COVID-19 hits home

“Essentially, construction continues, on hit or miss basis in Michigan.”

By Marty Mulcahy

 editor Categorying the construction industry as a governmental authority as an “essential service” has kept Hardhat on the job on some jobsites in Michigan and across the nation during the COVID-19 era. But that is hardly the case everywhere — construction sites were fully shut down in Boston effective March 23, 2020 for one example. And in Michigan and elsewhere, interpretations of government rules and regulations vary.

The construction industry was stopped in its tracks by the health crisis. With the closure of businesses, the construction industry, which supports a wide variety of businesses, was also forced to close. The industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michigan has been affected by the pandemic, and the construction industry has been no exception. The state has been hit hard by job losses, with many workers unemployed and businesses forced to close. The pandemic has also caused delays and disruptions in the construction industry, resulting in delays and increased costs for both contractors and clients.

New laws and regulations have been implemented to help mitigate the spread of the virus, and these laws have affected the construction industry. For example, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) has been required on job sites to reduce the risk of infection.

The pandemic has also caused a shortage of materials and supplies, as many manufacturers have been forced to shut down or reduce production. This has resulted in increased costs for contractors, who must pay more for materials and supplies.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on the economy, as businesses have been forced to close or reduce their hours. This has led to a decrease in demand for construction services, which has affected the construction industry.

Despite these challenges, the construction industry has continued to work hard to keep projects moving and to ensure the safety of its workers. However, the pandemic has caused a significant disruption to the industry, and it will be some time before it fully recovers.

COVID-19 impacts on Michigan’s construction industry

By Marty Mulcahy

 editor The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Michigan’s construction industry. Many projects have been delayed, and some have been停工. The construction industry has faced a number of challenges,

COVID-19 affects Michigan's construction trade unions

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Spikes in jobless claims

(Continued from Page 1)

Credit: Reuters By Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

The most recent spike in jobless claims was the result of the point of the Great Recession, marking the first time weekly claims peaked at about 600,000 at the week of Aug. 24, 2024. Michigan set a record first quarter with 264,000 unique claims for unemployment insurance.

The volume is “pretty much unprecedented,” according to Prof. Shadrack, professor of social work and public health, director of the Michigan Institute of Technology, to Bridge Magaz-

The jobless situation is simil-

arly ugly in the rest of the 50 states. The greatest share of Ameri-

cans filed for unemployment in-

surance in March and April. In-

formation from the U.S. Labor

Bureau shows that claims for

unemployment insurance fell

from a peak of 3.8 million the

week ending March 28, 2020,
to 2.4 million in the week ending


The EPI, which said its data was extrapolated because some states did not have complete information, said the number of workers filing unemployment benefit claims jumped to a record of 3.8 million in the week ending March 28, 2020. In Michigan, claims for unemployment insurance fell to 264,000 in the week ending March 21, 2020.

This “will dwarf every other week of unemployment claims by comparing the projection to what we had back to 1967,” the EPI said.

For scale, the EPI said the initial claimants who filed in the most recent month represent a loss of about 10 percent of the national unemployment rate.

Government officials at all levels should treat the construc- tion industry as essential for public health and economic services, maintaining and improving the nation’s infra-

structure, and to build temporary health facilities and to ensure that proper measures are taken to ensure a safe work environ-

ment for those on the job. “Lastly, construction work-

ers are now entitled to paid sick leave. We strongly encourage workers to use this safeguard when they can. It is essential that once proper safety precautions are taken that our members con-

tinue to work and provide for their families.”

Danielle Atkinson

Royal Oak, Mich.

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Phone: (313) 961-2467

For advertisers, mail to: Gus Brave, Printing, 1460 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

For individuals and organizations that wish to have their organization, event or article featured in The Building Tradesman.

A joint statement issued on March 21 by North American Building Trades Unions Presi- dent Peter C. Cappo and Associated General Contractors CEO Stephen Sandherr called on federal lawmakers to exempt construction workers from quarantine restrictions and local lockdown shutoffs. And for the most part, that’s what has hap-

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(previous page)

U.S. SENATOR
GARY PETERS
SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

Veteran Benefits: The CARES Act expands resources to the Veterans Affairs administration to ensure continued to veterans and their families. The CARES Act also expanded benefits to eligible individuals who are not already covered by the unemployment laws of the states.

Quincy Mine’s historic rockhouses

Michigan’s AGC said they expected construction employment in February 2019 would be lower than February 2019. They expected employment levels this month would rise to 98% of respondents have been out.

Michigan’s AGC said that if the unemployment rate continues to rise, this agreement could be extended to provide additional benefits for all Michigan workers in the construction industry. The agreement also extends benefit payments from 26 weeks to 39 weeks. These newly eligible workers include self-employed, 1099-independent contractors, gig, and those with a limited work history.

Benefits Increased for All Unemployed Workers. Under the CARES Act, all unemployed workers will begin receiving additional 300 dollars a week for a fourth week for up to four months and permits workers from 26 to 39 weeks. These newly eligible workers include self-employed, low-wage workers, and those with a limited work history.

Companies that have been in existence for 15 years or less may be able to receive up to 39 weeks of benefits. These newly eligible workers include self-employed, 1099-independent contractors, gig, and those with a limited work history.

Benefits for veterans that are not already covered by the unemployment laws of the states.

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Thursday of each month.

Our member Gary Symons initiated on May 5, 1997 and retired

If you have a change of status for your union dues records, please call and give it to the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

The Michigan Business Agent for UA Local 190 for the past

Our member James Van Every initiated on March 14, 1997 and retired

Our member James Johnson who

If you have a change of status for your union dues records, please call and give it to the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext

Your Information Here, then click on

FOR APRIL.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING:

Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext

If you have a change of status for your union dues records, please call and give it to the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

The allocation of the wage increase to the Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, and Glaziers will be discussed at the March meeting. Apprentices are excused from attending the March Union Meeting. Please note that the March meeting is CANCELLED.

For the Easter holiday the office will

The proposed remodel will include a new Veterans Memorial and a new foot traffic control system. The proposed remodel at the March meeting.

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Apprenticeship:

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For those members

For detailed instructions and re-

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can be done due to Unemployment, Disability or Workers Compensation, personal issues, please call C.J. Harrison, Work Life Strategies at 248-

Northern Retiree Meeting: 
will retire effective March 1, 2020: Tim McCabe, thank you for your

Land Banks Holdings for half the list cost. Go to

If by chance you are in arrears and you are struggling financially,

tions, when you do return to work don't let the generals go back to

Our Local 98 PAC committee has come out in support of past V.P.

The new U.A. Union cards are available at the hall when you pay

Superintendent and Foremen, if you have paid a pro-Appren-

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time,

If you are working as a Metal

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The forms for Dollar

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The health and safety of all members of United Association Local 370 is our utmost concern. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus. In order to keep you safe from COVID-19, many meetings and events have been either postponed or canceled. This is only a temporary situation and will end as soon as it is safe to do so. We urge everyone to follow proper health and safety precautions, including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands frequently. Please be patient with us as we navigate this unprecedented coronavirus.
Golf Outing
or emailed into the hall the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called in to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Sunday in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications once the books are closed; it cannot be undone.

Deb's: Membership does not expire for the month during which they are due. If you are laid off on a Saturday or Sunday, therefore, of being called in to the Hall on the Tuesday following the last business day of the month to pay your dues, 4 pm on the last business day of the month will not be processed. All members are responsible for their dues unless they have received a

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY INSURANCE:
MUST account, please go to www.sheetmetal292.com.

DUES OR QUISTINA 248, 494-6764.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE UNION HALL. NO LUNCHEON IN APRIL.

MULLION
UNION HALL REGULAR MEETINGS
MULLION MEETING SCHEDULE:

FORTY-NINE INC.

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Vaccination minimum wages, many so-

April 22 @ Union Hall

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN       7

Local 292
Sheet Metal Workers

Member applications are held at the Union Hall and new applications are accepted until the deadline of the August meeting.

Ongoing weekly meetings (April 27, May 4, May 18, June 8, and June 22) in the Union Hall. All meetings will be at 7:30pm.

Local 80
Sheet Metal Workers

Meeting Schedule CANCELLED — April 20: Meetings will resume when the pandemic is over. The next meeting will begin at 12:30pm and be held at the Royal Oak Hotel at 413777 W. 23 Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan.

The E-Board-Steward next meeting is April 22, 2020.

RETIREMENT NOTICE: The retirement of Mr. Paul Gualandis will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

April 28 @ Union Hall

The general membership meeting of the April 22, 2020 meeting will be held at 7:30pm.

The general membership meeting of the April 22, 2020 meeting will be held at 7:30pm.

The E-Board-Steward next meeting is April 22, 2020.

April 18 @ Union Hall

April 26 @ Union Hall

April 23 @ Union Hall

April 21 @ Union Hall

April 24 @ Union Hall

April 17 @ Union Hall

April 19 @ Union Hall
control. you will have to do things
differently for the time being. We
work, but many in person events will be
stopped and put on hold until further
stay at home, work, and in the com-

The RENEW committee
meeting will be on Monday, April 20, 2020
at 10:00 AM.

The May Club Meet-
ing will be the next monthly meeting for
GBW Local 946. If you have any questions,
please email gbwclubrenew@gmail.com

The next meeting for
GBW Local 948 will be on Monday,
April 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Local 58, con’t

Retiree Parsons breakage on
March 28, 2020 has been can-
celled. This also includes the
Pin Party/Spring Fling which was
to be held on May 2, 2020. We are
looking into having everyone send us an
e-mail to jayas@ibew131.com so we can
get the word out to our retirees. It
will be a great way to keep up with
news and information that is sent
out from the Retirees Committee.

The NEH has ruled that a
minimum of $20 per day, this year and still
draw pension. If you have any
inquiries please send email to jayas@ibew131.com.

Please help keep
everyone safe and healthy.

We invite you to join
us for our next Zoom Meet-
ing. We will be
working on projects deemed es-

The next gathering will be
May 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM.


The RENEW
program is to educate implement
workshops, provide information and
resources for new union members.

The main meeting and
announcements can be found on our
website.

The next monthly meeting
for Local 131 will be on
Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

The next monthly meeting
for GBW Local 948 will be
on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

If you have any
questions, please email
ibewpension@ibewlocal58.org.

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Since 1918

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Fax 665-228-1888

www.ibewlocal665.org

IBEW Local 106
5015 West Killmar Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

665-228-1881
Fax 665-228-1888

www.ibewlocal106.org

IBEW Local 906
123455 Whistle Stop Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

665-228-1881
Fax 665-228-1888

www.ibewlocal906.org

IBEW Local 85
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Kalamazoo, MI 49001

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Fax 665-228-1888

www.ibewlocal85.org

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IBEW LOCAL 85

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IBEW Local 498
BAY CITY – Union Meeting.
Monday, April 6, 2020

Meeting Date Change – A motion was made and seconded to change the next union meeting to April 1, 2020. All in favor said ‘aye’ and all opposed said ‘nay’. Carried.

Elections

Nominations and Election dates subject to change to address COVID-19. The new website is up and running. Please take a look to see how things have changed. The new website is at www.theunionbootpro.com.

Provides information about how to access the website, updates, and how to address meeting requirements by the federal government.

IBEW Local 557
UNION HALL LOCKED – The Union Hall entrance has been locked to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Union Hall lobby still remains closed in accordance with the guidelines put in place by the administration. It is recommended that members do not bring paper documents in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain and protect the operations of the Union. As a member, if you have questions or concerns about the Union’s COVID-19 response, please contact the Hall.

UNION HALL CLOSING

The Union Hall will be closed to all but essential business operations, with walk-in members being met at the front door and directed to the Union office if necessary.

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IBEW Local 557

IBEW Local 557 takes all members to the general public seriously and stands ready to assist those in our community that are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As members, we belong to a Brotherhood and I feel that collective bargaining and union organizing efforts must continue in these times of need. The IBEW is in his blood would be an understatement. If you know of a non-signatory contractor or have questions about organizing, please contact the Hall.

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Equal Pay Day highlights inequities

Women experience significant wage gap

March 31, meaning that women as an aggregate group are 8.1 cents on men’s dollars, working women as a group earn $0.81 for every $1.00 earned by men in 2020 to earn what men did last year.

“Given this harsh reality, Equal Pay Day is a day to call attention to the significance of gender wage gaps, the economic impact they have on families, and women’s and men’s lives in the United States,” the statement said. 

In 2019, women were paid 79.5% as much as men, or 81.9 cents for every dollar earned by men. “It is a distressing calculation for race and ethnicity, age, and geographic division,” the report said.

The gaps for black and Hispanic women are larger than the overall gender wage gap and the white man-white woman gap. Compared with white women, black women are paid 31.7 percent less and Hispanic women are paid 50.6 percent less. On average, controlling for race, education, age, and geographic division, white women get 76.9 cents to every dollar white men get.

"More than one-fifth of women working at health care and social assistance have experienced a surge in demand as health care systems respond to the coronavirus pandemic, and two out of three of these women are employed in nursing, home health care, and social assistance,” the report said. “The experience of these women is not unique, however; women of color and women with disabilities also face a higher risk of work-related exposures and material over the last week, one in six working women experienced a work-related exposure, compared with just 5 percent of working men.”

EDUCATION

Women's wages have historically been lower than men's. Women’s average hourly earnings were 80 percent of men’s in 2019 compared with 68 percent in 1979, according to the Baldwin Center for Economic Policy.

Women experience a significant wage gap, or the amount by which they are paid less than men for the same job. This year's Equal Pay Day is March 31, marking the invisible paycheck gap that women and men have been paid since the end of March 2020. The gender wage gap is a reflection of the persistent gender inequality that exists in the workplace and society.

According to the National Women's Law Center, women in the U.S. have made significant progress since the Equal Pay Act of 1963, when the wage gap was 60 percent. However, the gap has remained relatively consistent since the 1970s, and in recent years, it has actually increased slightly. In 2020, the gender wage gap was 78.4 percent, meaning that women in the U.S. on average earned 78.4 cents on the dollar compared to men.

The gender wage gap is a reflection of the persistent gender inequality that exists in the workplace and society. The gap is wider for women of color and women with disabilities, who are often paid less than men and other working women.

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Local 36 Elevator Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 36 - Notice of the April Membership Meeting

This is the notice of the April membership meeting date for all members of the Live 36. It will be held at Hall 36 on April 3, 2020. The meeting will start at 11:00 am. All members are encouraged to attend. The agenda will include a report on the financial status of the union and an update on the current projects in progress. The meeting will also be broadcast live on the union’s website, where members can register to participate online. For more information, please visit the website www.b61.org or contact the office at 586-552-4474.
20 years of baseball at Comerica Park

And building trades union workers built it all

TWENTY YEARS AGO there were a lot of busy building trades workers along Woodward Avenue in Detroit, as construction was wrapping up prior to the Detroit Tigers’ first game at their new stadium on Opening Day, April 11, 2000 vs. the Seattle Mariners. The $300 million-plus project substantially began in the fall of 1998, with the project proceeding under the construction management team of Hunt-Turner-White. Numerous change orders slowed construction and bumped up the price tag of the project, but the park opened on time, and the frigid fans watched a 5-2 win by the home team.

CONSTRUCTION IN March 2000. Lots of last-minute tasks.

PLUMBERS 98 workers swing pipe in what will be the Comerica Park concourse.

A CEMENT FINISHER toils on the upper deck.

IRON WORKERS Local 25 members used some muscle to move precast sections during construction at Comerica Park.

AN IRON WORKERS Local 25 member sets a column during Comerica Park construction.

BAC Local 2 tile masons at work at Comerica Park.

THE SETTING OF THE first column of iron.

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Haywire for a half century

By Doug Donnelly

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Michigan’s first rail trail is 50 years old.

Some residents who live near the Haywire Grade, a narrow trail that crosses the Upper Peninsula north to south from Shingleton to Manistique, are glad the trail is getting the recognition it deserves.

“I’d say over the past four years, Michigan has truly started to recognize the significance of the Haywire,” said Gerry Reese, Manistique man who has flown property near the Haywire Grade for nearly 30 years and is a part of the Schoolcraft County Motorized Trail Association.

A yearlong celebration of the Haywire Grade kicked off in February with a snowmobile ride and will continue throughout the year with events, group rides, and bike events as local, regional, and state officials commemorate the trail’s history.

“The celebration of the Haywire rail trail has been in the making for five years,” Reese said. “There are a lot of residents in the area who are aware of the trail’s rich history. We want to change that.”

History. With more than 2,600 miles logged, Michigan has the most rail-trails of any other state. This contains more miles of abandoned railroad than any other state. This conversion is done through a process called rail banking. The trails provide a safer alternative for trail users, but many are created through land acquisitions and the recreation trails retained through the history.

The first rail-trail in Michigan’s heritage trail network is the Haywire Grade, which was established in 1970. Two years later, the Superior Railroad ceased operation in Lake Superior. The trail was used by the Loggers and Iron Workers then rode the freshly groomed trail about 15 miles from Manistique to the Jack Pine Lodge, where they stopped for lunch. Riders received a commemorative patch marking their participation in the event.

Yet to come in 2020 are three additional planned activities (bar-end COVID-19 postponements), including June 6 equine, Aug. 22 bike, and Oct. 3 ATV/UTV events. In addition to the DNR and Schoolcraft County Motorized Trails Association, other trail partners that helped make the Haywire Grade celebration events possible include the city of Manistique, the Hiawatha National Forest, the Schoolcraft County Historical Society, the area’s tourism council and several private donors.

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-Widow of Chrysler Engineer

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