

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

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## **Union laborer picked** to lead Labor Dept.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -The building trades and the rest of organized labor have experienced an anti-union barrage from the Trump Administration's Labor Department over the past four years - including the near blowing up of the union apprenticeship model.

But there will be a new Labor Department sheriff in town under the Biden Administration - and he comes in the person of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a Laborers Local 223 Union member who was secretary-treasurer of the Boston Building and Construction Trades Council before he was elected mayor in 2013.

President-elect Joe Biden nominated Walsh, 53, for the Labor Department secretary post on Jan. 7. AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka said: "As a longtime union member, Walsh knows that collective bargaining is essential to building back better. "He will have the ear of the White House, the Cabinet and Congress as we work to increase union density and create a stronger, fairer America."

North America's Building Trades Union Presiden Sean McGarvey said "there is no better decision for U.S. Labor Secretary that President-elect Biden could have made than somebody who has been there, done it, with unquestioned leadership, accessibility, and vast executive experience.



A NEW CENTRAL CLASSROOM Building is under construction on the University of Michigan campus at Geddes and Washtenaw Avenue. Barton Malow is managing construction of the \$150 million project, which is being erected adjacent to the historic Ruthven Building, which is being renovated. Photo credit: U-M webcan

# New use, new purpose: trades create new U-M classroom, office space

#### **By Marty Mulcahy** Editor

ANN ARBOR – The ongoing project to build the University of Michigan's new Central Campus Classroom Building and renovate and reuse the ber of school's needs in the area

## Among them:

modern, team-based and activelearning classrooms," according to U-M – much-needed space for the university's evolving academic needs.

•The rooms will include

open plan and increased flexibility, including the ability to transition easily from lectures to small work teams to larger group discussions, U-M says.

•To make room for the new nearby 1928 Ruthven building construction, demolished was a will check the boxes on a num- 34,000-square-foot, 1964-era addition to the Albert Kahn-designed Ruthven building, while the architecturally significant •The creation of "large, original building is being reused and renovated into office space. The Ruthven building formerly housed U-M's Museum of Natural History, which has been moved to the Biological Sciences Building. "The Ruthven project pro-

modern technology with a more vides us with an opportunity to create contemporary classroom space in a prime, Central Campus location while preserving and reusing a landmark building," says Kevin Hegarty, U-M's executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Barton Malow is managing construction on the \$150 million project at Geddes and Washtenaw Avenue. The new space will include about 100,000 square feet for active learning classrooms, including a 550seat auditorium. The Ruthven building will see about 135,000 square-feet of renovated space, (Continued on Page 2)

## New \$900 billion federal stimulus leaves labor wanting more for workers

By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) - The \$900 billion stimulus law Congress passed and Donald Trump reluctantly signed has both good news and bad news for workers and their families whose lives have been physically and financially smashed by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent shutdowns and economic depression used to fight it.

And union leaders greeted ultimate approval of the measure with a "Yes, but..." attitude, saying it was fine as far as it wentbut that it didn't go far enough.

Democratic President-Elect Joe Biden said much the same thing. Biden backed this bill's passage after the Senate's ruling Republicans and Trump adamantly refused to even consider larger measures, the more pro-worker Heroes Act, which the Democratic-run House passed twice. Biden backed the Heroes Act, too. But Biden also made clear that once he takes over at noon on Jan. 20, he'll send a new, bigger economic stimulus package to Capitol Hill.

"I have said all along this bill is just a first step - a down payment - on addressing the crisis. There's a lot more work to do. Early next year I will put before the Congress my plans for what comes next," he told a late-December press conference.

In the meantime, workers and families, union and non-union, will have to live with what lawmakers wrought in the waning days of December.

Washington Wire



checks, too. That means workers likely got nothing between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1, or later.

Out, thanks to the GOP: Trump's last-minute demand, accompanying his rumblings that he would veto the whole thing, for \$2,000-per-person one-time checks. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., has pushed \$2,000 since the pandemic and the depression began. Sanders welcomed Trump aboard. The House GOP didn't, and blocked it. House Democrats later approved a stand-alone \$2,000 aid bill. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell killed it.

(Continued on Page 3) Guv's veto reduces jobless benefits from 26 to 20 weeks; fix imminent? **By Marty Mulcahy** 

Editor LANSING - Jobless Michigan workers who file for unemployment benefits beginning Jan.

"Mayor Walsh is the exact right choice for Labor Secretary at this time in our country's history. We are confident that Mayor Walsh will continue creating pathways of opportunities for anyone that wants a chance to succeed in America's workforce. He is also keenly aware of the perils of health and safety facing workers in this country. He will make sure that America's workers get the proper training and that America's employers, in partnership, follow the rules so that workers arrive home after work in the same condition as they headed off to work in the morning.'

Walsh's appointment requires approval by the U.S. Senate.

## 2020 ends with big loss of jobs

A year that was universally hated just got a little worse.

The final employment report of 2020 released on Jan. 8 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that U.S. jobs fell by 140,000 in December – "an unequivocal disaster for the state of the economic recovery," said the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, job growth had increased over the prior seven months but waned throughout the fall and fell outright in December. The year ends with 9.8 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic recession hit in February and 546,000 fewer jobs than the start of Donald Trump's presidency in January 2016.

The overall unemployment rate remained at 6.7 percent in December, well below the 14.8 percent peak in April but nearly double the 3.5 percent pre-COVID rate in February.

## Quotable

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find vou a better man."

-Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790

thing really special. We're going to have to have one made!"

the recovery from the early

months of the pandemic remains

On Jan. 10, 2021, Woody entered the realm of having the rare distinction of being a local union union in 1941 as a mechanic. He of the Insulators union.

"I worked for two years as a helper, and at that time, the local Insulators International General needed journeymen insulators, so President Greg Revard, himself a they tested me out and deter-

Local 47 member. "This is some- mined I was fully capable of working as a mechanic," he said. In 1943, Smith took a military withdrawal card to become a

(Continued on Page 3) WHAT WERE YOU doing in 1941? That's the year Woody Smith, now 101, joined the Heat and Frost Insulators union. He's shown at right next to **Heat and Frost Insulators International Union General** President Greg Revard and **Insulators Local 47 Business** Manager Patrick Welch at a union picnic a few years ago.

Here's a sampling of what's in and out:

In: One-time \$600-per-person stimulus checks, and \$300 weekly in federal jobless aid, including aid to gig economy workers, independent contractors, farm workers, household workers and other workers not covered by regular wage-and-hour laws. But those workers will now have to document their prior jobs, and that'll cause more delays. The \$300 would also top current jobless benefits - a boon to workers in states with low benefits.

Out: The prior weekly amount, which ran out months ago, was \$600. And the \$300 checks are only for 10-11 weeks. Trump's one-week delay in signing the legislation will delay those

1 will only be eligible for 20 weeks of benefits, instead of 26 that workers have received during the pandemic.

because Gov. That's Gretchen Whitmer on Dec. 29 surprisingly vetoed bipartisan legislation that would have continued to extend unemployment benefits with those additional six weeks.

As a result, jobless workers will get 20 weeks of benefits this year unless the state Legislature sends her a bill that doesn't move \$220 million in funding for the benefits from the state General Fund to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The Governor's office, said the news service MIRS, called the money a "corporate tax cut that the administration never agreed to."

Whitmer's office pointed out that UI benefits were originally cut during the GOP Snyder Administration from 26 weeks to 20 the first state in history to cut jobless benefit weeks. Whitmer pushed to have those six weeks reinstated at the start of the pandemic last year. She called on the Legislature to simply extend the benefits from 20 weeks to 26 weeks

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) told MIRS that the Legislature approved the transfer before the federal government passed the \$900 billion COVID relief package, so it's possible the federal money could be

(Continued on Page 2)

# How's the U.S. construction nation's ability to disseminate the vember decline in single family fell 2 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate A fix could be on the way.

diverged a bit in November, with bag," said Richard Branch, chief of rising COVID-19 cases.... industry numbers showing While the near-term outlook for An analysis by the Associeconomist for Dodge Data & project starts falling a bit, while Analytics, on Dec. 16. "On the starts remains cloudy, the recent ated General Contractors of government numbers show a positive side, the gain in nonresideployment of a vaccine in the America released on Jan 4 conmodest rise in industry spending. dential building starts shows that

# 80 years later, insulator still enjoying union benefits

#### By Marty Mulcahy Editor

industry performing? What's the

the distribution of the COVID-19

the U.S. construction industry

The better question is, how's

The two leading analysts of

But long-term, the industry's

fortunes – like the rest of the U.S.

outlook for 2021?

vaccine going?

LANSING - Woodrow "Woody" Smith of has been a member of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47 for so long that the union is going to have to have made a unique piece of new hardware to recognize him. "We've seen members earn

70-year anniversary pins, but I

don't think I've ever given out a

pin for an 80-year member," said



AT THE GATE of the U-M Central Classroom Building project in Ann Arbor are (l-r) Tyler Crow, Jimmy Coval and Roger Greenwood of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190. They're employed by John E. Green. Photography is not allowed at U-M projects, so we asked them and others to pause for a photo on their way into the project after their coffee break.

COVID-19 vaccines and get them

injected into the arms of a high

percentage of Americans, which

member for 80 years. Born in 1919, the 101-year-old Diamondale, Michigan resident joined the may be the oldest living member

would instill some confidence and certainty in the future. concern, however, about the ability of construction starts to main-"November construction starts were somewhat of a mixed tain their current pace in the face

sector.

**COVID** vaccine injects some hope for 2021

U.S. raises hope and expectation that 2021 will be a better year."

starts, tremendous positive mo-

mentum remains in the housing

Dodge reported on Dec. 16 economy - will hinge on the on course. And despite the No- that total U.S. construction starts

of \$797.5 billion following a strong gain in October. Included "There remains significant in that was a 7 percent drop in residential starts during November, while nonresidential building starts rose a healthy 19 percent that month.

tradicted the Dodge data, but that's not unusual in short-term market comparisons. The AGC

# (Continued on Page 2)



January 15, 2021

# Viewpoints

## How 2020 exposed U.S.

If America learns nothing else from these dark times, here are 7 lessons it should take away from 2020:

1. Workers keep America going, not billionaires. American workers have been forced to put their lives on the line to provide essential services even as their employers failed to provide them with adequate protective gear, hazard pay, or notice of when COVID had infected their workplaces. Meanwhile, America's 651 billionaires - whose net worth has grown by over \$1 trillion since the start of the pandemic - retreated to their mansions, yachts and estates.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos sheltered in his 165,000-acre West Texas ranch while Amazon's warehouse workers toiled in close proximity to each other, often without adequate masks, gloves, or sanitizers. The company offered but then soon scrapped a \$2 an hour hazard pay increase for warehouse workers, even as Bezos' wealth jumped by a staggering \$70 billion since March, putting his estimated net worth at roughly \$186 billion as the year came to an end.

2. Systemic racism is literally killing Black and Latino Americans. Black and Latino Americans account for almost 40 percent of coronavirus deaths so far, despite comprising less than a quarter of the population. As they've borne the brunt of this pandemic, they've been forced to fight for their humanity in another regard - taking to the streets across the country to protest decades of unjust police killings of their community members, only to be met with more police violence.

Among Native American communities, the coronavirus figures are even more horrifying. The Navajo Nation has had a higher per-capita infection rate than any state but can't adequately care for the sick, thanks to years of federal underfunding and neglect of its health care system.

Decades of segregated housing, pollution, lack of access to medical care, and poverty have left communities of color vulnerable to the worst of this virus, and the worst of America

3. If we can afford to bail out corporations and Wall Street, we sure as hell can afford to help people. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell continues to insist we can't "afford" \$2,000 COVID survival checks for Americans. But the latest coronavirus relief legislation doled out over \$220 billion to powerful business interests that could instead have been used to help struggling working families.

Another way of looking at it: The total cost of providing those \$2,000 checks (\$465 billion) is less than half the amount America's 651 billionaires added to their wealth during the pandemic (\$1 trillion).

4. Health care must be made a right in America. Even before the pandemic, an estimated 28 million Americans lacked health insurance. After it struck, an additional 15 million lost employerprovided coverage because they lost their jobs. Without insurance, a hospital stay to treat COVID-19 cost as much as \$73,000. Remember this the next time you hear pundits saying Medicare for All is too radical.

5. Our social safety nets are woefully broken. No other advanced nation was as unprepared for the pandemic as was the United States. Our unemployment insurance system is over 80 years old, designed for a different America. We're one of the few countries in the world that doesn't provide all workers some form of paid sick leave.

Other industrialized nations kept their unemployment rates low by guaranteeing paychecks during the pandemic. But Americans who filed for unemployment benefits often got nothing or received them weeks or months late. Under new legislation they get just \$300 a week of extra benefits to tide them over.

6. The Electoral College must be abolished. Biden won 7 million more popular votes than Trump. But Biden's margin in Arizona, Georgia, and Wisconsin totaled just 45,000. Had Trump won these three states instead, he would have gained 37 more electoral votes, tying Biden in the electoral college. Under the Constitution, this would have pushed the election to the House of Representatives, with each state delegation getting just one vote. Even though Democrats have a majority in the House, more state delegations have Republican majorities. Trump would have been reelected.

## Guv's veto reduces jobless benefits from 26 to 20 weeks; fix imminent?

(Continued from Page 1) available to help fund the benefits.

"I don't know if the governor didn't realize what the ramifications of her veto would be at the time, or if she did it intentionally – but either way, the people of Michigan did not get the truth from her last week," said state Rep. Mark Huizinga (R-Walker). "We've got to do better moving forward - particularly as people across our state count on their state government to work in their best interests during the challenges of this pandemic."

A statement from her office late last year said "the governor's line item veto to save \$220 million in General Fund taxpayer dollars in the employer-owned Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has no effect on current (2020) unemployed workers or their benefit weeks. We're hopeful the state Legislature will quickly take action... to permanently extend unemployment benefits from 20 to 26 weeks for newly unemployed workers who file Jan. 1 forward, putting Michigan in line with 40 other states.

"General fund dollars must be used to fund essential services like vaccines and PPE, not to give tax breaks to big businesses. The Unemployment Insurance Agency has also provided more than \$900 million in tax breaks to businesses impacted by COVID-19."

"We all have such a finite time to leave the world better than we found it. -Dave Kellett





HEFTING DUCTWORK at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Central Classroom Building project are Mike Cassani, Bryant Stafford and Rik Watson of Sheet Metal Workers Local 80. They're employed by Applegate.

# New use, new purpose: trades create new U-M classroom, office space

(Continued from Page 1) including a 200-person capacity multipurpose room, as well as administrative space to house the U-M Central Administration Department, including the university president and other executive officers.

Constructed of red brick and Bedford limestone in the Classic Revival style, the Ruthven project lines up with the university's traditional priority of

#### of buildings while making them more environmentally sustainable. The former museum will retain a spectacular historic rotunda and double height space. This project will seek a Silver LEED standard for environmental sustainability.

The project's design team

# **COVID** vaccine injects some hope for 2021

(Continued from Page 1) said that U.S. construction spending "was a tale of two industries" again in November, as it said higher single-family construction spending masked ongoing downturns in private and public nonresidential construction.

"Private nonresidential construction declined for the fifthstraight month in November, while public nonresidential spending slipped for the fifth time in the past six months," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Unfortunately, our latest survey finds contractors expect the volume of projects available to bid on in 2021 will be preserving its historic collection

includes Harley Ellis Devereaux (HED) and Stecker Labau Arneill McManus (SLAM) Collabora-

ing Congress to act quickly to boost investments in infrastructure. "Without additional measures to boost demand for nonresidential construction, this year is likely to be a challenging one for the industry," said AGC CEO Stephen E. Sandherr. "The impacts of the pandemic are clearly accumulating for many construction employers."

tive. HED said the new Central Campus Classroom Building and Alexander G. Ruthven Renovation project "delivers the solution to a three-fold problem on the University of Michigan's Central Campus: 1) lack of large-format instructional space 2) a historic and beloved structure in need of reimagining and repurposing and 3) the university's leadership and administration disconnected from the campus and student population.'

They added that the project "redefines the east edge of campus, creating a new gateway experience to the campus and providing a memorable learning experience for the nearly 10,000 students expected to utilize the facility each day."

Said Neil Martin, SLAM's design principal: "The design team has worked closely with the university to design not only a building, but a series of interactive classrooms that illustrate U-M's commitment to continue to be a world-class institution. The building is designed to be purposeful while engaging the campus fabric as a gateway to the university."

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The gap between the popular and electoral college vote continues to widen. The Electoral College is an increasingly dangerous anachronism.

7. Government matters. For decades, conservatives have told us that government is the problem and that we should let the free market run its course. Rubbish. If nothing else, 2020 has shown that the unfettered free market won't save us. After 40 years of Reaganism, it's never been clearer: Government is in fact necessary to protect the public.

It's tragic that it took a pandemic, near-record unemployment, millions of people taking to the streets, and a near-calamitous election for many to grasp how broken, racist, and backwards our system really is. Biggest lesson of all: It must be fixed.

**Robert Reich** Professor of Public Police, 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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even more meager.' The Building Tradesman is

U.S. construction spending in November totaled \$1.46 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, an increase of 0.9 percent from the pace in October and 3.8 percent higher than in November 2019. But the AGC said gains were limited to residential construction, which rose 2.6 percent for the month and 16.2 percent year-over-year. Meanwhile, the AGC said private and public nonresidential spending slumped 0.6 percent in November from October and 4.7 percent from a year earlier.

The AGC urged the incom-

"No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear." –Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

"Democracy and defense are not substitutes for one another. Either alone will fail." -John F. Kennedy (1917 -

1963) "Love vour enemies; for they shall tell you all your faults.

-Benjamin Franklin (1706 -1790)

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# BUILDING MICHIGAN: Cookin' with gas HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcah



A CREW BUILDS the Michigan-Wisconsin Pipeline circa the late 1940s, location unknown. With new post-war housing being built at a fast pace, the new pipeline would feed the region with plentiful, cheap natural gas. Coal producers bitterly opposed the construction of the new pipeline, rightfully fearing that homes would be heated with this newly available source of furnace energy. Photo credit: DTE Energy

Since humans figured out how to create and harness fire, everyone has wanted reliable, reasonably priced energy. But how that energy is harvested and transported has been a constantly evolving process, which is being transformed today by wind, solar power and improving battery storage. Today, the vast bulk of the sources of our energy are based on decades-old decisions made by lawmakers and regulators who were more interested in customer demand and corporate bottom lines than on the ecological impacts of where or how the hardware that was put into the ground.

In the 1930s, natural gas production in Michigan and the nation was The Next Big Thing for economically heating homes and businesses, fueling kitchen stoves, lighting street lamps and firing up industrial machinery. Michigan communities had been producing their own energy, much of it in the form of "coal gas" aka "city gas" or "manufactured gas."

Beginning in the 1820s, using ubiquitous coal as fuel, local gas manufacturers would burn the black product and create a flammable gaseous fuel that would be distributed through pipes to local customers. Coal gas systems were always a noxious, dirty and polluting method of creating energy, with product being burned locally during both manufacture and consumption. It was an evolving technology, but engineers were never able to produce coal gas that burned as clean or with as

n-Wisconsin Pipe Line Co. ntinental Gas Pipe Line Co. /Southern California Gas Co eq Ges Transmit letural Gas Pipeline Co. of America runkline Gas Co. (Penhandia Essu janquín Ges Trènemis Paso Netural Ges Co.

U.S. natural gas pipeline map, late 1940s

prohibitive. In the mid-1930s natural methane gas had been used in small areas of Michigan on an experimental basis, and it was found that, with natural gas's higher heat value, gas costs for home heating could be cut by about 50 percent."

As the extent of the supply of undergound natural gas reserves became apparent in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahama after the turn of the last century, it would take three decades before those mother lodes could be made available through further discovery, tapping and then with the creation of a distribution system of pipelines and compressing stations to move the product around the nation to a new customer base.

Then the inevitable happened, or at least it looks inevitable today: pipelines were built to start moving that high-quality natural gas to where it was needed. And Michigan – with a burgeoning industry and a willing residential customer base - was ready. The first interstate gas to be imported to Michigan on a sustaining basis was imported by Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. in 1936, which delivered gas from Oklahoma and Texas to Detroit," the MPSC said. "At 1,200 miles long, it was the longest pipeline in existence. According to Panhandle, when it started building this pipeline in 1930, its order for steel pipe was the largest single steel purchase ever made from the U.S. steel industry." The report said improvements in technology, such as electric welding – which joins high-carbon steel and machines capable of laving heavier and larger diameter pipe – allowed for economical long distance transmission pipelines. Pipelines at first were built with a diameter of up to 20 inches and could operate with natural gas at internal pressures of 500 pounds per square inch. "Each decade after brought larger, higher pressure pipelines and new interstate gas pipeline companies to Michigan," the MPSC said.

of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. which was eventually absorbed into DTE Energy), entered into an agreement with the largest natural gas supplier at that time, the Panhandle Eastern, to extend the pipeline from Indianapolis to Detroit. By 1943 MichCon's sales of gas for home heating had almost doubled.

Generalized prop of gas supply

In order to meet the increasing demand for natural gas, American Light and Traction also founded the Michigan-Wisconsin Pipe Line Co., on July 25, 1945, which would later become ANR Pipeline. In 1947, the company received federal approval to build another feeder, a \$52 million, 1,800-mile-long pipeline from the Texas Panhandle region, to a path where it split in Illinois to serve the Detroit-Ann Arbor area and Wisconsin. It began operations on Nov. 1, 1949.

The gas was then distribd within Michigan via exist-

### January 15, 2021

# New \$900B federal stimulus leaves labor wanting more

## (Continued from Page 1)

In: \$45 billion for transportation, including mass transit systems (\$14 billion), Amtrak (\$1 billion) and airlines, plus another \$10 billion line of credit for the Postal Service, all saving jobs.

Not in: A solution to longstanding financial ills of those multi-employer pension plans hit hard by the 2008 financial crash and which have never recovered. Current law lets plan trustees cut current recipients' pensions in order to keep the plans alive for future recipients.

Backed by the Teamsters and other unions, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), pushed the Butch Lewis Act to offer low-interest, long-term federal loan guarantees to such troubled plans, on condition they don't cut payments to present beneficiaries.

"Multiemployer pension plans have been further jeopardized by economic conditions created by the coronavirus, making action to protect the hardearned pensions of retirees and workers more urgent," Teamsters President James Hoffa said.

a bit disappointed, said AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka."Millions of Americans are sick with this virus, have depleted life savings to stay afloat or are suffering economic hardship through no fault of our own," he said, so "we are pleased a relief deal is finally on its way. It will put money in people's pockets, keep transportation workers on the job and bolster housing, health care and food assistance. It's an important step as President-elect Joe Biden prepares to wage a long overdue national fight against this virus.

"But this package should've been so much more," the AFL-CIO president added.

North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey also chided Congress for favoring business and the wealthy over needy Americans.

The stimulus package, including \$25 billion-plus for vaccine production and distribution, was tied to a \$1.4 trillion bill to keep the government going through Sept. 30. That's where Republicans got some extrane-

The entire package left labor ous goodies. One was a tax break for wine, beer and spirits producers. Another restored the full corporate tax deduction for moguls' "three-martini lunches." Overall cost of the tax breaks: \$110 billion over a decade.

"As we pour through details of the COVID-19 relief deal and omnibus agreement," McGarvey said, "it is clear that Congress failed to meet the moment. While they resurrected the "three-martini lunch" tax deduction in this bill, although not as outrageous as the \$210 billion tax cut for the wealthiest families in the country in the Cares Act, Congress should sip on the fact that they will be directly responsible for not supporting the creation and retention of thousands of middle-class jobs in their states and districts.

"We are particularly displeased that Congressional leaders who by now should understand what the electorate said loud and clear on Nov. 3 and that this morning's Washington Post article laid bare. It is about working families' economic security.'

# **80** years later, insulator still enjoying union benefits

(Continued from Page 1) Boilermaker 2nd Class (T) in the Navy during World War II. "I took an aptitude test and the captain put me in with the boilermakers. I would insulate the valves after they tore them apart. I put my skills to work," he said of the maintenance work he did ship-board. He proudly served on the USS Pastores and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service. In December 1945, he received his honorable discharge and returned home to Michigan - renewing his career as an insulator.

When reflecting on the beginning of his career, he recalled the early days when Local 47 was just getting started.

'At that time, the local was just beginning to grow," Woody said. "A few Local 25-Detroit members formed Local 47 a few years before I was hired on in 1941. We all knew each other. They used to call me 'Sly Fox' ause they never knew what I



WOODY SMITH and his wife Kathleen.

he's a wonderful person," said Revard, who spent a number of vears as business manager of Local 47. "It's amazing to me that we have an 80-year member. "When I was with the Local, he to learn the trade and enjoy the was an active and engaged mentor to our members, and such an asset to Local 47 and to the Union. "Our members don't always appreciate that people like Woody helped establish the union benefits that we have today. Those were members at the time who first voted to set up the pension and hospitalization plans that we're still using today. So hat's off to him." Woody is married to Kathleen, and they have four children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is a lifetime member of the VFW and regularly volunteers at his church. Current Local 47 Business Manager Patrick Welch said union anniversary pin recipients usually can get their pins at the annual union picnic - which may or may not happen this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. "I have talked to Woody in the past, and it's amazing to hear his stories from the 1930 and 40s, what the industry and jobs were like, what was going on in his life," Welch said. "For me it gave me much more of an appreciation for what they went through in that time period. You can tell that he has been very much a union

man, and he loves his trade.<sup>3</sup>

To those entering the trade, Woody has a few words of encouragement and some advice for a successful career. "I tell them work. Enjoy the people you work with. I sure enjoyed the work, and being in the union did a lot of good for me. I've been a union man all my life.' He added: "I've had a great life. The trade has taken care of my family and myself both before and after retirement. I don't regret anything." (Significant content contributed by the International Association Of Heat And Frost Insulators And Allied Workers' Insulators Union Journal).

many BTUs as underground sources of natural gas that were being discovered in Michigan and in other areas of the country.

A short-lived supply of that natural gas trickled in via pipelines from nearby Ohio and Ontario, until the source flamed out.

"The first natural gas imported to Michigan was via Northwestern Ohio Gas Company, which brought gas to Detroit from gas fields around Findlay, Ohio in 1889," says About Michigan's Natural Gas Industry, written in August 2019 by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). "This lasted until 1893, when the fields were too depleted to maintain pressure to move the gas to Detroit. In 1894, natural gas was imported from Ontario, Canada to Detroit until those fields lost pressure in 1902."

A history provided by the former ANR Pipeline said "until the 1930s, communities like **Detroit that were located away** from natural gas fields had relied exclusively on gas produced from coal. This manufactured gas produced comparatively little heat per unit burned, and, although gas had been used extensively for lighting and cooking, the cost of gas heating was

Of course Michigan wasn't the only state that wanted the gas. American Light and Traction (which was the parent company

ing pipelines, much of it owned by Consumers Power.

Natural gas reserves were also found in Michigan in the 1930s. The MPSC issued its first Standard Well Connection Permit in 1933 to a gas well the "Michigan Stray" - in the Austin Field located in Mecosta County near Big Rapids. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Michigan Stray was the dominant producing formation with some fields producing from the Detroit River, Berea, Dundee, Traverse, Salina, Sylvania, Antrim, Richfield, and Reed City. In the early 1960s several big Niagaran formation discoveries were made such as Belle River Mills and Ray fields (which are now natural gas storage fields).

In 2018, Michigan wells yielded about 90 billion cubic feet of natural gas, which was mostly used in our state. That represented about10-15 percent of the total gas consumed in Michigan, the MPSC said. All of the state's natural gas production is in the Lower Peninsula, with the most active well being in Antrim County.

Natural gas in Michigan is moved through more than 50,000 miles of distribution pipelines that cross our state, plus more than 3 million service lines.

was going to do next!

"I really enjoyed the work and the camaraderie. They became family in a sense. My role model was Larry Brimmer. I really looked up to him and learned the trade from him," Smith added.

A Lansing resident at the time, Smith said he worked "all over" but was fortunate to work close to his home much of the time. He recalled working on jobs in Kalamazoo and in Sault Ste. Marie, but spent much of his career working on the Michigan State University campus. "I was running work within a few years of entering the trade," he said. "My projects were mostly working as a commercial insulator, but I did spend time at the local municipal powerhouses. I've also worked in the shipyards in Bay City and the chemical plants in Midland."

Smith was not the only member of his family to work as an Insulator, as his brother-in-law and nephew both became pipe coverers. Woody retired after 39 years on the job – so, incredibly, he has been receiving his retirement benefits for more years than he was working in the trade.

"I got to know Woody regularly at our union picnics, and

## Just joking

your suspect, how would you recognize him?"

The second guy smiles and replies, "Ha! He'd be easy to catch. He only has one ear!"

The policeman angrily responds, "What's the matter with you two?! Of course only one eye and one ear are showing because it's a profile! Is that the best answer you can come up with?"

Extremely frustrated at this point, he shows the picture to the third guy and in a very testy voice asks, "This is your suspect, how would you recognize him?" He quickly adds, "think hard before giving me a stupid answer."

The third guy looks at the picture intently for a moment and says, "The suspect wears

"It is no profit to have learned well, if you neglect to do well.

–Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

"Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do.' -Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

"A mind set in its ways is wasted. Don't do it." -Eric Schmidt

'If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." -Moshe Dayan (1915 - 1981)

"Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't.' -Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)



AN INTERNATIONAL-HARVESTER TD-24 from the late 1940s or early 1950s, fitted with a Superior side boom pipelayer, lowers a steel pipeline into a trench.

A detective sergeant was interrogating three guys who were candidates to become detectives. To test their skills in recognizing a suspect, he shows the first guy a picture for five seconds and then

hides it. "This is your suspect, how would you recognize him?" The first guy

answers, "That's easy, we'll catch him fast because he only has one eye!"

The detective says, 'Well... uh ...that's because the picture I showed is his side profile."

Slightly flustered by this ridiculous response, the sergeant flashes the picture for five seconds at the second guy and asks him, "This is

The detective is surprised and speechless be-

cause he really doesn't know himself if the suspect wears contacts or not. "Well, that's an interesting answer. Wait here for a few minutes while I check his file and I'll get back to you on that." He leaves the room and goes to his office, checks the

contact lenses."

and comes back smiling. Wow! I can't believe it. It's TRUE! The suspect does, in fact, wear contact lenses. Good work! How were you able to make such an astute observation?"

suspect's file on his computer

"Duh, that's easy..." the third guy replied. "I mean, how can he wear glasses if he only has one eye and one ear?

# The season of giving



IBEW Local 692 in Bay City partnered with the local United Way to build baskets that they distributed along with food boxes to their neighbors in need. Baskets included items such as detergent, dish soap, toothbrushes, etc. They also included a box of food containing a turkey, potatoes, carrots, bread, and canned food. "One of the many benefits of membership in the IBEW is the ability to give back to our communities. It's an important part of what we do." Helping out above, (l-r) are Brian Klele, Sam Malone, Gus Voisine, Nick Tobolski, Brendon Baranek, Steve Pahl, Travis Brady, Craig McDonell, Casey Stoike, and Ryan Charney. There were 100 baskets given out to Bay County residents, including one, below.



THE MICHIGAN BUILDING and **Construction Trades Council got** a shout-out of thanks from the **Facebook page of Sparrow** Health System in Lansing, where the Council and affiliate unions provided meals to feed approximately 200 frontline Sparrow caregivers on Dec. 23 as a show of support for their extraordinary work during the pandemic. "The generosity of our community is incredible," Sparrow said. Above, MBCTC President Steve Claywell hands some meals to Sparrow personnel. Among those delivering food to Sparrow, at right, are Ed **Bracamontes of the Michigan Painters District Council, Steve Claywell and Deshon Leek of the Michigan Building Trades, Eric** Farrington and Michael Salas of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, and Price Dobernick of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333.

Building trades labor union members in Michigan were busy this holiday season – and not just on jobsites. In a COVID-clouded year that left many people in Michigan jobless and destitute, the state's labor unions stepped up with help in the form of food and gifts for people who needed it, and support for front-line workers. Thanks to everyone who helped with monetary donations or donations of time to help the community. Photos were taken from local unions' or organization's Facebook pages. Below are some examples of labor helping the community.







THE PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS of Local 333 on Dec. 23 had a tremendous turnout of volunteers in front of the state Capitol Building in Lansing, above and above left, handing out 500 Christmas dinners, and gallons of milk, above, to residents in a drivethrough operation. "We're certainly proud to be in a position to be able to do this for the residents of Lansing," said Local 333 Business Manager Price Dobernick. The group had help from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (at left), Mayor Andy Schor, and some of Lansing's finest in blue. "I think it's been pretty amazing, this has been a hard year, and this is a particularly hard time of year, especially," Whitmer said. Thanks to all who helped!





IBEW LOCAL 557 joined with United Way of Saginaw County to spread some holiday cheer, sponsoring Christmas gifts (above) for families impacted by the mid-Michigan flooding and those experiencing economic hardship.



FOR THE PAST EIGHT years, IBEW Local 58 volunteers in conjunction with the International Workers of the World (the Wobblies) have sponsored the "Wobbly Kitchen," an assortment of volunteers who feed people in Detroit's Cass Park. Set up in any weather, volunteers cook and serve meals on two Sundays every month. "We share a meal, some clothing, the necessities, some songs, some happy chatter and genuine friendship," the group's Facebook page says. "This is an open and welcoming group of people that come together from all around the Detroit metro area to spend some time with people from all around the Cass Park area." Anywhere from 100 to 300 needy individuals show up for the meals, and they're met by 30 or so volunteers from the Wobblies, the IBEW, UAW, and other members of Detroit's labor community.

EXTRA BOXES from the UA Local 333 drive-through were donated to Lansing's Cristo Rey Community Center. Fifty boxes were hauled and delivered by Local 333 member Jeremy Garza (and Lansing City Council member) and Lansing Police Community Services Officer Anthony VandeVoorde.



KUDOS TO THE Blue Water Building Trades, who donated boxes full of food on Jan. 6 to serve 84 households, in conjunction with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. The boxes are shown ready to go in the parking lot of the Blue Water Labor Temple in Port Huron, at right, and volunteers (above and below) made them available for pickup in what was an impressive operation.







Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT - ALL MEM-BERSARE INFORMED that our next regular Membership Meeting was planned for Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

As of this printing we are having a meeting in the parking lot only, we are seeking alternate ways to communicate if the weather does not cooperate or a venue to accommodate us.

Any changes in this schedule or venue will be included in future Building Tradesman articles and emails. Keep watching your email for possible changes!

Attention, our NEBA contract will be expiring July 9th of 2022 so we will be having Nominations for the Delegates for the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convention. At our meeting, per the International Constitution and By-laws. Any Resolutions for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and By-laws before our March 22, 2021 meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, the new semester is starting January 18<sup>th</sup>. Continue accessing the NEIEP website for all instructions. Check your NEIEP email address for additional information frequently. Congratulations to all apprentices who recently passed the Mechanics Exam!

Monthly OJL Forms are now online at NEIEP which must be completed before the ninth day of the next month and is still required of ALLAPPRENTICES! This is a requirement of the Department of Labor. Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill your responsibility.

**Attention All Members:** Check your pay stubs regularly. There have been issues with multiple Employers with improper payments. You should have received a Vacation check before the 15<sup>th</sup>. The hours you are paid should match hours toward vacation, benefits and expenses submitted. Remember our wage increase on Jan. 1, 2021. All may request a copy of the time you submit, according to NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 2. Any changes made to your time are to be documented and given to you, NEBAAgreement, Article XI, Par 1. We recommend all request a



#### Laborers Local 1191 DETROIT - UNION HALL

**OPERATIONS-**Laborers'Local 1191 has remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Local 1191 is making every effort to keep our members and staff safe during this time by limiting person-to-person contact at the Local Union Hall. Thanking you in advance and please follow the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.

Monthly Membership Meetings: We continue to monitor new orders and directives pertaining to COVID-19. Decisions about membership meetings will be determined and relayed to you as they approach. Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), next membership meeting will on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021.

**Reminder:** Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

Union Dues For 2021: Effective January 1, 2021 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions.. Please also check out our website and "Laborers' Local 1191' Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

NOTICE: The Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1month rebate!!! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.



**Roofers Local 149** 

DETROIT - Main Office -Southeastern Lower Michigan -**Regular Membership Meet-**

ing. The regular membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tues., Feb. 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Jan. 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brothers.

Brother Walter Betts was 62 years old and a 37-year member. Brother Betts passed on 12/24/ 2020.

Brother Henderson Stewart, was 80 years old and a 47-year member. Brother Stewart passed on 1/4/2021.

Vacation Checks (quarterly and biannual). The Detroit Union Hall will open at 6 am, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8 until Noon, Saturday, Jan. 23, for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

Website for announcements, news, and updates: www.rooferslocal149.com

**Detroit Training Center In**formation. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices is scheduled

Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1-Monday, January 18, 2021

Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2-Tuesday, January 19

BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1-Wednesday January 20

BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2-Thursday, January 21

Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health-Thursday, Jan. 21

All classes begin at 6:30pm Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/ Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847, or TJaranowski @DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates.

District Council **1M MICHIGAN** 

Michigan Painters **District Council** 

Painters DC 1M

WARREN - Dear Members: DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m

DC 1M UNION CARDS\* Any questions regarding lost,

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

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

ROBERT (989)695-6888 GONZALEZ **FTI of THE** 

**GREAT LAKES** APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION. To all Apprentices, the FTI of the Great Lakes Apprenticeship in back to

questions regarding this, call the Apprenticeship School. **UPGRADE CLASSES FOR** FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES APPRENTICESHIP

in person classes. If you have any

The Lansing Training Center will be offering a Lead refresher on 1/30/21, and a Confined Space class on 2/20/21. The Warren Training Center will be offering a Lead refresher on 2/6/ 21 and a Confined Space class on 2/27/21. Start time for all of these classes will be 9am and members will need to register with me the week prior to the class.

PAINTERS DISTRICT **COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE** APP. District Council 1M is pleased to announce its new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP Username: your member id# Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PAR-TICIPATE 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-



District Council 1M Michigan

## **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.iupatlocal514.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

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

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of Place: District Council 1M, 14587

Business Rep: Keith Anderson Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of



5

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6pm. We will be voting on our new District Council 1 Michigan By-Laws.

Work looks to be remaining steady in the area. Please keep your certifications current, along with your MUST, and drug screen.

Apprenticeship school in classroom classes has resumed as of January 4th. If you are an apprentice, and have a question on the schedule please contact Jeff Flynn, or Rich Oakey.

2020 was a tough year on Detroit Glaziers & Glassworkers Local #357. We lost several brothers this year. Please keep them, and their families in your thoughts, and memories. Duane Blossom, Dan Diehl, John Shannon, Al "Green" Hull, Jason Rutherford.

We have had several members contract Covid as of today. Fortunately all are doing well, and many have fully recovered and returned to work. Mask up, socially distance and continue working safely.

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 48098-066; 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 impor-

6:30 p.m Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529 Local Union 1803

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: John Sape every month at 6:30 p.m. Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

## Local Union 2353

copy as issues with payrolls seem to be rising, put in for check cashing per Local Expense Agreement. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information.

All are reminded Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork, keep the hall informed on all jobs.

All Members, Local 36 is working with Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPF are holding classes on Monday nights, 6:00 -8:00 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes. Contact the Hall if you are interested. The link will be sent to you for either online or phone participation. The better you understand the codes, the better you can protect your customers, your work and yourself. Time spent will Pay Dividends in the future.

**Reminder**, please keep your State of Michigan and City of Detroit licenses current.

Please always follow COVID-19 guidelines for your safety and those around you. Emails were sent to all Members and Companies for the effort to make the Covid-19 Vaccine available to any and all their employees who are requested to visit Front Line Facilities. 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 they might belong too. Be Safe and Be Healthy!

"Be a first rate version of yourself, not a second rate version of someone else."

-Judy Garland (1922 - 1969)

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.' -Henny Youngman (1906 -1998)

"Money frees you from doing things you dislike. Since I dislike doing nearly everything, money is handy.

-Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977) "The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www. mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have.

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your **modules** at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or visit the training school website www.mltai.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at https:// lms.mltai.org. Types of training you can take include: Asbestos Awareness-Silica Awareness-Infectious Disease Awareness-Respirator Awareness-Hazard Communication-Blood borne Pathogens Awareness-Covid-19 Awareness-Lead Awareness.

NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, AS-BESTOS & LEAD AWARENESS, HOISTING & RIGGING, PIPE-LINE SAFETY, CLASS A CDL LI-CENSE, ASBESTOS REMOVAL SUPERVISORS LICENCE, CON-FINED SPACE PERMIT RE-QUIRED, GRADE CHECKING BLUEPRINT READING & MEA-SURING TOOLS, GPS LOCA-TION. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not! FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making ar-(Continued next column)

 (a) United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information.

Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

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

MID-MICHIGANAREA-Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., Jan 12, 2021 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420, has been cancelled.

Mid-Michigan Training (Continued next column)

## Laborers 1191, continued

rangements to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm and put their name on the out-ofwork list. You must have an outof-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

**Retirees: Retiree Council's** monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.

Members are urged to report new project starts to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work.

**CONTACT NUMBERS** Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension & Vacation)

Telephone: (877) 645-2267 Fax: (517) 321-7508 Website: www.michigan laborers.org

Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

232-0005. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

## Local 149, con't

Center Information. The Mid-Michigan Apprentice classes are scheduled for: Apprentice 1 thru 8- will start on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021. Classes begin at 6:00pm.

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

The publication above is accurate as 1/11/21, 1:00p.m. -In Solidarity, Brian Gregg

Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension) (248) 641-4942 Fax: (248) 813-9898 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers'

(Healthcare) (800) 228 0048 Metropolitan Detroit Labor-

ers' (Vacation) (877) 645-2267 Website: www.metrodetroit

laborers.org BENEFICIARY RE-MINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds.

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

Scholarships. LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical trainings through Union Plus. Learn more information about Union Plus scholarships at www.unionplus .org/benefits/education/unionplus-scholarships

every month at 6:30 p.m. Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN - The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb.2, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m

Meeting may be postponed due to covid, will notify a.s.a.p.

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-1 aws.

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





## 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 PLLC **Certified Public Accountants** 

32121 Woodward Avenue Suite 202, Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com

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

Local 591

Sign, Pictorial &

Display



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: DUE TO COVID a video informational meeting will take place on February 8th and will start at 6:00. Please make sure the union hall has your current cellphone number in order to receive these notices on how to join in on the video informational meetings.

ATTENTION MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS-SURVEY: Please go to the Local 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. *Please complete the* 2021 Gas Distribution Negotiations Member Survey. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423

**THANK YOU:** A very special thank you to Cliff and Bonnie Stone for the monetary donation, which we will donate to "Faith In Action."

**ROBO CALLS:** We are sending out Robo calls to keep you updated and informed, if you are NOT receiving these messages it means we do not have a current phone number on file for you, please contact the hall to update.

*IMPORTANT NOTICE – UNION HALL HOURS:* Effective Monday, Nov. 23 the office will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 (the office will be closed for lunch on these days from Noon to 1:00 p.m.) There will be no foot traffic to the back offices. Please feel free to stop by the union hall to see Karen to make your dues payments or if you have something to drop off.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the office will be closed to foot traffic. Members can still call the hall anytime.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELD-ING SCHOOL: Will begin Monday, Jan. 4 and run for 2 months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test you must attend this school as a prerequisite. Please note that 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding school. Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Jason Bannister 734-646-8838, or Roy Musgrove at 734-369-1432.

Currently Local 190 is not accepting any apprenticeship applications. A note will be put in the paper when this current status changes.

MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN ENTERING THE UNION HALL BUILDING AND TRAINING CENTER DUE TO THE EXECU-TIVE ORDER.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN WELDERS: Please remember it is very important to keep your continuity forms up to date.

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

**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. NEW ON THE WEBSITE\*\*\*: Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

LAID OFFOR BACK TO WORK–IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid offor 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. *PLEASE NOTE:* Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: NEW VISION PROGRAM – DAVIS VISION: Please be advised of the Jan. 1, 2021 change to your vision benefits. Effective Jan. 1, 2021, your vision benefits are now being offered through Davis Vision. Welcome letters and cards, detailing your new benefits, were mailed during the month of December 2020. If you have not received this information, please contact the Fund office at #888-390-7473. You can also go to the Local 190 website www.ua190.org and go to the benefit section for more information. 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* 



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333 LANSING – Weld Classes. (Dates are TBD).

If you're interested in taking the weld class call Trent or Diana at 517-323-0333. There is a \$25.00 fee and must be paid before class starts, please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

Lansing's weld class: Tuesdays & Thursdays, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson's weld class: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek's weld class: Mondays & Thursdays (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated 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 changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

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 Lansing Training Center.

Please make sure you contact your respective hall with address changes, births, deaths, or if you need to change your beneficiaries.

**NOTICE:** All members should have received a mailing with detailed directions for the Jan. 13, 2021 virtual nominations meeting. In the event you were unable to attend the virtual nominations meeting, you can nominate an eligible member or self nominate in writing through Jan. 22, 2021. All such nominations can be hand delivered or mailed to the Lansing hall with attention to the election committee at 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911. All nominees will be posted on the Local 333 website on Feb. 01, 2021 at ua333.org a mail-in ballot will soon follow in your mail box with instructions.



KALAMAZOO – UNION

**MEETING:** All Union Meetings face-to-face are cancelled until further notice. The Finance Committee and Executive Board will conduct their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. We will conduct a Zoom Meeting in place of a face-to-face membership meeting starting at 6:30 pm on Feb. 9, 2021. There will be an email with instructions on how to participate in advance of February's union meeting. You can only receive this email if you have given us permission to send you emails. Please call Lori at the Hall, (269) 679-2570, to confirm your email address and/or consent to us sending you emails.

MEDICAL CLAIMS IS-

**SUES:** 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, (269) 569-3492.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the FACEBOOK Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal 357/. 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 Corp. 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 email when hours are posted to your account. This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date



Pipe Fitters 636

DETROIT – The Next Union meeting will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> and will be a VIRTUAL MEETING. It will start at 7pm. Information to join the meeting can be found on the Pipefitters 636 website under the MEMBERS tab.

The Pipefitters would like to extend our deepest condolences to Brother David Jarzab on the passing of his father Brother Retiree George Jarzab who passed away on November 11, 2020. To the family of Retiree Brother Richard Losiewicz who passed away on December 21, 2020. Also to the family of Retiree Brother Daniel Draper who passed away on December 19, 2020. And to the family of Brother Lawrence Toporek who passed away on December 25, 2020.

Nominations for Delegate to the 2021 UA Convention to be held on August 23, 2021 will be conducted at the January 19, 2021 Union Meeting. You can submit a Nomination by mail to the Union Hall ATTN: Terry Gilligan or Steve Spurlock before the deadline of the January 19, 2021 Meeting.

Per the United Association Constitution Section 122 (A), A Nominating Member may only nominate one (1) candidate for each Office up for Election. A Member is allowed to nominate himself or herself.

Once all of the Delegates are nominated there will be a mail ballot sent out to all members eligible to vote. All ballots must be returned no later than March 8, 2021. It is every member's responsibility to see that we have a current mailing address on file at the Union Hall.

By Law change was proposed to Article III which reads: No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, shall work with tools. The proposed change to: No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, or on a job with more than one (1) Foreman, shall work with tools. The  $3^{rd}$  and final reading and the vote will be held at the next meeting that we resume face to face meetings.

The Hall is now open to all foot traffic. Masks are REQUIRED. Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is kspringer@pipefitters636.org

CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times, she is working from home doing phone conferences which is still beneficial to all our members and their families. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887.

**The Retiree Association Meetings have been cancelled until further notice**. The election has also been postponed until further notice. – President David Evans

UA password good thru March 31, 2021: UA2021

Any member who 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.

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. All inquiries.

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

**REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Effective Wednesday, Nov. 25 due to COVID there will be no representative at the union hall the** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month until further notice. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

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

CLASSINFORMATION-TRAININGCENTER-OFFICE PHONE: 734-426-3700. Happy New Year from Retha, Roy and Andy at the Training Center. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. You must wear a face mask while inside the building. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2021 Schedule - All on Mondays - Rescheduled for Jan 25, 2021 @ 5 pm limited to 8, April 5, 2021 @ 5:00pm, July 19, 2021 @ 5 pm, and Oct 4, 2021 @ 5pm. Call Retha to be put on the list for the day you choose.

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs):** 2021 Schedule - All on Mondays - Jan 18, 2021 (a) 5:00pm limited to 8, April 19, 2021 (a) 5:00pm, July 26, 2021 (a) 5:00pm, and Oct 18, 2021 (a) 5:00pm. Call Retha to be put on the list for the day you choose.

**Aerial Lift Training (4 hrs):** Monday, March 1, 2021 @ 5:00pm. Class size is limited, so call and get your name on the list.

**Welding Lab:** *Runs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from* 4:30 pm till 8:30 pm. Weld test days are determined as participants show they have the skills.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This class is a 40-hour class that will run Tuesdays and Wednesdays, for 5 weeks, starting Jan 12, 2021 until Feb 10, 2021. Class starts at 5:00pm. Call Retha to be put on the list for this class. Class limited to 4.

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb 16, 2021 and Feb 17, 2021 @ 5:00pm and Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb 23, 2021 and Feb 24, 2021. Check your certs to make sure of your expiration date. We will have another class in Sept. Call Retha to pick your dates and be put in the class. Each class will be limited in size.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class that WILL BE ON-LINE, via Zoom. Must have an active e-mail address. Must have a computer with a camera and good internet. Camera must stay on and you must stay in front of the camera the duration of the class. Brazing practice, brazing test and written test will be in-person at the training center. Class will run Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 5:00pm starting March 9, 2021 until April 8, 2021. Call Retha to be put on the list and give her your active e-mail address. Class limited to 16.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): Tuesday and Thursday, April 13, 2021 and April 15, 2021 (a) 5:00pm, and another class on April 20, 2021 and April 22, 2021 (a) 5:00pm. Both Tuesday classes will be ON-LINE, via Zoom and both Thursday classes will be in-person, at the Training Center for the test. For on-line part, you must have good internet and a web camera. Camera must stay on and you must stay in-front of your camera for the duration of the class. Call Retha to choose your dates and give her your active email address. Each class limited to 16.

#### (Continued next column)

Our thoughts and prayers to Mike Sliger and his family on the loss of his sister and brother inlaw who passed away in December.

Sincere condolences to the Faggion family on the loss of Art Faggion Jr. who passed away Nov. 02, 2020 Mr. Faggion worked for the family business which was the former United Piping and Erecting of Lansing. He later went on to have a successful career in the Mechanical Industry in Florida for many years

Gene Flowers passed away on November 13, 2020. He was a former member of Local 388 and a friend to many in our Local union.

May they both rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to Kevin Hoyt on the loss of this son Kevin Hoyt Jr. who passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and friends during this difficult time.

Get well wishes to Ian Tamblyn. We are wishing you a very speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Joe Michilizzi on the birth of his first grandchild. A beautiful baby boy, born December 17, 2020.

## Local 190, con't

ICRA Certification (16hrs): Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. Next class possibly in-person at the Training Center. In-person class is limited to 8 participants.

Call the Training Center to get put on the list for the next class. If it is on-line, it will be ran through Zoom. For on-line class, you must have a computer with good reliable internet access and a webcam. You must also have a valid email account. Test day will be at the Training Center.

**APPRENTICES PLEASE NOTE:** Make sure your e-mail and phone no. are updated at the training center. Please call and dial Ext. 2

RETIREE MEETINGS – SPADES and BREAKFASTMEET-INGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTILFURTHERNOTICE.

#### on the hours being paid on your behalfbyANYCONTRACTORS. CHANGE OF STATUS: If

you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, remarried, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call TIC at the phone no. 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 PREPINFORMATION:** Dollar amounts WILL BE available Feb. 15, 2021 for 2020 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.

APPRENTICESHIPAPPLI-CATIONS: The Apprenticeship application process is starting for 2021. Applications must be picked up by the person who is applying starting on Monday, Feb. 1 from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday thru Friday. Note that Masks are MANDA-TORY and only two persons will be allowed in at a time. The completed application along with various documents must be returned, by the person applying, no later than Friday, Feb. 26 at 5 pm. Call the Union Hall for further details.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Congratulations to the family of Jason Smith on the birth of a baby girl, Brianna.

Congratulations to Ron Weaver on his retirement.

**CONDOLENCES:** Condolences to the family of retired brother, Melvin Woolley, on his recent passing.

#### SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENT'S.

**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.

Training Center News. Call Kim at the training center for first aid online class.

Please send all emails and weld continuity's to info@pipefitters636tc.org

WELDING - 4pm to 8pm

Regular night welding from 4 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, and Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hours. Downhill Welding- 6 Saturdays, call Kurt to sign up, cost \$75

GMAW Welding- 4 Saturdays, Call Mike to sign up, cost \$50 Starting the week of Feb. 15th Call Kim to sign

- up, all classes cost \$50:

Certified Rigging/Signal person- Monday and Thursday Nights from 4 to 8

CSD 2- Monday night from 5 to 8

Cad: Thursday night from 4 to 8.

Chiller Teardown class Wed. nights 5-8

HDPE class

Orbital class

Basic Electricity: call Jason at the training center to sign up. Monday and Thursday nights

"While we have the gift of life, it seems to me that only tragedy is to allow part of us to die - whether it is our spirit, our creativity, or our glorious uniqueness."

-Gilda Radner (1946 - 1989)

"Oppression can only survive through silence."

– Carmen de Monteflores



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## Plumbers Local 98

#### Plumbers 98 DETROIT – **Membership of Plumbers Local 98.**

Brothers and Sisters, on behalf of all your officers and staff, we hope you and your family are safe and healthy this coming year. We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this insane year.

We now can add an attack on our Capitol by the Village People and every pissed off Walmart shopper from around this country. We again were to witness another senseless killing of a Union Brother serving as a Federal Employee at the capital, he also served our country without fail in our military. How much is enough?

This madness has to end. Just for information this pompous spoon fed Non-Union President, who people seems to want overthrow our Democracy and way of life, on the way out the door just last week signed another ABC sponsored anti-union bill on DOL residential jobs. This hurts the nonunion as well, lowering all of our wages again.

I understand people questioning our government, we do it every day. This is a self-made mess we must fix together. I recently saw a member or two on Facebook showing themselves march on the Capital and I will make this clear, as I am no saint, we do not ever want to stop a member from their right to "free speech." Hell, that's what we do!

I ask you few, do not risk any member's life by not following the quarantine protocol for 14 days. Let's not be that Union who brought back a spreader event and put our families in jeopardy. This is not how anyone envisioned this chapter of our lives.

**MEETINGS. Union Meetings** are still on video due to the hall being closed. The next video will be posted on **Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. At that time the old video from December 10<sup>th</sup> will be pulled down. You can access this video on our Local 98 website at the member section under **Member Zone**.

The next video Union Meeting after that will be **February**, 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This will be the unfortunate norm until at least April 1<sup>st</sup>. For virtual meetings we will follow the same rituals and officer reports as usual. The confidentiality of our business matters has to be our priority. We will have to trust our elected officers, E-Board, and Committees to keep a transparent look at things down here. If you would like something added please call down and leave your suggestion. All bills will be previewed by the Finance Committee and recently our Executive Board. If you feel a need, you can set an appointment to ask questions. Any member who would have been recognized at our 2020 awards ceremony that we had to postpone will be recognized later this year. If you are due a pin and would like it now instead of waiting, please call the hall and we can mail it to you. E-Board meetings. E-Board meetings are the first and second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If you need to contact or see the board please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841

**COVID-19.** As I write this over 373,000 Americans have died by Covid-19 related illness and over 22.5 million people have contracted the virus and it will affect our health care eventually. If you test *positive* for *Coronavirus* STAY HOME until your results are NEGATIVE. The Training Center remains closed to open foot traffic. For continuity or training questions contact Paul Baker at the center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123.

Until the center opens back up, Blackboard will be used by our apprentices unless a certification or hands on is required. The current update is much bigger than any we have experienced so far. This is no drill. This is now a set reality of everyday life. WEAR YOUR MASKS! If you are fortunate enough not to have experienced a loss in your family, do the rest of us a favor and act like you have! Any concerns with COVID-19 safety protocols or lack of PPE contact the **Business** Agent in the area or the Union Hall.

UNION HALL. The Union Hall is <u>CLOSED TOALLTRAF</u><u>FIC</u>. You will need to <u>schedule</u> <u>an appointment</u> to come to the hall. The West doors will continue as our main entrance. Properly worn masks are required. There is a COVID-19 questionnaire that **MUST** be filled out by everyone entering the Union Hall. All the officers are working remotely at this time.

SUB APPS/OOW CHANGES. It is <u>your responsibility</u> to fill out a sub app when you are laid off. Please fill out SUB Apps electronically. This can be found on the web page under the OOWL section. If you're still having unemployment issues call BAs Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams. For any member issues dealing with benefits contact Jon DeRoo. If you are less than a year from retiring, please set a meeting with Jon today.

NOTE ON DISABILITY. If you are filing for Social Security Disability you will need to file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time in order to make sure you get all your pension checks. Social Security normally takes at least a year and sometimes a lot longer. If you file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time, then when you receive your award from Social Security, we will be able to pay you all the retro money owed.

**POLITICS.** City of Detroit

tracting. It's great to have partners on all sides.

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working Non-Union or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187.

#### In solidarity I remain,

Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98 TRAININGCENTERNEWS

Phone # 248-585-1435

Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers 98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

The Training Center is open and adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. Please call Paul Baker at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 if you have any questions.

ASSE Backflow Tester Re-Certification exams are scheduled quarterly. Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. For those who are eligible, please call the Training Center to register and pre-pay by check only before the deadline March 26, 2021. The next scheduled recertification class is April 27 & 28, 2021.

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment.

The next WELDING Tests will be Saturday, February 6, 2021. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next BRAZING Cert Sessions will be Friday, February 5, 2021. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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 January 1 - December 31, 2020 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement. Deadline for 2020 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2021.

**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



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111

UPPER PENINSULA – Both the Escanaba and Marquette halls have been closed to walk-in members until further notice. Please call either hall for any assistance you may need.

The next scheduled union meeting will be on **January 28<sup>th</sup>**, **2021** at the Escanaba hall @ 7:30 p.m. EST. Masks will be required so if you plan on attending please wear a mask.

**Congratulations:** To Nick Forvilly who was elevated to Journeyman status on 1-9-2021.

**Condolences:** To the family of life member Chadwick Kuivanen who passed away on 12-18-2020.

Please be aware that the new **Zenith** MRA cards have been mailed. If you have not already done so, please follow the instruction on activating your card.

Thank you to the membership for your patience during this process due to the current situation of the COVID-19 mandates of gatherings. Any questions please call Business Manager, Dean Gutzman and stay safe.

**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.



#### Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

January 15, 2021

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting scheduled for February 4, 2021 will likely be a "Virtual Meeting." The details for this meeting will be sent via our App (UA Local 671). The App is available in the Google Play Store or on iTunes.

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Z

It is important to download the App. We sent out a link on the App recently, and conducted a "Informational" Zoom Meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> in order to keep the Membership up to date.

At this time the Union Hall is still closed to all foot traffic and all staff will be working remotely. There will always be someone at the hall during business hours if a Member needs to sign the out of work list or any other problem that can only be handled in person. All payments for dues or insurance will be conducted over the phone and no credit card fees will be charged at this time.

Health and Welfare: If you have any insurance problems or questions you can contact Carly using the health line on the back of your insurance card. 734-241-6180. Any MRA or Dental/Vision receipts can be mailed, emailed or faxed to the benefit office. Contact information is at bottom of article.

The Active Members should have received some informational packets in the mail recently explaining some of our upcoming insurance changes that were presented at the last Union Meeting. However, we have been experiencing some mail delays. If you have not received this information please contact the Hall, and also please DO NOT dismiss this important information.

In addition, all Medicare retirees should have received their information packets by now. We will be doing informational meetings and phone calls to help in the transition from Local 671 insurance to Labor First and United Health Care. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give Mike or Carly a call.

We have had a couple of questions from our Medicare Retirees during this transition:

Do we still have the \$1000 Dental, Vision, and Hearing Benefit? – YES, you can submit them to the Hall like you always have.

Do we each have to use our own card? – YES, Medicare Retirees and their spouses each have their own United Health Care Member ID# and card; you will need to use each individual card for each person.

**Work Opportunities:** We continue to get a few much-appreciated travel calls coming in from our sister Locals. If you are considering working this winter, I would get on a job the first chance you get, as it looks like it will be a slow first quarter in Monroe.

**Condolences:** Our condolences this month go out to Brother Jeff Curtis after the loss of his Father, Lester on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lester was a Local 50 Member, and was also a long-time employee of Jim Wing Plumbing prior to his retirement. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jeff and his entire Family.

**Mobile App:** Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for I phone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is your book number.

We recently have sent Push Notifications out with important information such as Covid-19 updates and Informational Meeting notices. This mobile app is a great tool to stay current with all the latest information from the Union Hall. PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS APPSO YOU CAN KEEP UPON CURRENT INFORMATION THAT THE HALL NEEDS TO GET OUT.

In Closing: After what seemed like an eternity, 2021 has finally arrived, bringing a sense of optimism with it. However, we all find that many people we interact with on a daily basis from health professionals, to our fellow tradespeople, to retail workers are becoming tired and frustrated. Let's all do our part to make a difference in each other's lives by exhibiting respect and patience as we look forward to

## Retiree Meetings remain cancelled at this time.

DUES. By now you have received a letter about the status of your Union Dues and about the 2021 Dues Gift Program. Many of you have already taken advantage of this program. We are updating the systems at the hall in an effort to streamline the process. As of now, you can pay online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto-payments. If you have any questions or need to pay dues please contact Kristina Lodovisi at (248) 307-9800 ext. 4 or on her cell at (248) 331-7232.

**2021 OPEN ENROLL-MENT.** The 2021 Open Enrollment Packets have been sent out and you should have received yours by now. We want to take this time to remind members about the new Opt Out Plan we have. This is available to those members with access to insurance through their spouses.

The new Opt Out Plan comes with Dental, Optical, Hearing, and a \$3.00 an hour contribution to your HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) for every hour worked. This is a great way to build up a savings for medical related expenses. If you would like more information on this plan or any of the other Local 98 Health Insurance Plans please give Jon a call. Residents - Local 98 in conjunction with other Trade Unions are in a heated process to pass a Responsible Contracting Ordinance in the City of Detroit by changing the Equalization Credits, this will allow our Detroit Union-based contractors a leg up to play on the same field as our nonunion competitors.

City Council member Janeé Ayers is leading the charge for us. We have put together a group of members, owners and spouses to help push their City Council reps to an acceptance of our change. We made a great change in Oakland County in to an acceptance of this language and my hope is to have a positive effect in Detroit with its passing. All the information will be on the 98 web page.

It's time we put Union Members on these boards instead of consistently being disappointed in those who should be fighting for us leaving us in the cold. Please consider yourself or your spouse stepping forward to run for a position in your neighborhood. Please call down to the hall and get in touch with us to discuss how we can help us help ourselves.

LICENSE RENEWAL. For all continuing education opportunities or classes, call Training Coordinator Paul Baker at 248-585-1435. BAs Gary Glaser and Tom McWilliams are admins on the Must/Most program, contact them if you need help.

**RETIREES.** Congratulations to brothers Thomas Frazho, Scott Hirsch, and Steven Sanders on their retirement on January 1, 2021. We wish you a long and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORIAM. Our deepest condolences go out to the friends and family of our brother Steven "Bones" Schroeder (aka Keith Richards) who passed away on December 17, 2020.

**GOOD/WELFARE.** Special thanks to Detroit members Paul Baker, Rodgers Straughter, AK Bennett, Gil Garza, and owners from Ben Washington & Sons, Reagan Mech and Ben Kari for their help with Responsible Conthrough 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.

"Idleness and lack of occupation tend – nay are dragged towards evil."

–Hippocrates (460 BC - 377 BC)

"Don't throw away the old bucket until you know whether the new one holds water."

-Swedish Proverb

"Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

-Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

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

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

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 online 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 Ann at (906) 226-6511 ext. 4 to register. MSHA expires in one year. the pandemic ending.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: <u>mike@ualocal671.com</u> Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: <u>vinnie@ualocal671.com</u> Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 <u>carly@ualocal671.com</u> Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

"I spent a lot of money on booze, broads and fast cars. The rest I just squandered."

-George Best

"Political language - and with variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists - is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

-George Orwell (1903 - 1950)

"Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it."

-The Buddha (circa 4th-5th Century)

*"There is no free lunch."* –Milton Friedman (1912 - 2006)

*"It's better to be burnished with use than rusty with principle."* –Garrison Keillor (1942 - )



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 HIPAA Compliance

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Las Vegas, NV	San Jose, CA	Youngstown, OH
Louisville, KY	Salt Lake City, U⊤	

www.benesys.com | (877) 923-6379 | info@benesys.com



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370 FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021 at 7:00pm. In person at our Union Hall In person Apprentice train-

ing classes will resume the week of January 18th, 2021. Apprentices have been notified.

The hall is open for essential business. If you come to the hall, please follow all CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

Please note that we have moved to our new Union Hall/ Training Center located at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 4:00pm

PAC committee - Tuesday

February 9, 2021 at 5:00pm Executive Board -Tuesday

February 9, 2021 at 5:00pm Building Committee - Tues-

day February 9, 2021 at 6:00pm Finance Committee -Tuesday

February 9, 2021 at 6:15pm JATC Committee – Tuesday

January 19, 2021 at 3:30pm ALL GM Worksites and

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

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

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

Sub Pay: Remember to qualify for sub pay when you are



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: ALL IN-PERSON UNION MEETINGS AND RETIREE BREAKFASTS ARE CAN-CELLED UNTIL FURTHER NO-TICE. We will continue to do monthly virtual meetings through the members only Facebook group the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

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

Local Union Office: The office will remain open. To reduce foot traffic in the building we're asking members to conduct business by phone are use the website when possible.

UA Convention: The UA Convention will convene on the week of August 23, 2021. The convention will either take place in San Diego CA in person, be entirely virtual, or a hybrid approach with some delegates participating in person and others virtually.

Eligibility: UA Constitution SEC. 17. No member shall be eligible as a delegate or alternate unless he shall have been a good standing member of the Local Union which he is to represent for at least the two continuous years previous to his election and he remains in good standing from the date of his election through the period of the convention.

**Nominations:** Nominations will open Tuesday, January 5th and close Friday, February 5th. To nominate a person you must send an email to delegate@ua174.org or mail it to the hall to attention: Delegate. Self nominations are permitted and encouraged.

All nominations will be confirmed and eligibility verified by the election committee or president. On Tuesday, February 2nd at 7pm virtual meeting will be held via zoom with the president and election committee to announce current nominations, accept new nominations, announce the date for the close of nominations and answer questions. On Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> the list of nominees will be published in the Building Tradesman, sent out in an email blast, placed on the website and on the members Facebook group.

**Election:** The election will take place at the assembly hall on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3pm to 7pm the election committee will be there to verify eligibility, issue and collect secret ballots. The collection of ballots will be done in accordance COVID restrictions and may include a "drive through" vote. If COVID restrictions allow, we will have a membership meeting at 7pm and release results once tabulated. Otherwise results will be made known using the same means as nominations. Our final number of delegates will be determined based off of the March cash sheet which is due to the UA by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Any ties will be settled will be settled by coinflip to take place on April 16, at 3pm. Any protest should be done in accordance with Section 125 of the UA Constitution **COVID-19:** The virus is showing up on many jobsites throughout our jurisdiction. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash your hands frequently.

**CARES Act:** If you are sent home from work due to a positive COVID test or potential exposure you should be compensated. The CARES Act allows for up to 80 hours of pay for individuals who cannot work and have to quaran-

tine. The employer will be reimbursed through a tax credit. Election 2020: Thank you to all the members who cast a ballot for our supported candidates.

401K Withdrawal: The recently enacted CARES Act allows the 401k Plan to adopt a special in-service distribution for participants who are diagnosed with COVID-19, whose spouse or child is diagnosed with COVID -19, or who are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic. This distribution can be up to \$100k, is not subject to the ordinary 10% excise tax, and the income tax from the distribution can be spread out over a 3year period. Individuals receiving such a distribution may also repay the distribution over 3-vear period, in which case they will not be subject to income tax on what they repay. Unlike other hardships, this distribution only requires that the member self-certify the need. The Fund is not required to independently corroborate the participant's certification with medical documentation or other types of documentation. The distribution is a onetime event only and must be taken in 2020. Make sure you specify that you are taking a COVID withdrawal.

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. 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.

Medicare Retirees: Effective January 1st 2021 your insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 12.5%. New rates are as follows:

Single Medicare – \$262.55

sure we have your updated contact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami at the Union office. Retiree Breakfast: Can-

celled until further notice. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm

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

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

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 (517) 321-7502 Phone (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 follow 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.



**Plumbers and Steamfitters 85** 

SAGINAW - Apprenticeship training and supplemental classes are cancelled and closed due to COVID-19 again. Unfortunately, a spike in COVID has forced us to make the difficult decisions to shut down our training facility until further notice.

Union Meetings are also cancelled due to the pandemic until further notice. The office is closed to in-person business. Please utilize fax, email and phone. If you're are unable to conduct business by fax, phone or email, please call to set up an appointment at (989) 799-5261.

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

**ALL NON-CRITICAL IN-TERACTIONS** is cancelled 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 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 jbadour@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330

csteele@ualocal85.org Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512

rjanderson@ualocal85.org Kristin Tuthill, Office Profes-

sional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8510 freige@ualocal85.org

The next Northern Meeting is postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85 .org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The new website is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number.



**Sprinkler Fitters Local 704** 

FARMINGTON - The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M. Please note masks will be required for entry to the meeting.

Nomination of delegates to the United Association's 40<sup>th</sup> Convention will take place during the February meeting. There will be three delegate positions to be voted upon. The Constitution of the United Association Section 17 states: No member shall be eligible as a delegate or alternate unless he shall have been a good standing member of the Local Union which he is to represent for at least two continuous years previous to his election and he remain in good standing from the date of his election through the period of the convention.

Election of delegates to the 40th United Association Convention will take place on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at the Local Union Hall. The polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. In case of a tie, there will be a runoff election held the same evening with the voting members present. Eligibility to vote is covered in the Constitution of the United Association under section 124: (a) No member shall vote at any election of any description unless he has been a member in good standing in the Local Union where the vote is being taken for a period of one year immediately prior to the date of the election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to vote in any Local Union election.

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

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

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)

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. Monthly award is \$150.

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

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

#### Our web site is up and run**ning.** Check it out at **ualocal** 370.org

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

Plumbing, Mechanical and Residential Code Books are now available at the hall. The books (Continued next column)

## Local 370, con't

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.

Retiree and Spouse Medi-\$525.09 care –

Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse - \$677.55

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 September 30th, 2019.

**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.

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

Contact Info: Please make

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 \*\*Announcement: Effective Monday, January 11, 2021, the Training Center is reopened to in-person training. If you were enrolled in a night class at the time the Training Center was required to shut down, you will be contacted with information on completing the class you were enrolled in.

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, January 14 and Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Open Welding will resume on Wednesday nights starting January 20 from 5pm – 9pm. Due to class size limits, you will need to call the Training Office to register so we can limit the number of participants to follow the State mandated guidelines.

Night classes will be added to the schedule based on student demand and instructor availability.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole if you have questions. Call the training office @(616)837-0222 x16(Jeff)/Nicole

(a) (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140

/Nicole (231)206-4213.

If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin or Feather at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511 or 8510.

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.

**GOD BLESS ORGA-**NIZED LABOR AND THE LA-**BOR MOVEMENT!** 

#### SUB Fund:

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:** Address & Phone Update:

Please call the Union Hall to up-(Continued next column)

NFPAAll 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.

Please keep your information updated with the union hall.

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

## Local 85, con't

date any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. AL-WAYS 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:** All retiree luncheons are postponed

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

**CONDOLENCES:** We extend our condolences to the family of Steve Bryce who passed away on December 31, 2020.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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



Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – 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.

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office. The Funds Trustees have

waived the 79-hour rule.

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.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

**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.

If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double



Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD–**REMINDER: We** continue to be under the directive

of the International Union and pursuant to that directive, the FEBRUARY 2021 UNION MEETING has been cancelled.

CURT CURT Facebook page McGLONE for updates.

UNIONELEC-TIONS: Election ballots have been mailed to eligible voting members. Please mark your ballot and return it as soon as possible. Ballots must be received by February 15, 2021 to have your vote count.

WEBSITE: The new website is up and running. It can be located at: https://heat frostinsulators.org.

**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.

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

**EMPLOYMENTCHANGES:** 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.

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



Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late winter so be prepared for work during a time when traditionally work is slowing down.

When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place



for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working t e l e p h o n e numbers are

MEAGHER necessary to help you with

work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

The General Office still has a ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume.

Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Winter outages in all areas in the region are on the horizon so make sure if you can travel that you make sure to get licensed as soon as possible.

With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for November so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.



CONSUMERS ENERGY late last year completed construction of the 9-mile Saginaw Trail Pipeline, a natural gas line that dates to the 1940s. *Photo credit: Consumers Energy* 

# **Consumers Energy completes 90-mile Saginaw Trail Pipeline**

JACKSON – Consumers Energy late last year wrapped up construction of the Saginaw Trail Pipeline, a fouryear, \$610 million project to upgrade natural gas pipelines and infrastructure in Saginaw, Genesee and Oakland counties to improve natural gas reliability and safety in Michigan.

We are pleased to share that the Saginaw Trail Pipeline has been successfully completed," said Dennis Dobbs, vice president of enterprise project management for Consumers Energy. "The project was a huge undertaking and we are grateful for the cooperation and patience shown by affected landowners, community leaders, residents and other entities throughout construction. We also recognize the outstanding efforts of the hundreds of company and contractor skilled trades employees who worked through the challenge of COVID-19 to bring this project to successful fruition."

The project, which was performed without service interruptions, modernizes Consumers Energy's natural gas infrastructure while providing environmental enhancements along the route.

The Saginaw Trail Pipeline project replaced 78 miles of a 1940s vintage natural gas pipeline with about 90 miles of new, larger pipeline. While most of the project followed the existing route through rural agricultural areas, the utility said a pipeline reroute was designed to avoid densely populated areas in Saginaw and Flint. In addition to replacing pipeline, crews also rebuilt city gate facilities where gas pressure is regulated for safe delivery to homes and businesses. Some additional final restoration

work will occur this year.

A number of environmental concerns were taken into consideration along the pipeline's path, including relocating more than 100,000 turtles, frogs and snakes from the project area during construction, planting a special pollinator mix of seeds to restore more than 550 acres of wild and wetlands areas, and partnering with local landscape companies to recycle wood waste as mulch for lawns and gardens.

"The Saginaw Trail Pipeline helped model the way for environmental sustainability efforts for these types of large pipeline projects," Dobbs said. "I am so proud of the care and concern shown by our employees and contractors who worked to ensure that we protected the landscape of our great state as this project was constructed."

# Understanding the root cause of COVID-19 outbreaks in construction

By Nick Fox Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

Recently, several media outlets have reported on COVID-19 outbreaks on construction sites. If you only read the headlines

crowded buses bringing employees to and from work. In that instance, the employer also reported that contact tracing showed transmission was tied primarily to contact outside the

tancing policy, which led to

to seek timely and safe treatment for COVID-19 infections. ...

Finally, transmission may be amplified by symptomatic cases continuing to work out of economic desperation and aboveaverage sized households." The Fund recently covered the value of health insurance on improving worker health, including how union workers are far more likely to have access to health insurance through their employer. Texas has one of the lowest rates of unionization of any state, at only four percent. To limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect worker health and safety, we must be willing to read past the headlines and look at what's truly driving new cases. Outbreaks can be caused by many factors, including inadequate infection control policies on the job, public health disparities or other causes. Performing root cause investigations and reviewing the science is the only way to ensure we have a full, accurate picture of the risks faced by construction workers.

check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

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: Josh Kroell (989-385-2671)

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

Josh Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Josh is the new Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at 989-385-2671

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

SUB FUND TIME LIMITA-TION: 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.

**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.

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

## Local 47, con't

onto their Website: www. heatfrostlocal47benefits.org:

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

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

**Good and Welfare:** Get well to all our sick and injured members.

UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES: Asbestos Supervisor Refresher January 17<sup>Th</sup> with a new 40 hour Initial Scheduled for Feb. 3-7<sup>th</sup>.

Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.

— 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.

—Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently in place.

BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SO-CIAL DISTANCING GUIDE-LINES!

## You Are the Missing Piece.



(especially sensational ones), you might think COVID-19 cases are running rampant on construction jobsites. There's not much data to support that, especially since there's no nationwide system to track COVID-19 cases by occupation.

"We commend all the steps that LIUNA District Councils, Local Unions, members and signatory contractors have taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on construction jobsites," says LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan. "Their commitment to implementing the necessary safety and health protocols, and taking quick action when positive cases do occur, is why these essential projects have been able to remain open."

In the construction industry, safety and health professionals often talk about getting to the root cause of injuries. The root cause is the fundamental, underlying reason why an incident occurred. The goal isn't to point fingers or place blame, but to understand every link in the chain of events that led to the incident so it can be prevented in the future.

We need to apply the same concept to COVID-19 outbreaks in the construction industry. If we don't identify the root causes behind cases and outbreaks, we risk choosing the wrong corrective measures. Rather than collecting anecdotal evidence to build a story about an entire industry, we need to dig into the root causes behind each individual outbreak.

For example, an investigation of an outbreak at a Colorado construction company traced the source to lax enforcement of wearing facial coverings in an enclosed area. The investigation noted that workers would wear their masks when new people were on the job, but when it was just their regular crew, management wouldn't enforce wearing of masks or wearing them correctly.

In another example, an outbreak at the construction site of a chemical plant in Pennsylvania was linked to either not having or not enforcing a physical disjobsite.

These two examples alone illustrate how root cause investigations can lead to new policies or a redoubling of efforts to stem transmission. Because COVID-19 can be transmitted in several ways, and because transmission often starts off the job, root cause analysis is an effective tool that provides valuable information and context. An effective workplace COVID-19 risk assessment should also include the current level of community spread overall.

Another area where we need to be clear about root causes is when discussing COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths in the construction industry. A recent study of construction workers in Texas generated a lot of headlines like this one: "Construction Workers Have Higher Risk of COVID-19 Hospitalization."

Headlines like these suggest that construction jobsites or tasks bring a higher risk for COVID-19 exposure. When we dig past the headline, however, we find that the risk is rooted in a lack of access to health care and the disproportionate impact COVID-19 is having on racial and ethnic minorities. As the study itself notes:

"Nearly 30 percent of the construction workforce in the U.S. are Latinx individuals ... in Austin, 66 percent are Latinx individuals ... Approximately 24 percent of all construction workers and nearly 48 percent of Latinx construction workers do not have health insurance and thus lack access to preventative care, have disproportionate comorbidities and are less likely "The fellow that agrees with everything you say is either a fool or he is getting ready to skin you."

-Kin Hubbard (1868 - 1930)

"Man, unlike the animals, has never learned that the sole purpose of life is to enjoy it." – Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902)

"It still holds true that man is most uniquely human when he turns obstacles into opportunities."

-Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

"Think not those faithful who praise all thy words and actions; but those who kindly reprove thy faults."

- Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)





Local 80 **Sheet Metal Workers** 

**Sheet Metal Workers Local 80** 

SOUTHFIELD - 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 next general membership meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall. 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 19, 2021 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield, MI

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



**RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The Feb**ruary 15, 2021 meeting has been CANCELLED. We will be going month to month for 2021. Please keep an eye on the paper for an updated schedule. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593

TRUSTEE ELECTION: OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the January 26, 2021 meeting you will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a TIM 3 year term from January 2021 through January

MULLIGAN

2024. You must be current on your dues to vote. 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 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: Robert Elmendorf, Matthew Kelly, Nick Koppinger, Norman Rittman, Timothy Nester, Fred Chasey, Alan Morris, Ronald Stark, Kenneth Knapp Jr., Rudolph Schiners, Lawrence Brosch, Brian Walewski, Ralph Consiglio, Brian Fields, Edward Ballach, Donald Dluge, Rainer Becker, Brian Depew, Paul Parpart, Benjamin Chmielewski, Gary Norrow, James Maynor Jr., Gregory Chervinsky, Gary Taylor, Jack MacFarland, Stanley Chrabaszeski, Rex Kanitz, Thomas Robinson, Steven Roth, Jeffrey Roth, Joseph Roth, Robert Monette, Robert Rajter, Adam Pace, Gordon Mathes, Rondal Handley, James Cupples, Ronald Meyerhoff, Cyle Slinder, Terry Taulbee, Larry Morris, Jeffery Tebbe, Kenneth Robins, David Yelenich, John Beaudrie, John Willcocks, William Ujaque-Alvarez, Donald Poyle, Leo Matusik, Paul Grimm, Brandon Donnelly, Ronald Kramer, Eric Waldrop, Richard Ashby, Michael Lemieux, Alan Stupyra, Michael Cassani, Robert Zalewski, Thomas Seibert, Fred Wayman, William Brozik, James Jorah, Andrew Clavier, Matthew Whiteford, Nicklas Lacca, Ricardo Meza, Samuel Kinsora, Sean Ross, Sergio Vallejo, Jordan Fox-Bryer, Joseph Rossi, Julius DiFranco, Corey Powers, Daniel Vallejo, Eric Hill, Hunter Nardelli, Jacob Clarke, Albert Bright, Brian Buckner, Caleb Schleder, Chandler Nealy-Reed, Justin Dupont, Richard Seder, Kevin Korndorfer, Michael Sobczak, Storm Genereaux, Todd Boettcher, Todd Gower, Bradley Washinski, Chris Dorman, Francisco Jr., Jason Keiffer

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.

**READY TO WORK:** SMANCA Detroit and Local 80 are in progress of developing a mobile smart app which will allow access to the Ready to Work program from your smart phone. The app is in development for both Apple and Android systems; once it is completed (est. early November) an announcement will be emailed, hard mailed and shared with you at your union meetings as well as published in the Bldg. Trades newspaper.



#### **Sheet Metal Workers Local 7**

FULLER

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, Feb. 11, 2021 at 6 p.m. \*Zone 1- March 11<sup>th</sup> -6:00 p.m. \*Zone 2 –March 16<sup>th</sup> -6:00 p.m. \*Zone 3- (Saginaw) – March 10th -6:00 p.m. \*Zone 3- (TCity) March 18th - 6:00 p.m. \*Zone 4- March 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. \*Zone 5 –February 4th– 6:00 p.m.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2021. Once

you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelitscanitreport.com and down-SAM load the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975. ZONE 1 Info: Work in the Zone 1 area is still

going strong. If you do get laid off, remember to inform James or Eric of your employment status. Apprentices please remember to also inform Kevin at the Zone 1 Training Center. If you are experiencing any problems with unemployment, please contact your Business Agent. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your Business Agent or call BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. Any Journeyperson interested in upgrade classes, please contact Kevin at the Training Center (269) 781-7183. Please note that class availability depends on the level of interest. The Zone 1 Retiree meetings are still pending per the restrictions set forth in the MDHHS Order. In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 is continuing to get better we still have a need for jobs to break to get all working. In an almost two year project and a lot of time we have been informed that we have prevailed on exposing A&B Mechanical of short changing their workers on the Fruitport Schools job by over \$155,000. This was a joint effort starting with myself then turned over to Mike Adams when he came on as organizer, and we will continue to work together to follow thru on this win for workers. Thanks Dave

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the Zone 3 area is slow at this time. I have many guys traveling to Detroit and Lansing for shut down work. We have projects coming up in the spring, looks like we should be able to keep everyone working. Make sure to keep updated on your OSHA 30 must modules and Mshaw so we can keep everyone employed. Hopefully everyone is staying safe. Thank you, Wayne Stover

Zone 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next Traverse City Meeting will be Thursday, March 18th at 6:00PM. Please continue to follow the Trades paper for updates. It looks like 2021 is going to be another busy year with plenty of work opportunities. We will be having another apprenticeship entrance testing at the Union Hall in Traverse City February 9th from 2PM to 6PM. Thank You, Travis Eastman

Zone 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 is steady with winter coming we will be a little slow. Your Brother, Larry Kinzie

ZONE 5 Info: I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable New Year. Congratulations to Dale King after 31 years he is retiring on 02/01/2021. Work in the area is still up and down so if you are off please contact me to have your name added to the out of work list. If you are in need of an MSHA Class please contact me and I will get you the information. Respectfully Greg Faust

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



## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

#### **Sheet Metal Workers Local 292**

TROY-UNION HALL LOBBY CLOSURE: The Union Hall lobby will remain closed to outside traffic until further notice due to COVID-19.

The union hall IS open during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All staff will be available via telephone for any questions. Please do not come to the union hall for non-essential business. Dues can be paid online at www.sheetmetal292.com or left in the secure drop box located near the front door of the Union Hall. We will keep you posted as new information becomes available.

MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021.



Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date. The E-Board/Stewards meeting is scheduled for

January 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

\*\*Per the CDC guidelines, masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed during all meetings.

NEW PRESCRIPTION CHANGES: The Board PAUL of Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 GUALDONI Health Fund (the Fund) is introducing a new pre-

scription drug benefits program effective Jan. 1, 2021. The new program will be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (replacing EnvisionRx). Since Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan already administers our Simply Blue PPO Medical Plan, your medical and prescription drugs will be integrated and coordinated, which should make it easier for you and lead to better care. You should be receiving your new Blue Cross cards in the mail soon. You will use the new card for both medical and prescription drug coverage. If you do not receive your cards, contact the union hall so we can advise BeneSys. These changes are for active members and pre-65 retired members only.

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Time is running short to get your application in for the SMART scholarship. Application deadline is Feb. 15, 2021. Please follow the link for information regarding obtaining an Application Request Form, which can either be downloaded or completed online. smart-union.org/sheet-metalscholarship-fund

**RETIREES NOTICE:** Due to Covid-19 and restrictions placed for social gatherings, as well as the health and safety of our retirees and their families, the retirees' luncheons have been cancelled until further notice. We will notify when luncheons will resume. Stay healthy and safe.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 thirty (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 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 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 are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In complement, for the 2020 Ready to Work stipend requirement you will only need to download the app on your smart phone, review and confirm your contact information (email, mailing address, employer, list of your accomplished training).

When you download the app and review your contact information, the program will inform SMACNA Detroit of your interaction and this part of the stipend requirement will be completed.

There will be no custom Ready to Work modules required for the 2020 stipend.

In the meanwhile of receiving notice the Ready to Work app is available, it is important to make sure you have all other stipend requirements completed, these are still the same:

Current MUST Drug Test

Current MUST 18 Safety Modules

OSHA 30

Current FA CPR certification

Deadline for stipend requirements is March 31, 2021.

For members who do not have a smart phone, contact Support and accommodations will be made for you.

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

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall which includes the tradesman paper. You will need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well, that is not done at the hall.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH and DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500. 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.

WORKASSIGNMENTS: 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.

LAYOFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay. Without lay off slips you (Continued next column) 882-4064 to make your payment.

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

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI 48910-517-882-4064 Local 7 Officers:

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

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223; James Callahan (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-342-8842: David Rutz (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-458-2313 Wayne Stover (Saginaw) 989-692-0002; Travis Eastman (Traverse City) 231-943-5150;

Larry Kinzie (Agent-Flint) 810-785-6831

Greg Faust (Agent-Upper Peninsula): 906-372-9288

## Local 80 continued

cannot collect sub pay. It is the member's responsibility to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted without one. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

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

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and 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.LifeAdvisor EAP.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.

**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.** We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union hall and we will make the change.

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.

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four 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! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class January 23rd.

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

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

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



BAC<sub>2</sub>

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is



have any questions or concerns, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lan-

CHUCK sing office at КИКАШКА (517) 886-9781.

**JANUARY** 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS. Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the state, all Chapter meetings for January, 2021 have been cancelled.

**DEATHS REPORTED:** Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Angelo Battel (Cement Mason) who passed away on December 28, 2020. Brother Battel had been a member for 36 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** William Griffin (Bricklayer) who passed away on January 07, 2021. Brother Griffin had been a member for 69 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** Marino Terenzi (Tile Layer) who passed away on August 22, 2020. Brother Terenzi had been a member for 72 years.

**CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED:** If you are available for work, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We are currently looking for experienced Bricklayers and Tile Setters. Those who are interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781

**SIGNING BONUS FOR** SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a Signing Bonus for skilled craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get a Finders Referral Bonus for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781, or go to https:/ /bit.ly/BAC-2-MI-2000-Signing-Bonus. **ASPEEDY RECOVERY:** A speedy recovery is wished to all those who have been sick or injured. Let's keep them all in our thoughts and prayers. \*IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues\* All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount. 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!! **UPDATE-BACLOCAL2'S** TRAINING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members but visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment. Please contact our Training Centers at the numbers listed below for an appointment for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS and other services. **DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER:** To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRA-TOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Tom Ward directly at (734) 552-7066. TMT RTI CLASSES RE-SUME WITH REDUCED CA-PACITY DUE TO COVID-19; **REGISTRATION IS RE-QUIRED.** To register visit detroittrowel trades.org and click Calendar. Classes are filled on a first-registered, first-served basis and will be held on the following Saturdays from 7:00am -3:30pm: Jan: 23rd Feb: 6th & 20th Mar: 6th & 20th Apr: 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May: 1st, 15th & 22nd Jun: 5th & 12th Apprentices, remember that

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

Related Training Instruction (RTI) classes are a requirement of your Apprenticeship, failure to attend will delay your apprenticeship and raises.

Additional classes will be added as necessary to accommodate all apprentices.

Feel free to contact your BAC field representative or the Apprentice Coordinator should you have any questions.

METRO DETROIT AP-**PRENTICE WORKSHEETS** AVAILABLE FOR DOWN-LOAD: 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: detroittroweltrades.org

LANSING TRAINING CEN-**TER:** To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102

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

**MEMBERSHIP ASSIS-TANCE:** 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-MAILADDRESS: Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to information@bricklayers.org and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and email address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.



HEADED BACK TO WORK at the gate of the University of Michi gan-Ann Arbor Central Classroom Building project are Josh Locash and Chip Pavlat of Cement Masons Local 514. They're employed by Granger Construction.



Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons Local 514 DETROIT - HAPPY NEW

YEAR!!!

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2020 at 7 p.m. for a Telephonic meeting. Please feel free to call the Business Manager or any agent with questions on how to sign up.

Please keep Henry Williams and his wife Camilla in your prayers on the passing of his Mother-In-Law Lugenia Jackson on January 3, 2021.

Rodney Floyd a longtime member of 514 passed away on Dec. 14, 2020. Our sincere condolences go out to all of his family.

Lance Ryan is now Plasterer Business Agent, if you have any questions for him please call (586) 615-1564.

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

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

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.micement plasterer training.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 extend-

#### THE BUILDING TRADESMAN January 15, 2021 11



#### **Boilermakers Local 169**

ALLEN PARK - Our most recent Union Meeting scheduled for January was cancelled over concerns regarding the ongoing pan-

> demic. A virtual Executive Board meeting was held on Friday, January 8th, with all officers attending. Our next Union Meeting, scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2021, will be held in Area Two if conditions continue to improve. Our Local continues to experience a lower

instance of positive cases compared to the information I am receiving from our fellow locals. I would like to thank the continued efforts of our members, contractors, owners, officers, and agents, in doing their best to prevent the spread of this deadly dis-**BOB** ease. With the increased availability of the vac-

HUTSELL cine, and our continued efforts, I am confident that we will succeed in putting this pandemic behind

us. We must all be patient for a bit longer, until then, keep following the recommendations of the CDC and our health care professionals.

Our work outlook continues to look good with ongoing and upcoming projects. Apprentice advancements are being scheduled, including indentures. The training center is still closed for regular classes, however, we continue to provide availability for members when needed.

With the New Year, comes my belief that our country, industry, and Brotherhood will close the chapter on 2020, and look to 2021 with renewed hope, confidence, & prosperity.

## **Bob Hutsell, Business Manager**

## **Boilermakers Local 169**

#### Detroit, Michigan

Union dues for 2021 are \$49.85 per month. 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.

Training Center: The Boilermakers Local 169 Training Center in Allen Park is currently closed. Please check the Facebook page and website for further information.

Apprentices: Apprentices are reminded to call your Area Agent at 8:00 am the following business day after layoff. Failure to call in at the required time may result in disciplinary action. First period apprentices should now be able to access their LMS lessons online.

Retired member, Floyd Montie, passed away on January 3, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this difficult time.

## **Cement Masons 514, continued**

offices updated for your health care and pension and also if you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved please contact the Local and we will change your addresses with all of the fund offices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS: You can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: www.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 ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local. 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 INTERNA-TIONAL PENSION Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.

Local 514 **Cement Masons** & Plasterers

Trust, Durable Power of Attor-

nev. and Medical Power of Attor-

ney, and Guardian Designation.

Contact the Union Hall if inter-

ested and a date will be sched-

please contact the Local so we

can update our records. Please

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a sat-

ellite office in Flint, Michigan.

We welcome Member and Con-

tractors 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 Will-

signatory commercial contractors

are having a negative impact on

our market share. The work fore-

cast this year looks better than

last. Members working non-

union will be brought up on

charges and fines will be en-

forced. Let's work together to

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

We must stay vigilant in our

Members working for non-

iams at (313) 215-5063.

secure our future!!

key to our future!!

If you are a Military Veteran

The Local's website is:

uled for the free Seminar.

call (248) 548-0800.

www.opcmiami.org.

ing an invitation to our members to participate in free Estate Planning Seminar. Learn about Wills,

BAC 2 MI Texting Program. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by

texting 2MI to 877877 You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

**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 (dvtt.org)

MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, michigan bac.org)

Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcement masons.org)

CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund)

International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement and TMT) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (dvtt.org)



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 (Continued next column)

Robert P. Matouka FARMERS Insurance Agency INSURANCE Auto • Commercial • Builders Risk • Surety Bonds • Life Insurance Products 414 S. Main St., Suite 211 B Rochester, MI 48307 OFFERING 248.652.7333 RMATOUKA@FARMERSAGENT.COM HAGERTY BBB Worked with construction trades for over 30 years and a Vietnam veteran

**Apprentices Needed!** 

## **Free Training for Bricklayers – New Work and Restoration Tile and Cement Masons**

**12 Week Pre-Apprentice Class** 

Based on Skill Level and Demand In preparation for the re-opening our training centers, we are en-

couraging anyone interested in a Trowel Trades Apprenticeship and able to meet the physical demands of the work to complete the application process.

If you live in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe or St. Clair County, go to detroittroweltrades.org to download the application. If you live outside the above-mentioned counties (outstate), go to michiganbricklayers.org to apply online. Read and follow instructions carefully and completely.

Veterans are given highest priority as a thank you for their service.

Metro Detroit and the Outstate programs differ slightly, below are common minimum requirements for both programs. You will find the complete list of instructions online.

#### **Applicants Must:**

·Remain drug and marijuana free, applicants must pass initial and random testing if accepted into program.

•Shall be physically cable of performing the essential functions of the Apprenticeship program without posing a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others.

Have a valid Michigan driver's license.

Pass physical evaluation.

•High School Graduate or GED, higher education a plus.

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

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

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience

representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themself 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







**IBEW Local 252** ANNARBOR-UNION OF-FICE LIMITING IN-PERSON **BUSINESS:** Due to the Nov. 18 MDHHS Epidemic Order, the Union Hall will be limiting in-person business effective Wednesday. November 18, 2020 until further notice. If you have business to take care of at the hall, please call us at (734) 424-0978.

**MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** We continue to monitor new orders and directives pertaining to COVID-19. Decisions about membership meetings will be determined and relayed to you as they approach.

CONTRACTOR CLASS: We will be hosting Pro-Union Consulting to assist IBEW Local 252 members in becoming profitable union electrical/ renewable energy contractors. This class will be offered May 13th, 14th, and 15th, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Please call the Union Hall to sign up. We need a minimum of 20 people for the class.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Please take every precaution to protect vourselves, vour family, and others while at work or in the public by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. If your employment is disrupted due to COVID-19, please contact the Hall so that we can ensure that you get everything that's entitled to you, and that proper protocol is followed for everyone's safety.

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.

SERVICE PINS: If you would like your service year pin please call the hall to make arrangements to receive it.

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 Sys-



Local 131 Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO - The next Executive Board Meeting will be held on January 18th @ 5 p.m. With the cancellation of January's General Membership meeting, they will conduct the business of the local Union at this meeting.

Due to the Governor's current executive order, we ask that those coming to the Local Union to conduct business please wear a face covering.

All Book 2 signings shall be done by fax or email from the member's home local.

Work Outlook: The work outlook is strong. We expect to have a busier than usual fall continuing into the winter. If you are aware of interested electricians working in our jurisdiction, please have them visit www.powering kalamazoo.com or call the office.

M.J. Electric, Van Ert Electric, and KEI Electrical have all secured work at the Graphic Packaging Paper Mill expansion. Most calls will require a Michigan State Electrical License; most calls right now are working overtime.

The LMCC has launched a new website www.powering kalamazoo.com. This website will be used to highlight local signatory contractors and used as an organizing tool. Follow us on Facebook @poweringkalamazoo, Twitter @PoweringKzoo, Instagram @powering kalamazoo, and LinkedIn @poweringkalamazoo. Please feel free to share the wage calculator feature of this site.

If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone number, please email Christine at cbohms@ibew 131.com

Dues pricing - The price for dues in 2021 is \$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 through December 2020, your dues are not current; please contact the Hall.

We have finalized our automated dues reminders; these re-



**IBEW Local 948** 

FLINT - Our January Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 at 4:30 pm. The Retiree Club Meeting

will return in April 2021. The Michigan Department of Human Services issued an epidemic order to help us slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. These steps are critically important to help protect our families, frontline workers, and small businesses from this virus and a necessary means to avoid overwhelmed hospitals and death counts like we saw in the spring.

To stay in line with this latest order our union hall will be closed to general traffic starting Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020. As in the beginning of this mess none of the local's business will be disrupted. Calls and Referrals will be answered just as they always are. Dues payments along with questions regarding benefits as well as the locals Executive board business will continue as it always has.

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

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).

2021 - Monthly Dues - Journeyman \$43.70 a month - Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

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

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure please refer to our website @ http://local948 .org/job\_referrals/ **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.

tion finally coming to the presi-

money order or credit/debit card. Please contact the Hall with any questions.

The Annual IBEW 445 Golf Outing is scheduled for July 17, 2021. More information to follow in the coming months.

The General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall. Please make sure to wear your masks.

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

PLEASE HELP!! - The Hall is asking for each member to verify their address, phone number and email address that we have on file. We are looking into a texting and email service, and if you would like to be included in those correspondences, we need your current information. Thank you!

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is **IBEW445.com**.

fee, please remember to keep

Lunch. All retirees' lunches have

MINDER: if you have recently

gotten married, divorced, had

children, etc. make sure your ben-

eficiaries have been updated ac-

cordingly. Beneficiary forms can

the Health Plan Office about go-

ing on short-term disability, it is

important for you to notify the

Hall as well. A copy of your pa-

perwork will need to be submit-

ted to the Hall for your file. This

will also freeze your position on

Local 692 is still working on sup-

porting our RENEW committee as

they get off the ground. For those

that are unfamiliar, RENEW

stands for Reaching out and En-

gaging Next generation of Elec-

trical Workers. This committee

meets the second Monday of the

month at a rotating location. If

you are 35 and younger and look-

ing to get more involved in the

local please reach out to the hall

and we can get you the informa-

tion needed. This is your local

Brothers and Sisters, get in-

**RENEW Committee. IBEW** 

the out of work list.

**REMINDER:** If you contact

be obtained from the hall.

**Death of Members. Retirees** 

Fringe Benefits. RE-

your dues current.

been postponed.

MICHIGAN



OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

IBEW 692

BAY CITY - Message from the Business Manager. The hall continues to be closed to in person traffic not only to protect the office and staff of IBEW Local 692, but also the general membership. Opening the hall would also be a direct violation of the latest orders put forth by the MDHHS.

**IBEW** 

Local 445

**BATTLE CREEK - Attention:** 

The office staff will be at the Hall

during normal business hours but

is closed to walk-in traffic except

by appointment only. Please call

(269) 964-4545 or email

info@ibew445.com for the best

will not be changing from 2020.

JIW are \$53.00/mo. or \$159.00/qtr.

and AP are \$42.00/mo. or \$126.00/

qtr. You can pay cash, check,

Attention: The dues for 2021

way to handle your concerns.

**IBEW Local 445** 

We all continue to work very hard for all of you and the office is always staffed to pay dues, sign out of work lists, or handle any other need an individual member may have. Servicing the membership will always be our number one priority. Please do not hesitate to call or email any one of us at any time.

Please be vigilant in your efforts to stay healthy and safe from Covid-19. Local 692 continues to have more and more members and their families affected by this pandemic by the week. Please keep all of our brothers and sisters in your thoughts. Science tells us both washing your hands and wearing a face covering can protect the public from contracting this virus.

Please contact myself or one of our agents for any questions. Stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters.

Work Report. With resolu-



**IBEW 665** 

LANSING-HAPPY NEW YEAR: Brothers and Sisters, Happy New Year!!! It's looking to be another busy year for Local 665. We continue to have full employment and have nearly 200 travelling brothers and sisters working in the local. It's a good time to be an IBEW member.

As we begin 2021, we anxiously await a return to normalcy. For so many of our members and families, 2020 was one of the most challenging years of their lifetime. From an unprecedented pandemic, to the fight for social/racial justice, to a very polarized election year, 2020 left us all confused in so many ways.

But amid the struggle, there have been signs of hope for a better future. We will start 2021 with the knowledge, understanding, and hard lessons learned from this past year. 2021 will be filled with new opportunities and challenges. Let us all work together to create kindness, understanding, and healing in our country.

In the words of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

I hope you will join me in thanksgiving for our many blessings and in our work together through the local on the things we care about: our members and their families, our profession, and the health of our country and the world.

### Fraternally,

Aaron Pangborn, Business Manager IBEW Local 665

FIRSTAID/CPR CLASS. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 5-7 PM at the Union Hall. PLEASE CALL THE LEJATC TO REGIS-TER: 517-483-9688

JANUARY UNION MEET-ING IS CANCELLED: The Jan. 18, 2021 Union meeting is cancelled. The officers of the local will meet via ZOOM to conduct the business of the local union this month

NOTICE: UNION HALL IS **CLOSED TO WALK IN TRAF-**FIC. Brothers and Sisters, we continue to remain closed for member walk-in traffic to help keep both our members and staff safe. This does NOT mean we are closed for business. Members still have a variety of ways in which to reach /conduct business with us, including: Calling the office: 517-393-5530 Email: contactus@ibew665.org Online Dues Payment: www.ibew665.org (Click on the Orange "Pay Dues" tab). If you have a special circumstance, please call our office and we will assist you. We will be available by appointment. For our travelling brothers and sister, Local 665 is still accepting initial sign by fax or email from a members home local. Thank you for your understanding as we all work to stay safe and healthy. **DUES AND DEATH BEN-EFITS:** First quarter dues should be paid at this time and we are currently at death benefit # 316. Please check your dues receipt to ensure that you are current.

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

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

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

Retiree's Breakfast: The retiree's breakfast is cancelled until further notice.

Winter Gathering: Due to covid-19 concerns, the Winter Gathering in Lakeland, FL will not be held this year.

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.

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.

UNION DUES FOR 2021: Effective January 1, 2021 union dues for "A" members will remain \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will remain \$61.80 per quarter.

**DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2021. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2021. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (Jan. through Mar.) are due now.

**Payments for first quarter** dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

minders will be sent ahead of possible late dues. You may receive a message via text or email if you have not tendered your most current I.O. Dues payments. Dues payments can also be made online; to log in, use your Last Name and Card Number.

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 documents.

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

Retirements: Congratulations to the following retiring members: Adrian DiVisser, July 2020. Michael Chaddock, May 2020. John Magnan Jr., May 2020. Robert S. Davis, June 2020. Roger Clark, March 2020. Patrick Klocke, May 2020. Keith Moore, April 2020. William Slater, July 2020. Thomas Vrobel, August 2020. Peter Spreitzer, August 2017.

Condolences: With a heavy heart, Local 131 would like to announce the following members passing, Brother Dale Bothwell passed away on April 23, 2020. Brother Charles Krull passed away on May 3, 2020. Brother John Ingram passed May 2020. Brother Josh Batten passed away on July 24, 2020. Brother Lawrence Shearer passed away on July 18, 2020. Brother William Cook passed away on September 24, 2020. Brother Walter Bunce passed on October 19, 2020. Sister Lisa Danielson passed on October 20, 2020. Brother Dennis Root passed on October 24, 2020. Brother "OJ" Whisler passed on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>,2020. Brother John Haskins passed on November 29<sup>th</sup>,2020. Brother Ray Patterson passed on December 17th, 2020. Brother Dennis Whitney passed away on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab.

FROM THE APPRENTICE-SHIP:

Journeyman Upgrade (Continued next column)

## Local 131, con't

## **Classes:**

Fall 2020-Winter 2021

3. State Exam Prep W January 6 to March 3, 2021 4. Motor Controls W February 10 to April 14, 2021

5. CPR S February 13, 2021 6. Foreman Training W March 10 to May 12, 2021 7. CPR S March 13, 2021 8. CPR S April 10, 2021

\*\*Code Update Classes: it is

now required for Journeyman to pay in advance to hold your spot in the Code Update Class. We require 48 hours' notice for cancelations if you need to reschedule for another available Code Update Course.\*\*

Please visit our website www.kalamazoojatc.com or stop in to sign up for the Code Update Class. September 3, 2020. Call Nicole at 269-388-4434 with any questions.

Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2 work4you.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 nonunion 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.

Good of the Union: We will be providing the membership an opportunity to weigh in on the upcoming negotiations. The local has created a Google Doc. Survey to be completed by the membership. We expect to hold a specially called meeting to further discuss this years negotiations, time and date to follow.

"United we Bargain; divided we beg'

**Brian O'Donnell Business Manager/ Financial Secretary**  dential election, the work picture is beginning to clear up. We are hearing the new West Branch Meijer will be bid this month. Wilkinson Minerals has been bid and those numbers are being reviewed. This will be a very large industrial project.

Midland Schools are being bid this week with Barton Malow being the G.C. The new Isabella County Jail has been secured by Master Electric with work beginning in the spring. Alpena Schools have been bid with two of our signatory contractors being low. John's Electric out of Alpena has been awarded the Alpena library project.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Work remains very good in Detroit, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

Organizers Report. The membership development team has been dotting i's and crossing t's, preparing for an audit from the International Office. We feel confident that we are one hundred percent in compliance with IO expectations. We continue to strengthen existing relationships and forge new friendships with those in our industry, as well as utilize all of the resources at our disposal to help our contractors bid as much local work as possible. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. There will not be an increase in monthly dues in 2021. Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.

2021 Dues (Effective January 1, 2021) Monthly \$41.20 Quarterly \$123.60 6 months \$247.20 Yearly \$494.40

To avoid a reinstatement

#### **Ryan Charney Business Manager** / **Financial Secretary**

volved!

**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

"Believe nothing against another but on good authority; and never report what may hurt another, unless it be a greater hurt to some other to conceal it." -William Penn (1644 - 1718)

"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause and who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.' -Teddy Roosevelt

"Nothing is so firmly believed as that which we least know.

-Michel de Montaigne (1533 -1592)

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WE MAKE THE BEST FITTING. LONGEST LASTING UNION MADE CAPS FOR THE HARD WORKING MEN AND WOMEN IN ALL BUILDING TRADES! WWW.DOOGIESHATS.COM UNION MADE IN THE USA 3655 N. MERIDIAN RD. SANFORD, MICHIGAN 48657 USE COUPON CODE: MTBT2020 TO GET AN EXTRA DISCOUNT!

"Run to meet the future or it's going to run you down.' -Anthony J. D'Angelo

"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow."

-Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"Character is forged in the smallest of struggles. Then, when the big challenges come, we're ready.

-Waiter Rant

"An ambassador is an honest man sent abroad to lie for his country.'

-Sir Henry Wotton

### DOOGIES ENTERPRISES LLC.





IBEW 58

DETROIT – The General Membership Meeting scheduled for **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021** is CANCELLED in compliance with the current COVID-19 Restrictions. We thank you for your continued compliance with COVID Safety and remind you to MASK UP!

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

**Local 58 Dues Information:** Dues are due by the first day of the quarter. You can now pay your dues with an APP. Go to Apple/Google Play and download the IBEW 58 APP. In the APP go to My Profile, My Member Tools and that's where you find the information to pay. You can also pay by phone with credit/debit or mail a check. At this time we are not taking cash transactions.

**Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund**: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:00 pm

The 18th Annual Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Raffle is starting. Tickets are \$20.00 and all proceeds benefit Local 58 Benevolent Fund. Grand prize: 65" TV and stadium recliner! Additional prizes: (1) 55" TV, (3) 42" TV, (3) 32" TV, and (1) Weber grill. \* Due to Covid-19 this will be a raffle only this year, No dinner or event. For tickets contact Gym at 734-730-0536. We thank Larry Reid at ABC Warehouse for his continued support and helping us with our prizes. Please contact Larry Reid (734) 981-7780, at the Canton ABC Warehouse store for all your appliance, TV and electronic needs.

**Members of the Community Service Committee**: The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM. The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8:00 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union hall.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee**: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:00 pm.

EWMC of Southeastern MI - HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you for being there and helping us make it through 2020. Sending healing and comfort to those who were/are affected in any way by this Coved 19 pandemic. Thank you to all of those who came out and safely volunteered at the limited projects that we participated in during 2020. As usual, we proved that IBEW is good for you, good for your family, and good for the community. The 2021 EWMC National Conference will be virtual and is scheduled for Ja. 14-16, 2021. Information on the schedule, workshops and registration can be found on the EWMC National Website (ibew-ewmc.org). The February meeting will be on the regularly scheduled third Monday of the month. Thank you to those who continue to attend our Zoom meetings as we navigate through these difficult times. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the community. #ibewstrong

**The RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 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) meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 dollars that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175.00 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction ut our resources in half, and we would lik and our members looking to run for office. Local 58's Women's Committee-. 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. 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: 58Womens committee@ibewlocal58.org, Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook.



Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498 TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

**Regular E Board-** The meetings are back to in person. The next meeting will be on Friday February 10, 2021 at 6 pm.

**MEETING** – The meetings are back to in-person unless new Covid restrictions happen. The meeting will be held on Friday February 10, 2021 at 7 pm.

**Solidarity Picnic** – Monthly Solidarity picnics before the regular meeting are still on hold due to Covid. Hopefully by Spring we will be able to resume them. We also need to know if anyone is interested in a union annual picnic this year. Please plan on attending the meeting in February.

**PLC Class-** There are 4 seats available. The dates are Feb 19 & 26 and March 5 & 12, If you would like one please call the hall.

**PAYPAL** – PAY PAL is now up and running!!! Please look into setting up a personal PayPal account. The Pay Pal option to use for paying your dues is "Friends & Family," if a different option is used it will deduct the credit card fees out of what is sent to the local for your dues. This leaves your dues short as we are a not for profit business and have no way to absorb those costs. If you need help with this you can call Caroline at the Union hall.

**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 2021** – There is no Union Dues increase for 2021. Effective Jan. 2021 the rate will remain \$140.10 per quarter.

**Resale Items** – We have Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale and T-shirts. Stop in to get yours today! Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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





#### IBEW 275

**IBEW** 

LOCAL

906

UPPER PENINSULA-

MARQUETTE UNIT-First

IRÓN MOUNTAIN UNIT-

ESCANABA UNIT-Sec-

PLEASE PROTECT YOUR-

SELF AND OTHERS BY KEEP-

ING 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DIS-

TANCE. WEAR YOUR MASK

AT THE JOBSITE. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON HAND

WASHING AND WIPING

DOWN SURFACES. BE SMART.

closed to walk-in traffic. An ap-

pointment can be made by call-

ing the office for any necessary

in-person business. The Execu-

tive Board continues to monitor

the Covid 19 situation and will

make a determination on January

meetings at their December 29th

Service pins went to the fol-

20 YEAR: Brian Van Oss,

25 YEAR: Doug LaLonde,

30 YEAR: Todd Blomquist,

Congrats to Katie Coppens

Work has slowed across the

Carl Servant, Linda Ross, Dale

Nissen, Ryan Milkey, Gary Har-

ris. Joseph Gille and Brian Gronda.

Cory Wicklund, Bradley Smart,

Brian Paul, Loran Lamberg, John

Chenier, David Brookens, Charles

Adam Ettenhoffer, Sue Nanninga,

Bradley Ross, Joseph Sgrecci,

Thomas Thiel, Todd Trudell, John

who recently passed the State

exam and Local 906 JIW exam and

has become a Journeyman Inside

Wireman. Again congrats Katie.

U.P. We are beginning to get calls

for small shop work and the Is-

land Casino project has started

Bleau and Bruce Holm.

Viau and Wayne Wood.

The Hall continues to remain

**IBEW Local 906** 

Second Tuesday

ond Wednesday

MEETINGS

Tuesday

BE SAFE.

meeting.

lowing members:

COOPERSVILLE – Dear Brothers and Sisters: At the time of this writing, we are still closed to foot traffic at the Hall. We will keep monitoring the state's restrictions as we too are anxious to open up entirely. Thank you all for your patience as we try and balance what we are able to do with the restrictions from the state and keeping the members and staff safe at the same time.

As you may know, I had to cancel the December union meeting. I am doubtful we will be able to have our January meeting either, but we will keep you notified through email if we are able to hold it.

At this time, the following member are in arrears with their monthly dues: Robert Akers, Michael Demond and Andrew Howard

From now on, all re-sign request will be sent to gyonkers@ibew275.org. The procedures are still the same.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 6:00pm at the Union Hall in Coopersville and/or via zoom. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community.

Dues for the year 2021 will be \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through mail and automatic bank payments.



#### **IBEW Local 557**

SAGINAW – **COVID-19**: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to dominate our lives. At the time of this writing we are currently awaiting further orders from the State regarding restrictions to keep people safe. Please continue to monitor emails and Facebook for updates on upcoming meetings for the Local. Keeping all members and their families healthy and safe is the number one priority for the Local.

Please continue to wear masks and social distance to keep yourself and those around you safe while on the jobsite and at home.

As we await further State guidance to keep members, their families, and the union hall staff safe, the following is in effect:

-The Union Hall is closed to foot traffic until further notice. -Please take care of business via email, phone, or fax. Special

appointments available. -Please try to take care of your quarterly dues payments by utilizing a credit or debit card over the phone. E-checks are also available.

-Apprenticeship classes are now all virtual until further notice, no in-person instruction.

All of these decisions have been made to keep members and their families safe. The Epidemic Orders will be re-evaluated soon and at that time the hall will re-evaluate operations.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**-The next membership meeting scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup> is to be determined. Keep an eye on these articles, emails from the Hall and the Local's website and Facebook page for updates on future meetings. The Local 557 Executive Board met on December 15<sup>th</sup> and will meet again January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** The Union Hall is still open for business. We ask that business to be taken care of with phone calls, emails, or fax. Special appointments are available if absolutely necessary. James Lamb is continuing organizing duties as much as possible during this time as well and if you have any useful information for him regarding work or new members please feel free to pass it along. He can be reached at 989-529-5943.

SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS- A special thank you is in order for our friends at the Saginaw County Board of Commis sioners. With their help, Saginaw County now has Responsible Contractor Language in its policies when accepting bids for upcoming work. With the recent assaults on organized Labor and Prevailing Wage laws, this policy is a welcome change that could spark bigger changes throughout the entire State. I would encourage all municipalities to look at adopting similar policies to ensure construction work is done correctly, safely, with a well-qualified contractor and with an approved apprenticeship program. BOOK SIGNING- Out of work lists can be signed for other Locals through fax or email This is to continue to cut down on as many in-person transactions as possible. Contact your home local and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing. HEALTH CARE-The Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan continues 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 Retirees Annual Florida Luncheon:** Due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 virus no plans have been made for the 2021 Florida Annual Luncheon. I hope you are all well, stay safe and I hope to see you at the next one. ~Syl Ludwic~

**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** Happy New Year! As we move into 2021, time to pay annual dues of \$8 per person, for the year. Please send your dues to Ray Owen (checks payable to the "Retirees Association"), 428 Welch Rd, Northville 48167. If you still owe for 2020, please include those with your 2021 dues, if we don't have your email address, please include it, this will allow us to add your information to our data bank of email addresses. Staff was able to print and mail out the January Newsletter, but there is no guarantee that we won't need to email out an issue or two before things get back to a more normal process.

So, please send us your email address with your dues or to 58retirees@ibewlocal58.org. With covid-19 still an issue, all of our activities are still in suspension. We can stay in touch in several ways, one of which is picking up the telephone and checking on our friends. And also consider reaching out to our fellow members who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries that we include in our monthly newsletter. Please continue to mask up, and continue to socially distance. We must remember to support one another in the ways that are possible. Reach out and check on your fellow retirees, family and friends, these are tough times to live alone or be away from close family. Stay safe! And once again Happy 2021!

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

As of 12/31/2020, the following members have lapsed membership: Willhelm, Wayne S., Bertges, Brandon M., Brady, Matthew H., Bruce, Robert J., Cavanaugh, Patrick L., Flowers Jr, Harold L., Giroux, Nicholas J., Hill, Kurt R., James, Larale, Johnson, Jeremy J., Kali, Mandela D., Kaltz, Matthew J., Keller, Paul M., La Belle, Jeffrey W., Logan, Steven S., Manus, Julius M., Mc Closkey, Daniel G., Oblinger, Christopher A., Papak, Phillip J., Porteous, Russell W., Robinson, Jeremy E., Sasta, Robert J., Sawdon IV, William R., Seals, Christopher L., Shawl, Eric M., Slapshak, Vincent L.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Timothy D. Armstead, Joseph Charnawskas, James Hanna, James Mantay, and Don Peake.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Thomas Alquiza, pension member, 38 year IBEW membership; Diane Arvidson, wife to pension member Raymond Arvidson Jr.; Anthony Browning, Residential Wireman R-3, 27 year IBEW membership; John Bunetta, pension member, 76 year IBEW membership; Delbert Mills, pension member, 71 year IBEW membership; Edwin & Joann Rader, Father and Step-Mother to JIW, Business Representative of IBEW Local 58 Russ Rader, Father & Mother-in-law's to Apprentice Installer Lisa Rader; Steven Ritten, pension member, 41 year IBEW membership; Francesca Schmidt, Wife to pension member Kenneth Schmidt; Daniel Sikoski, JIW, 41 year IBEW membership; Steven Tinnette, pension member, 31 year IBEW membership, Son to pension member John D. Tinnette, Grandson to the late pension member John A. Tinnette, Great Grandson to the late pension member John H. Tinnette. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss. Service Pins – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

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

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-517-321-7502

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES

Jan 1, 2020 - \$140.10/Quarter Jan 1, 2021 – No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter

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

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 3# to request manpower.

The percentage for the pension is now being tabulated. Without saying too much too soon expect a nice return after a very dismal start to the year. We will have the final figures in mid- February and the percentage will be applied in March. Statements will be mailed mid-March.

A reminder that the monthly dues are \$40.00. We have received some at the old rate of \$39.00 and a few members are overpaying. This makes the bookwork difficult. Please if you have a service that pays your dues monthly inform them of the correct amount.

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 The Health plan continues to meet regularly via teleconferences to stay on top of the pandemic and update coverage as necessary.

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

BLUE CROSS APP-Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of (Continued on Page 14)



♦ The call is free. ♦ The consultation is free. ♦ There is no obligation.
MILAN & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C., a Full Service Organization Offering Statewide Coverage



THE \$150 MILLION Central Classroom Classroom Building at Geddes and Washtenaw in Ann Arbor is one of the largest onging project on the University of Michigan campus. Combined with renovated space at the Ruthven building, the combined project will house university administration and create flexible classroom and meeting space. Managed by Barton Malow, the project is expected to be complete later this year.

# **Using innovations to attract** colleagues, Google workers start to organize with CWA

#### By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

Using innovations to attract their colleagues – everyone from software engineers to outside "contractors" – a committed group of Google workers has taken on the task, aided and encouraged by the Communications Workers, of organizing the high-tech behemoth.

And its size and reach means they're working around the restrictions U.S. labor law puts on organizing drives, Chewy Shaw, a software engineer and vice-chair of the new unit, Alphabet Workers United, told Press Associates Union News Service in a telephone interview.

Shaw and unit chair Parul Koul announced the campaign on Jan. 4 on both CWA's website and in an op-ed in the New York *Times*. Their unit is going after workers not just at Google but at the social media giant's associated businesses, all grouped under the corporate name Alphabet.

The organizing drive is significant not just for the workers and the union, but for the entire U.S. High-tech and particularly its social media firms - Google among them – are a fast-growing



and vastly influential part of the economy. Alphabet alone has 120,000 full-timers in its enterprises and an equal number of part-timers, temps, contractors and vendors, Shaw said.

They're also a mix of whiteand blue-collar workers, and their bosses have, with a few small exceptions, successfully resisted unionization, by holding out the promise of immense profit-sharing and other perks, while turning aside complaints not about wages, but about discrimination and other ills.

The big thing that pushed us was the women's walkout," Shaw said of the protests, more than three years ago, against rampant sexual harassment by Google honchos. Google workers worldwide marched off the job in solidarity with the women who suffered, and demanded justice for them.

They didn't get it. One main harasser walked off with a multimillion-dollar "golden parachute" from Google top brass. The company named an outside consultant with a checkered record on the issue to deal with it. Most other problems, complaints and demands, all through channels before and after the worldwide campaign, "were ignored," said Shaw.

Sometimes Google yielded to the workers, he explained – such as when the firm eventually dropped its requirement that every worker-boss dispute be submitted to mandatory arbitration, where statistics show corporations beat workers 90 percent of the time, or more.

structure" to help workers speak for, and defend, themselves, Shaw said. The solution: Start an organizing drive. They chose the Communications Workers because of its experience with other tech firms "and because they were really supportive and made sure we were in control" of the campaign.

'We've seen first-hand that Alphabet responds when we act collectively. Our new union provides a sustainable structure to ensure our shared values as Alphabet employees are respected even after headlines fade," another worker, Program Manager Nicki Anselmo, told CWA in its announcement.

We are the workers who built Alphabet. We write code, clean offices, serve food, drive buses, test self-driving cars and do everything needed to keep this behemoth running." Koul and Shaw wrote.

'We joined Alphabet because we wanted to build technology that improves the world. Yet time and again, company leaders have put profits ahead of our concerns." So the workers want the union in order to have a voice in company policy about the products they make. "We want Alphabet to be a company where workers have a meaningful say in decisions that affect us and the





**Iron Workers 25** 

NOVI - Any new By-Law Resolutions MUST be submitted to the NOVI Union Hall NO LATER than 4:00 pm on Jan. 25, 2021. If it is mailed, it must get to the Hall by 4:00 pm on January 25<sup>th</sup> for it to be submitted. We've noticed mail has been slow in Michigan, so please be aware! Any new By-laws may be dropped off or emailed to office@ironworkers25.org

January's ZOOM Union meeting will be Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. This union meeting will be the first Reading of any proposed by law(s). PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.

The second  $(2^{nd})$  Reading of any proposed by law(s) will be during February's ZOOM Union meeting Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. The third  $(3^{rd})$  Reading will be during March's ZOOM Union meeting Monday March 29, 2021. The VOTE WILL BE MARCH 31, 2021. More information will follow in subsequent articles.

**ZOOM:** If you have not yet signed up for Notifications please sign up as Notification will go out via the APP. To participate in the Zoom Union meeting is very easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website (www.ironworkers 25.org). We are leaning toward communication through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS – Please download the APP if you haven't done so yet!! Again, via our website!

The 2021 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is now available. 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. All requests for complete rules and the application must be received by Tue. March 31, 2020 and turned in by Thur. April 30, 2020.

2021 is the year of the International Convention. (Aug. 2021). In March we will be holding nominations and vote for the Delegates who will represent Local 25 at the convention. More details to come as we get closer to the date.

2021 "NO" DUES RATE **INCREASE** – The General Executive Council of the International has voted to **NOT** increase the Per Capita Tax for 2021.

# Local 25 **IronWorkers**

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

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.

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc.

Hudsonville Training Center, Qualified Rigger/Crane Signaler-Feb 2,4,9,11,16 and 18, First Aid/CPR Feb 23 and SubPart R-Feb 25

Wixom Training Center, First Aid/CPR-March 2, SubPart R-March 4, Un-bonded Post Tensioning March 8,9,10,11 7am -4pm Textbooks \$30 and must be purchased 2 wks BEFORE class starts and turned in 1 wk PRIOR to the class.

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, print the application, gather documentation then phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom Training Center-Phone: 248-960-2130

Welder online Verification: For an accurate and quick review of welder certifications please visit www.welderscertification.org.

On the homepage click "login" and type "read only" as both your username and password. Once logged on, type the member's book number in the column on the left marked "advanced search," click the "go" button, wait until the name pops up, and then click on the welders first or last name. On the next en, click "list certifications.



Iron Workers Local Union #8 Tim Roman, Business Rep.

UPPER PENINSULA -

WELD CERTIFICATIONS: Weld certifications are being held on an as-needed basis. Please contact Rich Hanson at the Apprenticeship office for more information. 414-476-9372

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The Membership Meeting will take place by video conference on Jan. 27, 2021, at 5 p.m. CST. Members can gain access to the meeting at https://meeting.iwl8.org on the afternoon of the meeting.

MINE SAFETY TRAINING: A 24 Hour MSHA class will be held on Jan. 21, 22, and 23, 2021 at the Operators' Hall, 802 Clark Drive, Gladstone, MI. To sign up for these classes, and provide your email address, please contact Ann Lakenen at Pipefitters #111,906-226-6511.

If you sign up for MSHA classes and do not attend or cancel, you will be charged a fee of \$30 and will be suspended from any further Mine Safety classes until the fee is paid.

**IRON WORKERS LOCAL #8 ONLINE STORE:** Check out Local #8's swag at the online store at iwl8.org.

**RETIREE & ACTIVE MEM-**BER UPDATES: Ken Perry, age 78. died at his Florida home on December 30, 2020.

Ken, Book #672331, was initiated into Local #783 as an apprentice on Oct. 6, 1961, was a 59- year member of our Union and was a Lifetime Member of Local #8. Ken held the following elected positions in our Union: Executive Board - 1973 President 1976-1994 Trustee, Pension, Health & Wel-

fare and Training Funds - 1976-1994

Joint Apprenticeship & Training committee - 1976-1994

Elected as a Delegate to the Iron Workers District Council of the North Central States.

Elected as a Delegate to several International Conventions. Appointed by the Local's Executive Board as a Business Agent to represent our Local Union and our Members.

Ken was deeply involved in the merger of Local #783 into Local #8. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ken always had the best in-

(Continued from Page 13) Michigan app for your Search smartphone. 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. This is a great tool to accompany your Health Care benefits.

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

STAY CURRENT ON DUES -Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards and also Echecks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished over the phone to ensure you are current.

**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** 

The workers went public with two other complaints: Google's high-tech work for the U.S. military and its bosses' cooperation with foreign dictators' censors

Google's and Alphabet's more-frequent response was to harass, intimidate and fire workers who spoke up, including four on Thanksgiving and two since. The four were let go, Shaw said, when internal Google memos were circulated among workers about controversial issues - and bosses interpreted that as releasing the memos to the public. No reasons were given for the other two firings.

And it's responded to the organizing announcement by piously saying it respects workers, while hiring a "consultant"- a union-buster – to fight them.

"Discrimination and harassment continue. Alphabet continues to crack down on those who dare to speak out, and keep workers from speaking on sensitive and publicly important topics, like antitrust and monopoly power," the Koul and Shaw wrote in the op-ed.

"For a handful of wealthy executives, this discrimination and unethical working environment are working as intended, at the cost of workers with less institutional power, especially black, brown, queer, trans, disabled, and women workers. Each time workers organize to demand change, Alphabet's executives make token promises, doing the bare minimum in the hopes of placating workers.

'It's not enough."

The workers' complaints focus on helping the firm become the good corporate citizen it first pledged to be as a Silicon Valley startup in 2005. That dictum, "Don't be evil," isn't on its website anymore.

'So we felt we needed a

societies we live in.

The drive got a boost when the National Labor Relations Board's regional office issued complaints, based on evidence from the workers, and a followup investigation, against Google for retaliating against workers who brought up various problems, Shaw noted.

"It was a direct attack on workers, who also wanted to move the company forward," he said. "The NLRB will file charges on both cases. What Google did was illegal."

That doesn't mean they're immediately going to go the NLRB recognition election route, though. "Getting 50 percent plus one is tough, so we're focusing on the concept of what it means to be a union – coming together to fight" for themselves, he explained.

That makes sense. Alphabet Workers United has 226 members and counting. So it's trying something different. Their first decision was to let anyone who works for Google or other Alphabetowned firms join, voluntarily, no matter their position, company, or responsibilities. They then set up a union structure to brainstorm how to carry out their goal, complete with officers and a board.

They immediately instituted democratic elections. They also moved to ensure the most-exploited workers - women, people of color and LGBTQ people, who are overrepresented among the non full-timers – have their own voice on the job, too, and "can focus on specific issues" important to them. The unit's annual assembly will have "similar structures."

Shaw believes those features will attract more and more Google and Alphabet workers to the union. So does CWA.

Local 1400 President Don Trementozzi welcomed the Google workers, adding: "We are a democratic, member-driven union, with experience building and sustaining worker power at some of America's largest corporations. This is an historic step toward making lasting improvements for workers at Google and other Alphabet companies," he said.

MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU VISITANY OF THE UNION OFFICES OR UNION HALLS.

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. 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. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

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

**BENEFIT FOR LIFE** CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days. A Marriage certificate will be required.

Dispatch is OPEN. 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 or the APP to sign up for the out of work list: www.ironworkers25.org

**Steward Meetings are still** cancelled until further notice. 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. For any new member that is logging in for the first time, your Username is your book number and your Password is your last name (all lower-case letters). After logging in for the first time you will be prompted to reset your password.

2) PLEASE be sure to check

Every welding certification

the welder has will be available for viewing and you can see that if it has been renewed; it is good until the year 2021. The site also allows you to print out a copy of the welder WPQR if needed. Click on "list test results." Click on the actual test code you want to see and you will see the test details. On that page click "Printable Form" (WPQR) and you can print the WPQR. If you read this please contact the Training Center for meeting credit.

Pay union dues with creditdebit 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 outdoordues-collection box.

HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY Ernest Scalzi #548026. Ernest will be "100 years young" on January 12th! He started his career as a Rigger in 1954 until he retired in 1982. Since retirement he has done many years of volunteer work for Veterans and for the community. He is also a WW2 Veteran. His favorite past times other than spending time with family, are dancing and singing at karaoke! He is looking forward to returning to this in 2021!

Good Thoughts: Garry Johnson #752446 who resides in Florida would appreciate your thoughts & prayers at this time.

The Novi retirees meeting will be Tuesday, January 19th at 10:00 am and the Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Novi at 9:00 am; No Bay City Chapter meeting until April 2021 (hopefully). Updates will be posted on the local's

rest of our Membership and their families in mind as he made decisions that affected the work lives of our Membership.

Thanks, Skinner, for a job well done.

Burial will be in Rudyard, Michigan and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Our condolences to the Ken Perry family.

## Local 25, con't

website and/or local's column in the Building Tradesman.

**RETIREES, LIFETIME, &** SNOWBIRDS: when you change your address with the Fringe Fund, you need to also call the Novi Union Hall and update vour address.

Watch for updates at (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching "Iron Workers Local 25" to stay informed on union matters.

In Remembrance: Ronald Wheaton #1022416 passed away Saturday, December 12, 2020 at the age of 65. He was a 41-year member. Mark Lapshan #1121563 passed away December 24, 2020 at the age of 62. He was a Rodbuster who started his career with Local 481 in 1986, then moving on to Local 263 in 1996, and finally spending the last 16 years with Local 25. Richard Boeskool #1541498 passed away January 3, 2021 at the age of 50. He was a member for 2-1/2 years. Lynn Edmondson #613593 passed away December 10, 2020 at the age of 83. He was a Local 340 member for 31 years from 1957 to 1988. Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

To all Union Members: Covid-19 has an effect on all of us and our ironworker community is no different. Please keep our membership in your prayers and please do your best to be safe during this pandemic as cases rise. We hope you and your family stay safe and healthy!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (01/11/2021 12:00pm E.S.T.).



In 2016, a proposed initiative intended to reintroduce Arctic grayling to select Michigan streams was announced. That idea immediately caught fire, and Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative now counts more than 40 member organizations among its supporters.

Before the northern Lower Peninsula was heavily lumbered in the mid- to late 1800s, Arctic grayling were the dominant salmonid (fish of the salmon family) species found in cold-water streams.

They were present in such large numbers that people flocked to northern Michigan towns to target this attractive fish, known best for its prominent dorsal fin. Some anglers were catching them in huge numbers and shipping them on ice back to large metropolitan areas like Detroit and Chicago to be sold in fish markets.

They were extirpated (wiped out) from Michigan due to degrading of habitat associated with the timber harvest practices of the day and overharvest by recreational and market anglers. Competition with and predation by introduced species, like brown trout, also played a role in their disappearing from Michigan waters.

Fast forward more than a century to Sept. 17, 2020 - a big dayin the history of fisheries management in Michigan.

That was the day the that the first year-class (fish all produced in the same year) of Arctic grayling future brood fish (those used for breeding purposes) were transferred from an isolated rearing facility at Oden State Fish Hatchery, near Petoskey, to the Marquette State Fish Hatchery in Marquette County.

Approximately 4,000 fish, averaging 6.5 inches in length, made the trip to Marquette.

"This was a really exciting day for the Arctic grayling initiative," said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. "A lot of planning and work has gone into this program and it's great to see it moving forward.'

Along with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the DNR is one of the two foundational



ARCTIC GRAYLING are poured from a net into a raceway at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery in Marquette County. **MDNR** photo

partners taking the lead in the effort to restore this native species to Michigan waters.

Roughly 10,000 eggs collected from the Chena River, a tributary to Alaska's Yukon River, were brought back to Michigan by Michigan State University doctoral candidate Nicole Watson in the spring of 2019.

'Our partners in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have been instrumental in getting the program to where it is," said DNR Fish Production Program Manager Ed Eisch. "They put in a significant amount of extra work during their normal spring egg take operations to help us meet our genetics management goals. That effort allows us to start this program out with a very robust founding stock. The program would not yet have gotten out of the starting blocks if not for their efforts."

Those eggs were destined to make their way to the Oden State Fish Hatchery in Emmett County, once the facility was ready to receive them. Until that time, they were hatched, and the fry were cared for in Watson's lab at MSU in East Lansing. The work being done in her lab focuses on interactions between Arctic grayling, brook trout and brown trout.

Because the eggs originated

from outside of the Great Lakes drainage, they had to be held in quarantine until three separate health exams could be completed.

"The last thing we wanted to do was inadvertently introduce a new pathogen to Michigan's waters," said Dan Sampson who oversees daily operations at Oden Hatchery. 'The whole crew here was determined to do this the right way. I'm proud of the commitment shown by the Oden Hatchery crew."

In order to house the grayling at Oden's isolation building, the structure first needed to be outfitted with an ultraviolet filter on the outflow from the isolation facility. This is different from how UV filters are normally used in hatchery settings.

Typically, they are used to protect hatchery fish from pathogens in the rearing water. In this instance though, the UV filter is being used to protect the fish in the receiving waters from unknown pathogens that the hatchery fish may be harboring.

"Now that we've completed a rigorous testing protocol, we're confident that they are fit for use in this reintroduction effort," Eisch said.

Installing the UV unit was an expensive endeavor. The roughly \$300,000 project was funded al-

most entirely by donations from

charitable organizations, families

and individuals. The Little River

Band of Ottawa Indians and the

Henry E. and Consuela S. Wenger

Foundation led the way with very

generous donations toward this

will now be cared for by the

Marquette State Fish Hatcherv

staff until they are ready to begin

producing eggs. That normally

occurs when the fish are 4 to 6

This first year-class of fish

project.

years old.

#### January 15, 2021 THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 15

While the global coronavirus pandemic situation forced a one-year hiatus in development of the gravling brood stock, DNR staff are planning to go back to Alaska to retrieve two additional year-classes of grayling eggs in 2021 and 2022.

There are four watersheds currently being considered as candidates to receive the Arctic grayling in northern Lower Michigan. These include the Manistee River watershed, with a focus on the middle and upper portions, the Maple River watershed near Pellston, the Boardman River watershed near Traverse City and the Jordan River watershed near Charlevoix.

There were two criteria to be met for river systems to be considered as grayling reintroduction watershed candidates. First, they must have historically held selfsustaining Arctic grayling populations. Second, there must be clear community support for reintroduction, as evidenced by the stream being nominated by local governments, angling groups, et cetera.

There is much to do while waiting for the grayling brood stock to reach sexual maturity.

Decisions still need to be made on which watersheds will be targeted in this effort. Field staff and researchers from several of the partner groups will be closely evaluating habitat to determine which streams provide the best chances for successful reintroduction.

Habitat appropriate for all life stages must be present; the connectivity of the watershed must be adequate to allow the fish to reach those habitats at the appropriate times; temperature patterns must be right; large numbers of predator species such as brown trout must not be present. Understanding the conditions in the streams will maximize the likelihood of success for this exciting program.

This is not your average fish stocking endeavor.

Rather than stocking fingerlings or yearlings that were reared in hatcheries, this program calls for stocking eggs into remote site incubators that will be placed right in the streams where it's hoped the fish will thrive.

Soon after hatching, the fry will emerge from the incubators into the stream. From that point, it will be up to them to survive. The strategy is being modeled after successful efforts to bolster Arctic grayling populations in Montana.

The goal of Michigan's Arctic Grayling initiative is to restore self-sustaining populations of this iconic species to streams in Michigan where they historically existed before their elimination.

"This is more of a marathon than a sprint," Dexter said. "The absolute pinnacle of success of this program would be to someday have fishing opportunity in the streams where grayling was once king."

(From the Michigan DNR)



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