



SHORT CUTS

No print version of Building Tradesman

For the extent of the COVID-19 crisis, *The Building Tradesman* will not have a printed version, but will offer an online version in a PDF format. It's available for download at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org.

UIA staff work OT to process claims

LANSING – Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency benefits staff are now required to work three additional hours of overtime on weekdays and eight hours of OT on Saturdays to handle the onslaught of jobless claims.

In addition, says a memo by UIA Director Steve Gray, the agency is training 150 UIA staff to help with processing claims, and 100 limited-term workers and 200 contract employees last week were slated to be hired to help clear the backlog.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said last week that there have been an "unprecedented 800,000 claims for UIA benefits, and that, 'I want you to know: We will get to you,'" acknowledging the frustration of tens of thousands of claimants who have not been able to file claims with the state. She said the agency is quadrupling staff to meet the need. Claims have been up 3,500 percent from when life was normal.

The new OT requirements, says the news agency MIRS, will add one hour in the morning for UIA staff, and two hours in the evening, to create a 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 12-hour weekday for staff for a period that will stretch from April 8-21. Weekends, staff will also work 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Total OT for staff will amount to 23 more hours per week.

The UIA plans to expand customer contact hours by one hour by making Monday through Friday hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Saturdays continuing from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lesser amounts of overtime will also be required after that period.

"Many of you have jumped in and taken on new responsibilities and are doing whatever it takes to help Michiganders get through the unfamiliar and stressful time of unemployment," said UIA Director Steve Gray in a memo to the agency's staff. "You've been working long hours in the midst of a health crisis, home-schooling, tele-working and limited food resources. Your commitment to public service has been inspiring."

While acknowledging the delays, the state has said the www.michigan.gov/uiaweb website is the quickest way to file a claim, particularly if it's done between the non-peak hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

The UIA has asked that those with the last names starting with the letters A-L are asked to go online Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays while those with the last names starting with the letters M-Z are asked to visit the site Sunday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anyone can file on Saturdays.

Alternatively, the same last name schedule applies with to the UIA's Call Center for applying for claims, the call center can be reached at 866-500-0017:

The agency says where the process takes on average 20-25 minutes. The UIA assures that claims will be back-dated to reflect the date on which the claimant was laid-off.

Quotable

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans."
—John Lennon, 1940-1980



PARTITIONS FOR THE FIELD HOSPITAL are set at TCF Center, formerly Cobo Center in Detroit. The center started receiving patients on April 10. Photo: Byron Osborn

Trades transform TCF Center into COVID field hospital

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

DETROIT – A venue that's more familiar to building trades workers as a (former) destination for setting up the North American International Auto Show has been transformed into a field hospital for accepting COVID-19 pandemic patients.

During this era of The Great Quarantine, it's a sign of some mixed-up times when 250,000 square feet of the city's TCF Center, formerly Cobo Center, is being converted into a temporary medical care space for medical patients stricken with the COVID-19 virus.

The work was undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District and their partners among building trades union employers, under an assignment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The conversion will include two separate floors, where patients will be segregated based on severity of illness. Approximately 600 upper floor beds – with availability of oxygen but not ventilators – will be available for seriously ill patients and a lower floor with 400 beds for patients who are recovering from COVID-19.

"It has been great to see everybody come together to execute this incredibly important mission," said Nick Zager, Chief, Alternate Care Facility Project Office, Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We are moving out fast and we are going to make it happen."

"The neat thing about this is even before the ink on the contract was dry, the crews already were starting work. And so there are some incredible things going on in the halls," said Army Corps Major General Bob Whittle, deputy commanding general for the Corps of Engineers and the commander of the Great Lakes vision, to *The Detroit News*. "I've really never seen anything like it. Everyone is leaning forward because they want to help the citizens of Detroit and Michigan. And they're incredibly brave to do it," Whittle added, talking about the crews that were building out TCF.

"It's not when you're in a foreign conflict and bullets are coming at you. Instead, it's an invisible virus that's out there. And so these people are incredibly brave out here working in the face of that

(Continued on Page 2)



JOINING COPPER PIPE sections while helping put together the field hospital at the TCF Center in Detroit is Ryan Lyle of Plumbers Local 98. He's employed by Johnson Controls.



IBEW LOCAL 58 electricians help set up the TCF Center (formerly Cobo Hall) in Detroit as a field hospital to treat COVID patients.

Mason may be trades' first COVID fatality in MI

Among what may be the first Michigan fatality in the ranks of the union building trades from the COVID-19 virus – and perhaps the very first – is ARON Jordan, a 49-year-old union bricklayer from Ashland, Kentucky, who died March 31 after traveling to Detroit's Zug Island to work at the site's coke battery.

Mr. Jordan was an otherwise

healthy husband, father of seven and grandfather to seven more. A report in the *Louisville Courier Journal* said ARON left his Kentucky home on March 16 to come to Michigan to work. According to the account in the *Courier Journal* as told by ARON's daughter Sarah Jordan, ARON realized he likely had been exposed to someone infected with the

coronavirus at his work site.

But he didn't want to expose his family to the virus, so he self-quarantined in a Detroit hotel room. He told his wife Mandy, but instructed her not to tell the rest of the family, so they wouldn't worry.

The account said ARON went to a hospital in Detroit, but he was turned away because he

Coronavirus infects U.S. economy, and it's a sick feeling

The U.S. economy fell off a cliff in the second half of March due to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis. And the free-fall may not be over yet.

Where to start, when there are comparisons being made to the not only the Great Recession one decade ago, but the Great Depression nine decades ago. The job losses in the last two weeks of March, erased all the economic gains made during the Trump Administration.

And, economists were stumbling over themselves to tell the public to put aside the end-of-March economic numbers – they were much, much worse because statewide economic shutdowns in Michigan and elsewhere had only been in effect for half the month.

"Job layoffs broke the ceiling again this week, shattering records in a sign this economy has skipped recession mode and moved deep into Depression zone," said Chris Ripley, chief financial econo-

mist at MUFGBank, to the *Washington Post* on April 3.

"The abrupt plunge in economic activity is taking a swift and severe toll on construction," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractor's chief economist. "It will likely be the end of April before we know the full, awful effects of the COVID-19 economic shutdown."

"The U.S. unemployment rate in early March, the number used to mark the entire month, was 4.4 percent," reported Press Associates, citing Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers said on April 3, "as the number of unemployed rose by 1.35 million. And that was before the roof really fell in."

The BLS conducted its jobless surveys, of both workers and businesses, in the week ending March 12. The crash accelerated the next week, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying quarantines, shelter-in-place orders and business closures.

(Continued on Page 3)

COVID-19 crisis

Michigan grapples with a sickening foe that has brought a halt to life as we know it.

Work at your own discretion, trades council suggests

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the construction industry in Michigan largely remains in a "Wild West" scenario where owners and contractors are deciding whether to keep jobsites open, and individual workers are making personal decisions whether to go to work based on their own comfort level with the safety of their site.

"We have owners talking about re-starting projects, and we get inquiries about the availability of workers," said Steve Claywell, president of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. "As a council, ultimately our position is that it is the workers' decision together with their local union whether or not he or she works."

While there aren't any Michigan-specific numbers on job shutdowns, the Associated General Contractors of America have conducted surveys of contractors across the U.S. to gauge construction activity. The most recent, reported on April 3, found that 59 percent of contractors in the U.S. report that their projects experienced "delays or disruptions" since the onset of the pandemic.

Patrick Devlin, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Building and

(Continued on Page 2)

UIA chief offers some tips to navigate benefits

LANSING – Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency has been overwhelmed over the past few weeks, inundated by an historic influx of newly unemployed workers seeking jobless benefits.

The state UIA has acknowledged the difficulties claimants have experienced with their system, but have pledged that eventually, all of the state's jobless workers seeking benefits will be able to get through to the state via phone or online.

Steve Gray, director of the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency, offered to building trades workers some guidance on navigating and understanding benefits.

"We appreciate the patience all Michigan residents have shown with the unemployment system over the last few weeks as we continue to provide emergency assistance during this historical demand," Gray said. "We have seen over a 3,500 percent increase in claims in just two and a half weeks."

Gray suggests:

•If your claim was denied because you were "in school" (some apprentices have experienced this) you will be deemed eligible very shortly if not already. Your old determination will be cleared and a new redetermination will be made or is in the process of being made. Please keep your eye on your online MiWAM account for correspondence or to check your payment was released. You will also likely receive a letter in the mail, however our mail has been back-logged.

•Those who have exhausted their benefits (all 20 weeks) and filed their original claim since March, 15, 2019 (still in your benefit year) need to reopen their claim through their online MiWAM account. Some workers may have been denied because

(Continued on Page 3)

Need a union during the pandemic? Don't come knocking here for help, NLRB says

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the anti-union work of the President Trump-appointed National Labor Relations Act continues.

On March 31, the NLRB, with a 3-1 Republican majority, issued a rule making it harder for workers to win and keep a union. The new policy says union elections will no longer be blocked in an atmosphere where there is the presence of pending unfair labor

practice charges at a workplace, but the ballots would be either counted or impounded – depending on the nature of the charges – until the charges are resolved.

"At the same time," said the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute, "the Trump NLRB has suspended all union elections, including mail ballot elections. The decision to finalize this rulemaking at a time when the agency is failing to fulfill its most basic statutory obligation – to enable workers to organize – is a disgrace. Congress must

hold the agency accountable for this decision."

In a statement released March 19, the NLRB said "due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Labor Relations Board today approved the suspension of all representation elections, including mail ballot elections, for the next two weeks effective immediately, through and including April 3, 2020.

"The Board deems this action

necessary to ensure the health and safety of our employees, as well as those members of the public who are involved in the election process. Moreover, given the closure of several Regional Offices and limited operations, the Board does not believe that it is possible to effectively conduct elections at this time."

The NLRB said it would "continue to monitor this evolving situation" and determine

(Continued on Page 2)

Viewpoints



Strengthen the safety nets

The global coronavirus pandemic has put our economy in free-fall.

Even through Donald Trump's reckless economic policies, like his pointless trade war with China or his deficit-busting tax cuts for his billionaire donors, the economy has somehow managed to keep chugging along – until now.

All of the stock market gains from Trump's time in office have been wiped out, and over the course of just over one week in March the Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced its five largest drops in history.

Worse than a plummeting stock market, businesses and major industries have been forced to shutter their windows to help combat the rapid spread of the virus, putting hundreds of thousands of workers' paychecks at risk.

A recession is inevitable at this point. Here are three things we can do to prepare.

No. 1: We need to reform unemployment insurance so it reflects the needs of today's economy.

When it was first created in 1935, unemployment insurance was designed to help full-time workers weather downturns until they got their old jobs back. But there are fewer full-time jobs in today's economy, and fewer people who are laid off get their old jobs back again.

As a result, only 27 percent of unemployed workers receive benefits today, compared to 49 percent of workers in the 1950s. We need to expand unemployment coverage so that everyone is protected.

No. 2: We need to strengthen Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, also known as public assistance.

Since its creation in 1996, the number of families receiving cash assistance has declined dramatically – and not because they're doing well. Between 2006 and 2018, just 13 percent of families were lifted out of poverty, while the number of families receiving public assistance fell by 39 percent.

Already weak, the program didn't hold up well during the Great Recession. Funding doesn't automatically expand during economic downturns – meaning the more families are in need, the less money there is to help them. The program also has strict work requirements, which can't be fulfilled in a deep recession. Worse yet, many individuals in need have already exhausted their five years of lifetime eligibility for assistance.

We need to reform the public assistance program so that more families in need are eligible. It should be easier to waive the strict work eligibility requirements during the economic downturn, and the lifetime five-year limit should be suspended.

No. 3: We need to protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps.

Unlike public assistance, SNAP responded well during the Great Recession. Its requirements are designed to expand during economic downturns or recessions.

Waiving work requirements during the Great Recession made thousands of people in need eligible for the program who otherwise wouldn't have been. Between December 2007 and December 2009, the number of SNAP participants rose by 45 percent. The program helped keep an estimated 3.8 million families out of poverty in 2009.

But that might not be an option this time around, as SNAP has come under attack from the Trump administration, which is trying to enact a draconian rule change that would kick an estimated 700,000 of our most vulnerable citizens off of the program. Luckily, a judge blocked the rule from going into effect, but the administration is still fighting to enforce it – even in the middle of a global pandemic. We need to make sure SNAP's flexibility and ability to respond to economic downturns is protected before the next recession hits.

Stronger safety nets are not only good for individuals and families in need. They will also prevent the looming recession from becoming an even deeper and longer economic crisis.

Robert Reich

Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and to shorten them. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.

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The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

Work at your own discretion, trades council suggests

(Continued from Page 1)

Construction Trades Council, said in many cases, the building trades are society's "fourth leg" of the stool when it comes to supporting the public, behind police, firefighters and medical personnel. And in many cases, the "essential" tag that Gov. Whitmer has placed on many building trades jobs to allow tradespeople to continue working during the crisis is warranted. "We build and maintain lighting, electrical power, infrastructure, plumbing – our people are key to keeping society operating. But I get it, some people want to keep working, others don't feel safe because of the virus."

Claywell said the Michigan Building Trades Council – a statewide umbrella group promoting the interests of about 100,000 unionized construction workers and their local unions – stands with the state's union workforce whether or not individual workers choose to work during the COVID-19 crisis. For those who have taken a voluntary or forced layoff, that means working with the state Unemployment Insurance Agency to broaden the distribution of benefits, including to potential recipients like non-working apprentices, and to workers who have recently exhausted their jobless benefits under the pre-COVID-19 rules.

On the other hand, for those who are working, the building trades council has, whenever possible, been urging owners, contractors and contractor associations to provide proper PPE for workers and to maintain other CDC standards, like social distancing, whenever possible.

Claywell and Devlin said there would be obvious legal implications for anyone – in the labor, contractor or owner communities – to set some sort of "requirement" for workers to work during the COVID crisis, especially if a worker should contract the virus on the job.

"Again, we are not directing members to go to work, or not to go to work," Claywell said. "But everyone should be aware, that there is at least one owner who is distributing false information that their work has been deemed essential. Now they have a serious problem with the attorney general's office."

"When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed to discover they are not it."

—Bernard Bailey



CLEAN THE DUCTS FIRST – that was the mission of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 contractor Sani-Vac, shown with their fleet of trucks outside the TCF Center in Detroit. Their's was job one before the convention center was turned into a bi-level field hospital by the Army Corps of Engineers and its partners among building trades unions and their contractors.

Trades transform TCF Center into COVID field hospital

(Continued from Page 1)

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer said in her announcement of the effort, "We are proud to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA and the TCF Center to expand capacity in Detroit. By mobilizing quickly to construct a large alternate care facility in Detroit, we can help save lives." Last week the Army Corps announced that a second 1,000-bed field hospital in Southeast Michigan would be set up at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

The facility opened to patients on April 8, well ahead of schedule. The state is leasing TCF, formerly known as the Cobo Convention Center, through Sept. 30 at a cost of nearly \$8.2 million. It's still not clear how much of the facility can be staffed with medical professionals, who are already overworked at their own facilities.

Kristin Aussiker, an IBEW Local 58 journeyman, was one of the tradespeople who helped transform the TCF Center.

She posted the following on Facebook: "As some of you know TCF Center (Cobo) is being transformed into an emergency field hospital. As most of you may not know, while the Army Corps of Engineers and National Guard assemble beds, your proud local tradespeople are performing the work necessary to make this transition possible.

"Carpenters are building each of these 'rooms.' Plumbers (98) are providing piping for clean water and installing sinks at all the nurse stations. IBEW Local 58 electricians are providing power to each and every of roughly 1000 'hospital rooms' to facilitate the use of necessary medical equipment; to nurse stations and to hot water heaters so that hand washing can happen properly; as well as installing fire

alarm systems to match the new layout.

"None of us HAVE to do this particular job. Each and every one of us either volunteered or said 'yes' when asked, because even though we are aware of potential risks THIS IS WHAT WE DO. THIS IS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

"We are here doing what we can to help society during

this craziness. Look out for each other. Appreciate each other. Help one another. It's the only way we're getting through this.

"Thank you to all of my brothers and sisters out there working to create space to care for the ill in our communities and those maintaining the existing places so that people, our people, can get the care they need."

Need a union during the pandemic? Don't come knocking, NLRB says

(Continued from Page 1)

whether additional extension of this suspension may be necessary.

"The new rule would eliminate the NLRB's 'blocking charge' policy, which permits the delay of union election results if the employer is accused of union-busting or coercion," writes Brian Young for the Union Communications Blog. "It would also allow a de-certification campaign to start just 45 days after an election and with as few as 30 percent of the workforce supporting a de-certification effort. This would give bosses much more power over a union election."

The EPI added, "at a time when more and more workers are voicing concerns over the terms and conditions of their work as the entire country grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, workers are being forced to work without adequate protective gear or sick leave if they or their family members get sick. As a result, workers at places like Amazon, Instacart, and Whole Foods are walking off the job to demand stronger protections, and many are seeking to form unions."

In addition, the EPI said "at a time when many workers deemed 'essential' during the COVID-19 pandemic are navigating issues of health and safety, and looking for ways to have their voices heard, it is unconscionable that the agency responsible for ensuring workers have the right to a voice in the workplace has denied them the ability to exercise these rights."

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Confront COVID profiteers

By Jim Hightower

Wartime profiteering has been as common in our country as war itself.

Indeed, during the American Revolution assorted corrupt merchants and traders lined their pockets by controlling the supply and jacking up the prices on various goods they sold to the Continental Army and to the general public.

Often though, feisty colonialists struck back at the gougers.

In 1777, for example, when a Boston merchant was found to be hoarding imports of coffee and sugar to create an artificial shortage so he could charge exorbitant prices to the area's families, a band of enraged Bean Town women took matters into their own hands – they beat up the guy and confiscated his stock.

It's time for indignant citizens today to confront a new breed of shameful greed merchants: pandemic profiteers.

Such corporate scammers as Boeing, American Airlines, and Marriott have rushed to Wash-

ington, shoving aside millions of devastated victims of the COVID-19 crisis to demand that corporations be first in line for a massive government rescue.

Take Boeing. Its lobbyists brazenly swarmed the Capitol pleading for \$60 billion from taxpayers to protect its profits after they spent their last big tax break buying back their own stock. Please!

Rather than being laughed out of town, Boeing and its fellow socialist capitalists have been handed a half-trillion-dollars of our money.

Which corporations will be favored? No telling. How much would each get? They'll tell us later, maybe. What's the criteria? Don't ask. What about their workers and suppliers? Let them apply for food stamps. Aren't you cutting food stamps? Shhh.

Democrats had enough moral fortitude to block some of the grossest giveaways in the Republicans' \$500 billion corporate boondoggle. But the greedy, profiteering giants should not have been given a single dime until the real and urgent needs of the people are met.

Profiteers should be last in line – or turned over to descendants of those Boston women from 1777.

(via www.otherwords.org)

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: St. Clair Rail Tunnel HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A TRAIN AT THE Port Huron portal of the St. Clair Railroad Tunnel between 1900 and 1910. Originally printed Jan. 23, 2015

Historically in Michigan, for land-based vehicles and rail traffic, engineers have had to devise ways to get through, over and under the Great Lakes and their associated waterways, using bridges, ferries and tunnels. In the 1880s, with the lakes taking up an enormous amount of geography in the middle of the North American continent, and with westward expansion ever-increasing in the United States and Canada, going under or above the Great Lakes was seen logistically as a lot less costly and time-consuming than going around the lakes.

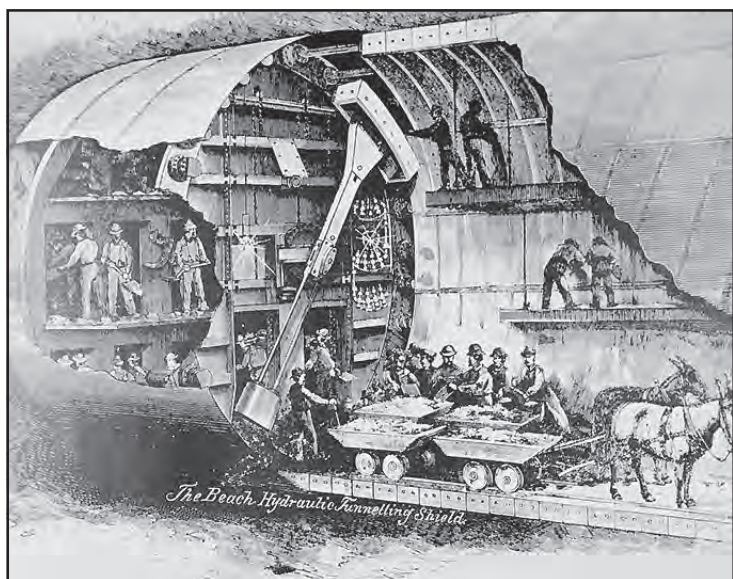
"There was one major challenge for the Grand Trunk Railway" which owned track from Canada's eastern seaboard to the Great Lakes, says *Detroit 1701*. "Everything and everybody had to be unloaded in Sarnia (Ontario), put on a ferry for the short ride across the St. Clair River and then back onto railroad cars for the continued trip to Detroit or Chicago."

Enter the Port Huron to Sarnia rail tunnel. Completed in 1891, the tunnel extended under the St. Clair River for 2,290 feet, and was the first underwater tunnel on Earth between two nations. It allowed the easy movement of Grand Trunk rail traffic connecting Atlantic Ocean shipping ports in Canada and the northeastern U.S., with hubs in Detroit, Chicago and points south and west.

In 1882, engineers opined that soil conditions along both banks of the St. Clair River precluded construction of a bridge. That meant building a tunnel under water – but at the time, that was easier said than done. Designers were watching construction of the first tunnels under the Hudson River between New Jersey and Manhattan, which were progressing very slowly.

Grand Trunk finally committed to building the tunnel in 1887, having earlier formed the St. Clair Tunnel Co.

"Perhaps because of this lack of precedent for a work of such size, nothing was done immediately," said the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology. "In 1884 the railway organized a tunnel company; in 1886 test borings were made in the riverbed and small exploratory drifts were started across from both banks by normal methods of mine timbering. The natural gas, quicksand, and water



DRAWING OF the tunneling shield at work in the St. Clair Tunnel, showing the segment hoist and workmen. The original appeared in *Scientific American*, 1890. "In all respects," said the Smithsonian, "the work advanced with wonderful facility and lack of operational difficulty. Considering the large area, no subaqueous tunnel had ever been driven with such speed. The average monthly progress for the American and Canadian headings totaled 450 feet.

Photo/illustration: Library of Congress for service on Sept. 19, 1891. Both freight and passenger trains used the tunnel.

encountered soon stopped the work." In the 1880s, the Smithsonian said, pioneering engineers learned "the three fundamental elements essential for the practical tunneling of soft, water-bearing ground: compressed-air support of the work during construction, the movable shield, and cast-iron, permanent lining. The marriage was a happy one indeed; the limitations of each system were almost perfectly overcome by the qualities of the others."

With some funding from the Canadian government, construction began in January 1888, with crews working on both sides of the river.

"The tunnel was an engineering marvel," says *Detroit 1701*. "Underneath many broad rivers, the soil is soft and porous making digging challenging. The new shield method used for this tunnel involved excavation in a compressed air environment. A cast iron lining was put in place as the digging progressed. The crews met at the appropriated location on Aug. 30, 1890."

The Beach Tunneling Shield, designed by Alfred Ely Beach, removed material from the site and was used to assist workmen in removing material from the route of the tunnel and left a continuous iron tube in place. The portal-to-portal length of the tunnel is 6,025 feet, and the structure's diameter is 19 feet, 10 inches. The \$2.7 million tunnel was completed and opened

But there was still one big problem for the tunnel in the Age of Steam: steam from locomotives. And, smoke and embers could suffocate crews and passengers, especially if a train were stalled in the tunnel. There is no record of that happening, but in 1908, Grand Trunk ordered a set of powerful electric engines that pulled trains during their short tunnel journey, and such electric powered locomotives were used until the whole North American rail system went to diesel-electric locomotives in the late 1950s.

Ironically, in the 1970s, rail ferries over the St. Clair River made a comeback. Some new double-stacked train cars were too tall for the nearly 20-foot tall tunnel, and the ferries were the only option to move the goods. So, in 1995, the railroad completed a new \$155 million, 27.5-foot-tall tunnel parallel to the old tube. Today, the old, pioneering tunnel remains in place, unused, but it set an example for those that followed.

"As the first major subaqueous tunnel completed in America and the first in the world of a size able to accommodate full-scale rail traffic, the St. Clair Tunnel served to dispel the doubts surrounding such work, and established the pattern for a mode of tunneling which has since changed only in matters of detail," said the Smithsonian.

UIA chief offers some tips to navigate benefits

(Continued from Page 1) the system was not yet updated and was reading that they had exhausted, they are now eligible for up to six additional weeks. Once UIA implements the federal CARES Act they will be eligible for an additional 13 weeks and will receive the \$600 weekly benefit assistance.

•Everyone currently receiving UI benefits or soon to be during this crisis is allowed the 13 additional weeks (total of 39) and \$600 weekly on top of what they

otherwise are owed as soon as the UIA is able to implement the federal CARES program. The 13 additional weeks are available until Dec. 31, 2020. The \$600 weekly assistance is available until July 31, 2020. The \$600 will automatically be applied to your benefits, no further action is needed. Continue to certify as usual.

The Agency is awaiting guidance from the USDOL on the CARES program, Gray said the UIA expected the \$600 and 13-week additions will be active

sometime the week of April 6. He asked that claimants check the UIA website (www.michigan.gov/ui) or social media pages for updates.

Coronavirus infects U.S. economy, and it's a sick feeling

(Continued from Page 1) "Things deteriorated so fast in the last half of March that a mid-month measure will not come close to capturing the current state of the labor market," said Economic Policy Institute analysts Heidi Shierholz and Elise Gould on April 3. "In the coming weeks, we expect millions more job losses as the economy continues to contract. Based on estimates from Goldman Sachs, we expect 19.8 million to be laid off or furloughed by summer, even accounting for the effect" of the \$2.2 trillion stimulus law Congress enacted, they said. That could bring the total to 30 million – a level unseen since the Great Depression.

"The unprecedented increase in unemployment claims demonstrate the economic hardship that COVID-19 has caused for so many across our country and here in Michigan," said Jeff Donofrio, director for the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. In Michigan, more than 300,000 residents filed for unemployment in the last week of March. That more than doubles the 128,000 who filed during the prior week.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget office reported on April 2 that it "expects that the economy will contract sharply during the second quarter of 2020 as a result of the continued disruption of commerce stemming from the spread of the novel coronavirus."

In addition, the CBO said the nation's unemployment rate is expected to exceed 10 percent during the second quarter.

That's because 10.236 million more people had filed first-time claims for jobless benefits since March 12 through the first week in April, according to the BLS. And 6.64 million people first-time filed jobless claims in the week ending March 28. "The 6 million new unemployment claims is just the tip of this iceberg of loss," East Lansing-based economist Patrick Anderson of the Anderson Economic Group, on April 2. "I expect 90 percent of those losing income have not filed for unemployment, particularly those who are self-employed or in small businesses struggling to keep their doors open."

Name a category of workers, and that area saw people laid off in March, with worse to come. Besides the bars and restaurants, the retail trade shed 46,000 workers, construction dropped 29,000, factories reported shedding 18,000, including 2,200 in cars. Even laundries lost 13,000 jobs. And you couldn't find temp work, as that category shed 50,000. And 19,000 day-care workers lost jobs.

The CBO said it expects the gross domestic product to decline by more than 7 percent during the second quarter. "If that happened," the Congressional Budget Office said, "the decline in the annualized growth rate reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis would be about four times larger and would exceed 28 percent. Those declines could be much larger, however."

Construction industry struggles to navigate the COVID-19 world

LANSING – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-21 on March 24 has just enough ambiguity to prompt Michigan's construction industry to collectively say... maybe... when it comes to deciding whether their project(s) can continue during the COVID-19 crisis.

Under the order, a business cannot require workers to leave their homes unless the workers are "necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations."

Furthermore, under the order, "Some limited forms of construction are permissible, including construction to maintain and improve essential public works like roads, bridges, the telecommunications infrastructure, and public health infrastructure. Construction workers may also undertake such projects as necessary to maintain and improve the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

"In addition, businesses may designate construction firms to provide necessary support to the work of the businesses' critical infrastructure workers. All construction work that is carried out while the order is in effect must be done in accordance with the mitigation measures required under section 5(c) of the order."

Contractor and contractor association responses to the directive, to say the least, are varied. In general, Small Business Administration of Michigan President Brian Calley told MiBiz "there is a tremendous amount of confusion around what's in and what's out."

North America's Building Trades Unions and the Associated General Contractors of America are all-in when it comes to keeping the construction industry humming. NABTU President Sean McGarvey and Associated General Contractors of America CEO Stephen E. Sandherr issued a joint statement urging government officials to exempt construction work from regional, state and local work shutdowns.

"Government officials at all levels should treat the construction industry and the work it performs as vital and essential to the critical industries that must remain in operation.

They added: "Labor and management construction industry partners continue to monitor and provide guidance on all recommended health and safety job site precautions for construction workers so that proper measures are deployed to ensure a safe work environment for those on the job."

The websites of most of Michigan's major construction contractors earlier this month were completely silent on COVID guidance.

On April 1 the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association said they "officially asked Gov. Whitmer to deem all construction field operations as non-essential to protect the health and safety of industry employees and to allow for all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be focused on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (at hospitals and medical facilities). After discussing the request with the administration, MITA Executive Vice President Mike Nystrom issued the following statement:

"We respect the governor's decision to continue work on state projects where and when our contractors and their workers can stay on the job in a safe manner. Our understanding is that essential construction projects will proceed where possible and where the health and safety of workers can be protected following the universal precautions recommended by public health agencies and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Michigan Department of Transportation projects will continue unless it is determined that there are COVID-19 concerns that precipitate a delay or shutdown. Local agency and other critical infrastructure projects can also proceed, if the local government owner deems the project essential with the above public health conditions and precautions also being respected."

MITA, which primarily works with the state DOT, further clarified that "the cornerstone of the agreement is that a contractor, who has workforce concerns and/or other project impacts directly related to COVID-19 (labor force shortages, supply chain challenges and/or PPE concerns), can make those concerns and impacts known to the Department and request the project be shut down (delay). The Department will agree to shut down (delay) the project, with the acknowledgement that an extension of time for the delay will be granted."

The Associated General Contractors of Michigan's April 6 update said the group is "continuing discussions with the governor and her administration about getting all of Michigan's construction industry back to work," and earlier said they have been "aggressively working with Governor Whitmer's office to clarify which construction is exempt from the Stay at Home Executive Order."

The national AGC group added: "The construction industry and the work it performs is vital and essential to the critical industries that must remain in operation to respond to this pandemic and crises to come. AGC is lobbying Congress to specifically add construction to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's guidance on critical industries whose workforce should maintain their normal work schedules."

A man was walking along a beach and stumbled across an old lamp. He picked it up, rubbed it and out popped a genie.

The genie said "You released me from the lamp, blah blah blah. This is the fourth time this month and I'm getting a little sick of these wishes so you can forget about getting three wishes.

"You only get one wish!" The man sat and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii but I'm

scared to fly and I get very seasick. "Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there to visit?"

The genie laughed and said, "That's impossible! Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete! How much steel!

"You're going to have to think of another wish!"

The man agreed, and tried to think of a really good wish. Finally, he said, "I've been married and di-

vorced four times. My wives always said that I don't care and that I'm insensitive.

"So, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment. I want to figure out why they're crying, know what they really want when they say 'nothing', and know how to make them truly happy."

The genie paused for a while and said, "How many lanes do you want on that bridge?"

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE File Your Claim By Last Name

ONLINE SCHEDULE:

michigan.gov/ui

WEBSITE IS 24/7

A-L
FILE CLAIMS

Monday
Wednesday
Friday

Saturday if you missed your days

M-Z
FILE CLAIMS

Sunday
Tuesday
Thursday

CALL CENTER SCHEDULE:

1-866-500-0017

8AM-6PM MON-FRI, 7AM-2PM SAT

A-L
CALL ON

Monday
&
Wednesday

Friday and Saturday if you missed your days

M-Z
CALL ON

Tuesday
&
Thursday





Local 190

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: The union meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING: The April meeting has been canceled.

UNION HALL CLOSING: Our office will be closed at noon on Friday, May 22nd and all day Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 10th. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 7th <https://uascholarshipfund.communityforce.com>. You can contact the union office at (734) 424-0962 for further information.

OFFICE HOURS: Effective Monday, February 3rd, the Union Hall office hours are as follows: Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The office will be closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TO FOOT TRAFFIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. (PHONE CALLS ONLY).

2020 - MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!!!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union hall and pick up a copy of the instructions.

UALocal 190 WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the "Members Only" section using your last name and UA card number. We encourage all of you to check out our website. **PLEASE NOTE: Check out "TOP NEWS" for COVID 19 information.**

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.

LAI D OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid off or report back to work **please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210**, to report the last day in which you worked or to report the day you went back to work.

INFORMATION -FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: VISION PROGRAM – EYEMED – IMPORTANT INFORMATION: EyeMed benefit cards are not necessary to access benefits, however, you may print a card from the EyeMed website. Vision providers should be provided the following information at the time of the appointment; 1) Carrier Name -(EyeMed), 2) Member Name 3) Member Birthdate
EyeMed Customer Service Call: 888-581-3648
In Network Provider Listings Call: 866-804-0982
EyeMed Website: www.eyemed.com

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 of benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** Bernadette will be available by phone call only. 1-888-390-7473
MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

(Continued next column)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111
UPPER PENINSULA – The next regular scheduled union meeting on **April 30, 2020 @ 7:30 in the Escanaba hall** will be cancelled.

UA111 Merchandise: We have hats, hoodies, T-Shirts, knives and coming soon, long sleeve shirts. Be sure to check them out next time you stop in the hall.

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.

Important Information: Contact the hall with any changes with any of the following: E-Mail, address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death. For those of you, who have an email address that we do not yet have on record, please call and give it to April or Ann.

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.

2020 Upgrade Certification Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

2020 BTA Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

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 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: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Cindy at (906) 228-6450 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

Local 190, con't

CLASS INFORMATION – TRAINING CENTER. THE TRAINING CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

APPRENTICES PLEASE NOTE: Make sure your e-mail and phone number are updated at the training center. Please call and dial EXT. 2

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US (spade meeting/schedule change for May): Both *Spades* and *Classic Cup* meetings start at 9:00 a.m. All retirees are welcome to attend. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Spade meeting In May will take place on the second **Thursday, May 14th** at the union hall, after this spade meeting, they will continue to be the first Thursday of each month. The next breakfast meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at the Classic Cup Café located at 4389 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor.

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.

"If you are out to describe the truth, leave elegance to the tailor."
–Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself, but raptors are pretty dang scary."
– Devin J. Monroe (1983 -)

"Things won are done; joy's soul lies in the doing."
–William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

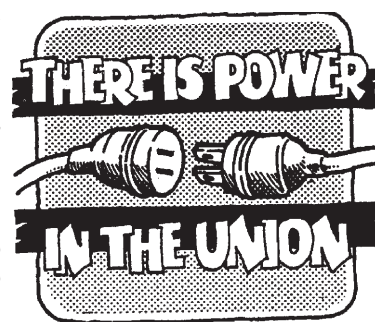
"People always call it luck when you've acted more sensibly than they have."
– Anne Tyler (1941 -)

Mason may be trades' first COVID fatality in MI

(Continued from Page 1)

"Several of our other members also became extremely sick after working with ARon," said Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 President Chuck Kukawka last week. "They were working on the coke battery jobsite on Zug Island which is owned by DTE Energy. Our contractors GlasRock and Resco have shut down for three weeks on the site.

"It is such a sad and horrible ordeal that ARon suffered, and we offer our condolences to the Jordan family. We also hope and pray for the quick recovery of the other trades workers afflicted with this virus. Unfortunately, this is our new reality and our policy is that the safety of our members as well as their families is the most important priority at this time."



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters 636

FARMINGTON HILLS – The April Union Meeting has been cancelled.

The Training Center is closed till further notice.

The Union Hall is closed to all foot traffic until further notice. Any Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is mapril@pipefitters636.org.

If there are any Allocation recommendations please submit them before May 12, 2020, by mail to the hall ATTN: Terry Gilligan or you can email them to Terry Gilligan at tgilligan@pipefitters636.org. Please be advised that in the event the May 19, 2020 Union Meeting is cancelled, the Business Manager has the authority to make the Allocation. So if you have any suggestions please submit them as soon as possible to the email address above.

Pipefitters Local 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Brother Retiree Greg Wildfong III on the passing of his daughter Katie Wildfong, Katie passed away on March 28th. Her grandfather was the late Retiree Brother Lloyd Wildfong. Also to the family of Retiree Brother John Beeding, John passed away on February 12th, 2020.

The Pipefitters 636 47th Annual Golf Outing will be held Saturday June 20, 2020 at the Links of Novi. It will be a four man scramble with an 8:00am shotgun start. Tickets are limited to 216 golfers, first-come-first-serve basis. Foursomes can be reserved at a cost of \$400. This will include a continental breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch on the turn, soft drinks/beer, prizes and a buffet dinner immediately following completion of play. All ticket orders must be received no later than Friday May 29, 2020. Please contact Lance Pesci for tickets at 248-939-3421.

The Retiree Association meeting for the month of April has been cancelled. The election has been postponed until further notice.

Any member that is Retiring contact Benesys @ 248-813-9800 for your Retirement paperwork or if you want to meet with the Financial Secretary Treasurer, please give him a 7 to 10 day notice so that he can get all of your paperwork in order.

New Quarterly UA Password is: REGISTERED APPRENTICE-SHIP

Dues: If you do not pay your Dues by the end of each quarter. After 2 quarters go unpaid you will then be Expelled and have to be Re-Initiated and pay a \$200 Re-Initiation fee.

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.

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

Financial Planning: Call Jason May at Morgan Stanley 248-258-1750 for assistance and consultation relating to your Defined Contribution Investments. He will help with a total financial plan if requested. Services are paid for by the Defined Contribution Pension Fund.

Recovery Support Group: Pipe Dreamers, a Peer Support Recovery group for ongoing recovery from substance abuse and addiction meets **the second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at **4:30pm** at the office of "Work Life Strategies" 26789 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3105, Huntington Woods 48070. Call 248-545-8301 for details or any questions you may have.

Also, a Relations/Divorce Support Group meet on the **second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm.**

Worker Assistance Program: Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. Call 248-545-8301 to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol and or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling. Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund. Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits.



A helping hand, compliments of Local 370 and their contractors

A TIP OF THE HARD HAT to members of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 370 in Flint and their contractors, who have given time and materials to help their community during the COVID-19 crisis. Above, Local 370 Business Manager Harold Harrington, left, delivers a supply of desperately needed N95 masks to staff at Hurley Medical Center in Flint. Hurley, McLaren and Genesys all received 100 of the masks, made possible by contributions by Dominic Goyette of Goyette Mechanical and the Flint Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors. At right, Local 370 members volunteered to help pack food boxes at the Genesee County Community Area Action Resource Department. A big thank you to all.



PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS Local 370 volunteers pack food boxes.



Local 370 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

FLINT – Our April 14 membership meeting has been cancelled. ALL Committee and board meetings are also on hold until further notice

The Union Hall office is temporarily closed. Dan and I are managing the office and conducting regular business by phone. If you get laid off or have any questions, please call the hall at (810)720-5243 and leave a message with your name and number. We will return your calls. You do not need to come to the hall to sign the out of work list. We are putting members on the list in the order they call. Karla is setting everyone up for direct deposit of sub-pay, if you haven't already signed up, email her at KARFAY@comcast.net

Members on Critical infrastructure jobs are still working, if you are on one your employer should give you a letter stating so. Follow all CDC protocols and stay safe out there.

Scholarship Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are now available at the hall. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 370. Complete lists of qualifications are available at Local 370 Hall.

Sub Pay. Remember to qualify for sub pay when you are laid off, you must sign the out of work list. You can also collect when you are on Jury Duty and miss work. If you are traveling, call Karla to see if you need to make sub-fund self-payments. All members were sent a Sub-Pay manual in 2018. If you did not receive one, please call TIC at (517) 321-7502 and ask for the 370 Sub Pay Fund Summary Plan Description (SPD)

Upcoming Night Classes: on hold
Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint Apprenticeship 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 Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

ALL GM Work requires 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 GM site 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.

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ualocal370.org. We are now able to accept Visa, MasterCard, 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, Dan Gaudet for application and testing dates.

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

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

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

"If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment."

–Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)



Plumbers Local 98



Plumbers 98
MADISON HTS. – *Open letter to the Membership of Plumbers Local 98*

Brothers and Sisters, Your Officers and Myself hope this letter find you and your family safe during these strange times. I'm sure this will be one of those once in a lifetime memories of a holiday weekend none of us will soon forget. I completely agree with our Governor's decision to extend the stay at home order until the end of this month. Even though the CDC and our affiliated Governmental agencies have seen the epidemic peak in our state and have stopped the building of surge centers in our state or at least in our jurisdiction for now. The original plan to turn the Suburban Showplace into a surge hospital was originally planned for 1,100 beds has now been reduced to 200, just in case we get a resurgence of this virus.

Local 98 has more than done its share by completing a 1,100-bed facility at TCF Center (COBO Hall) in Detroit. I believe our training and the hard work you do in the field, where the only reason an out-of-state contractor, Johnson Controls, with almost zero experience in plumbing or building a hospital could hire direct from the hall and with the aid of our sister locals 190,370 671, C&R Plumbing and Conti Mechanical smash any myths about the value of hiring SKILLED UNION WORKERS.

At this time, your officers are trying and are still working together on gathering information on updates to the historic changes to unemployment and all possible grants to businesses across the country. With their help 98 has donated food to ER's, delivered masks to sites, dropped off coffee to area hospitals, volunteered our services and anything we can do to help.

Our members are working selflessly along the side of doctors and nurses in our hospitals, we went to work in Detroit returning water to over 100 homes under the direction of Goyette, Benkari and Ben Washington and the great brothers from 370 that mixed with our own. More are to come when the workers from DWSD and GLWA can man the positions and reevaluate who to help next.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, our county executives, Oakland County Dave Coulter, Macomb County Mark Hackel and Wayne County's Warren Evans, have been working tirelessly with their staff to get our members to anyone who needs us. I pray all these relationships here and across our country will continue and move our nation forward. This virus does not care if you are a Democrat or a Republican. If you are not working stay home.

Until further notice all E-Board meetings, Union meetings and Retiree meetings, will be cancelled. The Union Hall and our Training Center have been shut down to all foot traffic.

Any Must/Most, upgrades, continuities or letters of certifications will still be taken care of by Paul Baker or our officers or Jean. The school will remain closed until we figure out a black board procedure or the state pulls restrictions.

While I am here, I recommend to the apprentices get your classes caught up at Washtenaw Community College, this virus may hamper going to school but not your obligation to the training center. At work I am in hope this social distancing and the constant scrubbing of hands, will help keep some of us safe. I realize this is sometimes impossible but do the best you can. I have to announce our training center is closed down as well, there is no foot traffic allowed. Please check all of our media outlets like the 98 Web page, Facebook or call the hall to see if there is any new information.

It's that time again for your **2020 Plumbing License Renewal**, it can be done **ONLINE ONLY!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit www.michigan.gov/bcc. Or call 98's training Center and they will assist you.

Our Local 98 PAC committee has come out in support of past V.P. Joe Biden for President of the United States. With all the twisted things that Washington and our great state has done to the working class and every Local Union in this country, it did not take long to come to this conclusion. That does not mean in any way shape or form we have

shut the door on the Republican Party. We will work on a list of candidates your PAC committee is recommending soon on our web page, we will always back anyone who stands with the working people of our state of Michigan and this country just like we have done in the past. You stand with us or against us!

All working 2nd thru 5th year apprentices should have received a new open enrollment form to change your insurance coverage to a different plan, if you are happy with your current plan you do not have to do anything. BeneSys is still our plan manager and feel free to contact Jon or myself at the hall for any questions you may have or that may arise from the mailing you received.

We have currently frozen any new apprentice applications at our Training Center as we try to figure out a potential start date for a new class.

Superintendents and Foremen, if you have laid off Pre-apprentices, please send the information to the agents with a letter pertaining to their work efforts. Some day we will get back to normal, and to lose these young men and women would be an injustice.

We had started to clean up the Out of Work List and now not so much, we are back to over 400 Brothers and Sisters out of work. I have informed our contractors when they are given the green light you may return for that same contractor you were laid off from.

"Your only responsibility is to notify the Union upon returning to work."

Right now, the world has learned about the world of sanitary conditions, when you do return to work don't let the generals go back to unclean work conditions like over flowing Porta Jon's or a lack of hand wash station by them. Don't let just one person bitch – YOU all should be in unison.

If you were unavailable to work or did not return a call you have been moved to the stay list or injured list. Please keep your Safe to Work Modules current as we have a lot of automotive work on the horizon.

The first week of May, many of these plants will try and reopen, most of them will be on a 4-10 schedule in order to clean the facilities properly and the idea is to give us less exposure. I can't hold a gun to your head but please wear a mask and gloves, I personally seen many members who will not wear a mask, my hats off to Macomb guys whose wives all made them masks. Thank you ladies!

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time, when we get the green light to return to work, it will be a great chance to expand and grow again as many members are looking to retire. So if you know anyone working nonunion or is a past member that may be interested in us, have them call 98's Organizer Rob Moses on his cell phone 248-763-2187.

The new U.A. Union cards are available at the hall when you pay your 2020 Union dues, these cards are good for 2020, 2021 and 2022. If by chance you are in arrears and you are struggling financially, please contact the hall and make arrangements. We do not want to fine anyone for something that can be avoided.

If you are thinking of retirement or are having any issues relating to SUB, Unemployment or Benesys please contact Jon on his cell phone or at the hall at 248-762-9238. Sorry to say but we have run into problems with the new UA cards as there is no way to know if a person is current. Jon has been able to make a second card to be carried to our meetings as well as job sites, this second card can now be stamped monthly or yearly as we have done in the past.

Now all of our members and stewards on the jobs will not have to waste time calling the hall to see if another member is current. Our hope is this will not only stop accidental reinstatement fee's from occurring but this will help examining board members at union meetings who are at the door checking cards to lessen any confusion.

Don't miss out on our agree-

"The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised."

–George F. Will (1941 -)

ment with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. Local 98 members can purchase home or building in the Land Banks Holdings for half the list cost. Go to www.buildingdetroit.org to see what this is about or contact the hall for details.

The new Log books are in so grab only what you need for your job. It figures now that work is slow the new contract books have arrived, agents can distribute to a parking lot or open area if needed.

Last note I saved the best for last; I would like to personally thank Brother Mitch Conn who is retiring this month from our training center. It was an honor working with you. When we needed a welding instructor he stepped up and really put our young men and women on the right path. On behalf of all the Officers and Members we wish you a great retirement to you and your wife.

We also would like to thank Brother Chris Opalka for stepping in and is now our new welding instructor for 98. I'm sure you will continue teaching our members this well needed skill.

–In Brotherhood, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

Retiree Meeting. Cancelled
Northern Retiree Meeting. Cancelled

Thumb Area Meeting. Cancelled

Workers Assistance Program, Recovery and Relationship/Divorce Support Groups. This program is not only for medical and/or personal issues, please call C.J. Harrison, Work Life Strategies at 248-545-8301 for an appointment.

Out of Work List Changes/SUB Pay. All working members will be required to complete a SUB application within 48 hours of their lay-off to ensure placement on the Out of Work List. If you are out of work due to Unemployment, Disability or Workers Compensation, please contact Jon DeRoo first at 248-762-9238 first than BeneSys at 248-813-9800 to verify your continued Insurance eligibility.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435

Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

Coronavirus (COVID19). Due the Governor Whitmer's order that all non-essential persons stay at home The Training Center is closed until further notice. **All scheduled apprentice, journey plumber update and certification classes have cancelled.** Please call Paul Baker at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 if you have any questions.

The **State of Michigan** has mailed **Plumbing license renewal notices.** The Bureau of Construction Codes has transitioned to online license renewals. The Training Center computer lab is available for members who need computer access or assistance in renewing their plumbing license online. Training Center hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. If you need assistance or access to the computer lab after hours (3:30 pm – 8:00 pm), please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435. You can reach Paul Baker at extension 123.

Payment options include credit, or debit card, electronic funds transfer or check. So be sure **(Continued next column)**



PLUMBER Josh Chavez of Local 98 assembles a sink while helping put together a field hospital for the Army Corps of Engineers at the TCF Center in Detroit. He's employed by Conti.



Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333
LANSING – April's union meeting is CANCELLED.

LOCAL 333 SCHOLARSHIP: THE OPENING OF THE LOCAL 333 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS WILL BE DELAYED ONE MONTH AND WILL START ON MAY 1, 2020 DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID 19 OUTBREAK.

WE WILL ALSO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO APPLY AN ADDITIONAL MONTH. WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL UPDATES IN THE FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE BUILDING TRADES PAPER.

LOCAL 333 PLUMBERS & PIPE FITTERS GOLF OUTING will be cancelled.

If you're interested in taking any classes please sign up at www.ua333.org or call Trent or Diana at 517-323-0333.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be up-

Local 98, con't

to bring a credit or debit card, or a blank check to process the renewal payment online. The fee is \$40.00 for journey plumbers and \$300.00 for master plumbers.

2020 Course Hour reimbursement forms are now 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, 2020 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement. Deadline for 2019 reimbursement requests is March 31, 2020.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as on an online class for \$25 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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

dated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed; between contractors, changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

Weld Test (Second Tuesday of the Month) Weld Test are scheduled each month. (Unless lack of participants)

If your Med-Gas Installer is going to expire within the next few months please sign up on our website to take the renewal class.

Med-Gas new certification: Please sign up online on our website or contact the training center.

Lansing Board of Water & Light Powerhouse: All members must have their 18 MUST modules and a current drug test on file to get on site. Please call your Business Agent if you need assistance.

Foreman: Any journey member interested in Foreman opportunities please call your Business Agent. We have plenty of opportunities available.

Sincere condolences to Mrs. Ruth Gunn, wife of Jackson retiree Richard Gunn, who passed away March 18, 2020. Richard was a plumber for the local for 39 years before retiring. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Deepest sympathies to Mrs. Cindi Benedict wife of Battle Creek member Richard Benedict. Richard passed away March 18, 2020; he was a pipefitter in the local and retired in May 2010. We are so sorry for your loss.

Our heartfelt condolences to our Lansing member David Line on the loss of his mother Helen Line, who passed away February 10, 2020. Helen's late husband was retired member Donald Line. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

"One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory."
–Rita Mae Brown

"Well-timed silence hath more eloquence than speech."
–Martin Fraquhar Tupper



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704
FARMINGTON – The next regular meeting will be May 13, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at the Local Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

NFPA All Access is available for all 704 members. Please contact the Local 704 Training Center for username and password. Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

Continuing education classes are being formed. Please reach out to the training center for further information or future classes you would like to see added.

Remember to keep your information updated with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery to all of our sick and injured members.

You Are the Missing Piece.



Attend Your Union Meetings!



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
 - HRA's, HSA's, FSA's
 - Vacation Plans
 - 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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| 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 | |



Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting is postponed until further notice.

ALL NON-CRITICAL INTERACTIONS are canceled until further notice. Please utilize email and phone calls whenever possible. Below is a list of main contacts for the hall:

- Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 13 jpomerville@ualocal85.org
- Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 15 jbador@ualocal85.org
- Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 14 tdanielak@ualocal85.org
- Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org
- Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 12 rbjanderson@ualocal85.org
- Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 11 ktuthill@ualocal85.org
- Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 10 freige@ualocal85.org

The next Northern Meeting is postponed until further notice.

The health and safety of all members of UA Local 85 is the utmost importance for me. As most of you have been following as well, I have been closely monitoring the developments of this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from any possible spread of the virus, many meetings and events have been postponed and/or canceled. All apprenticeship and night classes have been canceled until further notice. Future classes are also in jeopardy, for the time being we are not going to make decisions on day and night classes until I am certain the risk has been minimized.

I personally want to assure you all protocols are being taken to keep the membership and staff healthy during this time of uncertainty. Take care of yourselves and each other and we will get through this together. It is my commitment to you that this Local will do everything in our power to provide for the sick and needy. Should you come in contact or contract this virus, please let us know. I have worked closely with the State of Michigan on unemployment benefits, and I am trying to design a way to further provide by utilizing our SUB benefit. Together we will prosper through this wearisome time. Please rest assured your leadership will do everything we can to help, with that said we can't help if we don't know. God Bless Organized Labor.

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

The new website is running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin or Feather, (989) 799-5261 ext. 11 or 10.

The new Facebook page is live. If you are currently on the Local Eighty-Five Facebook account, invites were sent to have you join the new site. UA Local 85 page is our public Facebook account. UA Local 85 Members Group is our new members only Facebook. On this page, we will have important messages and reminders specific to our membership. Please like both and let us know what you think.

GODBLESSORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

Training Center News:
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, P.O. Box 6547, Saginaw, MI 48608 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org
SUB Application for Benefits: Must be on file in order to receive SUB Check. Available at the Hall.
90 Day Rule: The weeks you are claiming must be submitted (Continued next column)



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174
COOPERSVILLE – **MEETING CANCELLED:** As per the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Governor's Executive Order and after consulting with the Executive Board we have decided to **CANCEL THE MAY UNION MEETING and CANCEL THE MAY RETIREE BREAKFAST.** We feel this is in the best interest of protecting the health of our members. We are also asking that the members try to take care of dues payments and other administrative tasks online and over the phone. The offices will remain open, but we are trying to limit foot traffic.

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

PLEASE CALL EXT. 17: If you are laid off, taking a leave or separated from your employer for any other reason please call extension 17 and put your name on the out of work list. If you do not wish to be called for other jobs please say you'd like to be unavailable during your message. We need to track the number of members who are out of work.

Sub-Pay: The board of trustees voted to temporarily raise the maximum sub pay credit from \$130 to \$260 from March 23 until the end of April. To file for sub-pay, fill out a sub-pay form. You can find a form on the members only section of the website under the "forms" tab on the lefthand side, or you can call the Union office and we'll mail or email you some. Mail or fax the completed form along with verification that you received an unemployment payment to TIC. If you prefer to email the forms, please email them to Cami at cburris@ua174.org and she will submit them to TIC.

Unemployment: The Michigan Unemployment system has been overwhelmed for the last two weeks due to the number of filings. The state has released the schedule below in an effort to more effectively serve Michigan citizens filing ONLINE.

Last names A to L: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 Last names M to Z: Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday

Saturday: Make up day
 Members have had the most success filing between the hours of 8pm and 8am.

School Work: Several school districts were successful in passing millages this fall. We are looking for families who live in the district of, or graduated from the schools below to possibly join us at a school board meeting or sign a letter of support. For Hudsonville, Ludington, Oakridge contact Ryan. Kent City and Tri-County contact Jason. Rockford and Lowell contact Nathan.

Local 85, con't
 ted 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 no. changes at (989) 799-5261 ext. 10.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 10.

Email Addresses: Please email freige@ualocal85.org to update email addresses.

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 is postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up to date information.

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

PAC Cards: Since the elimination of prevailing wage, the race to the bottom on wages and benefits for publicly funded projects has begun. Our political focus over the years to come will be electing people who support prevailing wage and wage standards in general. In order to do that we need to raise our PAC card participation. We currently have less than half of the local contributing to our PAC. Your PAC contribution DOES NOT COME OFF YOUR CHECK. When you sign the PAC card it allows us to move money from your working dues over to our PAC. Please call Cami today and find out if you have current PAC card on file.

Wild Game Dinner: THE WILD GAME DINNER WILL BE POSTPONED TO A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.

Save the Dates:
 Union Picnic, Saturday July 11th 11am-4pm, The Meadows at Millennium Park, 1415 Maynard Ave, Walker Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: Saturday, Aug. 1, 8:30am Shotgun, Falls at Barber Creek November Union Meeting: **MONDAY**, Nov. 2 at 7pm

Medicare Retirees: Effective Jan. 1 you are now enrolled in a Humana Medicare Advantage Plan administered by Labor First. If you have any questions about premium payments contact TIC. All other questions should be directed to Labor First.

Short Term Disability: The Local 174 Board of Trustees recently voted to increase the short-term disability amount from \$300 per week to \$400 per week. This increase will be effective Sept. 30, 2019.

Local #174 Gear: We have set up an online store with apparel through Trophy House in Muskegon. You can order and pay online and either pick up the merchandise or pay to have it shipped. There is a link on our website, ua174.org. You can also go to www.trophyhousebrands.com/online-stores/local-174 to order. You can also find a link in the members Facebook group. They will print the apparel once they receive twenty orders and contact you once your order is ready.

Dispatch: We will be splitting 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: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch. The dispatch schedule for the next month will be as follows:
 Jason Finch (231) 670-4482: 2/24/20 to 3/9/20
 Nathan Phillips (616) 916-0667: 3/10/20 to 3/22/20

New insurance carriers: Active and NON Medicare Retirees Aetna: (888) 290-7241 Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108 Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

Organizing Update: Please contact Chris Pelton if you know of any jobsites with a non-union plumbing or mechanical contractor or if you are interested in actively assisting with our organizing efforts. There are plenty of opportunities available, ranging from a one-day ride-along with a Business Agent or Organizer all the way up to full blown salting.

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 that you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events, such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets and Christmas parties.

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Don't rely on anyone else to call in for you. They will not get into trouble. It's the member who is working in another local who has not checked in that gets into trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractors/members working in our jurisdiction.

Contact Info: Please make sure we have your updated contact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami at the Union office.

Retiree Breakfast: THE MAY BREAKFAST IS CANCELLED. If you are a retiree and in need of assistance please contact the Local Union Office.
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.**

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm

Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 West-ern / 6pm

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (TIC) West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275
 (855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free (517) 321-7508 Fax

BENEFITS WEBSITE: westmichiganplumbers.org is the TIC website where you can check your contributions and benefit information. Click on benefit inquiry. Your username is your social security number. The password for first time users is K4GHB39 (case sensitive). You will then be prompted to create a permanent password.

Forms: The forms for Dollar Bank Reimbursement and Sub Pay are on the www.ua174.org website under the Members Only section and Forms and Links tab.

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Section 18.5 states, "...employees...shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you are in compliance with our agreement.

Out of work list: Please remember to call extension 17 when you are laid off. You must call line 17 to be put on the available to work list. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

Union Hall extension numbers: Ryan Bennett Business Manager ext:12, Nathan Phillips Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch Business Agent ext.14, Chris Pelton Organizer ext.15, Lisa Johnson Accounting Manager 11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Shumaker ext. 30.

Training News: **ATTENTION: Due to the recent developments related to COVID-19, the Training Center is currently closed until further notice as a proactive measure to help mitigate the transmission of the Coronavirus. This decision was based partly on the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, the UA is canceling all regional training through May 1 and adhering to the social distancing guidelines as outlined by the CDC.

All current classes and exams scheduled are postponed and will be rescheduled accordingly. We are actively monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates as more information is obtained in the days to come. When possible, day-to-day business will be conducted by phone or email.

Please direct any and ALL questions to Training Coordinator, Jeff Rumsey. The best way to reach Jeff is to call/text his cell phone (231)923-8140.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held on Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, June 11, 2020.

SIGNALPERSON recertification class (postponed).
WELDING: The next weld test event will be Saturday, May 9, 2020 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, May 7, 5:00p-9:00p. Please call and sign up if you plan to test.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole to sign up for classes or if you have questions. Call the training office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff)/Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & Hvac Service Local 357
KALAMAZOO – COVID-19 UNION UPDATE: As we are moving into unprecedented times as it relates to the Coronavirus, please take precautions and be respectful of others. As events unfold, we will notify the membership of cancellations and, if possible, the rescheduled dates and times of those events.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus. As pertinent information becomes available, we will be using Facebook and email to keep you informed.

UNEMPLOYMENT FILING: All Eligible Workers Will Receive Benefits – The UIA assures that every eligible worker in Michigan who applies for unemployment benefits will receive them. The UIA will be accepting claims and benefit applications back-dated to reflect the date on which the claimant was laid-off due to COVID-19, beyond the previously established 28-day period (\$600 federal payment is only retroactive back to March 28).

Historical Demand - The latest U.S. Dept of Labor report shows that since March 15, more than 800,000 Michigan workers filed for unemployment, a more than 5,000 percent increase. Michigan has seen a record number of claims each of the last three weeks.

Online Filing Schedule at Michigan.gov/UIA - **Customers are encouraged to use off-peak times 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.**

- Last names beginning with letters A-L: file claims on Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays.
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z: file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.
- Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.

UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be a Special Called Meeting on **Tuesday – June 9th** at 6:30 pm. Note that Tuesday is the correct date – not MONDAY. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30. The allocation of the wage increase will be done at this meeting. The Building Trades Paper serves as the memberships official notice. **NOTE: MAY'S Union Meeting is CANCELED.**

MEDICARE RETIREE MEETING: Labor First was scheduled to have a follow up meeting with the Medicare / Medicaid eligible retirees on April 9 at 10 am. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and MI State Mandate on Meetings, this will not be held. There will be additional information mailed to all eligible members when a new date has been scheduled.

PRE-RETIREMENT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30TH IS CANCELED

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International provides 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 1-888-281-3461. If you are not satisfied with the service you have received, please call me Ken Willcutt at 269-569-3492.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ 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 Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corporation 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 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.**

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call TIC at the phone number above and 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 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification) Time limits apply for reporting status changes so let the hall know ASAP!

TAX PREP INFORMATION: Dollar amounts WILL BE available Feb. 7, 2020 for 2019 withholdings & dues paid. If you sign up for the e-mail on the website, you do not need to call the Hall for your deductions because you can view and print out your own information. The information that we have is what the contractors have reported on the fringes. If you think there is a discrepancy, then you should check your own pay stubs.

NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE IS PAID BY THE CONTRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE. The Local is donating the Hall to the Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative (KCTI). **FREE TAX** preparation along with E-filing returns has not been rescheduled yet due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Dates will be provided when they are known. To qualify, your household income **MUST BE** under \$55,000 along with various other requirements. Information is available by calling KCTI at 2-1-1. Due to limited availability, **it is strongly recommended that you make an appointment.** Appointment times fill up fast. Please call 2-1-1 to make an appointment.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of Jason Cornish on the passing of his mother.

Condolences to the family of Jeffrey L Smith on the passing of his father-in-law.

Condolences to the family of Bob Nyberg on the passing of his mother.

Condolences to the family of Steve Wiley on the passing of his sister-in-law.

Tax Time?

When it's tax time, it's time to call Kuderik at 248 835 7755.

- Over 20 years experience in Union worker returns
- Family members over 50 years in Local 636
- Maximize your deductions and returns
- Electronic filing for fast refund
- Call today to begin tax planning now

KUDERIK AND ASSOCIATES

Kuderik and Associates PLLC
 Certified Public Accountants
 32121 Woodward Avenue
 Suite 202, Royal Oak MI 48073
www.kuderikcpa.com



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 292
TROY - MEETING NOTICE: MAYMEMBERMEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

The next general membership meeting will be held on **June 10, 2020.**

Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Knights of Columbus in Clawson.

PAUL GUALDONI Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

The **E-Board/Stewards** next meeting will be held **June 23, 2020.**

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: Due to the COVID-19 crisis and its increasing danger, we have been mandated by the State of Michigan to close the Union Hall but will be working remotely, beginning April 6, 2020. We can be reached at our website: sheetmetal292.com by clicking the "Contact us" page.

Here you may enter your question/message. The contact page will be monitored M-F 8 am - 4 pm. We will respond as quickly as possible. You may also contact your Union Representatives with any questions or concerns.

To obtain proof of unemployment for sub purposes, you can print your benefit payment page under the "Certification" tab from your online MiWam account. <https://miwam.unemployment.state.mi.us/CmMiWAM/#3>

The sub trustees would like to announce that the initial eligibility rule has been temporarily suspended. All members with sub credits can collect them.

You can submit proof of unemployment to Benesys by email: smw292@subfund.org fax: 248-556-2594

Stay safe, stay healthy
CONDOLENCES: Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of Retiree members, Gary DePollo who passed away on April 8, 2020 and Martin (Bud) Walters on April 10, 2020. Both were longtime members of our local and we are saddened to hear of these losses. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

ELECTION NOTICE: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Union Election will **not** take place in June. The Election will take place when conditions improve.

RETIREE NOTICE: The retirees luncheon will be held **Thursdays** at: Tavern on the Main, 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

Next meeting: **June 4, 2020** at 12:30pm. **THERE WILL BE NO LUNCHEON IN APRIL**

2020 meeting dates are as follows: **June 4th, August 6th, October 1st and December 3rd.**

Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_e1@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The Constitution and Ritual of the 2nd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall will also have hard copies when they become available.

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Members please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact Laura or Lee Ann at the Union Hall. With the amount of upcoming in-town work, all current Journeymen and Apprentices should ensure they have **18 safety mods completed and drug test should be current.**

The NMA addendum for most of the upcoming projects states: 1) Prior to, but within 30 days of referral for employment to the project site, all craft persons will: A) Attend a Project Specific Orientation facilitated by the Contractor at mutually agreed upon times and locations; B) Before being admitted to the job site, all contractors and subcontractor employees having active involvement in job site construction activity, must

be current and maintain a current MUST or equivalent status regarding the Substance Abuse Program. Prior to the start of work on the project the employee must provide confirmation of negative results to a MUST Substance Abuse Test or equivalent test within the last 30 days.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 is now partnering with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active 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 active members and their dependents.

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

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).

UNION HALL HOURS: The Union Hall is currently closed as mandated by the State of Michigan. You can contact us by using the "Contact Us" tab @ sheetmetal292.com or by contacting your Union Representatives.

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.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: Please sign up to receive text message notifications from Local 292. These messages will include information such as dues and meeting reminders and/or other pertinent information. If interested, please call the hall or give your contact information to your steward, to add your name and phone number to the Text Message Notification list.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER: Be sure to check our website - www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 and Twitter - @SMW292, for updates and information.

NOTARY PUBLIC: For your convenience, we now have a Notary Public on site at the union hall. Notary services are free of charge to our members.

THE 4PLUS 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 certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with 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! Saturday weld classes are cancelled until further notice.

These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain a AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone that signs up (Continued next column)



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80
SOUTHFIELD - FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES REGARDING COVID-19 PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE SMW80.COM

This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections. REMINDER Meetings are no longer held at the Plumbers Hall and are now held at Local 80's Union Hall.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The general membership meeting on APRIL 28 is **CANCELLED** MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN MAY. MAY MEETING WILL BE MAY 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21, 2020 at 5 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: 2020 Meeting Schedule: CANCELLED - April 20, Meetings will resume as follows: June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19, and Dec. 21. The meetings begin at 12:30 pm and are held at the Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth St. Royal Oak. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. We also have applications at the Hall if you would like to apply and we will forward it on to Mr. Murzen.

SUB CHANGES: 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

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. 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 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 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. Ap- (Continued next column)

ALL APPLICATIONS must be filed in person at the Training Center and a copy of your High School diploma, or GED certificate, along with a picture ID must be submitted with the application or it will not be accepted. At the time of filing you will be registered for a written test at Macomb Community College, at a cost of \$60 (Non-Members Only) which you must pay at time of testing. Cash only will be accepted. If you have any questions, call Dave at (313) 623-9390 or visit www.smw1292jatic.org for more information.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE Steven K Piwko, John McGow & Christopher Sanchez.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available for members only until May 1st! Please join us on July 11 at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$90 a ticket for members and \$125 a ticket for non-members. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts & danishes, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket!

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 1st 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. **REMINDER: WE ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and do not accept American Express.**

all of your proof now. If you have any questions please call us at 248-557-7575.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE Steven K Piwko, John McGow & Christopher Sanchez.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available for members only until May 1st! Please join us on July 11 at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$90 a ticket for members and \$125 a ticket for non-members. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts & danishes, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket!

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RETIREMENT CLASS: CANCELLED: Saturday April 25, 2020 at 9 am, a FREE retirement education class with Greystone Consulting.

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.

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. 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 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 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. Ap- (Continued next column)

Painters Union seeks COBRA subsidies in COVID-19 aftermath

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) General President Ken Rigmaiden is calling on Congress to subsidize COBRA health plans for 11 million U.S. construction workers who may lose their jobs as the COVID-19 virus "spreads and wipes out the sixth largest employment sector in America."

"The construction industry is the backbone of the U.S. economy. If Congress fails to take additional steps to support blue-collar construction workers, the short-term and long-term consequences will be dire for every industry," Rigmaiden said. "Supporting construction workers begins with ensuring they have access to medical care and prescriptions by shoring up the health coverage that thousands are losing every day as layoffs sweep across the industry."

COBRA (The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) is a health insurance program that allows eligible employees and their dependents the

Local 80, con't

plication within seven 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-WORKLIST: 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 September 1 through September 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 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: Building Trades Wage Allocation Vote April 28 (CANCELLED) @ Union Hall *MOVED TO MAY MEETING UNLESS NOTIFIED OTHERWISE*

Residential Wage Allocation Vote May 7 4:30pm @ Union Hall
Service Wage Allocation Vote May 7 5:00pm @ Union Hall
Nominations for General Election May 26 @ Union Hall
General Election Vote June 23 @ Union Hall
Golf Outing July 11 @ Cracklewood Golf Course
Picnic August 8 @ K of C Picnic Grounds

continued benefits of health insurance coverage in the case that an employee loses their job or experiences a reduction of work hours.

The IUPAT estimates that at least 50 percent of construction sites across the country have already been shut down, and fears that number could rise as high as 90 percent. The union said it is working with industry stakeholders to develop new best practices and safety protocols for active jobs and essential job sites, and is calling on Congress to do its part in protecting the health of the millions of families that face potential loss of coverage in the construction industry and beyond.

The AFL-CIO, a federation of 55 labor unions representing 12.5 million workers, issued an executive council statement last month that also advocates for emergency subsidies to cover COBRA health insurance payments.

Nationwide trends indicate that sites could be shut down entirely. Major U.S. construction stoppages in Michigan, San Francisco, Boston, Pennsylvania, in addition to nationwide private and local site shutdowns, have workers experiencing anxiety and uncertainty.

"Congress had a chance to grant real relief to this vulnerable workforce and didn't. These financial assistance proposals are a band-aid when we need a tourniquet. Working people are being hit with wave after wave of setbacks - finances, healthcare loss, and now an indefinite date for a job to go back to. The IUPAT is demanding urgent assistance for America's working people before they are bled dry and before this economy bleeds dry," said IUPAT General Vice President Jimmy Williams. "We're already behind and the clock is ticking. Congress and the Senate need to get in front of this with bold action and subsidize COBRA benefits so that the millions of workers facing the very real possibility of indefinitely losing their jobs have a very real option for health coverage."

"In the midst of a pandemic, it is more important than ever that our nation ensures workers can go to the hospital without fear of financial ruin," said Michelle Hennessey, a commercial painter and mother of two. "Any worker who has been laid off; is immunocompromised and unable to work; or is responsibly participating in isolation or quarantine shouldn't have to choose between putting food on the table and the health and safety of themselves, their family and the public."

In addition to the subsidization of COBRA health plans, the IUPAT's "Bold Action Platform for Working Families" urges Congress to secure retirement plans affected by the crisis and invest in American infrastructure to quickly put construction workers back to work.

"Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation."
- William Arthur Wood

"He that will not sail until all dangers are over, will never put to sea."
- Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)

"We're here for a reason. I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out to lead people through the dark."
- Whoopi Goldberg

"No matter what side of the argument you are on, you always find people on your side that you wish were on the other."
- Jascha Heifetz (1901 - 1987)

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IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW Local 58
DETROIT – APRIL 21, 2020
MEMBERSHIP MEETING CANCELLATION.

Please be advised that the General Membership Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 21, 2020 is cancelled** until further notice due to the current environment involving the Coronavirus. This decision coincides with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Guidelines (See website).

The next **Regular Membership Meeting** will be **May 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM** at the Union Hall.

The Trustees of the Vacation Fund, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, have decided to run the disbursement in April instead of May. In order to accomplish this early disbursement, this deposit will only include five months of deposits that will include those received through March 31, 2020 for pay-week ending October 5, 2019 through pay-week ending February 29, 2020. Pay-week ending March 7, 2020 through pay-week ending September 26, 2020 will be deposited in November as normal.

Disbursement from the Vacation Fund is anticipated to be transferred to your PNC Bank Stored Value Card or if you selected, direct deposited into your checking or savings accounts, on or around April 22, 2020. Please check the listed contributions from your employers with your pay records for accuracy. A list of contributions may be obtained from the Benefit Office Website, www.ewjbt.org by logging into your personal information and clicking My Benefits then Vacation Benefits.

If you require a paper statement, please contact the Benefit Office for a printout. If there is an error, contact the Benefit Office at (586) 575-9200 ext. 212. You may check your Stored Value utilization history by logging on to www.pncpaycard.com and by entering your 16-digit card number listed on the front of the card and the last four digits of your Social Security Number, also referred to as your Account Access Code (or AAC for short). Customer Service can be reached by calling at (866) 453-5071.

The Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroititec.org/continuing-education/>. We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will reorder 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.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be **Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:00 pm.**

The 12th Annual Local 58 Detroit River Walleye Tournament HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 5:00 PM.** Every member is invited to attend and to bring their ideas about our Local's involvement in our communities. Anyone interested in helping at Cass Park can show up at 8:00 AM every second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be **Tuesday May 12, 2020** immediately following the Community Service Committee which starts at 5pm. We will be discussing the annual family picnic.

EWMC of Southeastern MI - The next monthly meeting for the chapter is scheduled for **Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30.** Please bring your ideas for service projects, fundraisers, and outings to the meetings. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. That way we can share information outside of our regular meetings and put out a call to action if necessary.

Due to recent circumstances beyond our control, we will have to do things differently for the time being. We can put our meetings on Zoom but many in-person events will have to be cancelled or rescheduled at a later date. We will do our best to keep all informed. Please continue to



IBEW LOCAL 58 electricians employed by Conti help set up the TCF Center in Detroit as a COVID 19 medical center earlier this month.

stay safe at work, home, and in the community.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM** located at the Union Hall.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on **Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM.**

The Veterans Committee will now be meeting monthly immediately after the Safety committee meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the auditorium.

Local 58's Women's Committee - With the union hall being closed all in-person meetings have been postponed. We will continue having our regular monthly meetings on ZOOM as needed. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon.

ARCAWARDS-ASPIRING REAL CHANGE. The IBEW Local 58 ARC-Aspiring Real Change awards have been created by the Women's Committee to recognize the outstanding efforts of Local 58 members who inspire, engage and advance growth of the local union. It takes a strong group of individuals to keep the vision and the mission of Local 58 moving forward and positively impact our membership, the community and the greater good for all working men and women. The ARC Awards seek to recognize outstanding contributions by our members dedicated to embracing the mission of the Women's Committee. All ARC Award recipients are nominated by their peers and have positively impacted both the union and the Brothers & Sisters they work and serve with throughout many areas of our Local. The Women's Committee at IBEW Local 58 shares a commitment with our members to equality, diversity and personal growth and is proud to establish the ARC Awards as a tradition of recognizing outstanding achievements for decades to come.

The ARC have been postponed until further notice. When everything clears up and we can get back to normal we will be scheduling a new date. We will be choosing the scholarship winners as scheduled and will notify the winners.

Help Wanted - The Women's Committee will be keeping the bid process open for caterers, photographers, band/deejay and other vendors for the ARC Awards until we have a new date. If you know of vendors interested you can contact Angela Panucci @ 586-291-8014 or Diana Wright @ 734-934-9029 for further information.

We are also looking for a few good sisters to continue on with our newsletter and articles. If you have any experience or affinity for writing please reach out. If there are any retirees that need help with getting groceries or other essentials during this pandemic, please reach out, we are here for you. You can email us. Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org. Follow us on Instagram @[ibewomen58](https://www.instagram.com/ibewomen58/); Check us out on Facebook.

The Retirees Association Fall motor coach trip will be a

seven day, six night adventure to Charleston, S.C. The dates are Sept. 13-19, 2020. Cost will be \$790 pp. dbl. occupancy; single \$1105. For more info contact Rick Koberer @ rick_dona@hotmail.com 248-421-2636.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: It is essential for anyone attending any of our activities & luncheons to notify Ray Owen (248) 348-3626 ahead of time. Make checks for all activities payable to "The Retirees Association" Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville, MI 48167.

Please be advised that the Retirees Annual Luncheon, Pin Party/Spring Fling on April 25, 2020 has been cancelled due to the current environment involving the Coronavirus. This decision coincides with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Guidelines.

Board Meetings for 2020 convene in the "Bill Rushford Room" located in the lower level of the Union Hall, at 10 AM, May 13; June 10; July 8; Aug. 12; Sept. 9; Oct. 14; Nov. 11; Dec. 9.

Luncheons: *Price Increase* Due to rising costs, our luncheons will increase from \$15 to \$20 per person beginning with the June 2020 luncheon. Reservations for luncheons NEED to be confirmed by the Sunday prior to the date of the luncheon please. Please keep your email address updated with the Union hall and the Retiree Association. Send your email address to 58retirees@ibewlocal58.org. This will help communicating within the association and so you don't miss out on events.

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

As of 03/31/2020, the following members have lapsed membership. If you wish to obtain membership, please contact the Union Hall to speak to a Business Agent: Ahmad, Elette R.; Ahmad, Jadwaa W.; Barnes, Robert L.; Baumgarten, David M.; Bradshaw Sr, Ricardo T.; Burley, Joshua D.; Cushion, Steven R.; Diatkar, Dylan H.; Esu, Jasmine E.; Fouty, Shirley L.; Jenks, Michael R.; Kilbourn, Andrew W.; Machleit, Gordon; Radloff, Robert D.; Schwartz, Brian T.; Solomon, Daniel R.; Taylor, Adrian; Torres, Enrique; Williams, Faruma P.; Williams, Stephen G.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Gilbert VanHoe (March 2020).

Deaths: Dennis Dolan, Father of JIW Dennis Dolan Jr.; John Fisher, pension member, 51 year IBEW membership, Father to JIW Vincent Fisher; Heidi Monterosso, Wife of pension member Craig Monterosso; Robert Price, Father to JIW Brian Price; Margaret Walsh, Widow of the late pension member George Walsh, Mother to pension member George Walsh Jr., Mother-in-law to pension member Donald Gaca, Grandmother to JIW Jeremy Dove & the late pension member Jason Gaca; Anthony Mixon, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Jason Gaca, pension member, Son of pension member Donald L. Gaca, Grandson to the late pension member George Walsh. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

IBEW LOCAL 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – Union Meeting.
 The next regular membership meeting will be **Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7pm.**

Executive Board Meeting.
 The next E-board meeting will be **Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6pm.**

Message from the Business Manager. As Business Manager, there have been some very difficult decisions to make in regards to the membership and the effect of Covid-19 lately. First and foremost, the health and welfare of our membership is my number one concern. This is not just lip service as we see way too often in today's construction industry. We belong to a Brotherhood and I feel that collectively there is nothing more important than each and every one of us looking out for the greater good of our brothers and sisters.

We continue to service the membership on a daily basis; however, the hall is closed to traffic in and out. If there is anything a member needs in person please call and we can set up an in-person meeting. We are here every day answering the phones and returning emails along with carrying on the business of the Brotherhood. Covid-19 and the pandemic in which it has created is like nothing any of us have ever seen before. The changes and the effect of this virus that occur on a daily basis are head spinning.

Our International President has come out with a new working agreement (National Disease Emergency Response Agreement) to protect the health and welfare of the membership. This agreement can be found under the members section of our webpage.

Both the State and Federal government have expanded unemployment benefits including an additional six hundred dollars a week for displaced workers. We are starting to see members get the \$600 deposited in their accounts regularly now. If you as a member have any questions about either the NDERA or have an unemployment question that should arise please do not hesitate to contact your union hall. We will do our personal best to help with anything you may need.

We continue to visit and talk with every contact we have to help secure projects for the membership and their families. Please help spread a strong, positive Union message within your community.

As far as a work report I am going to do a reset and will re-write that for the May Building Tradesman. It would be very unfair for me to give you a work report at this time as every job we currently have continues to change by the day. The future of work will also be reshaped as we determine Covid-19 and the effect it has on the economy. It is my belief that we will come out of this stronger than before as we are a Brotherhood of great resolve! Please stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters.

COVID-19 Guidance from The Center for Construction Research and Training

In response to the construction industry's questions regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, the following are steps everyone should be taking now:

- If you are feeling sick do not go to work.
- Don't shake hands when greeting others.

•Try to stay three to six feet away from others in gatherings, meetings, and training sessions.

•Avoid contact with sick people.

•Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

•Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

•It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

Construction industry employers should also:

•Provide soap and running water on all jobsites for frequent handwashing.

•Provide hand sanitizer when soap and running water are impossible.

Local Union Dues. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, dues payments increased to **\$41.20 per month.** Please make note of this increase when sending in payments. **Also, if you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of this change.**

Dues can be paid in person, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. We also accept payments via credit/debit card. *Please note to use the credit card machine to process payments, there will be a 2% charge applied.*

NEW: Monthly dues can now be paid on-line from the 692 website! Visit ibew692.net and log into the member section.

2020 Dues (Effective January 1, 2020)
 Monthly \$41.20
 Quarterly \$123.60
 6 months \$247.20
 Yearly \$494.40

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

Summer Softball League. If you are interested in playing softball and representing IBEW Local 692 through the Bay City summer league, please contact the Hall.

Retirees Lunch. All retiree's lunches have been postponed.

Fringe Benefits. REMINDER: if you have recently gotten 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.

Organizing. Brother Brian Klele has been appointed as the new Local 692 Organizer. Brother Klele has served the local in a number of different capacities. He has been elected by the membership to serve on the executive board four different terms, been involved in two separate contract negotiations, and was also elected as President of the local. Finding a member with more qualifications to be Organizer would have been a difficult task.

Brother Klele is a second-generation wireman with the IBEW, and to say the IBEW is in his blood would be an understatement.

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Our April Union Meeting is cancelled.

Our April Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 27th, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Union Hall.

The May Retiree Club Meeting is cancelled till further notice.

Governor Whitmer has ordered a stay at home in place till April 30th, 2020, please see the following link addressing the order. <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90487-525173--,00.html>

The union hall will be closed but we will be available to members via email and phone.

Don't forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.org.

You can pay over the phone with debit or credit card. You can also stop by the Hall during business hours (7am-noon/ 1-4pm) and pay by cash, check, debit or credit card. **Don't wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

2020 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

2019 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$42.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$39.70 a month

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure please refer to our website @ http://local948.org/job_referrals/

Don't forget after 3 turndowns on the out of work list you must come down to the Union Hall to resign.

Gregory Remington
 Business Manager

E-mail and Re-signs: If the Hall does not have your e-mail address it would be a good idea to send us an e-mail to jwallace@local948.org so we can add you to the e-mail list. This is a great way to keep up with the latest information on job calls and other information sent from the Hall.

IBEW 692, con't

We as a local have done a tremendous job in making sure the principles that the leadership of Local 692 instilled so long ago are still followed today. As we continue to visit jobsites both on a daily and weekly basis, we try to keep these principles in mind while communicating with the unrepresented worker, making sure they have a voice in the labor movement. If you know of a non-signatory contractor doing work in your neighborhood please contact Organizer Brian Klele 989-252-9225.

Ryan Charney
 Business Manager /
 Financial Secretary

Important links & numbers

IBEW Local 692

989-684-4510

www.ibew692.org

Health Plan

517-321-7502

www.mielectricalhealth.org

Michigan Pension Fund

517-321-7502

www.michiganelectrical.org

First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"

NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300

IO Pension: 202-833-7000

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A LOCAL 58 ELECTRICIAN runs wire at the TCF Center in Detroit, setting up the former Cobo Center as a field hospital for the Army Corps of Engineers.



IBEW LOCAL 557

SAGINAW- Membership meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Union hall, 7303 Gratiot Rd. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 5th, but may change due to COVID-19. Please continue to monitor emails from the Union Hall and the Local's Facebook page for important updates.

UNION HALL LOBBY CLOSED- The Union Hall essential staff continues to work as part of the Labor Union critical staff exemption. The Union Hall lobby still remains closed in accordance with the State order mandating operations must temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain and protect citizens. If you need to make a dues payment you can either pay over the phone with a credit or debit card (including a processing fee) or mail in a payment.

Myself and Renee are here to assist with other transactions either over the phone or email. Many locals have adopted either fax or email book signing policies for the members to utilize while offices are closed. Please do not attempt to come to the Union Hall.

IBEW Local 557 takes all threats to members and the general public seriously and stands ready to assist those in our communities when dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. The health and well-being of our membership is Local 557's main point of concern. IBEW members, including those working on job sites, production shops, and other work environments interact with the public on a daily basis and are at a heightened risk of contracting communicable diseases. Everyone should be following the steps below if you are continuing to work as part of the essential workforce:

- If you are feeling sick, don't go to work
- Don't shake hands
- Try to stay 3 to 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid contact with sick people
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean your hands often, with soap and water if available. If not, utilize hand sanitizer.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, and blowing your nose.

APPRENTICESHIP CLASSES- If you are an apprentice, please continue to monitor your emails regarding class updates. Online classes are up and running and you should be participating in them. If you are an apprentice and not receiving emails from the school with updates to classes, call the Training Center today to update this information. That is your responsibility as an apprentice.

2020 ELECTION- The overwhelming majority of Local 557 is registered to vote. If you are not registered you should do so immediately. The 2020 Election will impact us in so many aspects of our lives. As informed IBEW members we can not afford to sit out this election. I strongly en-

courage all members to apply to vote via ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Skip the long lines at the precinct in what is expected to be a record year for voter turnout. If you are working on the road or the possibility exists you may be working on the road in November, this is a great way to ensure you get your votes in. Information for this is available at the Union Hall as well as online under the Secretary of State at www.michigan.gov/sos.

HEALTH CARE - The Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan has taken steps recently to cover 100% of the costs related to testing for COVID-19. During this pandemic, remote care is encouraged and Blue Cross members can call the 24-Hour Nurse Line at 800-117-BLUE. You may also want to inquire if your primary care provider offers telemedicine. The plan continues to meet regularly via teleconferences to stay on top of the pandemic and update coverage as necessary.

In the near future, the Health Plan Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss future plan changes. The costs of health coverage and prescription medication continue to rise and some adjustments may be necessary to the plan in the near future. This could include a rate increase in the near future.

Help keep the cost of Health Care down. Schedule your annual physical with your doctor today if you have not done so recently. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit www.bcbsm.com. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

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 EOB's, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOB's can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt requests.

WEX APP- Search for the "TIC HRA" app in Google or Apple and download it today. Utilization of this app will give you access to account balances, receipt reviews and submittals, barcode scanning for covered items, other helpful services.

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 p.m. 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 fee to use this service. Credit card payments to pay dues can also be accepted over the phone to ensure you stay current on your dues.

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectrical.health.org.
Evan Allardyce, Business Manager

IBEW Local 498
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY - Meetings.
Regular E Board - will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, 2020 at 5:30 pm and will be in person and subject to change to address meeting requirements by the state and federal government.
MEETING - The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, May 6th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Please watch for a notification by USPS mail and the Local's Facebook page for any updates on this scheduled meeting in case of an extension of the Executive Order from the Governor. This publication is by electronic edition only, we will make an official announcement to every member by USPS if there are any changes, Facebook is an unofficial site and is for convenience only.**

Meeting Date Change - A motion was made and supported to change the meeting date for the May meeting to **May 6th, 2020** to add an extra week between meetings to assist getting Ballots prepared and mailed out. As of today, April 13th, 2020, we are still holding to this schedule, the chances are likely that this meeting date may change if the Covid 19 pandemic continues. Please stay tuned for further updates.

Wage disbursements for this year will be discussed at the meeting in May, we will know more about any health plan increases by then, so we should have a good idea of what will be left to disburse. The Health Plan will likely see a low of a .50 cent/hour increase to as high as a possible \$1/hour or more, it all depends on how fast we can recover from this pandemic shut down and drop in investment income.

Picnic - this summer the picnic will be on the 29th of August 2020. We need some volunteers for the Entertainment Committee. If you are willing and able to help out please get ahold of the hall and get signed up.

PAYPAL - PAY PAL is now up and running!!! Please look into setting up a personal PayPal account. If you need help with this you can email George Shumar at gshumar.ibew@gmail.com Also keep in mind that George is now on a furlough/lay off to address Covid 19 requirements and is NOT drawing a paycheck, so please be mindful of using his time.

Election of Officers - Nominations, Pending Covid 19 rules, will be in May of 2020 at the May 6, 2020, union meeting. If you are thinking about running for an office or helping with the election please plan on attending. Get involved. Remember, to be eligible for an elected position for the Local Union, you have to have been current on dues with no reinstatement fees assessed for 2 years prior to nominations.

We have sent out a mailer with eligible members listed on it for ease of nominating a member by mail, the first round of mail in nominations have been picked up by the Election Judge and Tellers. Please call me at the hall if you have any questions about the process that the Executive Board came up with to address the Pandemic and our meeting dates. This is to alleviate exposure to Covid 19 at an in-person meeting and still try to keep our election on course per US Department of Labor Requirements that Covid 19 is NO EXCUSE for union members to not keep an election schedule. Apparently the USDOL thinks union members are immune to Covid 19.

Nominations and Election **dates subject to change** to address COVID-19 response.

ELECTIONS - In Accordance with Article 16 of the IBEW Constitution and Article 3 of the Local Union #498 Bylaws, there will be a special order of business during the Regular membership meeting of Wednesday May 6, 2020. The purpose of the special order of business is for the nomination of Local Union #498 Officers, Delegate, and Alternate to the International Convention. Officers will be elected to three-year terms, commencing July 8, 2020 and concluding July 12, 2023. A member must have two years of continuous good standings in the local immediately prior to being nominated and must be present to accept the nomination, or must submit, to Recording Secretary Ryan Lautner, not later than noon of May 6, 2020 their written willingness to be nominated.

The written notice of nomination shall specify a single office that they are willing to be nominated to. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union as stated in Article III, Section 8 (e) of the Local Union bylaws. Nominations shall include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board (six to be elected), Examining Board (five to be elected) and Alternate to the IBEW Convention. An election judge and tellers will be appointed at the close of nominations. None of these may be a candidate for any office.

Ballots are to be mailed on May 15, 2020 and will be picked up for counting at noon on June 10, 2020 from the post office and counted at the union hall. The election results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. In the event a run-off election is required ballots will be mailed no later than June 16, 2020 and will be picked up at noon on July 1, 2020 from the post office and counted at the union hall with the results immediately following. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the Local Union on July 8, 2020. Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge within a few days after the ballots are counted. Further protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the 6th district within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Get involved and run for an office. Even if you only serve one three-year term you will gain a much better understanding of how the Union is run and a much greater appreciation for the members that serve us.

Nominations and Election **dates subject to change** to address COVID-19 response.

JB Webb East and West- As of this week, there are still many workers off, please watch the Local's Facebook site for updated info on the Covid 19 pandemic and pertinent State and Federal documents that concern the pandemic.

COVID-19 response - As you are aware of the issues that we have with the Corona Virus and COVID-19, we are taking steps at the union hall to keep everyone safe, the office will be closed until further notice to walk in traffic as is the JATC. As things progress, we will try to keep members updated the best we can in this article, on Facebook and on the website. Caroline and Dave will be available if you call the hall for questions.

Website - The new website is up and running. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Pay Pal is up and running on the website. There should be no reason for late dues now. Thanks to George for getting this done for the membership!!!!

Email - Please get an email address to the hall so we can get info out easier and faster, thanks. You can email your address to the hall at ibew@local498.net. Please put your name in the subject.

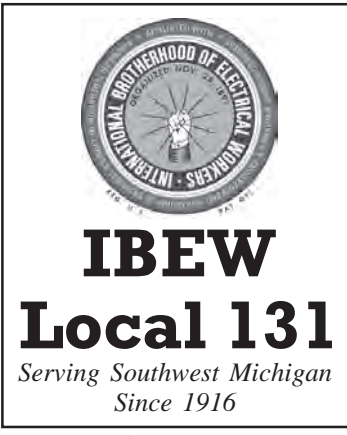
Contracts - We have updated Inside Wireman Contracts available at the hall.

Dues Increase 2020 - The union dues will increase \$1.00 a month. Effective Jan 2020 the new rate will be \$140.10 per quarter.

Resale Items - Stickers, pencil & pens are in. New shirts are in. We also have new Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale. Stop in to get yours today! Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

Meeting Cookouts- cook out and drawings will be suspended until further notice.

"Count not him among your friends who will retail your privacies to the world."
-Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)



IBEW Local 131
Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO - The Executive Board meeting will be on April 20th, due to the Governor's extended order we will review how to hold this meeting.

The Executive Board will handle the business of the Local Union on April 20th, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

The RENEW Committee is holding a Sporting Clay Shoot on May 16th, at the Gun River Skeet & Trap Club. The cost of the round will be \$25, there will also be raffle drawings for some great prizes. Please call the Hall for more information or to sign up.

Dues pricing - The price of dues for 2019 is \$39/month. The price for dues in 2020 will increase to \$40/month. If you're unsure about your balance, please call the Hall for the exact amount or email Christine. If your dues ticket reads paid thru, Dec. 2019 your dues are not current, please call or stop by the Hall.

Life events happen, and we'd always like to make sure you have updated beneficiary forms. If you're questioning whether yours is up to date, stop on down to the Hall to get new forms.

If you're interested in receiving updates from the Hall, please email Christine at cbohms@ibew131.com to get your email address added.

FROM THE APPRENTICESHIP:

Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2work4you.com. It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to pick it up, please email Nicole and request your form to be emailed to you. nwolf@ibew131.com.

Organizing: As much technology, as we use to track non-union electricians in our jurisdiction, often, our best resources are you the members. If you see a non-signatory in the area working at a location, please let the Hall know.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to disrupt our lives and daily business in ways I could never have imagined. It is crucial in times like these to remember, the intent behind all of the Executive Orders and Social Distancing is to save lives. While many of our members remain on the job, working on projects deemed essential, make your safety a priority. If any member feels job site safety is not what it should be, please contact the Hall.

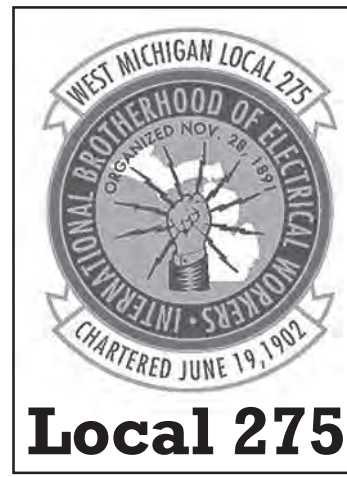
Additionally, for members displaced by this Pandemic, we understand there have been problems with the UIA and filing for unemployment. I sent out a lot of material over the last week, one specific to filing for unemployment. If there continue to be problems and a member cannot find a resolution to the filing, please contact my office, we will do what we can to help members work through these challenge times.

Brian O'Donnell
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

"The best time to plant an oak tree was twenty-five years ago. The second best time is today."
- James Carville

"The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well."
- Joe Ancis

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Local 275

IBEW 275
COOPERSVILLE: Dear Brothers and Sisters: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I feel it is necessary to cancel the monthly union meeting scheduled for April 21. Again, APRIL'S UNION MEETING IS CANCELLED.

At this month's Executive Board meeting, we also discussed the May meeting which is our annual raise allocation meeting. At this point, we have decided to stay on schedule and hold the May meeting. Since this one has historically been well attended, it has been decided to try and conduct the business of the meeting outside (if necessary) so that we all may maintain the six feet social distancing requirement we cannot obtain inside the meeting room of the Hall. We realize this is rather unorthodox, but we felt this was the best possible option for allocation of the June 1 raise.

Due to the Governor's "Stay Home - Stay Safe" order extension to the end of the month, we have decided the staff will work from home as much as possible. Sue decided she is willing to still come in in the mornings as there is daily work she needs to do in person. Of course, if someone has to be in the Hall in person for whatever reason, we will certainly be here. With many of our projects on hold right now, much of the day-to-day member services business has slowed, so we have decided that until further notice, the Hall will be open from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. only**, Monday through Friday. The lobby will remain closed as it has been for the last couple weeks, so all business will continue telephonically w/Sue or online through our website.

These are unprecedented times as you are aware, and once again, I must think of everyone's health and safety.

To this point, I am aware of no Local 275 member having contracted the coronavirus. I thank you for taking this seriously and ask that you stay vigilant, stay home and stay safe.

I will be sure to update you with any new developments as they arise.

At the time of this writing, the following Members are three or more months behind in dues: **Robert Akers, Dusty Brown, Doug Budzynski, Thomas Butler, John Carnes, Jacob Cleary, Jason Colon, Michael Donahue, Jeff Engel, Warren French, Andrew Holmes, Landon Hurst, Shane Huston, David Irwin, Norm Kaminski Jr., Brian Kelly, Anthony Kotecki, Adan Lopez, Richard Myer, Zachery Rogalski, Nate Sterling, Terry Stites, Jeff Wagner, Andrew Wohlfert, Fred Wohlfert and Kevin Wynn.** If you are on this list, please make any and all attempts to get your membership in good standing.

If you are in need of a code update course, please reach out to Jean in the apprenticeship offices to schedule time to get that done.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm (except April 2020) at the Union Hall in Coopersville. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community. Currently the EWMC is collecting cans and other donations to help local students pay off lunch debt. Please consider dropping cans or other monetary donations at the Union Hall to help with the effort.

Dues increase for the year 2020 will be \$1.00 per month to \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through mail and automatic bank payments.

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detroitironandmetal.com
(313) 841-5100



IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – The General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.
Nominations will be held at the May 11, 2020 General Membership meeting. Please consider being active and involved in your Local! There are many offices that you can run for. If you are unable to attend the Nominations, you may submit in writing an acceptance of nomination to the Hall.
A Special Called Meeting for Wage Allocation will be called in May 2020. The date will be announced at a later date.
The Local 445 Golf Outing

date has been set for July 18, 2020 at Binder Park Golf Course with an 8 am start.
 The **Executive Board** meets the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.
Local 445's "Night of Baseball" has been approved for Saturday, August 1, 2020 at C.O. Brown Stadium for the Battle Creek Bombers. Additional information will be released closer to the date.
 The **Retiree** breakfast is the third Thursday at 9:00 a.m. and is held at the: Lux Cafe, 2587 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek. No reservations are needed to attend.
PLEASE HELP!! – Please make sure you have updated the Hall with your current address and phone number. Also, if you have had any life changes such as a marriage/divorce/new child, please contact the Hall to ensure your benefits are correct.
Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is **IBEW445.com**.
Local Food Pantry - Donations to help fund the Local 445 Food Pantry are still being accepted.



IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – LOCAL 252 ELECTION: Due to the COVID-19 National Pandemic, the Executive Board of Local 252 decided to conduct this year's Local nominations, election, and runoff election via mail in only. Please look for a mailing notification that will describe this process.
UNION DUES FOR 2020: Effective January 1, 2020 union dues for "A" members will be \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will be \$61.80 per quarter.
TRAINING CLASSES 2020: ALL CLASSES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
CREDIT CARDS: The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.
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.
Local 252 Website & App: The Local's website www.ibew252.org is up and running. There is also a Local 252 App available to download. Search "IBEW 252" in the app store. You must create a new login and password to access the Members Only section. Your login for the old website is no longer valid.
Aflac Insurance: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144.
AT&T Discount: Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT with discount code 4924966.
NOTICE TO RETIREES: If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the Union Hall. Do not attempt to have it serviced yourself.
DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2020. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2020. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April through June) are due now.
Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.



IBEW LOCAL 906
UPPER PENINSULA— MEETINGS
MARQUETTE UNIT—First Tuesday
IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT—Second Tuesday
ESCANABA UNIT—Second Wednesday
PLEASE PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS BY KEEPING 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON HAND WASHING AND WIPING DOWN SURFACES. BE SMART, BE SAFE.

Well the question is where are we now with the coronavirus? The following quote is from IVP Ruhmkorff, "As of this writing, it does not appear we will see any relief from the COVID-19 pandemic anytime soon. I hope I am wrong. To date, it has been reported that over 300 6th District members are currently quarantined, 50 6th District members have been confirmed positive with the coronavirus and 2 6th District members have passed away from the disease. The most recent a member of LU 134 last week."

We have a few members of 906 in quarantine but as of this posting we have not had any confirmation of a Covid-19 case among the membership.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Suzanne as her mother passed this weekend from the virus. If you are paying dues by phone please extend your condolences to her family.

There have been several bids this past week where our contractors have been successful. Although work has come to an abrupt halt our contractors are bidding everything that is available. Our contractors are adjusting to new work space requirements and keeping work sites safe.

Some contractors have reported being successful in the guaranteed loan program which will allow them to pay members wages and benefits while the Covid-19 crisis continues. We are encouraging all of our shops to review and apply for these benefits.

We continue to reschedule meetings related to Health, Pension, Negotiations and many similar events. There have been a flurry of phone meetings along with Zoom and other methods. We will continue to update every one of any changes related to these meetings.

The \$600 additional funds for unemployment insurance should be on the checks the week of April 13 according to the State.

Please remember that address changes and phone changes along with new additions to the families need to be passed on to the Hall and the Pension and Health Plans.

If you have any information you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. IbeW906@gmail.com

COVID-19 PROTECTION: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SURGICAL MASKS, PAPER MASKS AND N95S




Surgical Mask

Intended Use and Purpose
 Provides a protective barrier against large droplets, splashes or sprays of bodily fluids. Protects others from the wearer's respiratory emissions.

Face Seal Fit
 Loose-fitting

Fit-Testing Requirement
 No

Filtration
 Does **NOT** provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is **NOT** considered respiratory protection.



Paper Mask

Intended Use and Purpose
 Can be worn for comfort against non-toxic nuisance dusts during activities like mowing, sweeping and dusting. These masks are **NOT** respirators and do **NOT** offer protection against hazardous dusts, gases or vapors.

Face Seal Fit
 Loose-fitting and many only have one strap.

Fit-Testing Requirement
 No

Filtration
 These masks are **NOT** NIOSH-approved disposable filtering facepieces. Does **NOT** provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is **NOT** considered respiratory protection.



N95 Mask

Intended Use and Purpose
 Reduces wearer's exposure to particles including small particle aerosols and large droplets (only non-oil aerosols).



Face Seal Fit
 Tight-fitting

Fit-Testing Requirement
 Yes

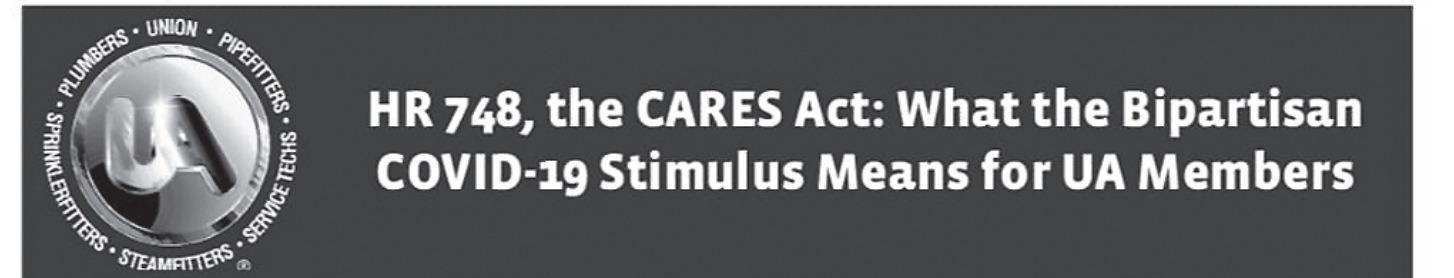
Filtration
 Filters out at least 95% of airborne particles, including large and small particles. Provides the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is considered respiratory protection.

Construction N95

Surgical N95

The information below was distributed by the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Sprinkler Fitters, but applies to all workers.



HR 748, the CARES Act: What the Bipartisan COVID-19 Stimulus Means for UA Members

Expanded Unemployment Insurance

The CARES Act expands unemployment insurance (UI) in four key ways: (1) expanded access to UI benefits; (2) increased amount of UI payments; (3) extended duration of UI benefits; and (4) eliminated waiting periods.

For workers who qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance:

- All weekly benefits increased by \$600 through July 31
- Mandated "waiting periods" are waived
- Benefits can be received additional 13 weeks beyond what is typically allowed
- Covers unemployment for *any* reason

For workers who would not qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance:

- Independent contractors, sole proprietors, those without wage history, and others are now eligible
- Up to 39 weeks of UI benefits available to individuals impacted by COVID-19
- All weekly benefits increased by \$600 through July 31
- Mandated "waiting periods" waived

Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family Medical Leave

- Paid sick leave expanded to cover employers with less than 500 employees. All employees are eligible.
- If you are unable to work due to public isolation orders, self-quarantine, or COVID-19 symptoms and diagnosis, you are entitled to full sick pay.
- If you are caring for a family member subject to self-quarantine, or a child due to childcare closures, you are entitled to paid leave (2/3 of your regular wages).

Prevailing Wage on COVID-19 Related Construction Projects

- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has confirmed that prevailing wage will be paid on federal contracts to construct temporary hospitals.
- The CARES Act provided \$10 billion in funding to airports, with construction covered by prevailing wage provisions.

Individual Recovery Rebates

- Individuals with Adjusted Gross Income up to \$75,000 (\$150,000 married) will receive a \$1,200 payment.
- Individuals are eligible for an additional \$500 per child.
- Rebate amount is reduced on a scale for incomes up to \$99,000 (\$198,000 married).
- Amount is completely phased out above that threshold.



Abatement Workers Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207
TAYLOR – Hope all members are safe and avoiding unnecessary contact in the public. The coronavirus affected some of our projects in Michigan. Some of our customers are calling for help with cleaning their facilities, which is something we already do after asbestos is removed. Some

members are being sent out to perform these duties. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement.
 Let us you're your current work status. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work. Don't get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.
 The General Office has banned all Union Meetings and Elections until further notice. Our current election process has been



DAN SOMENUER

put on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election will resume.
UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES:
 Asbestos Supervisor Refresher, Saturday, April 25th, 2020 Check with the Office to ensure the class is still a go.
 •All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor.
 •Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.
 If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register.
BE SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – ALL Union activities have been postponed until further notice per the International Union. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates as the situation evolves.



CURT MCGLONE

APPAREL. New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.
EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct is to call the Office – (248) 352-1850.

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.

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 3:00 p.m. on Thursday.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 48 after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

SUBFUND 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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Corey Bash and his wife, Bianca on the recent birth of their daughter Aiya Indy Bash.

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

Local 514, con't

retirement.wellsfargo.com or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-6550 with any related questions.

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local 514 area. This will insure that your hours are sent back to your home fund.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **ROAD BUILDERS** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502. **PLASTERERS' AND COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357. All **Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. **For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514
MADISON HTS. – There will not be a membership meeting for the month of April 2020.

2020 is a very important election year! We are encouraging every member who has not registered to vote to do so. You can register at any Secretary of State office.

The Local is now accepting applications for a Plasterer Business Agent. Please send resumes to: O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514, 1154 E. Lincoln Ave., Madison Hgts., MI 48071. Attn: Henry Williams.

Lawrence Nemeth is now the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

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

Effective September, 2018 every member in Good Standing will only be allowed to use the Hall twice per year, also effective January, 2019 there will be a \$100.00 refundable deposit required for any cleaning and/or damages that may incur.

Miller Cohen PLC is extending an invitation to our members to participate in free Estate Planning Seminar. Learn about Wills, Trust, Durable Power of Attorney, and Medical Power of Attorney, and Guardian Designation. Contact the Union Hall if interested and a date will be scheduled for the free Seminar.

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

The Local's new website is now up and running!! Please go to www.opcmiami.org.

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 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 TROWEL TRADES COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS: You can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: www.opcmiami.org (Continued next column)

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers



BAC Local 2
WARREN – Based on the statewide shutdown, BAC Local 2's Management Committee has made the difficult decision to lay off our Field Representatives effective last week. The Management Committee continues to work at our Warren and Lansing offices to keep our essential operations going during this crisis. Our offices are open to answer questions and assist our members in any way we can.

We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. So, while we continue to provide services to our members, we will not be able to let anyone into our buildings during this statewide shutdown based on Governor Whitmer's latest Executive Order 2020-42.

While providing services to our members remains our primary consideration, there may be some temporary delays, but we do not anticipate significant disruption to critical services. If you have any questions, please contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office, (517) 886-9781.

We continue to monitor the situation and update you as we work to get through these events with as little disruption of service to BAC members as possible. Please visit our website for updates: www.bricklayers.org

The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority.

ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR APRIL HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 DEATHS REPORTED:

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Glenn Cunningham** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 15, 2020. Brother Cunningham had been a member for 71 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Roger Koch** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 01, 2020. Brother Koch had been a member for 32 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother John Kolopos** (Cement Mason) who passed away on March 24, 2020. Brother Kolopos had been a member for 38 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Richard Lademan** (Bricklayer) who passed away on April 01, 2020. Brother Lademan had been a member for 59 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Herman Schibelhut** (Cement Mason) who passed away on February 14, 2020. Brother Schibelhut had been a member for 62 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Charles Smith** (PCC) who passed away on March 24, 2020. Brother Smith had been a member for 57 years.

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

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues All Local 2 Members are eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently.

We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

MI BAC TRAINING CENTERS UPDATE. In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, both Local 2 Training Centers are closed to our members until the Executive Order 2020-42 - Stay Home Order is lifted.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER: Only members working on **Essential Critical Infrastructure Work Projects** are able to come in for RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING at this time. To make your appointment in the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Tom Ward directly at (734) 552-7066.

TMT RTI CLASSES. ALL TMT RTI CLASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

METRO DETROIT APPRENTICESHIP WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD: Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Metro Detroit Apprentice Worksheets are available for download at http://bit.ly/Apprentice_Worksheets. If you do not have a printer you can pick them up during our monthly meeting or contact Tom Ward at (586) 757-6668 to request them by mail. For more information on the Detroit Training Center visit: detroittrades.org

LANSING TRAINING CENTER: Only members working on **Essential Critical Infrastructure Work Projects** are able to come in for RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING at this time. To make your appointment in the Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Lansing Apprenticeship and Training website and register future 2020 online training classes.

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 <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> 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. In an effort to accomplish this please submit your address by sending an e-mail to 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:

Bricklayers Metro Detroit Local Pension Fund (248) 641-4954
 Detroit & Vicinity Health Insurance (Brick, Cement and TMT) (800) 435-4080 or (248) 828-6000 (dvt.org)
 MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, michiganbac.org)
 Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)
 CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Center)
 International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement, Tile, Marble & Terrazzo) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (<https://bacbenefits.org>)



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – As we continue to combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately. And please remember that all Union Meetings and Apprenticeship classes have been suspended until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact the Local Union Office at (517) 708-0665.

Local 47 Lansing Office, 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, Michigan 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665
All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665.

Per the Rules and Procedures:
 Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed. Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

OSHA 10: Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

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.

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

Anyone interested in joining the newly formed Breath Of Life Committee is asked to please call the Local Union Office.

Pension and Health Welfare: Larry Tolbert (269-345-8944)
 Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275. **Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079**
 Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502 • Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

The Funds Trustees have reinstated the Seventy-Nine Hours Rule for all Retirees.

Larry Tolbert will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Larry is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (269) 345-8944, or by mail at: P.O. Box 19541, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

Attention all Retirees, Active, and Spouses in our Healthcare plan. On Jan. 1, 2017, the Trustees have implemented Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Advantage, for all Retirees over 65 with Medicare Advantage. Make sure you are giving your new card to any provider when you check in for office visits, this will update you in the BCBS System. If you are having problems, please call Larry Tolbert.

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.

All Apprenticeship classes have been suspended until further notice.

Good and Welfare: Please take care of your families and yourself!

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 25 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 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25
NOVI - Please check our website (www.ironworkers25.org) and "Alerts" on the Local 25 APP to stay informed on union matters and in regard to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which is evolving daily. Local 25 is working with our Contractors on a daily basis.

Download The IRON-WORKERS' APP to your android or smartphone via the APP Store or Google Play (no charge). Simply search "Iron Workers Local 25" Most of the features from our website is available thru the APP!

Local Union Elections: Letters have been mailed regarding the Notice of Nominations which will be conducted electronically. A member can nominate himself/herself; or a member can nominate a fellow member. Cut off for nominations to be submitted is 4:00 pm Wednesday April 22, 2020. Nominations are to be submitted via our website www.ironworkers25.org via the member log-in section. Full instructions are contained in the letter and on our website.

Considering all that is going on please be sure we have your current address on file at the Novi Hall. If you have moved recently and are unsure of the address we have, please call the Hall to double check (248-344-9494).

All Union and Steward Meetings are cancelled until further notice. The classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School are cancelled. New Apprentice Applications are suspended. Mandatory Apprentice April meeting is cancelled. The Wixom Training Center - Phone: 248-960-2130 - Phone calls only to the school.

Novi Dispatch is STILL OPEN, IF YOU are able & willing to go to work, please call 248-305-9282: Monday through Friday 7 am to 10 am. if you happen to get voicemail, just leave your name, book number and phone number. Local 25 Active Members, Apprentices and Probationary should call each day you are out of work. **OR use our website to sign up for the out of work list: www.ironworkers25.org**

The 2020 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application is **EXTENDED**. All requests for complete rules and the application must be received by April 30, 2020 (extended) and AT THIS TIME WE ARE EXTENDING THE DEADLINE TO **TURN IN THE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS** by **MAY 31, 2020**. The blank application is also posted to our website; or call the Novi hall to get one mailed to you.

These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

Stewards' Notes:
1) The Electronic Steward Reporting forms are online www.ironworkers25.org Log in with your book number, and the password is the last 4 (four) of your social.

2) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING.

3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.

The Fringe office is still open as Benesys is deemed an essential business and will remain open. If you need an early vacation check during these times, please call the Fringe Office before 4:00 PM on Wednesday and your check will be mailed Thursday Morning. No Pick-up at the Novi Union Hall at this time.

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: (800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100, press 1 for Member access to this menu:

QUESTION: Vacation Payout or Balance Inquiry: Option 1.
QUESTION: Loss of Time, Disability or Death Inquiries or Claims: Option 2.

QUESTION: Health & Welfare such as Add or Remove a Dependent, Self-Payment, Enrollment forms, Prescription coverage, Monthly Status, Eligibility, ADDRESS Changes: Option 3.
QUESTION: To find the status of employer contributions re-mitted on your behalf: Option 4.

QUESTION: To update reciprocity information or find the status of reciprocity contributions: Option 4.

QUESTION: Pension or Defined Contributions Information such as Request an application for retirement or an application for a D.C. distribution. Direct Deposit or tax withholding changes. Request a Pension Verification Letter or you haven't received your pension check: Option 5.

QUESTION: Blue Cross Health Claims / Customer Service 877-790-2583.

QUESTION: Delta Dental Claims / Customer Service 800-482-8915. Benesys office hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219.

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.

Apprentices: Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab "Monthly Report Sign-In," this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find "Evaluation Form" Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email on a regular basis; we now email your annual MUST drug screen paperwork and your pay raise slips.**

Local 25 Apprentice Competition is still anticipated to be Saturday, June 20, 2020. All participants must be at the Training Center @ 7:00 am. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. The Ironworkers picnic anticipated to be this same day from 10:00am-3:00pm.

International's John H. Lyons Scholarship applications accepted until MAY 15, 2020 and must be filed electronically at www.ironworkers.org. **Likewise, the Eric S. Waterman Scholarship** applications are accepted until MAY 15, 2020 and must be filed electronically at www.ironworkers.org. The Waterman Scholarship was established to provide educational funding to sons and daughters of Iron Worker members and encourage pursuit of a construction industry related degree. Information, rules and eligibility are on the International website.

Pay union dues with credit-debit card 24/7 by calling 888-386-8173 and follow the prompts. OR PAY at www.ironworkers25.org Any member payment for multiple members, fines, suspensions, withdrawal deposits, SHOULD NOT use this process. Whenever possible we are emailing you, your dues receipt.

Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 - P.O. Box 965 - Novi, MI 48376-0965. PLEASE include your book number on the face of the check/money order. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash). After-hours use the outdoor-dues-collection box.

Pay a year's dues or more (\$429.00 Journeyman) (\$426.00 Apprentice) and you will get a (1) one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13th month free). This is intended to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner. The one month will be credited in the month AFTER your actual 12-month payment.

The International Association (IABSORIW) has endorsed Joe Biden for president of the United States of America. Due to the passage of the statewide ballot proposal last year, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. Check your voter registration at Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/Vote

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."

- PLATO
ATTENTION RETIREES: Due to the COVID-10 pandemic, all retiree meetings across the (Continued next column)



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors 36
DETROIT - ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular Membership Meeting to be held on Monday, April 27, 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED! All meeting sponsored by the Local are cancelled until further notice. All NEIEP classes have been cancelled until April 6, 2020. All apprentices are advised to keep up on their studies and the NEIEP website. If this changes, we will get this out as best as possible.

Attention All Apprentices, your classes are now online at the NEIEP website. To maintain enrollment and get credit for this semester is your responsibility. Remember, your progression in the program and your raises are based upon you passing your classes. Failure also results in repeating the class and an appearance in front of the Local JAC.

Brothers and Sisters, due to recent conditions, ALL are requested to follow guidelines put out by the CDC and your companies. Common sense and personal health practices should always be followed.

The International is also offering special benefits in response to our current situation. Go to their website at iuec.org where more information is available. While at the iuec.org website register on the my-link members portal. Click on log in and on the next screen, the third box down is where you can reg-

Local 25, con't

local's jurisdiction are canceled until further notice. Watch for updates on the locals website (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching "Iron Workers Local 25" to stay informed on union matters.

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus and the directive from the governor's office, publication of a print version of *The Building Tradesman* is suspended, effective immediately. The "Building Tradesman" newspaper will only be available online at <http://www.michiganbuildingtrades.org/current-article> until further notice. *The Building Tradesman* is also available on www.ironworkers25.org website & APP. See the tab "Recent News."

Clinton Woods was promoted to Major for the US Marine Corp. and will be stationed at Twentynine Palms Marine Base in California. He will assume the position of Commanding Officer of the Computer Networking School. Clinton graduated from Eastern Michigan and earned his master degree from Middle Tennessee State. He is the son of Lawrence Woods #808680 and the grandson of (deceased) Chester "Chet" Woods #593997.

Diversified Members Credit Union: Located at 25880 Novi Rd. Phone: 248-344-2560 - CALL FOR HOURS in the event changes made due to COVID-19 - Services available: debit or credit cards, interest bearing checking accounts, IRAs, CDs, Benefits Plus program, HOME MORTGAGES, low interest loans and part of Co-Op Shared Branching. We have other branch locations in Detroit and Clawson. Home Mortgages for Union Families: Learn more about the unique benefits available to union members, their parents and children. **CALL 866-802-7307, M-F 8am-10pm EST, Sat 9am - 5:30pm EST www.unionplus.org**

Those who have passed: Jack Downey #704256 passed away March 20, 2020 at the age of 73. He had been a member for 56 years. Emilee Christopher passed away suddenly March 29, 2020 at the age of 19. Her dad is Scott Christopher #1253362. Richard T. Burgess #986075 passed away April 2, 2020 at the age of 65 and had been a former member for 17 years. **Our condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

To all Union Members; Please continue to do everything you can to slow the spread of Covid-19. This virus affects ALL age groups! Keep yourselves and your families safe, stay home whenever possible and enjoy your family time. Stay in touch with one-another and find a balance to the amount of news you listen too. We will get through this!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (4/13/2020 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

ister for the members my-link portal.

The Local picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2020. We will be at the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds, 11541 21 Mile, Utica, MI. Please keep the date open and more information will be sent to all members and retirees.

A Golf outing is being planned, if you are interested please contact the Hall. There is no fixed date yet, trying to get the number of participants for a count.

We also have new phones and answering system. All calls will still be answered.

No numbers have changed. We are also requesting your email address. If you are not receiving emails, please confirm your address. During our recent situation we have received updates daily and we want this information at your disposal as soon as possible.

Everyone should have received your 2019 Dues Statement. When filling out your statement, be sure to use Box 5 on your W-2. All W-2s statements and 2nd Quarter Dues are now past due. We are processing all statements as we receive them, but with the current situation, there have been delays in receiving payments. This will also delay all refund checks for 2019.

We request when you pay your dues by mail, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Any documents included will be sent back to you unless we are instructed to do otherwise and will be shredded. We are not allowing access to hall currently. Call before you arrive, and we will process your dues while you wait in parking lot.

With the number of new apprentices joining our trade we are looking for Mechanics to be Mentors to these apprentices, please call the hall if you are interested.

All members were sent an email with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU-NEBAfinal 3-23-20). This MOU modifies the allowable workday during the Covid-19 situation. We are trying to share the available work among all members. Keep track of your time, call outs are still call outs and will be paid as such and do not sign for what you did not do.

If phone does not allow changes, document with email or other such way. Protect yourself, and your work. Always follow all precautions during this predicament and keep yours and others exposure as limited as possible. This will help to contain and lessen the overall affect and duration of the circumstances we now face.

This agreement does not supersede any government orders, you may be held responsible. Why put yourself, co-worker, friends and family at risk for something that will be there when conditions are better? Your company representatives are all working from home.

All members are reminded that your company is responsible to deliver material to the jobsite. Use of personal vehicles for delivery of material is for only emergency situations. There are no emergencies in modernization or construction.

All construction, modernization and cab work is **TEAM-WORK**. This is according to our agreement and follows your company's safety policy. A licensed journey person must also be onsite while any work is performed. If you are asked or told differently, call the hall immediately. Also, all jobs are to be reported to the HALL, this does include all unloads, crane picks and cab modernizations. This is our work and **SHALL** be performed by **ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS!**

The EIWPFF has contacted us and we have agreed to postpone the code classes that we were trying to plan for the first week of June 2020. When future dates are confirmed we will be setting classes for all interested.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Keep safe and healthy. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local he belongs too. We are all in this together and will get through, together!

"To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all."
-Peter McWilliams

Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK - The monthly membership meeting for May, scheduled for Area One, has been cancelled per order of President Jones.



BOB HUTSELL
All training centers are closed until further notice. Please see the website or Facebook group for further details.

The 2020 union dues are \$47.35.

The union hall accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the hall and over the phone.

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

Retired member, James D. Jenkins, passed away on April 1, 2020. Retired member, Lyle "Putter" Reid, passed away on April 8, 2020. Retired member, Joe Jackson, passed away on April 10, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families during this incredibly difficult time.

From Business Manager, Bob HutSELL -

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I hope all of you are healthy and safe during these challenging times. As you are well aware, the current Covid-19 pandemic has caused many of our jobs to be postponed or delayed. This is a good step in halting the spread of this deadly disease. I encourage every member to read and follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, CDC. Links have been provided below.

During this unprecedented event, the Boilermakers are being challenged in many ways. The vital infrastructure that supports our nation is dependent on the Boilermakers. While there is no question that health care providers and first responders are vital to the stop of this pandemic, imagine what would happen if there was no electric power to operate equipment and ventilators at the hospitals.

What if there were fuel shortages or interruptions in chemical plants that provide raw materials for medicines, respirators, and manufactured goods? The support Boilermakers provide is vital to the health and safety of our nation, make no mistake. I would like to thank each of you for doing your part to support our nation during this time. As jobs return, it is important that Boilermakers follow the recommendations of the CDC in order to prevent the spread of this disease to your brother Boilermakers. We cannot afford to sicken a workforce that is so vital to the continued success of our country.

The Stimulus package has provided benefits for unemployment to offset the financial hardship experienced during this pandemic. Additional funds and weeks have been included. During this recent event, Local 169 has made every effort to afford some flexibility to members who may become suspended, however, union dues are vital to the survival of Boilermakers Local 169. Please do your part to insure that this pandemic does not endanger your local through lack of payment.

I would like to encourage and thank every member who is doing their part to support and protect our industry and our brotherhood. Together we can accomplish anything. I would also like to thank your Business Agents, Office Staff, and Union Stewards for their continued efforts. Make every effort to stay safe, remain rational and calm, and work together, one day at a time, to defeat this pandemic.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."
-William Arthur Ward

"Never esteem anything as of advantage to you that will make you break your word or lose your self-respect."
-Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

Amazon fires walkout leader over COVID-19 response

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

NEW YORK (PAI)—Amazon's arbitrary firing of Cristian Smalls, who led a walkout from the monster retail distributor's Staten Island, N.Y. warehouse over the coronavirus threat to himself and his colleagues, has drawn both union flak and a potential investigation by state Attorney General Letitia James.

Smalls raised concerns about exposure of himself and his colleagues to another worker who tested positive for the coronavirus, officially known as COVID-19. He cited Amazon's "lack of safety protocols" for the workers at the warehouse.

"We're not asking for much. We're asking the building to be closed and sanitized, and for us to be paid," Smalls told CNN before the walkout from the firm's JFK8 warehouse. He called it a "virtual breeding ground" for social transmission of the coronavirus.

When Amazon responded with vague statements dismissing the workers' concerns - even though New York City, including Staten Island, is the current U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic - Smalls, a 31-year-old assistant manager, led more than a dozen colleagues in the March 30 walkout.

About 20 Amazon workers in Michigan also walked out of the company's Romulus warehouse on April 1 to protest work conditions, fearing for their health and pointing out that three of their co-workers had the COVID-19 virus.

An Amazon spokesperson said the company goes "to great lengths to keep the buildings extremely clean and help employees practice important precautions such as social distancing and other measures."

Aggressively anti-union Amazon, owned by Jeff Bezos, one of the three richest people in the U.S., responded by accusing Smalls of "violating social distancing guidelines and putting the safety of others at risk" himself, a charge Smalls denied on his Twitter feed.

Then Amazon arbitrarily, and on the face of it illegally, fired him that afternoon.

Amazon also responded it's cleaning the Staten Island warehouse, but refused to close it. It had no response to a petition signed by more than 6,000 warehouse workers - and counting - nationwide, demanding stronger worker protections against the virus's spread.

Including the Staten Island worker who tested positive, at least 13 other Amazon warehouse workers have contracted the virus, *Forbes* reported.

Smalls' firing angered Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, an UFCW sector, and prompted New York AG James to both demand the National Labor Relations Board launch an labor law-breaking - formally called an unfair labor practices - investigation and start one of her own.

"Workers should be protected when speaking out about safety conditions during this crisis. They are performing a public service. It is unacceptable that Amazon has terminated Chris Smalls for doing that today rather than addressing their serious COVID-19 safety problems," Appelbaum said.

"Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders."

-Bob Moawad
"To freely bloom - that is my definition of success."

-Gerry Spence
"There are two kinds of light--the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures."

- James Thurber (1894 - 1961)
"Don't hit at all if it is honorably possible to avoid hitting; but never hit soft!"
-Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)

UI 101 COVID-19

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY

HOW DO I FILE A CLAIM?

- Online at michigan.gov/uia using the MiWAM portal
- By phone 1-866-500-0017 Option 1 "to inquire about and to file a claim"

WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE?

- Social Security number
- Employment information for the past 18 months: employer name and address, first/last day worked/ gross earnings
- Your address, phone number, date of birth
- Non-Citizens Alien registration and the expiration date of your work authorization card
- Driver's License or State ID

WHAT'S NEXT?

How do I get paid?

In order to get paid, **EVERY TWO WEEKS** you must report (certify) that you are still unemployed by answering some questions.

How do I report?

- Online 24/7 through your MiWAM account.
 - Phone MARVIN (1-866-638-3993) Monday-Saturday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm.
- Payment posts within 2-3 business days from the date you report. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays are not considered a business day.

There are two options for payment

- Direct deposit through your bank or credit union - You will need your routing number and account number
- UIA Bank of America debit card

QUESTIONS ON YOUR CLAIM?

- Visit michigan.gov/uia for tools and resources
- Access your MiWAM account 24/7
- Chat with an agent M-F, 8 am to 5 pm or
- Call our Customer Service line at 866-500-0017, M-F, 8 am to 4:30pm. TTY service is available at 866-366-0004.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY michigan.gov/uia | 1-866-500-0017



District Council 1M MICHIGAN

Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org



ROBERT GONZALEZ

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.

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

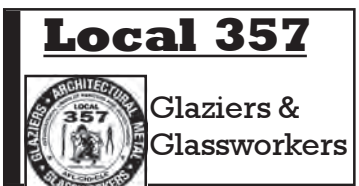
Local Union 1052
Business Rep: Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. **Place:** 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

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

DC1M offices at: Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888
PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL IMSMARTPHONE APP. PDC 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



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357 WARREN - Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be subject to announcement.

The Governor has just recently extended the executive order until the end of April 2020.

Apprenticeship classes have been canceled until further notice. Brother Jason Rutherford passed away on Tuesday, April 7th unexpectedly. Jason was a Local 357 Glazier since 1995. Jason was our brother, and our friend. Please keep him, and his family in your thoughts, and prayers.

The Covid-19 has shut down nearly every project in Michigan. Please take this time of shelter in place to stay safe and keep our families safe. When this is over the work will be there for us to bounce back.

The \$8.00 a week window dues has been suspended for the month of April 2020. No adjustments from the members or offices are needed. These adjustments will be made at the Union Hall.

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 your union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.
-Business Rep- Don Stepp

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.

APPRENTICESHIP CLASS SUSPENSION EXTENDED THRU APRIL 30, 2020. Regular Apprenticeship classes had been suspended thru April 30, 2020. These are precautionary measures taken by the Board of Trustees, to help mitigate the spread of Coronavirus(COVID-19).

Any questions please contact Director of Training Shawn Oneill (517)304-4425.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PER CAPITA DUES FOR APRIL 2020 The International Union General Executive Board has waived the Per Capita dues for the month of April 2020. The Integrated Member Management System(IMS) that Painters District 1M uses to apply Member dues, is the International Union's system. The International Union will credit the entire Membership the month of April 2020. No Member will lose any weeks for the month of April 2020. The International Union will take into consideration the month of May 2020 as we draw closer.

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 810-232-0005. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so. Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN - ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. STAY SAFE.

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 John Sape at 586-899-8082 or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.

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

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Interim Guidance for Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Critical Infrastructure workers who have had an exposure but remain asymptomatic should adhere to the following practices prior to and during their work shift:

- Pre-Screen: Employers should measure the employee's temperature and assess symptoms prior to them starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.
- Regular Monitoring: As long as the employee doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the supervision of their employer's occupational health program.
- Wear a Mask: The employee should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace for 14 days after last exposure. Employers can issue facemasks or can approve employees' supplied cloth face coverings in the event of shortages.
- Social Distance: The employee should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as work duties permit in the workplace.
- Disinfect and Clean work spaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.

If the employee becomes sick during the day, they should be sent home immediately. Surfaces in their workspace should be cleaned and disinfected. Information on persons who had contact with the ill employee during the time the employee had symptoms and 2 days prior to symptoms should be compiled. Others at the facility with close contact within 6 feet of the employee during this time would be considered exposed.

Employers should implement the recommendations in the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Additional information about identifying critical infrastructure during COVID-19 can be found on the DHS CISA website or the CDC's specific First Responder Guidance page.

INTERIM GUIDANCE

This interim guidance pertains to critical infrastructure workers, including personnel in 16 different sectors of work including:

- Federal, state, & local law enforcement
- 911 call center employees
- Fusion Center employees
- Hazardous material responders from government and the private sector
- Janitorial staff and other custodial staff
- Workers - including contracted vendors - in food and agriculture, critical manufacturing, informational technology, transportation, energy and government facilities

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Employees should not share headsets or other objects that are near mouth or nose.
- Employers should increase the frequency of cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Employees and employers should consider pilot testing the use of face masks to ensure they do not interfere with work assignments.
- Employers should work with facility maintenance staff to increase air exchanges in room.
- Employees should physically distance when they take breaks together. Stagger breaks and don't congregate in the break room, and don't share food or utensils.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

FREE ABESTOS CLAIM EVALUATION

ASBESTOS CLAIMS Evaluation Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Date of Birth: _____

Union : _____ Local No: _____

Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

Have you been exposed to asbestos?
 Yes No

Have you been diagnosed with:
 Mesothelioma Asbestosis
 Lung Cancer Colon Cancer

Do you have shortness of breath?
 Yes No

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as **mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis.**

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



For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We can arrange a **free chest x-ray** review by a NIOSH Certified B-Reader to determine the presence of asbestos lung disease for all qualified building tradesmen with start dates prior to 1975.

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry.

Return the form or contact us today:
800-799-2234
www.gpwlaw-mi.com

GPW
GOLDBERG PERSKY WHITE P.C.
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 SOUTHFIELD SAGINAW



- ✓ **FREE Evaluation**
- ✓ **Smokers Eligible**
- ✓ **Widows Eligible**

Return this form to:
 Goldberg, Persky & White, PC
 3995 Fashion Sq. Blvd. Suite 1 Saginaw, Michigan 48603 or
Call 800-799-2234



Outdoors



DNR Q&A during the COVID crisis

Answers to your questions during the COVID-19 crisis, by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Can I still go fishing? Yes. The governor's executive order states that individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary, to engage in outdoor activity, including walking, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity consistent with remaining at least six feet from people outside an individual's household.

Can I still go boating? Non-motorized boating, such as kayaking, canoeing and sailing, falls within the outdoor activities permitted under the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order. Any outdoor activity, including boating, must be done in a manner consistent with social distancing, and individuals should use only their own equipment to prevent the transmission of the virus through the touching of shared surfaces. Additionally, persons not part of a single household may not boat together.

While some boating is permitted under the order, the provision of boating services or supplies does not itself constitute critical infrastructure work. Accordingly, marinas, canoe liveries, and other similar businesses and operations may not designate workers to come to work for that purpose. As needed, however, these businesses and operations may designate workers to leave their home for work if their in-person presence is strictly necessary to conduct the minimum basic operations. Minimum basic operations do not include serving members of the public, but do permit work necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of sites otherwise open to the public for outdoor recreation.

Am I able to use my motor-powered boat for recreational purposes, including fishing? No. Under the governor's revised "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order 2020-42, physical outdoor activity, such as kayaking, canoeing and sailing, remains



A YOUNG VISITOR makes a memory at Ludington State Park in Mason County, looking out over Lake Michigan from the park's historic beach house. Michigan's state parks remain open during the COVID crisis. MDNR photos

permissible. However, the use of a motorboat, jet ski or similar watercraft is not permitted for the duration of the Executive Order, which is currently set to expire at 11:59 p.m. April 30.

Will the DNR extend the term of 2019 fishing licenses? No. The new license year began April 1. On that date, anglers will need a 2020 fishing license and to follow regulations set in the 2020 Michigan Fishing Guide.

How can I get a new fishing license or 2020 fishing guide? Fishing licenses may be purchased online and either printed at home or downloaded to mobile devices that are carried with you. The 2020 Michigan Fishing Guide is available online. www.michigan.gov/dnr

Are DNR boating access

sites open? Yes. Boating access sites remain open, but restrooms at these facilities are closed and other amenities, such as courtesy piers, may not be available. State harbors and marinas are closed.

Do I still need a Recreation Passport to access boating access sites and other recreation areas? No. This requirement has been suspended temporarily.

Does my boat need to be registered with the Secretary of State when it is not allowing title transfers at this time? Yes. The Secretary of State is able to process boat registration renewals online. The office is not able to process title transfers electronically. www.michigan.gov/sos

Are state parks open? Yes. State parks, state forests, recreation areas, scenic sites and other

state-managed lands remain open to help provide the public with places to hike, run and otherwise engage in healthy outdoor activities, with the exception of Tippy Dam Recreation Area in Manistee County, which is closed to visitors. Visitors should not travel long distances, unless it is for a purpose considered critical under the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order. This type of nonessential travel could unintentionally increase the spread of COVID-19.

By keeping state parks open, doesn't this contradict the governor's executive order? No. The executive order states that individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary, to engage in outdoor activity, including walking, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity consistent with remaining at least six feet from people outside an individual's household. Long distance travel is discouraged unless it is for a purpose considered critical under the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order.

Do I still need a Recreation Passport to get into a state park or other recreation areas? No. This requirement has been suspended temporarily.

Are family picnics allowed on state forest lands? State forest campgrounds are closed to camping, but the lands are not closed. The executive order states that individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary, to engage in outdoor activity, including walking, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity consistent with remaining at least six feet from people outside an individual's household.

Visitors should not travel long distances, unless it is for a purpose considered critical under the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order. This type of nonessential travel could unintentionally increase the spread of COVID-19.

Can I go camping at a state

park or state campground? No. State park and state forest campgrounds are closed through at least April 13.

Am I able to make reservations for camping or overnight lodging? Overnight lodging is closed until May 15. Reservations for lodging after that date are being taken. At this time, camping reservations can be made for dates April 14 and beyond. From April 14 - May 15, campgrounds at state parks will remain semi-modern, with no shower building open, and rates will reflect this. Normal rates will apply after May 15 for camping and overnight lodging.

Are off-road vehicle and all-terrain vehicle trails still open? Yes. State-managed trails remain open for public enjoyment. However, grooming and other maintenance operations have ceased temporarily. Long distance travel is discouraged unless considered critical. Riders must observe all social distancing requirements in the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order and remain at least six feet from people outside an individual's household.

Is hunting still allowed? Yes, licensed individuals may still hunt while following social distancing guidelines. The executive order states that individuals may leave their home or place of residence, and travel as necessary, to engage in outdoor activity, including walk-

ing, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity consistent with remaining at least six feet from people outside an individual's household.

How can I get a hunting license? Hunting licenses may be purchased online and will be mailed within 7-10 business days. Unlike fishing licenses, kill tags are not sent via email and cannot be downloaded. The physical kill tag must be used.

Can I cut fuelwood on state forest lands? The start of the season for cutting fuelwood from dead or downed trees in Michigan's state forest is delayed until May 1. The public is asked to apply for fuelwood permits by mail. DNR staff recommends that you visit the site where you plan to cut before applying for a permit. The quality and quantity of dead wood varies by location.

Current maps of areas where cutting will be allowed are online. Permits are for use on designated state forest land in the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula. Permits allow for collection of up to five standard cords of wood per household. Wood is for personal use only and cannot be resold or traded.

Do I need an ORV/ATV permit to ride? Yes.

How can I get an ORV/ATV permit? Permits are available online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses.

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