral, but 'gender blind,'" the authors wrote.

Local 640 member Sierra English works in energized maintenance, where flame-retardant suits are a necessity. They also almost always come in sizes made for men. Wearing pants that are too big isn't just uncomfortable. In electrified environments, overly baggy PPE can just as easily create danger as protect a worker from it. When English brought this up to her general foreman and asked for better-fitting pants, his response was less than helpful.

Eventually, English got the right pants. And as the head of her local's Women's Committee, she's working with Folmer and others, including the Arizona chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, to make sure other sisters have an easier time getting what they need. "It's been very effective having a Women's Committee," she said. "It gives you an official channel."

Even when a foreman is on board, sourcing can be an obstacle. Martinez, Calif., IBEW Local 302 Recording Secretary Cheyenne Lucero has had contractors tell her they couldn't order gloves or safety vests in her correct size because they aren't made that small. Or when they did, the items took longer to arrive. Boots are another challenge.

"In one case, I needed to buy specific boots for a job, and when I went to the store and gave them my size, the associate replied, 'That's child-labor size,'" said Lucero, who sits on Local 302's safety committee. In addition to the very real issues of protection, or being sent home because there isn't any proper-fitting PPE, are the harder-to-calculate concerns, like standing out even more than you already do. "It can make us feel like we aren't being taken seriously," Vancouver, British Columbia, Local 213 member Casey Aelbers said. "We experience impostor syndrome as it is. It doesn't help when you look like you're playing dress-up in men's clothing."

Tradeswomen often want to blend in and not be seen as "high maintenance," said Los Angeles Local 11 apprentice Dannielle Lewis about asking for something that others may see as frivolous. "Being called a 'princess' is annoying when all you want to do is be safe and efficient," she said. "It makes me not want to say anything because being the only African American woman on site can be hard enough. I don't want my crew and supervisors to see

me as unprofessional or unreliable." Lewis said she also runs into difficulties around hard hats and hair.



**IBEW Local 302 member Cheyenne Lucero proudly sports a baggy, but proper-fitting flash suit. "With the first one I wore, the inseam was down to my knees," she recalled. Credit: IBEW**

about their safety issues," Lewis said. "Our Women's Committee has also surveyed its members, and our local is listening."

Like a lot of tradeswomen, Lewis said resolving PPE issues has been a mixed bag, but her employer has been responsive. "Because I've struggled and communicated that to them, they better understand my issues," she said. "I now have a vest that fits perfectly, and it has a ton of pockets!"

A rule being considered by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration could also help. It would revise its PPE standard in construction to explicitly require that the equipment fit properly. OSHA rules can take years to be implemented, but it's a step in the right direction, said Nashville, Tenn., Local 429 member Heather Tatum. "It'll be a major milestone for women in the trades," said Tatum, who works as an OSHA instructor. "We deserve PPE that fits without feeling like we're asking for a special provision."

Lewis and Lucero said they'd like to see vendors that cater to women at events like the Safety Conference and the Women's Conference. Just don't make everything pink, Lucero cautioned. "Most women just want to work and be great at their trade," she said. "We don't need options that draw additional attention."

English noted that providing proper-fitting PPE is a way to demonstrate a company's commitment to diversity and inclusion. "Better PPE can help women feel like they belong," she said.

The Center to Protect Workers Rights has compiled a list of female-friendly PPE on its website. Some women have found support and recommendations through different social media channels, like the Safety Rack, which reviews PPE for women. Resources, while not as plentiful as they could be, are out there. Never forget that the IBEW is one of them, said Safety Director Mark MacNichol. "Safety is what the IBEW was founded on. It goes all the way back to Henry Miller and why we were founded," he said. "The goal is always to go home from work the same way you got there." Or, as Lewis put it: "Don't compromise on safety. Your life is worth more than the PPE will cost."

NECA (the National Electrical Contractors Association), the IBEW and the Electrical Training Alliance are planning to launch a campaign that will address many of these issues, said Debra Margraf, who serves as executive director of NECA's Arizona chapter and is working with English, Folmer and others.

"NECA and IBEW have the power to get the manufacturers to listen and create more products," Margraf said. "That's important, especially as we try to include more women in the trades."

"We're asked to tuck our hair into our hard hats at my site. If I have braids or my afro, that's a mission. I am constantly pulling my hair down so that it's flat," she said. "I'm pretty sure I'll be bald by the time I journey out. On the bright side, I'll be able to afford wigs by then."

On another bright side, Lewis has her local's support. "My local has pushed to bring more women into the trade, starting with PPE. Our safety director makes it a point to go to sites and speak to women



**Local 357**

**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service**

UA Local 357  
KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 13** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

**K-WINGS HOCKEY NIGHT:** Local 357 will be participating in a "night out" K-Wings Hockey Game on **Saturday, Feb. 3**, at 7 pm. Tickets will be at the K-Wings WILL CALL window. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at [lhatfield@ualocal357.com](mailto:lhatfield@ualocal357.com) on or before **Wednesday, Jan. 31**, to reserve your tickets.

**TRAINING INSTRUCTOR:** We are taking resumes for a full-time building trades instructor. Applicants must have welding and industrial rigging experience. If you would like to apply, please turn in your resume to Lori no later than **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. Contact Justin Rock at (269) 744-4424 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](http://www.ualocal357.com). Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

**RETIREE MEETINGS:** Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at Long Island Cafe, at 5222 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. Phone no. for the location is (269) 218-0003.

**MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES:** As a member, TIC International and Labor First provide a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at (888) 281-3461. For Medicare Retirees – Contact Labor First at (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC:** Check out the website at [www.ualocal357.com](http://www.ualocal357.com) and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ [www.facebook.com/UALocal357](http://www.facebook.com/UALocal357). You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when the hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Zachary Corliss, and family, on the birth of a son, Roman.

**CONDOLENCES:** Condolences to the family of brother Michael Jergens on his recent passing.



Plumbers 98  
DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98. The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you and your family are well. Go Lions!

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to [UALocal98.COM](http://UALocal98.COM). MED GAS, MED GAS, MED GAS! Coming to a job near you!

I thank and wish good luck to all those who feel it is important to run for these jobs below at Local 98.

**Special Elections for the offices of (1)-Business Agent, (1)-President, (1)-Recording Secretary, (1) Executive Board Position & (2) Examining Board Members. This will be held on Feb. 15, 2024 at the Union Hall from 9am - 7pm. Located at 555 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Hts., MI 48071.**

**To vote in the election all members must be in good standing for 1 year prior to the election, and 2 years in good standing to run for an office.**

**Members are asked to bring an ID or union card to the polls for verification. In event of a tie, a run off election will be held Feb. 26, 2024 from 3-7pm at the hall.**

**The following members are nominated according to how they were drawn at the nomination meeting.**

**For Business Representative. Vote only for one.** Mark Wisniewski, Dan Willingham, Mark Little, Jimmy Cools,

**President vote only for one.** Jeff Pulford, Ryan Lyle

**Executive Board vote only for one.** Mandy Morrison, Ron Lindsay

**Recording Secretary vote only for one.** Tom Ray, Dawn Melancon

**Examining Board vote for two.** Jeff Chene, Michael "Scott" Huber, "Elected"!

**Meetings & Union Hall.** The next regular Union meeting is Feb. 8 at 7pm at the Union Hall.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

**Retiree Meetings.** The next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 12pm–2pm at Local 98!

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

**Expelled members: There are no expelled members at this time.**

**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. 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 Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

**Benefits.** \*We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. Her name is Brooke, the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Brooke is receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Brooke. If Brooke is on the other line, please leave her a message and she will get back to you promptly.

**New Benefit.** We will have a new benefit for the working members of Local 98 and their families. We are proud to announce we have secured a 2-year agreement with Delta Dental starting March 1, 2024. There is zero cost to the fund at this time. Please watch the insurance mailings for the annual benefit information for 2024. We still will offer the DENCAP (Golden) Dental plan for the retired members who wish to purchase this plan.

**Worker Assistance Program.** Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and lead by or health professional C.J. Harrison,

you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo if you are looking to retire. Please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

**In Memoriam: Our sympathies to family and friends of Brother Richard Harju, initiated 08/21/1959, a 64-year member. Brother David Bossio, initiated 9/23/1999, a 24-year member. Rest in Peace Brothers.**

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers & Apprentices. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working nonunion or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187. Or get online at The Training Center for more information on Apprenticeships.

**In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98**

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435.** Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division will be instituting the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. When there is more information available, we will share it with you.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2024.**

**All classes are register and prepay by credit card, check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class. The 2024 upgrade classes are listed below. Please keep an eye out for the class you need or find interesting!**

**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 at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.**

**CLASS LIST 2024.**  
**ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification:** *Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly.* \$100

**8 hour recert class** April 16 & 17 Deadline is March 15

**8 hour recert class** July 23 & 24 Deadline is June 21

**8 hour recert class** October 22 & 23 Deadline is September 20

**ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):**

**Spring:** March 4 – May 13 Deadline is February 9 - \$200

**Fall:** Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$200

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

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

**Fall:** September 10 - October 15, Deadline is August 23 - \$100

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

**Spring:** March 6 - May 15. Deadline is February 9 - \$200

**Fall:** Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is August 23 - \$200

**CAD/BIM**

**Spring:** March 4 – May 13 Deadline is February 9 - \$100

**Fall:** Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$100

**Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):**

**Spring:** March 6 - May 15. Deadline is February 9 - \$200

**Fall:** Sept. 11 to November 20, Deadline is August 23 - \$200

**Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber**

**Spring:** March 6 - May 15. Deadline is February 9 - \$100

**Fall:** Sept. 11 to Nov. 20,



**DETROIT**  
Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

**Training Classes:** A fire pump testing class is being scheduled at the Local 704 Training Center. Call Jeff Gray to reserve your spot. ASSE 15000, ITM classes are scheduled for after the first of the year, this is a forty-hour class. Contact the training center for more information.

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.

Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order states: Members shall report all job starts to their local union office.

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.

As a reminder, please do not call Empower for questions regarding your Defined Contribution account. If you have questions, please contact one of the numbers below.

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

**Jason May (Merrill Lynch):** 248-655-4048 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

Condolences go out to the family of Retired Brother Wilfred Desjardin who passed away Nov. 25, 2021. Brother Desjardin was 72 year member of the United Association.

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

## Local 98, con't

Deadline is August 23 - \$100

**Hydronic Heating and Cooling**

**Spring:** March 6 - May 15. Deadline is February 9 - \$100

**Fall:** Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is August 23 - \$100

**OPEN WELDING – Winter is here. This is a great time to get into a booth, stay warm and get some welding in!** 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.

**\*\*2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Feb. 3, 2024. \*\*You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

**2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are available at the Training Center. You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10,** available as an online class for \$59 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://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.must-online.org](http://www.must-online.org). \*\*Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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



**Local 190**

Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

**ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING:** A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

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

**IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF/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 contactor and the date you reported back to work.* PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

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

**FUSING CLASS:** Anyone interested in registering for the fusing class, 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](http://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"

**CREDIT CARD MACHINE:** You now have the ability to pay your union dues or purchase merchandise by credit card or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A surcharge of 3.99% is added to your card on the transaction amount. We will then mail you your dues receipt and credit charge slip.

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 2023 HEALTH COSTS:** Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2023 health costs personally, you must submit information to our fringe benefit office by Feb. 15, 2024. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bernadette, 1-888-390-7473

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

**A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: each month on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday.** Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

**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 3:30pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a

call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MD-HHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

**Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current! Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.**

**Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule - Mondays – April 1, July 15, and Sept. 30. Each class will start at 5 pm.

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule – Mondays – April 15, July 22, and Oct 7. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

**Welding Lab:** Open welding lab schedule is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm-9pm. The welding lab will be reopened Jan. 4 and will be scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30pm. to 9pm. and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. 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). **2024 Schedule:** First course starts on Jan 9. The second course starts Sept 10. Courses run on Tue and Wed 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). **2024 Schedule:** First course starts Feb 13. The second course starts Oct 17. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

**Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2024 Schedule:** First course starts March 12th, 2024. The second course starts Aug 20th, 2024. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

**Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs):** This is a two-day course. **2024 Schedule:** First course starts April 16, Second course starts Sept 24. 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

**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 Spring 2024. 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: Monday, March 18, refresher starts at 5:00 p.m. and then on Monday, March 25, test starts at 5 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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



**Plumbers & Pipe Fitters**

UA Local 333

**LANSING –** The February meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing MI 48911.

**NOTICE:** Please plan on attending a Special Call meeting at the Lansing Union Hall, (5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911) on Feb. 13 at 6 pm. An Allocation vote effective June 01, 2024 will be discussed and voted on. All Members have been mailed a notice with additional details. Please call Price Dobernick if you have any questions prior to the meeting at the Lansing office.

**Attention:** Per Section 130 of the UA Constitution, monthly dues will go from \$28 per month to \$31 per month effective Jan. 1, 2024 for Journeymen with no change for retirees.

**A Diversity Committee Meeting** will be held Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5:30 pm at the Local 333 Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing MI.

**WELD CLASSES**  
LANSING. Beginning - 1/08/24 - 3/13/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 1/09/24 - 3/14/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30

JACKSON Beginning - 1/08/24 - 3/13/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 1/09/24 - 3/14/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30

BATTLE CREEK Welding - 1/08/24 - 3/13/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 8:30

**ADVANCE PIPEFITTING** - Jeff Thom, Instructor Lansing Training Center - Jan. 29, 2024 - Monday and Wednesday 5 - 8:30 Total hours to complete certification - 40 hours. Class limited to 12 members.

**INTRO TO NAVISWORKS** - Eric Kosloski, Instructor Lansing Training Center - Jan. 28, - Monday and Wednesday 5- 8:00 Total hours to complete class - 24 hours. Class limited to 6 members.

**MED-GAS CERTIFICATION** - Anyone interested in taking a Med-Gas class please sign up on the Website - UA333.Org.

Please sign up on the Website - UA333.org. If you need assistance call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

**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 the their expiration date or you will lose your certifications. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

**NOTE:** Members needing assistance with the Journeyman Plumbing Code test prep please contact Tim Hicks at the Training Center.

Battle Creek Retiree Breakfasts are held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café, 2587 Capital Ave., Battle Creek, MI at 9 a.m. Please spread the word.

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



**Local 671**

UA Local 671

**MONROE –** The next regular scheduled Union Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024 at 7pm. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on February 1, 2024. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassocationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

**Local 671 App:** Our Mobile app is back up and running after a large update required by the Apple App Store. The new username will be your last name and book number @ ibusiness-tech.com, (ex. smith1234567@ ibusiness-tech.com) and the password is your book number. Contact Vinnie if you have any issues logging in.

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.

**Health & Welfare:** If you are an active member on Local 671 Health & Welfare fund you should be receiving new insurance cards in the mail. If you did not receive a new card or need additional cards for dependents, please contact the Union Hall.

**New Arrivals:** We would like to congratulate Brother Anthony Kitts and his wife Jessica on the birth of a Son, Cameron Allen Kitts, on January 9th. We would also like to congratulate Brother Nolan Jakovac and his wife Morgan on the birth of their son Marshall William Jakovac on December 4th, 2023. Enjoy these wonderful gifts!

**Vehicle for Sale:** We will be accepting sealed bids from Local 671 members in good standing on the 2018 GMC Acadia. The starting bid will be \$12,500, and we will accept the bids until Thursday, February 1st at 4pm. The winning bid will be announced at the Union Meeting that evening. Please contact the Hall if you wish to see the vehicle. Members may drop a sealed bid off to the Hall or mail it in, no call-ins please.

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** The open weld shop nights are now Wednesday and Thursday nights from 6pm-10pm now that school is back in session. **There will be no open welding on Union Meeting or UA weld test nights.** A booth will need to be reserved by noon on the Monday prior to the practice night. If we have (3) or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

\*Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date.

Contact Justin if you want to sign up for the next UA Weld Test which is tentatively scheduled for 02/29/2024.

**Valve Technician Recertification Classes:** We will be (Continued next column)



**Local 370**

Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

**FLINT –** The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at 7:00. **Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**Weld Test Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7:00am**

**Med-Gas Jan. 8 thru March 7. Mondays and Thursdays @ 4:30**

**First Aid & CPR March 6th @ 4:30pm • Sept. 18th @ 4:30**

**Backflow March 11 thru April 8. Mondays and Thursdays @ 4:30**

**Night Welding Session 2 Feb. 12 thru March 6. Mondays and Wednesdays @ 4:30. Enrollment opens Jan. 22.**

**Night Welding Session 3 March 18th thru April 10th. Mondays and Wednesdays @ 4:30**

Enrollment opens Feb. 26 All classes and test days can be signed up with Kaytlin at 810-720-5243 ext 15.

**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, Feb. 13, 2024 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday Feb. 13, 2024 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday Feb. 13, 2024 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday Feb. 13, 2024, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

**ALL GM Worksites and**

**Local 671, con't**

holding (2) Valve Recertification Classes on February 3rd and March 2nd. If you have not been contacted for these classes yet, please review your certifications and contact Justin to ensure that you are up to date!

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

**Wachs Machining Class:** We will be conducting an introductory Wachs Pipe Machining Class. Contact Justin for details.

**Condolences:** We would like to again offer our condolences to Brother Aaron Musulin on the recent loss of his wife Jennifer; our thoughts are with you in this difficult time.

**In Closing:** Happy New Year to all, and with the new year we are faced with election season. Please make sure that you are registered to vote. Also, if you have recently moved, register in your new district and to update your driver's license. If any member is interested in helping or volunteering on a campaign, please contact the Union Hall and we can get you plugged in. Also, there are opportunities to work the election at your local municipalities. If anyone is interested, please contact me at the Union Hall.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://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.

Plumbing, Mechanical and Residential Code Books are now available at the hall. The books are \$75.00 each.

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 bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Zack Desrochers for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

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



Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.

**THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR**

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
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- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
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With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

- |                |                    |                 |
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| Boston, MA     | Milwaukee, WI      | San Diego, CA   |
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| Columbia, MD   | Phoenix, AZ        | Seattle, WA     |
| Denver, CO     | Pleasanton, CA     | Troy, MI        |
| Des Moines, IA | Portland, OR       | Washington, DC  |
| Hagerstown, MD | Riverport, MO      | West Covina, CA |
| Las Vegas, NV  | San Jose, CA       | Youngstown, OH  |
| Louisville, KY | Salt Lake City, UT |                 |



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

UA Local 636  
DETROIT – **Special Election Jan. 8, 2024 RESULTS**  
**Business Manager** (1 to be elected): Larry Krisniski – 391 votes - **Elected**  
**Financial Secretary-Treasurer** (1 to be elected): Jake Regits – 387 votes - **Elected**  
**Business Agent** (2 to be elected):  
(1) Jeff Selph – 77 votes  
(2) Mark Puz Jr. – 88 votes  
(3) Jeff Lewis – 216 votes - **Elected**  
(4) Dan Gurley – 278 votes - **Elected**  
(5) Mike Pierce – 147 votes  
Executive Board (1 to be elected):  
(1) John Verran – 87 votes  
(2) Mike Ferrante II – 65 votes  
(3) Brandon Spaulding – 125 votes - **Elected**  
(4) Kim Pigeon – 67 votes  
(5) Ed Hyvonen – 66 votes  
Financial Committee (1 to be elected):  
(1) Malcome Harris – 174 votes  
(2) Michael N. Sylvester – 58 votes  
(3) Bill Fast – 181 votes - **Elected**  
Examining Board (1 to be elected): (1) Jason Blouin – 330 votes - **Elected**  
Michigan Pipe Trades Delegates (2 to be elected):  
Frank Grammatico – 95 votes  
Jeff Rimer – 84 votes  
Lou Hadley – 31 votes  
Ed Hyvonen – 56 votes  
John Verran – 66 votes  
Mike Ferrante II – 43 votes  
Mike Pierce – 171 votes - **Elected**  
Mark Puz Jr. – 99 votes  
Brandon Spaulding – 112 votes - **Elected**  
Malcome Harris – 75 votes

A special thanks to Foreman Jeff Kovach and the rest of the Election Committee for your service working the poles; Gary Stefanich, Frank Wiechert, Terry Gilligan, Geary Tudball, Ralph Jarnot, Michael Tremblay, David Evans, James P. McCabe, Ronald A. Smith, Charles Dostal, Scott Regits, Larry A. Krisniski, Gary Granger, Joe Bourgeois, Gary Stancell, Jacques F. Merkau, and Carol Neeffe.

Congratulations to the newly sworn in officers. Brother Jeff Lewis BA will be policing the Western Wayne County and Downriver. Brother Dan Gurley BA will be policing Macomb, St. Clair, Huron, and Sanilac Counties. Brandon Spaulding Executive Board and Delegate, Bill Fast Financial Committee, Jason Blouin Examining Board, Mike Pierce Delegate.

**Rescheduled;** Before our next regular meeting Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024, Workman's Compensation Attorney Marshall Lasser will speak at 6:30 pm and answer any questions you have.

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

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next meeting will be held Feb. 15.**

The Dec. 19, 2023 Awards Banquet, UPDATE for those members earning Service Pins and Certificates that were unable to attend, you may pick up your Pin and Certificate at the Local for the next 60 days.

**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.

**Our deepest condolences** go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks: 40 Year Member Kenneth Roots Jan. 20, 2024; Member Rick (James) Shumaker lost his daughter Natalie Marie Shumaker Jan. 15, 2024 to a long illness; Member Phillip D'Angelo Jan. 8, 2024 father of David D'Angelo and Brother of Dean D'Angelo; Member Kevin Pohlman son-in-law and Member Chris Lakes Father Robert

H. Lake Jan. 2, 2024; Lifetime Member Don Munson Dec. 9, 2023; Lifetime Member James E. Campbell Nov. 22, 2023; Lifetime Member Curtis Wilson Nov.21, 2023; Lifetime Member Peter Keller Nov. 25, 2023; 27-year member and twin brother of Dennis, Douglas McVettie Nov. 25, 2023; Lifetime Member Alvin Clark Dec. 4, 2023. May they Rest in Peace.

**Get Well Wishes to;** Charles Baker, Barbara Brown, Adam Cloutier, Patrick Cullen, Theresa Danko, Douglas Detomaso, Michael Ferrante II, David Fox, Kevin Harper, Jamie Klimowicz, Joseph Petrocella, Andrew Sarniak, Mark Surowicz, Fred Watson, Kirt Williamson, Tom Mills, David Jarzab, Brian Mierendorf.

Following is a list of our 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!**

Arthur Abbey III, Ronald Adkins, Steven Bragg, Brad Fassler, Michael Fontana, Bruce Johnson, Jeanette Peters, Curtis Ruppel, Dwayne Muchenhirn, Robert Schroeder.

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

**S.U.B. -NEW-** SUB checks for Local 636 will be printed and mailed from BeneSys.

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.

Once direct deposit begins, 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 SUB-PAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website and 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 **248-641-4936** or **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](mailto: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 website is [www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys](http://www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys).

**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 248-641-4936 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.

(Continued next column)



**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111**

UA Local 111  
UPPER PENINSULA – **The next Union Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in Escanaba.**  
**Welding Classes:** Tuesday Evening weld classes are ongoing at the Escanaba Training Center, classes run from 5 pm-9 pm on a week-to-week basis. We are also starting Saturday weld classes, 8 am-4:30 pm, once a month. Contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew to be added to the notification list. Your position in the class is not confirmed until you receive a reply.

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

**MRA CARD:** Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill which includes: Patient Name  
Provider Name  
Date of Service  
Description of Service  
Amount of Service w/receipt of payment

Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site:** When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site [ua111.com](http://ua111.com) and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

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

**Local 636, con't**

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

**WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE CERTIFICATION PAYMENTS.**

**Training Center News.** REMINDER: The Training Center is down to 15 Welding Booths for night welding through the month of February due to upgrades.



**JA LOCAL 85 SAGINAW, MI Local 85**

UA Local 85  
The next **Union Meeting** will be on **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Road at 7:00 PM.

Congratulations to all that ran and to all that won in the Local 85 Election. New Officers, Trustees and Committee Members will be installed on Wednesday, Feb. 21 Union Meeting. I am excited to serve with all of you.

Please note: Our **new mailing address** for all correspondence has changed to 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 [jpomerville@ualocal85.org](mailto:jpomerville@ualocal85.org)  
Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 [jbador@ualocal85.org](mailto:jbador@ualocal85.org)  
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 [tdanielak@ualocal85.org](mailto:tdanielak@ualocal85.org)  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 [csteele@ualocal85.org](mailto:csteele@ualocal85.org)  
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 [rjanderson@ualocal85.org](mailto:rjanderson@ualocal85.org)  
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 [ktuthill@ualocal85.org](mailto:ktuthill@ualocal85.org)

Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://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](http://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 Cash Eldred!

**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](mailto: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](http://www.ualocal85.org).

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

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 6,

(Continued next column)



**Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades**

UA Local 174  
COOPERSVILLE – **MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

**Retiree Breakfast:** The retiree breakfast will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2024**, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Condolences:** It is with sadness that brother Roger Johnson passed away on 1/18/24. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Johnson family.

**Building Trades Instructor:** Local #174 J.A.T.C. is hiring a full time Building Trades instructor. The ideal candidate will have a Michigan Plumbing License, practical plumbing experience, and working knowledge of CAD. The job duties include: creating and developing curriculum both in the classroom and the shop, monitoring apprentice progression, helping apprentices attain licenses and certifications and working with the training staff to ensure apprentices receive a well-rounded education. Please submit resumes to Chris Phillips at [cphillips@ua174.org](mailto:cphillips@ua174.org), or drop it off at the training center office. Resumes will be accepted until January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Organizing Update:** I've been getting quite a few calls from workers interested in joining our union, so thank you for spreading the word and talking it up on the job sites! As I've stated numerous times, the best voice we have is our members in the field! Embrace the non-union worker, all they know is what their boss tells them or teaches them about the union. "We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages and benefits!"

It has never been a more perfect time to organize with the workload that is here, but it's definitely a team effort! The message is clear; you deserve better wages, benefits, and representation which is why you need 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.

**New Aetna Cards:** Aetna has mailed new I.D. cards to all members who are enrolled in active member coverage (not Medicare retirees). The only difference between the old card and the new card is the toll-free number on the card. All other information will be the same.

**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 & 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, Labor First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at [rbennett@ua174.org](mailto:rbennett@ua174.org). Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

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

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

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

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

**Labor Councils:** - Kent Ionia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location  
Lakeshore – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**  
**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of every month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, February 8th, 2024, and Thursday, March 14th, 2024. Please call/text if you plan to attend.

**WCP:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, February 10th, 2024, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, February 8th, 2024, from 5:00p – 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

**ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER:** Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 5th, 2024 @ 5p – 9p. The class will run on Mondays and Wednesdays for 6 weeks.

**HVAC/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety: Flammable and Mildly Flammable Refrigerants (A2L):** As the HVACR industry continues to move forward and innovate, common refrigerants that were once used are now being phased out and replaced with Low GWP refrigerants(A2L). Technicians will require additional training in the safe handling and transportation of these refrigerants. Night training classes will be offered for A2L safety certifications and dates will be announced soon. The prerequisite required to attend this class is holding a current EPA608 certification.

Please contact the Training Center to sign up for upcoming class offerings; classes are generated once there are enough people signed up. If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

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

**Local 85, con't**

2024 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



SETTING KITCHEN CABINETS in a 17th floor apartment at the Residences @ 150 Bagley project in Detroit are Michigan Regional Carpenters Council members Kevin Wychuyse (Local 687) and Dominic Sprinkles (Local 1234). They're employed by Landry Carpentry and Millwork.

## Strong end to 2023 provides momentum into 2024

U.S. construction starts rose 20 percent in December, providing a year-end bump that saw starts decline 4 percent during the course of 2023 compared to 2022.

Nonresidential building starts rose 37 percent during the month, while residential starts gained 8 percent and nonbuilding starts improved by 13 percent.

For the full year of 2023 compared to the previous year, residential and nonresidential starts were down 13 percent and 8 percent, respectively, but nonbuilding starts (usually infrastructure) were up 16 percent. "Construction starts ended the year on a positive note," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network on Jan. 18. "Looking ahead, the new year provides promise that positive momentum will continue to build. The planning queue is stabilizing, and the promise of lower (interest) rates should spur construction onward. While hurdles remain, including scarce labor and tight credit, 2024 should be a more positive year for the construction sector."

Meanwhile, construction employment, and industry wages, enjoyed healthy year-over-year hikes at the end of 2023. The U.S. construction sector added 17,000 employees in December, which bolstered the total of 197,000 industry jobs that were added during the entirety of 2023. That 2.5 percent gain in employment outpaced the 1.7 percent job growth in the entire U.S. economy.

And construction industry wages are rising at a faster clip than the rest of the economy. Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory employees in construction – covering most onsite craft workers as well as many office workers – climbed by 5.1 percent over the year to \$34.92 per hour. The average wage hike for the entire U.S. economy was 4.4 percent, which is outpacing the 3.4 percent consumer inflation rate.

## AFL-CIO defends 'joint employer' rule against Republican attack

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The AFL-CIO is defending a key National Labor Relations Board pro-worker rule – mandating that both corporate headquarters and local franchises are jointly responsible for obeying or breaking labor law – against a Republican onslaught.

The onslaught is a "messaging" bill, HJRes 98, from the Republican-run and deeply polarized House Education and the Workforce Committee. Using the Congressional Review Act, it would outlaw the joint employer rule and ban all further NLRB action on the issue, too, ever.

That also would be a big roadblock to worker organizing, federation Government Affairs Director Bill Samuel wrote lawmakers on Jan. 9. HJRes 98 was scheduled to hit the House floor late in the week. But a right-wing budget revolt on January 10 defeated the "rule" governing debate on it, so Republican leaders had to pull it off the agenda.

But even if it passes, it's unlikely to move farther. Senate Labor Committee Chair Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., that chamber's strongest pro-worker lawmaker, supports the NLRB's rule.

And the White House Office of Management and Budget told lawmakers that if HJRes 98 reaches Democratic President Joe Biden's desk, he'll veto it.

"Workers have the right to bargain for fair wages and working conditions with every company that directly or indirectly controls their terms and conditions of employment," OMB said.

"Too often, companies deny workers this right by hiding behind subcontractors, staffing agencies, and temporary agencies. Reversing this rulemaking will prevent workers from exercising their right to bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions. Simply put, this legislation would mean lower wages for working families.

"If the president were presented with HJRes. 98, he would veto it." (OMB's emphasis)

"The NLRB's 2023 joint employer rule replaces the Trump-era regulation purposefully crafted to restrict workers' rights and undermine their legitimate organizing efforts," Samuel wrote, trying to kill HJRes 98 on the House floor.

"The new rule establishes a reasonable standard based on longstanding common-law principles, ensuring entities with control over working conditions are recognized as joint employers. This is essential for compliance with the National Labor Relations Act and the facilitation of effective collective bargaining.

"Critics' concerns that the new rule threatens popular business models like franchising and staffing services are unfounded. The rule's realistic standard extends the obligation to bargain only to those firms that control workers' essential terms and conditions of employment and would in no way threaten or disrupt franchise arrangements or staffing firms."

The GOP's messaging bill, being pushed by virulently anti-worker committee chair Virginia Foxx, R-N.C., and her Republican colleagues, would not only reimpose the Trump joint employer rule "but it would also hinder the board's ability to take any further action to address the uncertainty and confusion that would ensue," Samuel explained.

"The Trump board's rule is the subject of a pending challenge in court. To ensure the stability and sanctity of workers' collective bargaining rights, we urge you to oppose any effort to weaken or nullify the board's current joint employer rule.

"Establishing a clear legal framework for union representation is crucial for stability in labor relations, allowing more workers to enjoy the full benefits of collective bargaining, including higher wages, benefits and safer working conditions."

**IBEW Local 498**  
TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

**Regular E Board**– The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Feb 12, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting**–The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, Feb 12, 2024.

**Death Notice** – Retired Brother Loren B. Rumsey has passed away in Jan 2024. He was initiated into membership on Dec 1, 1960. Our condolences go out to his friends and family. May he rest in peace.

**First Aid/CPR** – Class is scheduled for Jan 31, 2024 @ 5PM. Call the hall or JATC to reserve your spot.

**75th Anniversary of Local Union 498** – Look for invites for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Party to be held at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City. You will receive it by USPS and electronic email. You will have to RSVP so we can get a good count for attendance. We are looking for volunteers to help also. Please call Dave or Dylan.

**Negotiations** – Negotiations are coming up this winter. It would be appreciated if you could bring any good ideas to the next regular meetings.

**Habitat Update** – Rough in coming up soon at New Wave subdivision off M72 and Bugai Road. Planning for the Feb 17 & 24 for Rough in. Please call the hall if you can volunteer.

**Resale Items** – We have Local 498 t-shirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing

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

**Scholarship** – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to [www.gtrf.org/scholarships/](http://www.gtrf.org/scholarships/). Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

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

**Made in America Websites** – [www.theunionbootpro.com](http://www.theunionbootpro.com) - 100% American made/union made. Union member discounts 27% off. Use this code when ordering. Be0498mD or order toll free 1-800-723-5384.

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

**Important numbers for you to write in your address book:**

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

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

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

NEBF 1-301-556-4300  
NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

**DUES RATES**

Jan 1, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.

July 1, 2024 – Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter.

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

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



## IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252  
ANN ARBOR – \*Financial Advisor Joe Moynihan will be at the February Union Meeting to discuss finances.\*

**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 2024: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM**

Conduit Bending class Tuesdays, January 9 thru February 13, 2024

Instrumentation Part B Tuesdays, January 16 thru March 12 2024

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program Mondays, January 15, 29 & February 12, 2024

Code Update session 1 Mondays and Thursdays, March 4, 7, 11, & 14, 2024

Code Update session 2 Mondays and Thursdays, March 18, 21, 25, & 28, 2024

Code Update session 3 Mondays and Thursdays, April 8, 11, 15, & 18, 2024

Code Update session 4 Mondays and Thursdays, April 22, 25, 29, & May 2, 2024

CPR/First Aid Tuesdays, March 7, 14, June 6, 13, September 5, 12, December 5, 12

There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register.

**LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OPENING:** If you're interested in filling the open labor management committee seat or looking for more information please contact President Mike Cox at (734)424-0978.

**TRAINING DIRECTOR OPENING:** The AAEJATC is accepting applications for Training Director. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest that addresses specifically how your experience and qualifications meet the duties and desired qualifications of the position, a current resume, and any transcripts, diplomas, or certifications to the AAEJATC, located at 13400 Luick Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118, or submit by email to Hope Salyer at [hopes@aaejatc.org](mailto:hopes@aaejatc.org), by February 29, 2024. All applications will be kept confidential.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION/ EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS:** There will be a meeting at the Hall with our financial advisor, benefits office, and training center on February 21st 5:00pm to discuss the structures of our system. Although this will be geared toward new members all members are welcome to attend. Significant others are also encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to [info@ibew252.org](mailto:info@ibew252.org) or (734)424-0978 so we can estimate the amount of food to provide.

**2024 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR:** Purchase your 2024 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2024 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2024! Beginning Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 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, 2024. 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.union4lifefcharity.com](http://www.union4lifefcharity.com).

**PHEASANT 4 LIFE HUNT:** There will be a field hunt on the morning of March 9, 2024 at Ringneck Ranch, 14904 Hanover Rd., in Hanover to benefit U of M Rogel Research Center. The hunt usually begins between 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$150 per person, with a deposit of \$50 due by Monday, February 15th. If a dog is needed it is \$100 per group. Payments can be made at the JATC, Union Hall, or by Venmo. Bird cleaning is \$3.50 per bird if desired. Food, beverages and snacks will be provided.

BYOB. Contact Joe Jarecki for more information at (734) 770-5114 or [joejarecki4@gmail.com](mailto:joejarecki4@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

**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](http://UnionPlus.org/ATT) with discount code 4924966.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are

running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement 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.

**CREDIT CARDS:** The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

**DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 for first quarter 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 29, 2023.**

**Future Dues Increases:**  
**Effective July 1, 2024:** A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.  
**Effective January 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.  
**Effective July 1, 2025:** A Members will pay \$143.25 per

*"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results."*  
–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

**CASH FOR SCRAP METAL**

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>McNichols</b> Scrap Iron &amp; Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) <a href="http://mcnicholsscrap.com">mcnicholsscrap.com</a> <b>(313) 365-6100</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Detroit</b> Iron &amp; Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) <a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a> <b>(313) 841-5100</b></p>
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**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](http://www.ssdfighter.com)



**IBEW Local 948**  
**FLINT - Meetings**  
**Membership Meeting**—Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be February 12th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.  
**Retiree Meetings** - Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month starting back in April.

**Party Committee** - All members of the party committee would like to thank the membership for the enormous turnout for this year's Christmas party. We greatly appreciate the feedback and look forward to our next event.

**AFL Educational Meetings** - Attention all members. Before every monthly meeting at 5 PM, our hall will be hosting educational meetings presented by the AFL-CIO. These meetings aim to further educate our members on core regulations, acts, and laws that play a key role in our careers. For any questions or concerns please contact Jenny Wallace.

**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 slow with a gradual increase in calls projected post-strike. Steady calls have been available for GM centers. Long term calls for service truck drivers have been made available. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

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

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

**New Store Stock** - To all members interested, we have new merchandise at our hall. New stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

**Thank You to Kristen McDonald Rivet** for taking the time to visit our hall and speak with us all. We hope good luck and success for you on the campaign trail to come.

**Thank You to Carly Rose** from the AFL-CIO for the educational speeches about upcoming political acts. We hope to host you again at future points and look forward to the forward pushing labor movement.

**CPR Class** - Thank you to all members in attendance at our latest CPR certification course. We will be scheduling more in the future and will post the information promptly.

**New Membership** - Welcome to our latest member; Shawn Frederickson. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

**Retirees** - Congratulations to Timothy Kilbreath, Dale Selden, and Steven Teel on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

*"Learning to live in the present moment is part of the path of joy."*

— Sarah Ban Breathnach  
*"The cruelest lies are often told in silence."*  
 — Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894)

*"The universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession, what there is of it."*  
 —Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

*"Look well into thyself; there is a source of strength which will always spring up if thou wilt always look there."*  
 —Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

*"Consult your friend on all things, especially on those which respect yourself. His counsel may then be useful where your own self-love might impair your judgment."*  
 — Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



**WIRING A LIGHTING circuit on the 13th floor of the Residences @ 150 Bagley project in Detroit is Frank Licavoli of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Edgewood Electric.**



**IBEW 58**  
**DETROIT**—The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

**Electrical Industry Training Center** is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroit-ibew.org/continuing-education/>. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

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

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers**- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. \$100.00 Donation per Brick.

**NOTE:** No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** - Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt - if your paid through date shows 12-31-2023 or earlier, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind). If you are paid through 6-30-2023--you have lapsed and will have to see the Executive Board. It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement or death benefit.

You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** The next DEWBF meeting will be Feb. 6 at 5:30pm. Our next event will be the Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Fund Raiser, Sunday, Feb. 11. There is a \$10 entrance fee. Super Bowl raffle tickets are available now at the hall for \$20 each or electronic payment options to purchase raffle tickets are available at Venmo: @belly58bf or Cash App: \$belly58bf. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mike Bellhorn at 586-612-5964 or Gym Mackey at 313-727-6269. All prizes from the Super Bowl event are provided by ABC Warehouse in Canton. For a discounted price call Ryan Heinrich at (734) 981-7780.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 13, 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). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area

and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 13 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, Feb. 19 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. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. Thank you to all of the delegates to the Annual EWMC Leadership Conference in Atlanta celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the organization. It was jam-packed with information, education, networking and entertainment. Now it's time to get to work here at home. We have a lot of events and projects on the horizon this year and we need all hands-on deck. We have our annual DPSCD March Reading Month event coming up and we need all to sign up so that we can fill all of our spots.

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

**The RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

**The Veterans Committee** - will now be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 starting at 5:30 pm.

**The Political Action Committee (PAC)**- If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at [registrar@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:registrar@ibewlocal58.org). Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

**Local 58's Women's Committee**- Our next meeting will take place on Feb. 22, 5:30pm at the Hall and also on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at [58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org](mailto:58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

**Local 58 Motorcycle Group:** Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ [313-999-3829\\_aanderanin@gmail.com](mailto:313-999-3829_aanderanin@gmail.com) or Grace Trudell @ [517-715-7563](mailto:517-715-7563) for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

**IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association:** Our next board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 at Corsi's Banquet Center, 27910 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 12:30. Send your reservations with your

checks (payable to the Retirees Association) in the amount of \$25 per person, to IBEW #58, Attn Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756, questions call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885. THE FLORIDA LUNCHEON is happening on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, if you are interested in attending, please contact Syl Ludwic, at 352 250-1178 or [sludwic@gmail.com](mailto:sludwic@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. 2024 DUES: If you haven't paid yours yet, send your checks for \$8 per person, to the aforementioned address at the local.

The ORAL HISTORY PROJECT has started back up, if you are interested in adding your story to this collection, call the local at 313 963-2130 to put your name on the interview list. You will be contacted by a member of the committee for interview dates and times. COME ON OUT for a luncheon, there is always good food, a 50/50 drawing, and this is a perfect time to get out and catch up on what everyone's been up to.

**The Retirees Annual Florida Luncheon** will be on Feb. 21, (Wednesday). It's getting close to that time of year. Yes, the great Florida annual Luncheon. I hope everyone had a good summer. I was disappointed to find that Austin's Olde World restaurant is no longer open for lunch. Therefore, for this year, we will hold it Feb. 21 at Applebee's, 4329 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL, 34293, 941-497-7740. They will close a section for us, we order off the menu and pay our own bill. Time of arrival 11:45. After lunch we can discuss other alternatives or continue to hold it there. I would like everyone to let me know if you plan to attend, so Applebee's can close off the proper space. Contact information is: Syl Ludwic, 352-250-1178, or [sludwic@gmail.com](mailto:sludwic@gmail.com)

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

**Electrical Workers Credit Union** - Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates!! New

auto as low as 5.75%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone no., address, and email.

**Members who have Passed Away:** Joshua D. Garbutt, JIW, Brother to JIW Andrew Garbutt; Vance LaMee Sr, Pension member, 56-year IBEW membership, Father to Pension member Vance LaMee Jr.; Paul Prouty Jr., Pension member, Father to JIW Paul Prouty III, & Step Father to JIW Christopher Saylor; Donna Schultz, Spouse to Pension member Lawrence Schultz, Sister-in-law to the late pension member Richard Schultz. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

There will be more information about the event coming out in



**Local 275**

**IBEW 275**  
**COOPERSVILLE** - The work outlook continues to be very busy, with the potential of several large projects kicking off this Spring and Summer in addition to the work our contractors have already secured. We've had various open job calls for some time and plan to have more over the coming weeks and months. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

Contract negotiations are coming up soon and we are gathering member proposals to sift through in the lead up to the first meeting. If you would like to suggest proposals for negotiations, there is a form you can submit on our website, [www.ibew275.org](http://www.ibew275.org), under the Member Resources tab, click on "Wages Bylaws and Agreements." It is password protected. You can get the password by calling the Hall if you don't have it.

With the tremendous amount of work right now, the Local has been organizing new members of all levels to fill calls and grow the Local. If you've been to a Union meeting recently, you'd know we've been swearing in 10-15 new members monthly for the last several months. We can use all the help we can get, so if you know any electricians in your social circles and/or communities, please encourage them to reach out to one of our organizers, Walter or Geoff.

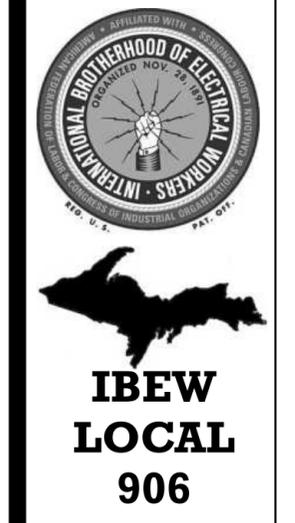
We are currently working on filling open delegate positions for both the Lakeshore and Kent/Ionia Labor Councils. We have had a few members volunteer already but could certainly use more. Anyone who might be interested in volunteering their time for the Local or would like more information on what a labor council delegate does, please contact Walter at the Union Hall.

The 2024 West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, March 28! Please mark this date on your calendars if you plan to attend this year's event.

There will be more information about the event coming out in

the following weeks. Again, this year, WMUL is looking for wild game donations (fish, venison, etc.) from local union members. If you have any extra fillets or meat in your freezers that can be donated, please contact Walter at the Union Hall.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Trevor Bodnar, Steve Bond, Adam Engle, Mark Holzinger II, Kevin Koon, Trevor Kreft, Christopher Wagner. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.



**IBEW Local 906**  
**UPPER PENINSULA - Meetings- 7pm local times**  
**Marquette unit- First Tuesday**

**Iron Mountain unit** - Second Tuesday  
**Escanaba unit** - Second Wednesday

**Brothers and Sisters,**  
 A big thank you to the RENEW Committee and everyone in attendance for making the inaugural Local 906 Christmas Party a success. If you are interested in joining RENEW and helping with future events, the committee meets via zoom on the first Thursday of each month. Please reach out to the hall for further details.

The JATC has started another class of 12 as of January 1st. Congratulations to those brothers and sisters. Remember to make them feel welcome and to urge them to get involved. It is our job as journey persons to mentor these young members

Reminder: The retiree luncheon is still being held every third Thursday of the month at the Vierling restaurant in Marquette.

Reminder: Monthly dues remain \$45 per month until July 1<sup>st</sup> when they will increase to \$46 per month.

## IBEW 58, continued

auto as low as 5.75%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>. Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone no., address, and email.

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**DETROIT ELECTRICAL WORKERS BENEVOLENT FUND**  
**21ST ANNUAL KEN FITZHENRY FUND RAISER**

**2024**

**\$20 PER TICKET**  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT HALL**

**DOORS OPEN @ 4PM**

**\$10 ENTRANCE FEE**

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

COME ENJOY THE GAME ON BIG SCREEN TV'S, WHILE ENJOYING FOOD & BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS OF DEWBF

RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE - HOME THEATRE RECLINER & 75" TV  
 MANY OTHER TV'S, SOUNDBARS, SPEAKERS

**ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OPTIONS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS:**  
 VENMO: @BELLY58BF OR CASH APP: \$BELLY58BF

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MIKE BELLHORN  
 586-612-5964 OR GYM MACKKEY 313-727-6269

KL 0PEIU42AFL CIO RAFFLE LICENSE NO. R72769



**IBEW**  
**Local 131**  
Serving Southwest Michigan  
Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

**KALAMAZOO – The next General Membership Meeting** will be held on Feb. 5, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on Feb. 5, at 5 p.m.

**IBEW Strong** meeting will be held on Feb. 8, at 12:30 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on Feb. 19, at 5 p.m.

**Brotherhood night** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30PM.

The **Pension Education** Meeting will be held on Feb. 29, at Union Hall, at 6:00PM.

The **Veterans Committee** Meeting will be held on Feb. 1, at Union Hall, at 5:00PM.

The **Work Outlook** continues. We have open calls for Hi-Tech. Moore and Hi-Tech all have crews working on the Pfizer site. Work at Zoetis downtown is moving along. Fleming Instrumentation and Gurtz are still working on the MAPS Project and plan to be there until the end of March. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome have several floors up, with more windows being installed all the time. Yes, there are a few warm spots. The State of Michigan has approved the 2023 NEC code book. We are still waiting for the requirements for the Code Update Classes.

**RETIREMENT:** NEBF and IBEW PBF application takes at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down:

NEBF 301-556-4300  
IO Pension 202-833-7000

**Retiree Lunches** at the following locations:

Feb. 21, Red Lobster 6535 S. Westnedge Ave. Portage, @ 11.

March 20, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 E. Main St. Kalamazoo. @11.

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 a.m.

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

**With a heavy heart** I am sad to report Brother William Nederhoed, a 44-year member, passed away on Jan. 7, 2024, at the age of 81. Bill was a good mechanic and gunsmith. Bill will be missed.

**Wilson-McShane** has been sending emails addressing your special fund accounts. Receipts are required when using the special fund card (WEX Account). Wilson-McShane is asking for receipts. You must produce them, or the IRS requires that you pay taxes on the payouts. The Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) explanation of benefits could be used. Please call the hall or Wilson-McShane for help.

**Three Months** or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Joshua Chopp, Joshua Cook, Justin Garcia, Richard Peebles, Justin Sowash, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, and Joseph Zirkelbach II.

**K - Wings** Hockey game on Jan. 26, against Fort Wayne Komets. The local website has a link to purchase the tickets.

Check out the Local 131 **website**. There is a new tab called "Retirees." You can find the calendar of events. There is a list of those who have retired. If you think of something you believe we should post, please let me know. All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the "Memorials" Tab.

If you hear of anyone's passing, please notify the Hall. Job listings can be tracked. A recorded message of calls for employment will be available after 5 PM by calling (269) 382-1762 and posted on the website under "Job Listings". The job call will list the name of the employer and the number of employees needed. The Union business office will offer all the work calls available  
**(Continued next column)**

# IBEW LOCAL 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

**BAY CITY – Union Meeting.** The February monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Executive Board Meeting.** The February Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Message from the Business Manager.**

**Work Report.** Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:

-Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain - Many more projects to come at Powertrain.

-J. Ranck Electric – continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility.

-Master Electric has begun Electrical installations on the new Isabella County Jail. Calls for this project have been on the recorder.

-Countyline has secured Airport Work. Countyline has a Michigan Sugar De-Sugarization Project and also a project at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility. Look for job calls from Countyline.

-Clements Electric Independence Bridge work continues along with Bay Carbon Project, and also work out to the Bay City State Park.

-Conti Electric has many projects inside I -Park (DOW). Conti Electric has also secured a couple small projects inside Michigan Sugar along with a nice Fire Alarm Project on site at M.S.

-Many, many solar projects are on their way. I can see up to 400 Mw for 2024

-Econ has secured a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end. Much more work is to come out of Mersen with projects bidding as you read this article.

-The State has approved its final permit for the Great Lakes Tunnel. The last permit needed for this project to occur is in the hands of the Army Corp of Engineers. It is unknown at this time how long this process will take.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books. In Solidarity,  
**Ryan Charney**  
*Business Manager / Financial Secretary*

**Organizers Report.** We would like to congratulate Local 692 Installer Technicians Brandon Plude and Rodney Austin for passing their BICSI examination and obtaining credentials. Great job, brothers!

As always, 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to achieve higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations.

Regular school visits and renewed partnerships with area ISD programs will continue though the fall and winter in an effort to recruit apprenticeship applicants and increase overall interest in the skilled trades. Area public school administrators have reached out directly for assistance in creating curriculum and pathways to pre-apprenticeship for their students. It seems after many years of neglecting the skilled trades in lieu of college our education system has embraced the benefits of promoting a career in the skilled trades.

Feel free to contact agents if you are interested in up-to-date work reports or if you'd like to register on out-of-work lists. Saginaw, Lansing, Detroit, Ann

## IBEW 131, con't

at the time of the job offer. Any registrants that are interested in a call may either apply in person at the union business office between 8 AM and 8:30AM OR leave a message on the recorder, stating they wish to apply for a job call.  
**Morris Appleby**  
*Business Manager*

Arbor, and West Michigan have all recently experienced open calls. Flint and Local 692 expect more calls at various projects through winter and into spring.

Our website has been updated and is now live. Please visit [www.ibew692.net](http://www.ibew692.net) and let us know if you'd like us to add additional information or options. Members can pay dues, check their position on the out-of-work list, find links to health and pension plan portals and more.

New stickers and 2024 planners are now available at the hall. New pencils and pencil clips are expected to arrive any day.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225  
[bklele@ibew692.com](mailto:bklele@ibew692.com)  
Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131  
[bbaranek@ibew692.com](mailto:bbaranek@ibew692.com)

**Union Dues**

**PLEASE NOTE: Effective January 1, 2024, dues will remain \$45.20 per month through June 2024. Effective July 1, 2024, dues will increase to \$46.20 per month.** This \$1 per capita increase was approved by the delegates of the 40<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**2024 Dues (January 2024 thru June 2024): \$45.20 Monthly**  
**2024 Dues (July 2024 thru December 2024): \$46.20 Monthly**

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

**Retirees Lunch.** The February retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Log Cabin Bar and Grill, located at 181 Main Street in Freeland.

**RENEW.** On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, RENEW committee will be hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Brotherhood on the Bay fishing tournament on the Saginaw Bay watershed. This year Local 557 Saginaw RENEW is also participating in the event. In addition to individual prizes for heaviest perch and heaviest walleye, a travelling trophy will be awarded to either 557 or 692 for the combined weight of the three heaviest walleyes from each local.

Fishing contest is open to all IBEW retirees and active members in good standing. \$20 entry fee the day of tournament, \$15 if you preregister by contacting Cody at 989.600.4643. Each entry will receive a ticket for door prize raffles and a fish dinner. You needn't fish to receive a door prize ticket or dinner.

Registration is 5 AM to 7 AM, dinner is available starting at 5 PM, and fish are weighed from 5 PM to 7 PM at the hall. Please consider supporting RENEW and enjoying a delicious fish dinner with brother and sisters.

It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their communities through their local union. If you are a 692 member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in RENEW, meetings are held once a month following general membership meetings.

**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.

Effective June 1, our third-party administrator (T.I.C.) has been replaced by Wilson - McShane. Here is updated contact information for the Health Plan & Pension Fund:

**Important links & numbers**

**Health Plan & Pension Fund.** 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE  
[www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300  
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

*"A mind too active is no mind at all."*

—Theodore Roethke (1908 - 1963)



**IBEW**  
**Local 445**

IBEW 445

**BATTLE CREEK – Negotiation Survey Postcard.** You should have received your Negotiation Survey Postcard. Please scan the QR code and complete the survey. It will take about 10 minutes, but it will help the Negotiation Committee tremendously.

**Members' passings in 2023:** we recently lost Brother Robert "Bob" Presley, a 39-year member. Please keep Bob and his family in your thoughts and prayers. We also lost Brothers Kenneth Eyre, Dennis Beatty and Ira Beach in 2023. A moment of silence for each Brother!

**Delta Dental – Active Members** should have received the new Delta Dental cards and information on the covered services. If you haven't received your cards, please contact the Hall. You can also visit [deltadentalmi.com](http://deltadentalmi.com) and set up an account to see your dental card as well as your EOB's.

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

**2024 Personal information** As we have entered into the new year, it is time to think about your personal information that we have on file at the Hall. 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 if you need to update them.

**Executive Board E-Board** meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.

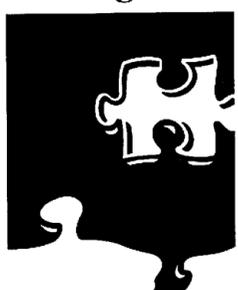
**Wilson-McShane** has replaced TICI for our benefit administration as of June 1, 2023. Please have a little patience as the transition has had some bumps that they are smoothing out. You can visit [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org) to create a new account under the *Member Portal tab*. You should have received new Special Fund cards that are white. Please dispose of the old blue cards as they will no longer work. The website to access your *Special Fund* is <https://ibewmichigan.lh1ondemand.com/Login.aspx>. There is an app you can download from your app store **MI IBEW Special Fund**.

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

**Local Website -** Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is [IBEW445.com](http://IBEW445.com). Make sure you check out the **Resource Link** page for important related websites.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**Wanda Secrest**  
*Recording Secretary*

## You Are the Missing Piece.



**Attend Your Union Meetings!**

*"Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator and change has its enemies."*

—Robert F. Kennedy (1925 -

*"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure."*

—Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

*"We cannot fail to win unless we fail to try."*

—Tom Clancy (1947 - )



# IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

**SAGINAW – UNION NEWS-** There are quite a few events coming up in our Local very soon They include:

**Saturday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> is Union Night at the Dow Event Center for the Saginaw Spirit Game.** The hockey game starts at **7:11pm**. These tickets were given away previously at our January Union Meeting. All of the tickets have been given away. If you have those tickets, please come out. If you don't have those tickets you can still purchase them through the Spirit website or at the venue. Wear your Union gear and come out to share some solidarity within all of the Union trades in the area.

**Tuesday, Feb. 6 is our next Union Meeting. Negotiations will begin in February.** The Local 557 Negotiations team will meet prior to this meeting to work on preparations for this important event. At the Feb. 6 meeting members will have the opportunity to voice their needs/wants for this contract. Please come out to help kick-off the discussion.

**Monday, Feb. 12 at 6:30pm is the annual New Member Orientation Class.** Those of you that are new members within the last year or so are required to be in attendance. Formal letters have been sent out in the mail to the members that must attend. Please do not ignore this letter and as stated earlier, you must attend this meeting. Current members are also welcome to attend this meeting as well. You may learn something you never knew.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 5 pm Local 557 will be offering our first COMET class of the year.** COMET is short for – **Construction Organizing Membership Education Training.** The IBEW's new policy on organizing requires the Local to put on at least 2 classes offering this training per year. 80% of the membership is required to be trained on this information. If you do not have this training already, you will need to complete it soon. When weather gets nicer, members will not want to spend their time indoors taking this course. Please make plans to attend this training and get it done. This knowledge provided in this course is a great investment in your Local. Educate yourself on matters that important to your Local and the IBEW's future.

**Saturday, Feb. 24 will be the first annual Local 557 vs Local 692 Battle of the Bay Ice Fishing Championship.** I have attached the flyer for all of the details. This should be a very funny event with our Sister Local to the north of us. With any luck, we will have ice this year. If not, the show will still go on. Thanks to both Renew Committees for arranging this event.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** Our next meeting is **February 6 at 5:30pm** at the Hall.

**ORGANIZING -** Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues. If our members have any questions please reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS -** Normal Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

**BOOK SIGNING-** If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-per-

son. 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.

**WORKOUTLOOK-** Work is steady with an emphasis on Solar projects. More calls for that expected in the coming weeks. If you are targeting these jobs, they should be available for Book 1 and Book 2 members. Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by making contact with their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Both projects are in Gratiot County for MJ Electric and J. Ranck Electric. Newkirk has a solar project of their own at Nexter that will need more manpower as well. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 has secured work at the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Future work at HSC is looking good. Bids will be coming up for more schoolwork in the near future. Master Electric has secured the new Browne Hall project at SVSU.

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

**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: instant access to EOBs, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOBs can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt request.

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

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

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES:** Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to 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](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
In Solidarity,  
**Evan Allardyce, Business Manager**

*"One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time."*

—Andre Gide (1869 - 1951)

*"There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open."*

—Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964)

*"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."*

—Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)

*"The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has."*

—Will Rogers (1879 - 1935),

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## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next general membership meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2024 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 February 12, 2024 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 in holiday hours.

**RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE:** The 2024 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> (holiday party) and December 16<sup>th</sup>. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.



**TIM MULLIGAN**

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

**Effective immediately** you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575.

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

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** Ronald Grundberg, Daniel Kenny, William Brozik, Daniel DeMay, Donald Downie, Jeff Czerwinski, Willie Cannon, John Peraino, Anthony Russell, Victor Nieves, Thomas Laskowski, Michael Giles, Charles Lewis, Keith Trelfa, Bryan Leach, Shawn Talaski, Darren Davidson, Jason Bular, Christopher Baier, Steven Roth, Robert Lipke, James Dandurand, James Colling, Jason Lonsbury, Chester Klos, Kevin Marinkovich, Steve Flora, Michael Flora, David B. Morris, James DeGeneffe, Michael Marsh, Dillon Shepherd, Pat Sementkowski, Richard Basile, Steven Wiseman, Chris Santowski, Kevin Stuss, Paul Consiglio, Chris Connelly, Chris Connelly Jr. and Jamie Gartrelle.

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

**BENEFICIARY REMINDER:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your Local 80 and international benefits. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your spouse first and if there is no spouse to your children UNLESS you designate otherwise in writing with each specific benefit. Depending on your classification you could have benefits due to your heirs from Local 80 pension, insurance, annuity and from international and SASMI. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary unless you want it to go to your spouse or children. As always seek the advice of an attorney.

**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 need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well. That is not done through the hall.

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

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

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven (7) days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

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

**S.U.B. BENEFITS:** Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven (7) days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. 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.

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

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. **Ulliance** is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. **Make**

(Continued next column)



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers 7

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

**The next Statewide Meeting will be, Feb. 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

- \*Zone 1 March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 2 March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 3 March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)
- \*Zone 3 March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- \*Zone 4 March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 5 February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2024. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.**

**NEWS:** Local No. 7 – Union Hoodies available through the Lansing office for \$70.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Gray, Black or Navy with White logo. *Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.*

**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.labelitscanireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

**SMART Members Assistance Program** provides counselors to speak with members experiencing crisis. Call (877) 884-6227 for 24/7 assistance with Suicide Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

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

**ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:**  
1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamey 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like)

**- In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 remains steady and looks good through the winter. Please check your mail for the contract survey, fill it out and send it in by February 15th. This is a chance to voice your opinion on the upcoming contract. Always remember dues are due prior to the first of each month and keep me informed of any phone number or address changes. If your employment status changes please contact me. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** I Hope everyone had a great holidays. Work in the Saginaw area remains steady. If you are laid off there is work in are other zones if you want to travel.

Our next meeting is Jan 10th at the Freeland hall. Everyone should be getting a survey in the mail about are upcoming contract please take the time to fill it out and mail it back. Thank you and be safe.

**In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City).** Please check your mail for the Wage Survey that is coming out. This is your chance to voice your opinion on our upcoming contract renewal, and mail it back by February 15th. Make sure your dues are paid and update your address and phone number as there will be more info mailing out soon. Work in our area is slowing down a bit, there is work in other areas if you get laid off. The SASMI underemployment benefit eligibility is under 700 hours worked from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Please contact me if you want to apply for the benefit. If anyone has any questions on the yearly physical requirement, call Benesys at 1(800) 451-5733. Also, you can go to www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/ benefits to register and get a wealth of information on your H&W and pension status. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

**ZONE 4 Info:** Work continues to stay strong in Zone 4. The sheet metal industry in our area continues to thrive, thanks to the hard work and skills of our dedicated members. Don't forget to stay ahead in the industry and enhance your skills in our upgrade classes we provide at our training center. These classes are designed to provide the latest knowledge and techniques in sheet metal and service to help our members. Winter finally has arrived. Remember to dress warm for those that are outside and stay as safe as possible. Remember to attend your local Union meetings. Go Lions!!! **Your Brother Scott Brotherton**

**ZONE 5 Info** Work in the U.P. is still busy and looks to stay that way through winter. We have a lot of work coming up this summer as well so if you know of anyone that would be a good fit for our trade please have them give me a call or go online to fill out an application at sheetmetal7.org. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

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

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

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

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

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

**Local 7 Officers:**  
**Samual Fuller** (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Local 80 cont'd**  
sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.  
**NOTARY:** We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge. Please call to confirm availability.  
**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Golf Outing – July 13**  
**Picnic – August 3**



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal 292

**TROY – MEETING NOTICE:** The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Member meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com) for the location and date.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on **February 20, 2024**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. The regular meeting schedule will resume in March.

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** To honor and remember our Local 292 members who passed away in 2023:

\*Allen Bauman 1/12/23; \*Keith Carey 4/20/23; \*Ronald Chojnacki 8/13/23; \*Jerry Dauer 6/30/23; \*Douglas Degolyer 6/9/23; \*Christopher Dunckel 10/26/23; \*Mary Gooding 9/27/23; \*Theodore Korth 9/1/23; \*Jared Krause 10/4/23; \*Jeffrey Lorentzen 9/26/23; \*James Oprisiu 10/20/23; \*Gary Simon 9/29/23; \*Robert Stanton 6/2/23; \*William Stritzinger 11/30/23.

Local 292 is thinking of the family and friends of those we lost, praying for peace and comfort.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

**TRUHEARING:** On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, we would like to introduce TruHearing, the NEW exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit 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](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the "links" tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://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).**

**LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE:** Check out the online store to purchase Local 292 shirts and jackets. Purchased items will be shipped directly to you. Access through [Sheetmetal292.com](http://Sheetmetal292.com) at the online store tab or <https://sheetmetalworkers292.itemorder.com/sale>. Contact Paul or Tony if you have any suggestions for new items or artwork changes.

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

**RETIREES NOTICE:** Thanks to all the retirees who came out to the meetings in 2023. It's always nice getting together and staying connected. We will post the 2024 retiree meeting schedule as soon as it becomes available. Stay safe and be well.

Please contact the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the **retiree email list.**

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

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

**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 248.495.6764.**

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on February 3, 10, 17.

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.

*"Wine makes a man more pleased with himself; I do not say that it makes him more pleasing to others."*

–Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING**  
**MIDDLETON** 2446  
Real Estate Training Inc.  
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**



## Local 25 Iron Workers

800-482-8915.

Check your HRA Balance: [my.wexhealthcard.com](http://my.wexhealthcard.com)

Check your online benefit information: [ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/](http://ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/)

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

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

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 8:30 am. The Retirees' meeting/ luncheon will be Tuesday February 20, 2024 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the Bay City Chapter will be April 18, 2024; at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams St., Bay City MI 48708.

The Downriver Chapter. The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be April 19, 2024 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club 2024 Scholarship is available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The Retiree must have a minimum of five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their annual club dues to be eligible and apply. Contact John Miller: text/call (734) 812-8036. All requests must be made by March 12, 2024. Completed applications due by 5pm April 30, 2024.

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

FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357.

MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health

Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 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.

The IRONWORKER Magazine changes: The magazine published by the International will now be issued every other month (6 times per year). To subscribe to the digital edition of the Ironworker or the monthly newsletter, please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

Thoughts & prayers for Lifetime ironworker James Clement #485069 who was in the hospital. Get well wishes!

In Memory: Timothy Leineke #750302 passed away December 24, 2023 at age 82. He was a member of the Reinforcing Local 426/Local 25 for 57 years. Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Jan 22, 2024 9:00 am E.S.T.)-



## Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on Feb. 16, 2024, at 8PM at IBEW Local 275, located at 140 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Coopersville, Mi. 49404. Please take note of the date change!

Current Union dues for 2023 and 2024 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

In an effort to assist our active members, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has waived any increase in dues for the upcoming 2024 year. Dues for the 2024 year will remain at \$55.85.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) for more information.

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

Save the date! Our annual Dinner Dance is currently scheduled for Feb. 10, 2024 at the Athenium Hotel and ballroom in Detroit. Rooms are still available at a discounted rate of \$239 and can be reserved by using the promotional code, **Boilermakers**. Valet parking is also 50% off at a cost of \$20. Please send a check for \$50 to the Union Hall to reserve your attendance at this great event. Dinner and drinks will be provided, and your check will be returned upon arrival. This protocol is used to provide an accurate head count to ensure adequate accommodations at the dinner dance. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a special night with your significant other and your union members. Single members are welcome as well. Let's make this the biggest dinner dance yet. I look forward to seeing you all there.

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Scholarship Committee announces the 2024 contest. All the eligibility requirements and procedure for applications can be found on our website [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) Do not hold off, as all applications are due back on March 1, 2024. The essay question is: **What economic conditions fueled the rise of labor unions in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century? Compare and contrast the economic conditions from that period in history with conditions that workers face today. Include topics such as wages, housing costs, safety, child labor and others.**

Retirees: Retiree luncheons Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11 am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon. 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 February 21, 2024 at 11AM at The Boulevard Lounge. It's located at 316 S. Saginaw Road, Midland, MI. 48640. All area boilermakers and retirees are 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 St., 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.

Due to popular demand, we have reordered hoodies in various sizes. You will be notified when they arrive. The cost is \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. 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

(Continued next column)



## Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149

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

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**The next Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Apr. 9, at 6 pm. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance.

By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money to pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone whose dues are paid up to 12/31/2024 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2024 dues in full by January 31, 2024. To receive your 2024 "I paid my Dues" t-shirt, please contact the Union Hall (313.961.6093 ext. 0).

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

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

**Detroit Training Center Information.** The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows: Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, Jan. 22, 2024 Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024 BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday Jan. 24, 2024 BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024 Apprentice 7&8 Hands On+ Safety & Health- Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024 All classes begin at 6:30 p.m.

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.

**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.

**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.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA** – Clio Office. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Apr. 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Notice. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. 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.

The publication above is as 1/22/2024, 12 p.m. In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

## Local 169 cont'd

available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) or on our Facebook page.

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

Any 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.

Painters District Council 1M WARREN – Dear Members,

DCIM WEBSITE: [www.iupatdc1michigan.org](http://www.iupatdc1michigan.org)

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

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

**PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP**

Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

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

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id# Password: painters

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

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!**

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

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888.

New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6pm. Please make every effort to attend.

**SPECIAL NOTICE: This is to inform you that your February 5, 2024, meeting will be Special Called to nominate a Treasurer. If needed, we will have a Special Called meeting on March 4, 2024, to elect a Treasurer.**

These meetings will begin at 6:00 pm and be held at 14587 Barber Ave. Warren, MI 48088

**SPECIAL NOTICE: District Council 1M is seeking an Organizer for the Glaziers. To be considered for this position you MUST attend the 3-day organizer boot camp, which will be held on Friday, February 9, 2024, from 5:00pm-10:00pm, Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 7:00am – 10:00pm and Sunday, February 11, 2024 from 7:00am – 5:00pm. This boot camp will be held at the Warren office – 14587 Barber Ave. Warren, MI 48088**

If you are interested, please RSVP by February 2, 2024, by emailing the director of organizing David Sarristo at [dsaaristo@iupatdc1m.org](mailto:dsaaristo@iupatdc1m.org)

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. [iupatpension.org](http://iupatpension.org)

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your

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 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

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](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Fred Frederickson Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

## Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Local 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display

Business Representative.

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

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

"The number of guests at dinner should not be less than the number of the Graces nor exceed that of the Muses, i.e., it should begin with three and stop at nine.

– Marcus Terentius Varro (116 BC - 27 BC)



**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47**

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47 LANSING - \*The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at J.A.T.C. Training Center Located at 906 Terminal 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.

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds  
6525 Centurion Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917-9275  
Toll Free: (800) 323-8079  
Telephone: (517) 321-7502  
Fax: (517) 321-7508

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

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

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

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

**Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.**

**JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)**

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

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

**Good and Welfare:** \*We hope everyone stay in good health!

*"The wisest mind has something yet to learn."*

-George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

*"Let tears flow of their own accord: their flowing is not inconsistent with inward peace and harmony."*

- Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25**

Heat & Frost Insulators 25 SOUTHFIELD - MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**SUB FUND BENEFIT:** At the latest SUB Fund Meeting, the trustees voted to increase the SUB Fund Benefit amount effective, January 22, 2024. The new weekly rate for members drawing a medical disability check from the Fund Office will be \$350.00

per week. A member drawing an unemployment benefit from the State of Michigan will now receive \$300.00 per week.

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT CHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

**LAY OFF/HIRE:** Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

**S.U.B. FUND:** Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

**SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION:** Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 30 days will be denied per the Plan Document.

**NOTICE TO ALL:** When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

**BENESYS:** When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

**SICK AND INJURED:** Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.

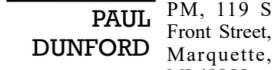


**Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 2**

BAC Local 2 ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED (EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER & HOUGHTON MEETINGS LISTED BELOW) FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023 DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

**HOUGHTON:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855



**PAUL DUNFORD**

**\*UNION DUES UPDATE\*** Effective January 01, 2024, the dues discount has changed. It is now pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

**DEATHS REPORTED.** Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Donald Hanley** (Bricklayer) who passed away on December 30, 2023. Brother Hanley had been a member for 72 years.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*** Future union information and negotiation surveys will now be sent 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!

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

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

**SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS.** Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

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

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS.** Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2023 online training classes.

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

**MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE.** During this COVID-19 pandemic, 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/>

(Continued next column)



**Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers**

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT - The next membership meeting is Tuesday February 20, at 7:00 pm. There will also, be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

**New Sweatshirts are in! Call your Business Agent to arrange for pickup.**

Bro. Elwood Baker passed away at the age of 92 years old, he was a 72-year member. Please keep the Baker family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: [abest@opciami.org](mailto:abest@opciami.org) Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

**\*\*Please note Local 514 office hours 7:00-4:30 p.m. The local closes every day from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for lunch\*\***

Membership gold cards- Congratulations! January 2024: Donald Monette 30-Years

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

**Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account.** To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to [bcbsm.com/register](http://bcbsm.com/register) and select register now.

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

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

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

**Attention all Apprentices,** now you will need to go to the website: [www.micementplaster.com](http://www.micementplaster.com)

(Continued next column)

**Local 2, con't**

member-service/member-assistance-program-map and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday - Friday 8 am - 8 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."

**E-MAIL ADDRESS.** 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 e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to [information@bricklayers.org](mailto:information@bricklayers.org) and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

**PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION**  
BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund - (248) 828-6000  
CALL-A-DOC - (800) 835-2362  
Cement Pension & Vacation Funds - (248) 645-6550  
International Pension/Annuity Fund - (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)  
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension - (248) 641-4954  
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) - (800) 531-2244  
Michigan BAC Vacation Fund - (248) 828-6000

(Continued next column)



**Local 36 Elevator Constructors**

Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT - ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING is Feb. 26, 2023, AT 5:30 pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. Our next Executive Board meetings will be held Feb. 19. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Now that the holiday season distractions are behind us, don't

**Local 514, con't**

terertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions". You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

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](http://www.opcmiami.org).**

**Please refer to website for updated information.**

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

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](http://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 website, [www.Principal.com](http://www.Principal.com) or phone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)  
**If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.**

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

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

think the distractions are gone completely, stay focused on the job and go home safe. We have had a few injuries, minor and serious, over the past year, to no fault of the individual. This has caused some members financial hardship on top of being injured and a strain on the family. We are looking at having a supplemental insurance company (Aflac) come into the April membership meeting to let members sign up for a policy if they choose, they need 25 members to sign up to get a group pricing. We are also looking at having a Financial advisor come into the April meeting, more information will come in future articles.

We are going to be giving pins for service at the April Meeting, so if you are eligible for 15 years or more of service pin, please attend this meeting. It will be held at the Electricians Hall, more information will be in this paper as it gets closer.

I would like to encourage everyone to use Bill Pay through your bank to pay dues, it is a free service and can be set up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly. We have a few of our members that have already started this, and it seems to be working well. Please call the hall or contact your bank about how this works.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is [vap@iuec.org](mailto:vap@iuec.org) or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Golf Outing, please contact **Justin Smith @ (248) 709-0341.**

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

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

If you think there are contract violations or safety violations on the job you are on, call the hall, we will come out to the jobs and get these issues corrected.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email. Once again, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2024 to receive their scheduled pay raises January 1, 2025. **I highly recommend you take the course and keep up on it every year! We would like to see many of our grandfathered Mechanics take this course. If you aren't registered or are having problems getting registered, call the hall and we will help you.**

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** call those jobs into 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.

**Attention All Apprentices,** Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. **Classes started the week of January 23, if you have not heard from your teacher contact the hall.** Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

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

We would like to extend well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

# Iron Workers Local 8 build-out continues at U.P. Training Center



**WHOLE LOTTA CONCRETE:** Chamber wall monoliths line an engineering representation of the future New Lock at the Soo, in Sault Ste. Marie. A \$213.8 million contract for the work was awarded to Kokosing Alberici Traylor last month.

Rendering: Army Corps of Engineers

## Great walls at the Soo

(Continued from Page 1)

design engineer Jeremy Nichols, Inland Navigation Design Center, New Lock at the Soo. "The chamber monoliths are approximately 44 feet wide and 70 feet tall. Each monolith will be constructed by placing mass concrete in roughly five-foot-high lifts, with a total of 14 lifts per monolith."

The Soo Locks allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Mary's Falls Canal. More than 88 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock, which was completed in 1968 and is the only lock capable of allowing passage of the longest 1,000-foot bulk freighters.

The New Lock at the Soo project will combine two smaller locks to construct a second Poe-sized lock, and offer a backup in the event of some failure of the Poe Lock, which would bring about an economic catastrophe. A 2015 Department of Homeland Security study estimates a six-month Poe Lock closure would temporarily reduce the U.S. gross domestic product by \$1.1 trillion, resulting in the loss of 11 million jobs.

The New Lock at the Soo project, with a total cost of \$3.2 billion, is being built in three phases. Phase 1 (Upstream Channel Deepening) was completed in 2022, and Phase 2 (Upstream Approach Walls) is expected to be completed in summer 2024. The Phase 3 contract, which began in July 2022, was awarded to KAT at a cost of \$1.068 billion, and that step allowed remaining work to be phased in over the next three years. Completion of the new lock is expected in 2030.

Four contract options, totaling \$320 million, await to be awarded. These options are Option 3 (Lock Operational), Option 4 (Downstream Work), Option 5 (Hands-Free Mooring), and Option 6 (Downstream Ship Arrestors). The Corps of Engineers aims to award these options over the next two years.

As of Dec. 4, 2023, Kokosing Alberici Traylor had completed about \$240 million worth of work. Work to date includes upstream cofferdam construction; setting of cells and placement of fill; downstream cofferdam construction; abatement of hazardous materials; demolition of existing structures; partial construction of a new bridge to the hydropower plant; adding stability structures for the existing monoliths in preparation for dewatering and excavation, and installing a grout curtain for upcoming dewatering and blasting/excavation for a new utility shaft.

"Construction will continue over the winter season, to include hazardous waste abatement, concrete demolition, utility shaft excavation and electrical work," said Senior Project Manager Mollie Mahoney, New Lock at the Soo.

**HARVEY** - Construction of the Iron Workers Local 8 Upper Peninsula Training Center is proceeding nicely at its site here southeast of Marquette.

Based in Wisconsin, Local 8's jurisdiction includes the Upper Peninsula. Having a local building presence for the local union will save on travel time for the union's workers. Having the building also means that Local 8 won't have to rent or borrow space for training and events.

Managed by Gundlach Champion, the 17,136-square-foot building will allow worker training to take place at a Local 8-owned facility in the U.P. for the first time.

"Logistically, this is going to be huge for us," Local 8's U.P. Business Rep. Tim Roman told us last year. "We will have our own space, and can set our own schedule, and set everything up how we want it. And we won't have to make arrangements from place to place. This is going to be such a big benefit for all of us."

More than half of the space in the facility will include an open shop area, while other space includes a welding shop, classrooms and local union offices.

The facility is expected to be complete in June 2024.



THE 17,136- SQUARE-FOOT U.P. Training Center for Iron Workers Local 8 is enclosed for the winter, and a variety of interior work is ongoing.



Photos courtesy of Tim Roman



**POURING THE CONCRETE** floor of the Iron Workers Local 8 Upper Peninsula Training Center in Harvey are Jim Trudeau, Frank Seacott and Robert Lordsen. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members are employed by Gundlach Champion.

**MOVING BLOCK** at the Iron Workers Local 8 Upper Peninsula Training Center in Harvey are masons Brian Lantto and Colton Lindemann of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2, and Laborer Cameron Schultz. They're employed by Gundlach Champion.



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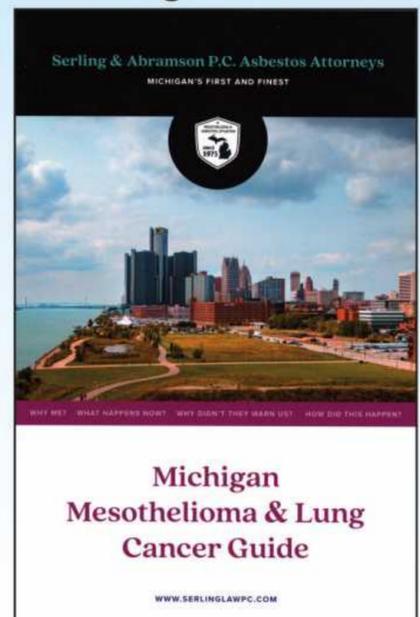
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By John Pepin  
Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources

Taking stock of Michigan's latest deer harvest, with the 2023 firearm deer season officially complete. **Part 2.** (Part 1 was in our previous issue).

#### Hunter demographics.

Reviewing license sales numbers through the end of November 2023, overall, for the state, about 590,000 people obtained a deer tag, which is 1 percent more compared to last year at this time. The total number of deer tags sold was 1.3 million which is 2 percent more than last year. Nonresident hunters continued the decade-long upward trend totaling about 25,000 which is up 3 percent over 2022.

Since 1995, the DNR has sold hunting licenses using an electronic license sales system (i.e., retail sales system). This system has allowed the DNR to maintain a central database containing sales information on every license sold.

This information is used to track changes in the number of deer hunting license buyers.

Among the key findings:

- In 1995, deer hunting licenses were sold to 872,000 people, while in 2019, licenses were sold to 582,000 people. This represents a 33 percent decline or an average decline of 1.7 percent per year.

- Participation has declined with each generation.

- The pace of decline has increased in recent years.

- The current level of youth recruitment is the lowest we have recorded since 1995.

- The DNR predicts that 434,000 people will purchase a deer hunting license in 2030. This represents a 25 percent decline from the number of license buyers in 2019.

These declines are part of a national trend, with very few exceptions, especially when looking at states that have experienced little to no population growth in decades, like Michigan.

Hunters are getting older on

## Outdoors

# The 2023 deer harvest



A CHECK STATION worker weighs a deer at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources customer service center in Marquette. *MDNR photo*

average and recruiting at lower rates.

Over the years, there have been fewer license buyers for all age classes in the middle of the age curve (i.e., between approximately 12 and 55 years of age).

However, there were increased hunter numbers among the youngest and oldest age classes. The increased hunter numbers in the oldest age classes likely represented the rising share of older people in the population as the baby-boom generation aged.

In addition, the legalization of crossbow use during the archery season probably increased participation among hunters in the oldest age classes.

The increased participation among the youngest hunters likely reflected the lowering of the minimum age requirements. In 2012, the minimum age requirement to hunt deer with a firearm was eliminated (mentors are required), while hunters had to be at least 10 years old to participate in 2008.

Rates of participation for deer hunting generally increased among generations until peaking among people born during

1944-1960 (baby boomers) but has declined among more recent generations.

The decline in hunter numbers has been widespread across the state. Since 2000, the greatest rates of decline have been in metro Detroit and in portions of the U.P.

The declines in Detroit are particularly troubling because the highest densities of licensed buyers reside in this area.

The total youth population in Michigan has declined 0.7 percent per year during the last six years, while the number of youth hunters has declined 7.1 percent per year. If this annual rate of decline continues, we could expect the number of youth hunters will be cut in half in less than 10 years.

While some limited increases in hunting license sales have occurred, including during the coronavirus pandemic, the overall trend of hunting license purchases is downward.

**Things the DNR doesn't currently control.**

The DNR manages resources on behalf of all the residents of the state of Michigan but can only do so within its authority. There are legal limits to what the department can do.

Just as we can't magically turn a dial and reduce deer numbers in southern Michigan right now, we can't magically turn a dial and increase deer in the U.P.

We cannot control the weather, the amount of snowfall given areas will receive throughout the course of a given winter, nor the relative severity of winter.

**Additional things beyond DNR control:**

- Gray wolves remain a protected species given federal court rulings in lawsuits that have kept wolves on the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. This status prohibits a wolf hunt, no matter its provisions.

- The Michigan DNR supports removing wolves from the endangered species list, citing among its reasons the recovery of wolves in the state after meeting, exceeding and maintaining population levels far beyond original recovery goals.

- A 2019 letter from the DNR to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clearly states the department's position supporting delisting.

- Even if wolves were delisted, the DNR does not have the authority to authorize a harvest

season. This authority lies with the Natural Resources Commission or through legislative action.

- The number of deer hunters has steadily declined overall since the mid-1990s.

- The amount of hunter time and effort spent afield, hunter support for DNR initiatives, hunter activity and hunter efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate the sport's dwindling participation at all levels

**Actions taken by the DNR to address low deer numbers in the U.P.** The DNR has taken numerous actions, often in concert with partnering groups, agencies or individuals, to improve deer habitat and low deer numbers.

Deer habitat management is ongoing, including efforts to identify and map more than 50 deer wintering complexes and manage food and winter deer shelters on state-managed lands, according to regional state forest plans.

Biologists have been working to conserve winter shelter for deer, while also enhancing available food resources by planting oak trees and seeding forest openings.

Funding is available for deer habitat management. To have the greatest impact, deer habitat management needs to occur on multiple ownerships, not just state forest lands, with 80 percent of deer wintering complex habitat located on private or federal lands.

The U.P. Habitat Workgroup has worked for several years to improve habitat for deer in areas where they spend the critical winter months in need of shelter and food.

The charge of the group states: "Deer winter habitat is a critical component of a healthy sustainable deer herd in the Upper Peninsula. In most cases, deer yard complexes span across multiple land ownerships. More than 80 percent of the existing complexes occur on private and federal land. For this reason, accurate mapping of complex boundaries, the development of cooperative management strategies that span ownerships and communications to the landowners involved are key."

The workgroup membership is composed of DNR wildlife and forestry employees, federal forest managers, members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and wildlife and forestry interests.

The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative, now in its 15th year, is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue.

More than 114 initiative projects in nearly all U.P. counties have improved thousands of acres of deer habitat. In 2023, the program crossed the \$1 million threshold in hunter license dollars invested on U.P. deer habitat enhancements.

The DNR's Wildlife Habitat grant program provides funding to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat in support of specific goals from the DNR Wildlife Division's strategic plan, guiding principles and strategies.

**Things hunters and the DNR can work on together**

Despite the things we cannot control, the DNR and hunters can work on several things together and separately to try to improve the U.P. deer herd and hunter success.

The DNR and hunters can continue to talk together about issues, problems and solutions to deer management concerns. To help facilitate this type of discussion, hunters could attend and participate in Upper Peninsula Citizens' Advisory Council monthly meetings where agenda topics are set by the eastern and western U.P. councils' members.

Hunters and the DNR can also continue a dialogue through various forums like the "Ask the DNR" live television broadcasts where DNR staffers answer questions from the public.

Hunters could work within and among sportsmen's groups to find consensus on deer management concerns. The DNR can continue to attend the meetings of these groups and offer support for their efforts.

Hunters could advocate for eliminating supplemental feeding of deer. Though legal, feeding deer spreads diseases, causes social strife, kills deer through corn and toxic reactions to high carbohydrates and likely increases deer mortality by drawing deer away from deer wintering complexes and into poor winter habitat.

Hunters and the DNR can continue to respect the others' viewpoints and work to find additional ways to work together cooperatively.

## ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

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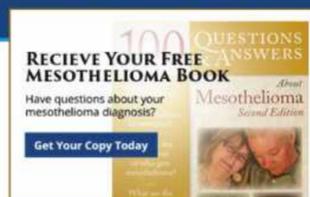
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