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March 24, 2023



Trades mourn loss of John Wallace

Condolences go out to the family, friends and associates of John Wal-



lace, a business representative with the Greater Detroit Building Trades Council. Mr.

John Wallace Wallace died March 10, 2023, at age 77.

Mr. Wallace, a Michigan Regional Carpenters Council member, was a City of Detroit representative for the council from 1986 until he went into semi-retirement about a decade ago. He continued to work administering contracts between the city and the building trades on a part-time basis.

"John was a true professional; he was knowledgeable, hard-working, and he really knew his business,' said Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin. "And besides all that, he was just a good guy to work with. He will be missed."

Separated workers need not be silent

MOUNT CLEMENS (PAI) -The National Labor Relations Board has outlawed yet another employer tactic during an union organizing drive: Offering high severance pay to pro-union workers if they would, in plain English, quit, sit down and shut up.

Letting firms make such conditional offers would coerce workers into ceding their rights, and that's illegal, the board majority ruled, 3-1, reversing two Trump-era NLRB decisions from 2020.

The case arose out of a successful 2019 organizing drive by Office and Professional Employees Local 40 at the McClaren-Macomb Hospital. The local had won the allegiance of the hospital's nurses the year before.

In this drive, 320 support staffers – clerical associates, couriers, critical care techs, dispatchers, lab assistants, patient access reps, patient sitters, pharmacy techs and several other groups of workers - voted 172-113 on Aug. 28, 2019, for Local 40.

But not before hospital bosses tried to derail the local's campaign by offering high severance packages to 11 of them whom it furloughed – but only if they signed non-disclosure agreements and promised confidentiality, and not to say a word against the hospital. The offer included a warning: Break your promise and we'll go to court for an injunction against you.

Making offers without discussing them with Local 40 broke labor law, Administrative Law Judge Robert Ringler had ruled. He also ruled the hospital broke the law by direct dealing with workers. On Feb. 21, 2023, the full NLRB agreed 4-0 with Ringler on both counts.

"The non-disparagement and confidentiality provisions of the severance agreement unlawfully restrain and coerce the furloughed employees in the exercise of their rights," McFerran wrote in this case.

The NLRB stated: "Merely offering the agreement breaks labor law... it has a reasonable tendency to interfere with or restrain the prospective exercise of" worker rights, both by the worker involved "and those who remain employed."

Quotable

"The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone. -Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896)

Michigan unions savor rare wins

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

double-barreled shot heard in both of Michigan's peninsulas.

Working with a razor-thin, single-vote Democrat majorities in both the state House and Senate, the unified, union-friendly Michigan lawmakers this month threw out the state's loathed 10-year-old right-to-work law.

Then, the Dem lawmakers

vote to reinstate a statewide prevailing wage law, which had been in place beginning in 1965 before being rescinded in 2018

trades and other unions. Republican lawmakers had controlled at least one part of state government for 40 years prior to

by Republican lawmakers – over

howls of protest from the building

tion, and almost no one expected Dems to win unified control in Lansing. But Dems, shockingly, flipped both the House and Senate, winning a 56-54 majority in the House and 20-18 in the Senate.

Getting a new labor-friendly House and Senate was a major electoral victory last year for the building trades and the rest of

'It's a new era in Lansing' for state's workers LANSING - It was a loud, followed that up with a similar the Nov. 8, 2022, statewide elec- Michigan's labor movement, which subsequently made RTW repeal and prevailing wage reinstatement as priorities No. 1 and 2 for the state Legislature this year. Democratic leaders, looking at potential absences among their caucus, pushed to get those priorities done before the lawmakers' spring break.

Mission accomplished, mostly: the Michigan House approved both the RTW repeal and prevailing wage reinstatement by a 56-53 party-line vote on March 8. Dems in the state

Senate similarly used their majority to approve the measure on March 14. When some details are worked out between the House and Senate versions of the bills, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has pledged to sign both.

We've known this day was coming since we woke up on Nov. 9 and realized we had achieved majority. Exactly 120 days ago, Michiganders chose new leadership in the Michigan Legislature, and today demonstrates they chose leaders who will stand up for workers," said state Rep. Jim Haadsma (Continued on Page 2)

Dem lawmakers give right-to-work a kick to the curb

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

LANSING - Michigan's union members had been squeezed hard by Republican lawmakers over the past decade, but this month their labor organizations regain a significant amount of space to grow and prosper.

An historic vote by the new majority of Democrats in both the state House and Senate will make Michigan the first state since 1958 to repeal its right-to-work law. At press time, differences between the House and Senate bills still hadn't been resolved for both the RTW repeal and new prevailing wage bills but an agreement is expected soon.

'The ability to speak up together with one voice for better pay and benefits and safer workplace conditions is a right that workers deserve," said Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids). "By repealing anti-worker laws, we're making our state a

'We are taking this historic opportunity to restore workers' freedom'

> - Senate Majority **Leader Winnie Brinks**

place where people want to come, work hard, and build a life knowing that they will be respected and able to earn a good living. It's a new era in Lansing and we are taking this historic opportunity to restore workers' freedom."

Proponents of RTW said it makes a state more "businessfriendly" but there is little evidence of that in Michigan and elsewhere - and left unsaid by antagonists is that numerous academic studies have shown rightto-work lowers workers' pay, access to health care, and reduces (Continued on Page 2)

So RTW is settled? It likely ain't over 'till Big Business - or state voters - say it's over

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING – The rescinding of Michigan's right-to-work law last week may be only the start of a pitched battle – and if it happens it would most likely be played out between some billionaires and the state's unions and their supporters.

The battle – now only theoneers 324 Labor Management retical - would take the form of a statewide petition drive and subsequent vote to enshrine

right-to-work in the Michigan Constitution. And it would come as no surprise if the state's newly revitalized prevailing wage law were given similar treatment. Such a move would usurp any past, future or present action on RTW or prevailing wage taken by the Michigan Legislature, and could only be changed by... another citizens petition drive and

subsequent vote of the people. "I think that efforts to put together a ballot initiative for a constitutional amendment is fairly likely," said Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan and the state's former lieutenant governor, to Bridge Magazine. He said business groups have already been discussing how they would respond to the loss of the RTW

Similarly, MIRS news service reported on March 7 that it saw an internal memo circulated by "members of Michigan's business community" to start a petition drive to enshrine "worker freedom" and RTW in the state Constitution. "While there is always an appetite to make important public policy invulnerable to legislative repeal and the shifting political winds, the timing of a Right to Work constitutional amendment could be ripe in Michigan," the memo

To make enshrining RTW in Michigan's Constitution more difficult, majority Democrats took a page out of the Republican playbook and added an appropriation of \$1 million to the new law. Adding a monetary appropriation to a law prevents it from being rescinded by a referendum campaign, so instead it would take a constitutional amendment - in a process requiring double the number of petition signatures.

Todd Tennis of Capitol Services, a lobbyist for the IBEW, suggested succeeding with such (Continued on Page 2)



THE ORNATE SENATE chamber at the Michigan Capitol Building in Lansing – controlled by state

Republicans from 1982-2022 - had become a chamber of horrors for organized labor over the past

decade. But an overflow crowd on March 14 celebrated the votes by the new Democratic majority

to repeal the state's right-to-work law (adopted in 2012) and reinstitute the Michigan Prevailing

Wage act, which was rescinded by GOP lawmakers five years ago.

Editor

LANSING – The Michigan Prevailing Wage Act of 1965 had been minding its own business for 53 years, stabilizing the state's construction industry, assuring fair wages for workers, keeping shady contractors from underbidding their peers by paying workers poverty wages, while keeping local contractors in business, among other benefits.

Republican lawmakers rescinded the law in 2018, anyway. But now the narrow majority of House and Senate Democrats brought prevailing wage back to Michigan this month in party-line votes – to the delight of those who support fairly paid tradespeople, both union and nonunion, and a more stable construction industry.

"House Democrats promised we would restore prevailing wage, and we have kept our promise," said state Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac), sponsor of HB 4007. "Michigan workers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and that starts by ensuring fair wages. We must ensure our hardworking residents receive pay that's in line with the value of their skills and services. We must also offer competitive wages in order to attract and retain a highly trained workforce, because we do not want to see critical infrastructure projects built by contractors that cut corners."

The argument in favor of repealing prevailing wage is a thin one. Projects paying prevailing wages "cost 10-15 percent more than if it was built by the private

Olive), in 2018, without evidence. "The time has come to eliminate this outdated law and save our taxpayers money."

But then and now, the weight of evidence in academia is that that there isn't any cost savings to taxpayers in repealing prevailing wage – but taking away the wage standards is a bad idea in a number of ways. Michigan Democratic lawmakers righted that wrong.

Price Dobernick, business manager of Lansing Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 and president of the Michigan Pipe Trades Association, testified to the House Labor Committee that the state's

during the past (Snyder) Administration. When it was in place, it worked. It assured that schools, bridges and other public works projects were built on time, and on budget using a highly skilled workforce. Reinstating prevailing wage will help expand well-paid, safe jobs with quality work that will stand the test of time. Those hard-earned wages will be spent in the local communities where those projects are taking place, which will help our local businesses thrive."

Testified Operating Engi-Education Committee Executive (Continued on Page 14)



lawmakers were set to eliminate right to work in Michigan and reinstitute the state's prevailing Photo credit: Marty Mulcahy

meet established goals for quality.

per year in roads and bridges to tion of Michigan. "We have dis-

"Michigan is faced with a decades in Lansing." Michigan

State's road repair tab is going to sting, group says be significantly more depending to invest an additional \$2.2 billion tor for the County Road Associa-

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

Buckle up. Spurred on by inflation and ongoing funding inaction, the cost of providing a consistent funding mechanism to fix Michigan's roads is climbing.

Public Sector Consultants on March 8 released a new report titled "Michigan Transportation Needs and Funding Solutions."After accounting for new federal and state funding, there is an estimated annual statewide funding gap of up to \$3.9 billion per year, and it could

on the maintenance approach.

To compare, back in 2016, the State of Michigan's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission estimated that Michigan needed

funding crisis," said Ed Noyola, chief deputy and legislative direc-U.S. construction materials prices rose a bit from January to

The Associated General Contractors reported March 15

that construction input costs rose 0.4 percent. That's mild compared to the increases in construction costs of 20 percent-plus during

tors are naggingly high. "Today's price report shows

that construction costs are not necessarily settling back to 'normal'," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "A resurgence of prices for glass, metals, cement, and paving materials suggests many projects may get more

cussed this for decades, literally

residents can expect to cough up

(Continued on Page 14)

Construction material costs see milder hikes

February, but the hike is not in the league of some of the worst the course of 2021 and 2022. But price hikes over the past couple costs in individual material sec-

expensive in coming months."

Viewpoints



Right-to-work: they said it

A few more thoughts about Michigan's historic move away from right-to-work, and back to embacing prevailing wage: "It's hard to overstate the significance of this moment. Hundreds

of workers showed up in Lansing again to celebrate the culmination of decades of hard work, tireless organizing, and relentless advocacy to restore workers' freedom. "After 40 years, working people across Michigan finally have

a government that puts workers first, ahead of corporate interests and the mega-rich like Betsy DeVos. Our Democratic leaders in Lansing promised to make Michigan a workers' rights state and yesterday, they delivered.

-Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber

"The swing of Michigan back into the pro-union column and the prospect of a revived UAW may both be part of the larger movement in public sentiment, which last year reached the highest approval ratings for unions (over 70 percent), as measured by both Gallup and Pew, since the mid-1960s. None of that, alas, is sufficient to restore the modicum of worker power that can only come with a vibrant union movement.

"That will require a strengthening of labor law to again give workers an unencumbered right to join unions, which business and Republican-dominated courts and administrations have stripped away over the past 60 years. That said, let's hope what's happening in Michigan this week doesn't stay just in Michigan.

-Harold Meyerson, The American Prospect

Headline: "Michigan Dems are reversing right-to-work law, putting muscle back on unions'bones'

"In addition to burying the legacy of Rick Snyder even deeper along the banks of the Flint River, overturning the right-to-work law will resonate nationally. From the Washington Post: 'It is exceedingly rare for states to overturn right-to-work laws. The Economic Policy Institute, a Washington-based think tank, said if Michigan Gov. Whitmer signs the bill into law, Michigan will be the first state to repeal a right-to-work law in nearly six decades.

-Charles Pierce, Esquire Magazine, March 15

Michigan "would be one of only a handful of repeals of any statewide right-to-work laws. "It's a huge deal," Jake Grumbach, a political scientist at the University of Washington who has studied the issue, told me. Currently, 27 states have such laws, including most of the South and the Great Plains, as well as Indiana and Wisconsin. Whenever Republicans control both the legislature and governorship in a state, they typically push for a right-to-work law. Yet when Democrats have taken control of a state government, they have sometimes left the law in place, as was the case in Virginia a few years ago, Grumbach noted.'

-David Leonhardt, The New York Times, March 10

(Indiana has been the most recent state to repeal RTW: adopting it in 1957, repealing it in 1965, then reinstating it 2012). Silence (perhaps in disbelief).

-The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a rabidly anti-union group founded and funded to promulgate right-to-work states. Their stated mission: "to eliminate coercive union power and compulsory unionism abuses through strategic litigation, public information, and education programs." Michigan is the first time they let one get away.

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

Michigan unions savor rare wins

(Continued from Page 1)

(D-Battle Creek) of the House Labor Committee. "I am grateful our constituents trusted us to restore workers' freedoms and re-establish union rights. And I am thankful to all the hardworking people and unions in Michigan that make this state strong and healthy."

The statewide repeal of RTW essentially only governs workers

in private industry, public workers in Michigan and nationwide are still impacted by the Supreme Court's Janus decision 2018 that bans mandatory collection of dues from workers who choose not to pay them.

"House Democrats will always stand in solidarity with working families, and the bills that were passed today restore the power of Michigan workers,

give them the freedom to expand their rights, and deliver on our promise to put Michigan workers first," said state Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park), sponsor of the bills that eliminated the state's right-to-work law. "We are proud to stand with workers across our state and ensure that they have a seat at the bargaining table and their rights are restored."

One GOP lawmaker on

the House Labor Committee complained about the speed of the legislative process during the proceedings, while a Dem snorted that in 2012 there were zero public hearings on RTW repeal allowed by the controlling Republican caucus.

"Decades of attacks on workers' rights have dragged down wages, weakened benefits, and exacerbated the share of wealth going to corporate elites like Betsy DeVos," said Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber. "The new pro-worker majorities in the Legislature are taking a historic step to undo this damage and restore worker freedom in Michigan."

RTW gets kick to the curb

(Continued from Page 1)

union membership numbers. Michigan's RTW law was adopted in 2012 by a GOP majority behind closed doors and with no legislative hearings. More than 10,000 workers and supporters gathered at the Michigan Capitol Building that year to protest its passage. It was pushed through by Republican lawmakers with big-money backing from the Devos family in Grand Rapids and the state Chamber of Commerce.

"I was here 10 years ago and thousands and thousands of people were protesting on the Capitol lawn. I just want it noted, there's not thousands of people here protesting the repeal of right to work. It's pretty clear on that," said Jonathan Byrd director of external affairs for the Michigan Laborers' District Council, testifying before the House Labor Committee on March 8.

There were union-friendly overflow crowds in both the House and Senate chambers, though. Bird added: "It really is a freeloader concept. These benefits that we administer cost a lot

of money and the folks who gain that benefit should help to pay."

The freeloader concept refers to the basic idea behind rightto-work, which allows a worker to enjoy the benefits of a union contract without paying dues. It is widely understood that RTW laws are put in place to weaken labor unions. Michigan's unionization rate dropped from 16.6 percent in 2012 to 14 percent last year.

State Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), who introduced the RTW repeal bill, was applauded by the overflow crowd outside the Senate hearing when he pointedly asked about the state's right to work law: "what job has this created?" He also asked what country club or other group would allow dues, while a right-to-work law requires unions to represent workers who don't pay union dues.

"Today, we are doing something no state has done in nearly 60 years," said Camilleri. "With the repeal of these worker suppression laws, workers all across our state will be able to secure better wages, benefits, and treatment at their jobs, and it will help build power in families that will last for generations, like it did for my own."

Democratic lawmakers added a \$1 million appropriation to the law banning RTW, making it more difficult to eliminate via a petition drive.

And there is likely lot more pro-worker legislation that will be up for consideration by Dems members who don't pay their in the coming weeks.

Just joking

A fight broke out at a big wedding, and it was so bad that it ended up in court.

The wedding party assembled in the courtroom



and the judge asked, "can anyone explain what happened?" The best man responds,

'allow me to

explain. I was the best man and I was dancing with the bride. We were dancing quite close when the groom stormed up and kicked the poor bride in the fanny!"

'I see," said the judge, looking over to the bride. "That must have hurt!"

'Damn right!" the best man piped up, holding up a bandaged hand. "That kick broke three of my fingers!"

RTW likely ain't over

(Continued from Page 1)

a petition drive would be a tough hill to climb for the GOP and whatever big-money backers fund the effort.

"It's much more common for people to vote 'no' on a ballot issue

that that they may have little knowledge of," he said. "And unions are going to be out there saying, 'vote no to protect your job, or vote no so they don't lower your paycheck.' It won't be hard to create a groundswell of outrage."

MICHIGAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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Patrick Devlin Steve Claywell **Secretary-Treasurer** President Visit our website: www.michiganbuildingtrades.

Marty Mulcahy

E-mail:

The Building Tradesman 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216 Phone: (313) 961-3800 Fax: (313) 961-2467

Union members with address changes

Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office. 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216 **Advertising Director** Editor/Photographer

Joe Hoshaw E-mail: btads@ameritech.net

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THE PORT HURON

RAIL BRIDGE (erected in

Black River has been in the

upright position since rail

traffic stopped there in the

process of being demolished

early 1970s. The unique,

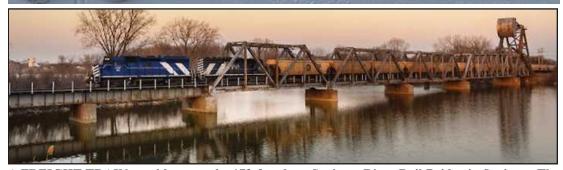
historic bridge is in the

and sold for scrap.

Photo credit: Journal of the CSX Historical Society

1931) at the mouth of the

Building Michigan: Michigan's rail bridge rarities History in the making



A FREIGHT TRAIN rumbles over the 172-foot-long Saginaw River Rail Bridge in Saginaw. The bridge's rare Abt bascule drawbridge – which no longer rises for marine traffic – is at the right side of the photo. Completed in 1944 during World War II, construction of the span and use of precious steel was a result of it being designated a "critical job" in order to move goods and materials domestically for the war effort.

Photo credit: Industrial Scenery

It's highly unlikely that you have heard of a guy named Hugo Abt, a railroad bridge engineer who left behind some unique, made-to-last bridges in Michigan.

A civil engineer in Chicago for the American Bridge Co., "Abt believed that there was a more efficient way to construct a bascule bridge, especially for railroad service. After considerable thought, he applied for and was granted three U.S. patents, the first granted in 1921 and the basis for the bridges actually constructed," wrote civil engineer Jeffrey D. Routson in his 2020 paper, Hugo Abt Inventor of the Abt Bascule Bridge.

It's also highly unlikely that you have heard of the Moveable Bridge Hall of Fame, which is the source of the above quote (and which just goes to show that there are halls of fame for just about everything).

Abt, who died in 1959, leaves a nerdy but important legacy here in Michigan. Our state is home to three of his rare bascule bridge designs – which amounts to half of those that remain on the North American continent. They have 448 years of combined service.

"Apparently very few examples of the Abt bascule bridge type were ever constructed," says *Historic Bridges*. "John A. Schultz Jr. of Hazelet and Erdal Inc. commenting in a 1994 presentation at the fifth Biennial Symposium at Heavy Movable Structures Inc. that

there were only eight Abt bascule bridges built. Michigan however is lucky enough to have three examples."

The other three that are still in existence are in California. "This yields a total of only six Abt bascule bridges in the entire country remaining. As such, this bascule type appears to be exceedingly rare," Historic Bridges said.

Abt's first bascule span using his new design was the 162-foot-long, still-in-service Wabash Railroad bridge over the Rouge River, erected in Detroit in 1922 (which we featured in the past). He built several others in other parts of the country in the 1920s. Then, working for the Pere Marquette Railway as a client, he designed the 172-foot through-truss over the Black River in Port Huron in 1931 – a structure that today is in grave danger of demolition. Finally in 1944 he designed the still-in-service, 172-foot through-truss over the Saginaw River in Saginaw, also for the Pere Marquette.

The American Bridge Co. built bridges short and long all across the country during the last century, from the mighty Mackinac Bridge to the lowliest single lane viaduct. In their own way, rail bridges were more of a challenge than any other type of span their engineers designed. With river crossings, bridge designs often needed to carry increasingly heavy locomotives and rolling stock, while still being able to be lifted or

shifted out of the way to allow for the passage of watercraft.

One popular engineering solution: a bascule lift bridge, basically a drawbridge with the weight of the span balanced by a counterweight. Like a seesaw, this allows raising and lowering of the bridge span with relatively little energy.

The patented bascule design by Abt most visibly features a "basket" style counterweight that lifts the span's leaf to allow for passage of marine traffic. Made from riveted steel plate, it had a bucket design with the open area facing upward, making it easy to pour concrete into the basket during construction.

But the bridge style also separated the weight of the counterweight and the bascule leaf so that the bridge weight was not focused on a single pier or abutment. This allowed for the use of lighter structural steel. While other "fixed trunnion" style bascule bridges of the era used a fixed rotating pinion gear directly attached to the leaf, Abt's design further spread out the span's weight with a rotating motor-operated pinion gear moving along a stationary frame. The "motor carriage" moves along with the pinion gear during bridge operation.

Importantly, this design also made it possible to build an Abt bascule bridge along the existing track alignment of a bridge that's being replaced, without affecting train traffic. The bridge would be constructed on the opposite side of the river as the existing bascule bridge, and it would be constructed in the raised position, and lowered into place when complete. Train traffic would drive under the counterweight. and through the construction, which would all have been occurring overhead and out of the way.

Port Huron's Abt-designed bridge hasn't spanned the Black River since 1973, when rail traffic no longer needed to cross the river. The bridge's leaf was permanently moved into the upright position, but it is on land that was purchased a decade ago by the Port Huron Yacht Club. The group wants to build an observation tower on the site, sell the bridge for scrap, and has applied for a demolition permit to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Corps of Engineers.

"The bridge serves as a visual landmark of the entrance to the Black River and a reminder of Port Huron's rich railroad history. Would they want to tarnish their reputation as a community partner by destroying a national (historic) site for money?" asked The Friends of the Pere Marquette Railroad Bridge. Media reports say a final decision on the

bridge's fate seems imminent.

The Saginaw Bridge, the final use of Abt's design, still carries CSX rail traffic over the Saginaw River, although its bascule leaf is now permanently fixed in the down position on the east end of the bridge. And its steel is a different design, perhaps a reflection of being constructed during World War II. Historic Bridges called it "a good example of the transition from v-laced and latticed

built-up beams to a more plain

March 24, 2023

built-up beams to a more plain built-up box beam that feature only punched holes. The mechanics of the bascule span are very much like the Port Huron Railroad Bridge."

Looking back at the Abt/ American Bridge design in a 1989 article, the *Engineering News Record* said the legacy of the Rouge River, Port Huron and Saginaw River rail bridge designs was perhaps more important to the people building it at the time. The fact that they provided decades of dependable service has been a bonus.

"A type of bascule bridge was developed with replacement of existing bridges in mind," said Engineering News Record. "The Abt, or American Bridge type of bascule, was designed by Hugo Abt to avoid interference with traffic while building a new bridge on an existing alignment. The Abt bridge counterweight moves in the opposite direction to a normal bascule counterweight and does not foul the approach when in the open position as a bascule with an overhead counterweight usually does."

A group of Port Huron



A DRONE VIEW looking down the Port Huron Rail Bridge.

Photo credit: Friends of the Pere Marquette Railroad Bridge historic preservationists has maintained its campaign to keep their Black River bridge in place. "The bridge is historically significant because it represents an unusual, rare, patented bridge design," says online magazine Port Huron Healthy Living, "and, as such demonstrates, the creativity and ingenuity of bridge engineers of the past."



THE FIRST ABT/American Bridge bascule drawbridge design in Michigan, and the country, was built over the Rouge River in Detroit in 1922. Now framed by the I-75 bridge, iron workers renovated the still-active rail bridge for Norfolk-Southern last year.

Photo credit: Building Tradesman file



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Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW - The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road starting at 7 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Grayling Eagles #3465, at 602 Huron St. Grayling, MI 49738.

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

Contact Information: 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 Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

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

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

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 ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause

problems with your Health Insurance. ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with

the local you are working out of (Continued next column)



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190 ANN ARBOR - UNION **MEETING:** A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, April 10 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UP COM-**ING HOLIDAY:** For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 26 and all day Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 1. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, this application will be available April 1 online only www.ua.org.

ATTENTION MI GAS **DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS:** A "Special-Called Meeting" for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, MI

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

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

MICHIGAN LICENSE **RENEWAL:** Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www. michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

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

LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK - IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEM-**BERS:** All members who get laid off or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.

PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

INFORMATION FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 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 A REPRESENTATIVE

Local 85, con't

indicated. We will fax them 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 up-to-date information.

CONDOLENCES: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Warren Nelson who passed away on Feb. 11, 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Gary McPhall who passed away March 13, 2023. Fraternally,

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

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

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

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

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MD-HHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

Check your Certifications to make sure that you are cur-

Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.

Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 3rd, July 17th, and Oct 2nd. Each class will start at

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 17, July 24, and Oct 16. Each class will start at 5 pm.

Welding Lab: The welding lab is open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, and Saturday from 7:00am-3:30pm until May 20, 2023. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Weld tests will be scheduled by the Training Coordinator after participants are approved by welding instructors.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). 2023 Schedule: First course starts on Jan 10. Second course starts Sept 12. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure vour spot.

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE **INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2023 Schedule:** First course starts Feb 14. Second course starts Oct 17. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/ or piping industry. 2023 Schedule: First course starts March 14. Second course starts Aug **22.** Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for the course.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. 2023 Schedule: First course starts April 18. Second course starts Sept 26. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put

on the list for the next class. EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be late spring. Class size is limited to 8.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes scheduled for the following dates. Monday, March 20 refresher starts at 5 p.m. and then on Monday, March 27th test starts at 5 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

RETIREE MEETINGS -PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, at the Union Hall. Join us for card

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



Plumbers Local 98

DETROIT - Membership of

Plumbers Local 98, Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found there. Go to

UALOCAL98.COM. Meetings & Union Hall. The Union Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm at the Union Hall.

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

Retiree Meetings. The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, April 12th from 12 pm - 2 pm.

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

It's time for renewal of your State of Mi. Plumbing License for Journeymen and apprentices, for detailed instructions visit www. michigan.gov/bcc

Please join us on Saturday March 25 for a spaghetti dinner for Brother Kevin Dulapa. He has major treatments related to health issues, it will be from 1-5 pm. We have 50/50 raffles a silent -auctions and more. A \$20 dollar donation is at the door, Kids 12-4 are \$5.00, 3 and under are free.

Adopt-A-Highway. Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway will be April 22, 2023 at 8am. Meet at the Roseville Bob Evans on 13 and Gratiot. Please call Business Agent Gary Glaser (313) 580-0148 to RSVP.

Attention Hockey Players, any 98 member who is interested in playing hockey please contact Dan Nixon @ 248-752-3702. We will be sending a team to the UA tournament in Hamilton Ontario May 5-7, we are an open age B team and the team has started practices. You must have a valid passport or enhanced driver's License to cross the border. The team has regular schedule of games this fall as well.

FOOD DRIVE President Jim Cools has set up a Food Drive Committee. As we all know, there are way too many people, and way too many families that go hungry every day. Local 98 is going to be hosting food drives at the Union Hall to help out those in need. We will be collecting non-perishable food and bottled water throughout the year and we will also be hosting a food drive fall. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact BA Dan Nixon or Jim Cools at the hall.

SUB Apps/Out Of Work **List.** You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App weather you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702

Benefits. *Change for "Golden Dental," they are now DENCAP, no change in your plan and the good news is there are more locations added to their preferred list. More information can be obtained at 313-972-1400 or info@dencap. **com** . We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. His name is Andrew Hill and he is the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Andrew will be receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues. call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Andrew. If Andrew is on the other line, please leave him a message and

he will get back to you promptly. Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo for Pension issues. If you are looking to retire, please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

Congratulations to those who

have hung up their bibs: **Dues.** You can pay your dues online, over the phone, in person or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto payments. Any other dues questions, please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 ext. 3. If you ordered a yearly dues flannel before you come pick it up, please call first to make sure it's in.

The following members are

delinquent on dues and are working for our contractors. If you are working with these **EXPELLED** MEMBERS, please push them to get with the hall and get caught up. Thomas Mann, Steven Hawes, Thomas McGowan, David Childress, Mike Hofer, Justin Willard, Adam Atkinson, Ken Stone, Jesse Nowak, Tyler Lee, Scott Percha, Mark Rienhold, Matt Lugg, Matt Maples, Rob McFarlin, Tyler Waldecker, Mitchel Mason, Mike Rakes. If you know they have left 98 please let us know. Thank you.

Good/Welfare. In Memoriam: Our sympathies to family and friends of Brother Brian McGlade Initiated 9-11-1959, 63-year member.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. 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 TRAINING CENTER

NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435 Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 28, 2023. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any auestions.

STATE OF MICHIGAN **PLUMBING LICENSE. 2018** Michigan Plumbing Code Update- Deadline for taking the update is March 31, 2023. There are several classes offered online. To find the online classes, go to cebroker.com and select "Find CE/CME", then choose Michigan and Plumbing Journey to see a list of approved courses. There is also an online course put together by UA Local 370 that can be found at cetsource.com.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING in the spring and another in the CLASSES OFFERED IN 2023. All classes are register and prepay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is April 12, 2023 at 4:30 pm. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber- 40 hour class-\$100 fee

Fall: Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

Hydronic Heating and Cooling – 40 hour class - \$100

Fall: Sept. 18 to Nov. 20. Deadline to register Sept. 1

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

4 hour recert class April 18 & 19 Deadline is March 17 4 hour recert class July 25

& 26 Deadline is June 23 4 hour recert class October

& 25 Deadline is September

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): **Fall**: Sept. 18 – Nov. 27

Deadline is August 11-\$200 ASSE Repairer: *** Prerequisite: Must hold a current

5110 Tester Certification Fall: Sept. 21 - Oct. 26, Deadline is Aug. 11 -\$100

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

Fall: Sept. 19 to Oct. 28, Deadline is Aug. 11 -\$200 Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Fall: Sept. 20 - Nov. 29

Deadline to register Sept. 1 -\$200 **OPEN WELDING - Win**ter is here, it is a great time to get into a booth and upgrade some welding skills! Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth

(Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT - The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday April 12, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two 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.

Local 704's JATC is seeking resumes for two part time instructors. Any 704 member who is interested can submit a resume to Local 704 by end of business March 31st.

It is the member's responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.

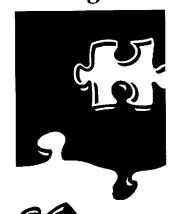
Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund ques-TIC International: 248-

645-6550 for D.C. Fund distribution questions. Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-655-4048 for D.C.

Fund Investment questions. A reminder to please update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery to all our sick and injured members.

You Are the Missing Piece.



Attend Union Meetings!

Local 98, con't

availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of

the month, call to get a booth. *2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule

an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be Saturday, April 1 and May 6, 2023. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to

be in the shop area. 2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms are available at the Training Center. You **must** have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement. **Dead**line to submit 2022 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2023.

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

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

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



Local 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30.

GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a Union Outing Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on Saturday, June 3 at 6:35 pm. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before Friday, June 2, to reserve your tickets.

TAX PREP INFORMA-TION: Dollar amounts are available for 2022 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.

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

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Cafe, 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. for the location is (269) 775-1775.

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

WEBSITE INFORMA-TION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www. ualocal357.com and the *FACE-BOOK* Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password.

Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call 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.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of retired brother and life member, Jay Smith, on his recent passing.



Local 636
Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters Local 636

DETROIT – There will be a **Special Called Union meeting** for the purpose of reviewing our local's 2022 financial report on April 18, 2023, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

CALLING ALL RETIR-EES! The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall. The next retiree meeting will be held, April 20, 2023.

Stewards Training. There will be a Stewards training class/meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5 p.m., at the Local 636 Union Hall. Please R.S.V.P. to the Job Office to register.

Allocations. The second year of the current contract provides for \$2.50 to be allocated by the local membership. Please submit to the Business Manager in writing or by email to scadena@pipefitters636.org, any suggestions you may have. The vote on allocations will take place at the May 16, 2023, meeting.

PLDF update. For the members who have not paid their PLDF see the information below. Remember, dues cannot be accepted until the ten week assessment beginning the week of June 20 through Aug. 28, 2022, is paid. \$140 for Journeymen/\$70 apprentice, Service Graduates and MES members.

For those claiming vacation, it is necessary to send the week before and after paystubs for verification. There is a separate email address for the PLDF, pldf@pipefitters636.org to send a copy of your paystubs.

If you wish to send in a check or money order made out to **Pipefitters Local 636 PLDF** directly to the hall-Please send to: Pipefitters Local 636, 30100 Northwestern Hwy, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

You may contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall if you wish to pay the PLDF assessment by phone, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by

credit card or bank account.

THE FOLLOWING
CHANGES TO OUR LOCAL
636 INSURANCE POLICIES
ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF Jan.
1, 2023:

Active Participants: We are pleased to announce that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) will be your preferred provider network for medical claims and your prescription drugs will be processed through BCBSM. This means BCBSM will be replacing Health Alliance Plan (HAP) as the in-network provider for your medical claims, and BCBSM (in partnership with Optum) will also be replacing Express Scripts (ESI) for prescription drug processing. We believe this change will provide our participants greater access to in-network providers locally and throughout the United States, as well as reduce costs.

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after Jan. 1, 2023. If you have not received your new ID cards, please contact the fund office at 248-641-4936. You can also download the BCBSM app on your smart phone and access your ID card information from there. You may also register your account on the BCBSM website to help manage your costs and care.

We believe the vast majority of your providers are in the BCBSM network. A list of innetwork providers can be found at www.bcbsm.com. Instructions to navigate the site are:

- 1. Select "Find a Doctor" on the left hand side of the page,
- 2. Click "Search Without Logging In",
- 3. Enter ZIP CODE and

select "PPO".

From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty.

Please contact the fund office with any questions.

NON-Medicare Retirees:
Medical and prescription drug coverage for NON-Medicare retirees will be provided through a fully insured policy issued by HUMANA. This means HU-MANA will be replacing Health Alliance Plan (HAP) as the in-network provider for your medical claims, and HUMANA will also be replacing Express

Scripts (ESI) for prescription drug processing.

You should have received new insurance cards to be used on or after January 1, 2023. Due to a coding error, some members and dependents may have received a second ID card from HUMANA. Please use this ID card and destroy the one received previously. Please contact the fund office with any questions regarding eligibility or ID cards at 248-641-4936.

We believe the majority of your providers are in the HUMA-NA network. A list of in-network providers can be found at www. humana.com. Instructions to navigate the site are:

1. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Find a Doctor",
2. Enter ZIP CODE and select "Insurance Through Your

Employer".

3. Select network "HUMA-NA/Choice Care Network PPO". From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty. Any questions you have in regards to the provider network, pharmacy Rx or claims, you can call HUMANA Customer Service at 800-448-6262.

Dues. Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

S.U.B. Please send all requests for payment to Wanda Autrey at **subpay@pipefitters636. org** to be processed. All requests must be filed within 30 days per the S.U.B. Trust Plan agreement.

Our deepest condolences go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks:

Retired Journeyman Brother Duane Klein on the passing of his wife, Janet, and also mother to Journeyman Brother Marty Klein, who passed away on March 8, 2023, and for Journeyman Brother Donald R. Isbell, who passed away on March 11, 2023. May they Rest in Peace.

Members continue to ask about the status and recovery of Brother Brian Mierendorf, Brian is doing therapy 5 days a week. He will be undergoing several more surgeries on each hand in the future He still has a long road ahead of him. If anyone wishes to send donations to the hall for Brian, you can make checks out to Brian or Heather Mierendorf and we will make sure that they receive your donations. They are very grateful for all the support that they have been receiving.

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for members needs and questions. When calling BeneSys, please call #248-641-4936 or #888-646-8920.

Considering Retirement?
Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Please allow a 7-10 day notice when you call her at ext.5, so that she can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact Kristal Mar, ext.3224 at the BeneSys numbers above as well for your retirement paperwork.

Financial Advisor Jason

May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number 248-655-4048 or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new number for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526.

You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click 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.

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 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

(Continued next column)



Local 370

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 11, 2023, at 7 and has been designated special called meeting for the purpose of wage allocation.

Mental Health 101. We are hosting this introductory course on mental health at our training center/hall on Tuesday, May 16th from 4:30-5:30. Please, make an attempt to be here and significant others are welcomed.

Scholarship Applications for the 2023-2024 school year are now available on our website at ualocal370.org. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 hall. Applications are due by the end of May.

Memorial- There will be a memorial to celebrate the life of brother Chan Stone on June 10th at the Elks in Lapeer. More details to come. Upcoming Night Class

Schedule: BackFlow- March 9th thru
April 20th Tuesdays and Thurs-

days at 4:30pm
Test Cost \$130. Refresher first test is free

EPA 608- March 27th & 28th and April 12th & 13th at 5:00pm Night Welding: April 3rd through May 3rd Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00pm

All classes can be signed up with Kaytlin at 810-720-5243 ext 15

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, *The Building Tradesman* is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of Local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 4:00pm FMR Committee – Tuesday April 11, 2023, at 4:00pm PAC committee – Tuesday April

11, 2023, at 5:00pm Executive Board – Tuesday April 11, 2023, at 5:00pm Building Committee – Tuesday

April 11, 2023, at 6:00pm Finance Committee -Tuesday April 11, 2023, at 6:15pm JATC Committee - TBD

Local 636 cont'd

paid for according to the current health care plan benefits. 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.

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

Training Center News.
The 40 hour OSHA class

starts Apr. 3rd

The first day of apprentice

class will be Wed. Apr. 19th

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 am – 11:30 am and 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm daily.

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

Mobile App. Our mobile app. is now available for download on your cell phone. Go to the app store and search UA Local 370. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building 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 running, ualocal370.org

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

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

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a \$50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

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

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

If you shop on the internet,

SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com.
T.I.C. fringe administrators'

toll free number, 888-797-5862.



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111 UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE - The next Union Meeting will be in Escanaba March 30, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m.

Condolences: To the family of John Wainio who passed away on February 19, 2023.

Anyone interested in 1 day

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

Plumber/Pipefitter Apprentice application period is currently closed. We will be accepting applications from March 6-March 31, the job posting will go up at UP Michigan Works Feb. 1. Applications are being accepted for HVAC/R Apprentices.

MRA CARD: Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill with receipt of payment. Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

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

Training news: Open welding class with David Pedersen is occurring on Tuesdays at 5 pm, on a week to week basis pending interest. To be added to the notification list or to register, contact John Antoncew. A spot in the class is not confirmed until you receive a response.

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

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

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

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

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site <u>uall1.com</u> and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

MSHA Training: To register for an MSHA class please go to Upconstruction.org and go to the MSHA calendar to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.





Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEM-BERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday April 4, 2023, at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 7 pm.

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

CHANGE OF THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS): The Boards of Trustees of the West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union 174 Pension Plan, Health and Welfare Plan, and 401(K) Retirement Savings Plan (collectively, "Plans") are pleased to announce that Solxsys Administrative Solutions is now the Plans' *NEW* Third Party Administrator effective Nov. 1. 2022.

WEX DEBIT CARD: If you have not received your new Wex card please contact SOLX-SYS at 855-407-5862.

Website: www.ua174.org We have recently changed our website vendor and will no longer be utilizing the Member Info section of our website. If you are unable to find what you are looking for please call Cami @ ext. 10 and she will help you. You are still able to pay dues online.

Contract Ratification: At the special-called meeting in July the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/ 2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 \$7.20 over 3 years. The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language. Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on negotiations and to the members of Local #174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

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

Local 174 Condolences: Local 174 would like to offer condolences to the families of Terry Usoff and Harland Reindle.

Wild Game Dinner: It's that time of year again. The Wild Game Dinner will be held on **4-20-2023** this year. Donations of wild game are needed. If you donate any game there are specific raffles you will be entered into, based on lbs donated and type of game. The more you donate = the more chances you have to win. The more varieties of game you donate the more raffles you will

For those volunteering at the dinner, you will be put into a separate raffle as well. Please help out with some wild game donations and/or volunteer work and have a chance to win some great prizes and have some really good food. See you there.

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held on Thursday April 6, 2023 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

New Contractor Seminar: Once again, they are holding a UA New Contractor Seminar hosted by UA Local 370 May 2nd and 3rd 2023 @ 9am. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a signatory contractor any time in the foreseeable future please call Cami (x10) and she will add your name to the list. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Sign up today and secure your spot. Flyer is also posted on our FB page.

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

Organizing Update: The last couple weeks have been busy following up with the nonunion workers that came to the open house, those that have called randomly and those that would express interest off our website. I've been scheduling weld evaluations, entering all the information gathered into spreadsheets, just following up with all the unrepresented workers. The work in our jurisdiction and the other locals is going to get really busy very soon, we've never seen it this busy. Providing the workers for the coming work-

load is essential. The number of non-workers that are doing our work isn't going to change, but having them become members is our goal, MARKET SHARE! The more market share we have, the better it is for better contract negotiations and the best wages/ benefits for the worker.

If you have workers in the non-union sector please give them my number, I'd love to speak with them. "Were all doing the same work but we're NOT all getting the same wages and benefits." Our biggest voice is our workers in the field. Work safe, Brother Johnny Ortiz LU

174 Organizer (616) 307-8551 PAC Cards: 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.

Health Insurance Contact

Active and NON **Medicare Retirees** Aetna: (888)290-7241 Save-Rx: (800)228-3108 Medicare Retirees

Solxsys, Aetna, Labor **First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers please contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ua174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with, this will help the company

Labor First: (616) 345-0788

fix the problem. **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.

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

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

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

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

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

(855) 407-5862 Toll Free BENEFITS WEBSITE: Soon after the transition to SOLXSYS is complete, we will be rolling out a Participant Portal. The easy to use portal will allow you to see your personal benefits information, access Plan information and forms, view all contributions made to Plans on your behalf, and contact the Benefits Office after hours, and much more. Members will be notified when access to Participant Portal is available.

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 the out of work list when you are laid off. You will be placed on the list based off the date you call in your layoff. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation

(Continued next column)



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for April 6th, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on April 6th, 2023. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

Also, please refer to our website https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/ and its calendar for the latest updates.

Scholarship Opportunities: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be awarding (2) \$2000 scholarships through the Local 671 Scholarship Fund this year. (1) each will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2023 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student of a college or a qualified post-secondary school. Please contact the Hall for an application; the deadline to complete and return it is April

Awards Night Banquet: We are excited to announce that we will be holding our 2023 Awards Night Banquet on April 21, 2023. This event will be held in conjunction with the Apprentice Graduation Ceremony. A mailing was sent out with all the information. If you are not a graduating apprentice or receiving a service award, tickets are \$25. EVERY-ONE MUST RSVP to attend this event. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there!

UA Local 671 Softball **Team:** Local 671 is taking a team down to Cincinnati to compete in the UA National softball tournament. If you are interested in playing, please call the Union Hall to get the details. The date for the tournament is June 23rd -25th in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (CLC) will be awarding (2) \$1000 scholarships through the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Memorial Scholarship Program again this year. (1) each will be awarded to a qualified 2023 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school. Please contact the Hall for an application; the deadline to complete and return it is April 1, 2023.

New Contractor Seminar:

Local 174, con't

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. Training News: FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5-9 p. The next classes will be held Thursday, April 13 and Thursday, May 11.

CSD-1: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 18, @ 5p-8p. The class dates are as follows: April 18, 19 and 20(Exam).

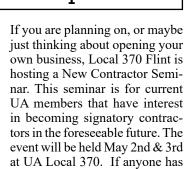
ASSE BACKFLOW TES-TER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 17 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: April 17, 19, 24, 26, May 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 (Exam).

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-PAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 22, 2023 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: May 22, 24, June 5, 7, 12 and 14(Exam).

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, April 8, @ 8am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, April 6, 2023 @ 5-9p. Please call/ text and sign up if you plan to test.

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 Rumsey or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

Union Hall Extension Numbers: Ryan Bennett Business Manager ext:12, Nathan Phillips Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch Business Agent ext.14, Johnny Ortiz Organizer ext.15, Lisa Johnson Accounting Manager ext.11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Schumaker ext. 30.



contractor base as well. Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is just your book num-

interest in attending, please notify

me and I will register you. Let us

not only grow our union but our

2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update: If you were unable to attend a plumbing code update class, we do have information available for an online update. Contact the Hall for details. To maintain your plumbing license, you must do a code update by March 31, 2023.

Also, it is time to renew your plumbing license. If you currently have a license or are registered with the state as an apprentice, you must renew your plumbing license. For questions or help contact Justin McManaway.

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

Open Weld Shop Nights: We will be holding open weld shop nights on Thursday nights from 6pm- 10pm. Weld Shop nights would not be held on Union meeting nights or when we hold a UA weld test session. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Wednesday prior to the practice night. If we have 3 or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting

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

The next Official UA Weld Test will be April 27, 2023 at 5:00

Veterans Auxiliary: We announced at the last Union Meeting that we are starting a Local 671 Veterans Auxiliary Group. Please contact Justin if you are interested in becoming a part of it!

In Closing: The quickest way to weaken your Union is to not be involved and not attend Union meetings. To find fault with your Union leadership instead of being involved and supporting them; to never run for an office or volunteer for a committee. These are just a few things that can kill our Union. If you are not actively trying to make it better, you are making it

Brothers and Sisters lets stay focused and grow our Union. God

bless Local 671! Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.

Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: vinnie@ualo-

cal671.com Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@

"There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability.

-Robert Half

ualocal671.com

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.

-Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

"The most perfidious way of harming a cause consists of defending it deliberately with faulty arguments.'

- Friedrich Nietzsche (1844

"If you do not wish to be prone to anger, do not feed the habit; give it nothing which may tend to its increase. -Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)

"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.

–Frank A. Clark



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fiiters 333 LANSING - April's union meeting will be Wednesday, April 19, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911 at 7:30 pm.

May's union meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 7:30pm.

ATTENTION ALL MEM-**BERS: Special Call Meetings** to read and vote on a proposed By-Law Change. The change does NOT involve a change in the dues or any other with holdings. The meetings will be held on March 15, 2023, April 19, 2023, and May 17, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Lansing Union Hall.

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 Scholarship: Applications for the 2023-2024 school year will be available at all three halls the first week of April or call Joni at 517-784-1106 ext. 4 and an application will be mailed to

WELD CLASSES: Spring weld classes: Please go online to sign up at www.ua333.org.There is no longer a fee for the weld

Lansing: Class will start April 4, 2023, Tuesday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: Class will start April 4, 2023, Tuesday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201. Battle Creek: Class will

start April 3, 2023, Monday's & Thursday's, 4pm-8pm, (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Weld Tests are the second Tuesday of each month at the Lansing Training Center.

If you are interested in signing up for classes please go to our website at www.ua333.org or call the Training Center (517) 323-0333.

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

Diversity Committee: If you are interested in becoming more involved with the committee or just want to network with fellow members we will meet Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 6pm, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Contact the Lansing hall for further information.

Battle Creek Retiree's Breakfast will be held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café, 2587 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI. at 9am. Please spread the word.

Retiree's Breakfast in Jackson: Retiree's breakfast will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center. If you have any questions or need directions just contact Joni at 517-784-1106 ext#4. Please pass the word to fellow retired members.

Attention: Local 333 has signed a new drain cleaning company. The owner is Matt Ellis who is a UA Local 333 member. Matt owns Ellis Sewer & Drains. The company is able to do drain cleaning; camera work, locating, and will very soon have a new jet on board. If you, a friend or fam-

(Continued next column)



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT - ALL MEM-BERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY March 27, 2023, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. The third reading on the motion for accessing late fees on union dues will be read at this meeting, this will be the third and final reading and vote. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Attention All Members, if your company phone or company vehicle has GPS make sure your time matches where you are working. Companies are watching this closely and using it for disciplinary purposes, keep a log of times and dates of where you are at every day. Dues are due by the end of

this month, please bring in or send a copy of your W-2 with the dues statement to the Hall by March 31, 2023. You do not have to wait till the end of March to bring in your W-2s.

If you are going to be working in another local, you and your Apprentice MUST call their hall to make sure it is ok to work, don't take your supervisor's word for it.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you MUST call those jobs into the hall!!

We are still looking for volunteers for the July Picnic, if you would like to volunteer, please call the hall, or contact Jon Bujan, Picnic Committee Chair @ (586) 787-1114. The Picnic is in five months and there is a lot involved in putting it together.

Attention all members who are interested in Code Outreach classes and Code Tabbing classes, We are working with EIWPF to schedule new Code Outreach and Tabbing Classes, when we know the schedule we will send it out to everyone interested in these classes. We are also trying to bring QEI training here but we need at least 10 participants to accomplish this. I've spoke with the Business Managers from around our area and they have a few guys that would like to get certified also. Call the Hall if you are interested.

Anyone interested in getting certified in Welding, you can sign up with NEIEP @ Local 85 or call Mike Janca.

Attention All Apprentices, Check your NEIEP emails frequently for any additional information. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. There is NO excuse for these to be late!

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement MUST be signed by the end of each month at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the next morning. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools MUST be taken off the job.

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list. We would like to extend get well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

Local 333 cont'd

ily member need drain cleaning work, please call Matt at 517-879-5681.

If you are working for a UA signatory contractor and have a non-union sub-contractor on your site doing this work, please call your Regional Business Agent immediately.

The new GM plant work is requiring MUST MODs completed and a current drug test. Make sure you are current. New merchandise has arrived. 1/4 zip jackets, Full zip jackets, Hoodies, Long sleeve tees and

Baseball caps. Congratulation to Reuben Hull on the birth of his first grandchild.



North Point Mortgage Advisors

Nicole Jenner Loan Officer NMLS# 2236230 Licensed in Michigan (586) 362-4689



LiUNA!

Laborers 1191

DETROIT - Monthly Membership Meetings: 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 April 7, 2023.

Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

Union Dues For 2023: Effective January 1, 2023 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

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

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 monthly dues deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.

International Union of

Vacation Monthly Dues **Deduction Authorization:** Members may revoke vacation monthly dues authorization at any time by signing a vacation deduction cancellation form. This cancellation form must be sent to the Local Union 1191 office, however understand that Local 1191 needs to have this form on file at least 60 days before the next vacation checks are distributed for the months of May or

Vacation Check Direct **Deposit:** If your mail delivery is slow or your mail is getting lost, then it is highly recommended to get your vacation check direct deposited into your bank checkings or savings account. A Payee Deposit Agreement must be completed and signed, and the member must return the payee deposit agreement at least 60 days before the following vacation distribution for the month of May, or November.

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.

The above training and certifications are all available at the

All Michigan workers should

want right-to-work repealed;

Local 1191 Feel the Power

training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work

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 arrangements to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must reregister every quarter within the first five days of the following months March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. *Example: If your name is on the list in April and or May and you don't re-register by June 5 your name will be removed from the list.

Vacation Fund. WPAS 7525 SE 24TH Street, Suite 200, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Telephone: (833) 389-0025 Extension 3359 - Direct Number Fax: (206) 505 9727

Website: Www.wpas-inc.

CONTACT NUMBERS Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Healthcare

Telephone: (877) 645-2267 Website: Www.michiganlaborers.org

Delta Dental: (800) 524-

Detroit and Vicinity Pension Fund Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

Telephone: (248) 641-4942

with the International Brother-

BOB HUTSELL

the phone. OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training

hood of Boil-

ermakers Con-

stitution. The

Union Hall

accepts Visa,

Mastercard,

and Discover.

Payments can

be made both

at the Union

Hall and over

can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com- for more information.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons have resumed.

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

works.

And that's exactly what right-to-work is intended to do. Because lowering wages and worker protections for unionized workers lowers the bargaining power for non-unionized workers, too.

But again, we don't talk about the impact of right-towork on all workers, or the fact that paying dues actually wins you more money at the bargaining table. Instead, we pit people against each other and fight over the crumbs of the economy under the false banners of freedom and job creation.

It's time to stop parroting the slogans of some corporate marketing boardroom, and instead think about the long-term impact of the policies in our state. The truth is that policies that are good for union workers will be good for all workers.

(Jen McKernan is communications director for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. From the Detroit News Labor Voices, March 13, 2023).

"Son, always tell the truth. Then you'll never have to remember what you said the last time." –Sam Rayburn (1882 - 1961)

"The universe may not always play fair, but at least it's got

a hell of a sense of humor." Michael Patrick King,

"Public opinion is a weak tyrant compared with our own private opinion. What a man thinks of himself, that is which determines, or rather indicates,

his fate." -Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

"Live each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of

- Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

"Forgiveness is the healing of wounds caused by another. You choose to let go of a past wrong and no longer be hurt by it. Forgiveness is a strong move to make, like turning your shoulders sideways to walk quickly on a crowded sidewalk. It's your

-Gordon Atkinson

"Politics is applesauce." -Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)



Boiermakers 169

month's location!

State Competi-

tion.

ALLEN PARK - Our next

membership meeting will take

place on April 14, 2023, at

The United Trades Building.

They are located at 119 S. Front

Street, Marquette, MI. 49855.

Please note the change of this

2023 are \$55.85 in accordance

Current Union dues for

Local 169 **Boilermakers**

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. This month it will be March 15, 2023, at the Auburn Hotel and Tavern, 101 W. Midland Road, Auburn, MI 48611

Area 4 Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Any apprentice interested in working in other locals should contact their area business agent.

Congratulations to apprentices Kaden Kontranowski, Nathan McCatty, & Jill Osentoski on their recent efforts at the Skills USA, State Competition. These apprentices completed their task in the Welding & Fabrication category well under the allotted time frame and produced the completed project regarded as the "best they have seen" by the Skills USA representative.

These apprentices will also be graded on a Welding Theory exam. Once the scores of all items are completed, the State winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on April 16th, 2023. Winners of the State Competition will move on to the Skills USA National Competition this June. Special thanks to President Mike Card and Instructors Lew Harris & Mike Steffes for their efforts in preparing our apprentices for this exciting op-

Summer will be here soon along with our annual activities. Any member interested in volunteering to help with an area picnic or parade should contact their local agent. As members retire, we are in constant need of assistance for these events. I encourage you to get involved and participate.

Hoodies have been restocked and are available in sizes ranging from medium through 3XL. The cost is \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www. boilermakerslocal169 or on our Facebook page.

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

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall beginning January 1st, 2023. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

Retired member, Dale Carlson passed away on March 17, 2023. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult

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 repre-



senting 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

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prevailing wage restored By Jen Weaver McKernan Viewpoint It was a big week in Lansing,

with the Michigan House and

Senate passing bills to restore prevailing wage and repealing right to work, two policies often associated with labor unions. These bills now be agreed upon by the House and Senate, then must be signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer before becoming law.

It's important to understand the actual impacts of these two often debated but rarely discussed policies, particularly for the 86 percent of the workforce in Michigan not represented by a

What is prevailing wage? Prevailing wage is a simple policy with complicated results. Basically, it's a minimum wage for construction workers on publicly funded projects. When contractors bid for government contracts, this sets a level playing field, so that any company bidding for a public project agrees to pay their workers a fair rate.

poverty wages. It also protects Michigan businesses operating in good faith from being underbid and losing work to shady or out-of-state

This helps protect taxpayers from

low-bid contractors who may hire

untrained workers and pay them

competitors. Prevailing wage was first signed into law in Michigan in 1965 but was repealed by the

state Legislature in 2018. What does it do? Without prevailing wage, the bidding process favors companies who hire poorly trained workers at low wages, and it disadvantages companies who hire qualified workers and pay state taxes.

In Michigan, 12 percent to 20 percent of construction workers are misclassified or paid under the table, according to a recent study by the University of California-Berkeley, a practice that costs Michigan taxpayers almost half a billion dollars – \$469 million on taxpayer-funded safety net programs.

Construction companies that illegally pay people under the table are able to dodge their payroll taxes, workers' comp, Social Security and unemployment taxes. That makes their bids deceptively lower. But it also means workers who get hurt on the job have no recourse, because they were never on the books as employees.

When we don't require companies to pay construction workers a prevailing wage, we're subsidizing the payroll for with corporate welfare.

How can you encourage Michigan businesses to stay here if you award state contracts to companies that don't hire our workers, or pay our state taxes?

And how can you encourage Michigan workers to get the training they need, if you award the jobs to contractors who hire people who don't live here, don't get training, and leave town when the project fails? Crooked contractors who hire untrained workers and pay them poverty wages, are a dime a dozen. And you may not know a crooked contractor as you drive by a skyline on the highway, but you'll know when a building collapses.

That's not hypothetical. That's what actually happens.

Is prevailing wage a guarantee? There are no guarantees, but prevailing wage and other protections in construction are the best way to minimize the disastrous consequences of low-bid construction.

The fear of dishonest contractors is the same for publicly funded construction sites as it is on our home remodels. What if they don't know what they're doing? What if they just take our money, and leave us with a big hole in the ground? It's not until a project fails that we realize a company can just leave town and change its name. And in the world of public construction, now taxpayers are footing the legal

The irony is that prevailing wage often gets billed as a union thing but really, it's non-union workers, good businesses and taxpayers who benefit the most from it.

Union workers have a minimum wage. It's in their union contracts. Study after study shows that the real beneficiaries of prevailing wage are non-union workers who earn better money, good businesses who win state and local contracts, and taxpayers who pay for construction that gets done right, on time and on

Studies also show that repealing prevailing wage doesn't create any new jobs or encourage

any new construction. You'll be shocked to learn that companies who pay workers less just give the money to people at the top. It's a feature of a low-bid economy, not a bug.

A word about right to work. Similarly, we don't talk about the real impact of right-towork. Right-to-work was passed by the state Legislature in 2012. Right-to-work is a policy that prohibits labor unions and employers from negotiating union security clauses in a collective bargaining agreement. That means that if you are represented by a labor union in a right-to-work state, you cannot be required to pay a fee to your labor union for the costs of union representation – but vour labor union is still legally required to represent you.

That's the difference between labor unions and other organizations. Your car insurance company has no legal obligation to represent you in an accident if you aren't paying them. Or try showing up to a country club without a membership and see if they'll let you hang out at the tennis courts. But according to the Supreme Court of the United States, your labor union does have that legal obligation, and you can take them to court if they

In right-to-work states, wages and benefits are lower - for everyone. If union nurses are able to negotiate a raise at the bargaining table, non-union hospitals tend to give their nurses a raise, so they can stay competitive as employers. And if companies donate money to politicians in order to pass right-to-work laws, those companies will have less pressure to give their workers raises after it passes.

And that's the point So what does right-to-work actually do? It actually just makes life harder for labor unions.

Think about any organization that provides services to people. Now, imagine if paying for those services was completely optional. Do you think the organization would be able to do as much? Of course not.

The union is left to be a bill collector, rather than organizing people to fight for higher wages, bathroom breaks, protective equipment or health care. It's not sexy, but that's how cutting off an

organization's funding actually (Continued next column)



Local 665

LANSING - WE HAVE MOVED! Local 665 has moved locations. We are currently located at 5710 Ivan Dr. Lansing, MI 48917. Google maps had been updated. Google search IBEW Local 665 if you are looking for directions.

WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 is expecting good employment for our local members and is needing help from our traveling brothers. The GM Ultium 3 battery Plant will be adding additional manpower this spring. Work is looking steady for 2023.

RTW AND PREVAILING **WAGE:** The Michigan House and Senate have both passed repealing the so called "Right to Work" and reintroduced Prevailing wage for state jobs. Gov. Whitmer should be signing both bills in the short term. This is a tremendous victory for working men and women across this state. Labor-friendly candidates have introduced a few more bills into the house to erase some of the legislation enacted over the last decade. We will keep you informed the more we know.

EVITP TRAINING PRO-**GRAM:** Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email <u>Dale@</u> lejatc.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

HARASSMENT TRAIN-ING: has been adopted as part of our new contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to the JATC to sign up for it. You can email <u>Dale@lejatc.org</u> to receive instructions on how to complete it.

RETIREE DINNER: Save the date for the next retiree dinner scheduled for May 21st, 2023! If you have received an invitation please call the hall to RSVP. If you haven't received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact the hall.

APPRENTICESHIP AP-PLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program.

To apply, go to **www.lejatc.** org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on

the first Monday of each month. FIRST AID/CPR: The next First Aid CPR class is to be held on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 at 5 pm here at the hall. Contact the JATC for information and to sign

DRUG TEST / MUST **MODS:** If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your MUST mods/ OSHA 30 and your MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

GENERAL MEMBER-SHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD **MEETINGS:** The Executive Board meets the second and third Monday of each month starting at

DUES AND DEATH BEN-EFITS: Quarterly dues are due by April 1st. We are on death benefit #337. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are cur-

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Donald Reidsma 02/22/23, Lee Benjamin 01/26/23, Garth Smith 6/21/2022, Thomas Jones 1/02/2023, James Love 12/11/2022, Larry Wisner 11/09/2022, John Freshwater 7/26/2022, Dale Cole 09/07/2021, Keith Reimel 05/04/2022, Elden Rockafellow 02/11/2022.



Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO - The next General Membership Meeting

will be held on April 3, at 6 p.m. The next Renew meeting will be held on April 3, at 5 p.m. The next Executive Board meeting will be held on April 17, at 5 p.m.

The Work Outlook continues to be steady. Pfizer has been adding manpower, Moore, Hi-Tech, KEI all have crews working on site. Recently F.E. Moran has hired along with Flemington Instrumentation for the MAPS project at Pfizer. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome look to be a summer project. Moore Electric is working on the new Justice Facility. Abbott Labs in Sturgis is in the planning stage for an expansion, hopefully by summer we will have work there. Nitro Electric has work coming at the Vicksburg High School.

The local's new CBA increase will be on May 29, 2023. Discussion on how we should disperse the increase of \$1.67 will be happening the next couple of months. A vote on allocations will occur at the May 1, 2023.

Tigers: Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this this Summer, July 8th. Tickets will be available for purchase (\$24.00 + Purchase Fee) to the first 100 members. Be on the lookout for a purchase link. Each member will be able to purchase their own tickets by following the link to the official Tigers Ticket Pay site. All Tickets for Local 131 will be grouped together in the same section. There will be two charter buses for this event. Email Jon for more information at jcurrent@ibew131.com. On the Local website there is a Tab for the Detroit Tigers Tickets.

Food Drive: Thank you to everyone who donated. You are the best.

Local 131 Softball Team is starting soon. If you are interested in playing call Trevor Pryson at 269-615-7409.

Douglas Community Center. We are looking for help on replacing receptacles at the Center. On April 29, beginning at 7AM. Journeyman and apprentices are needed. Community Service hours can be earned.

5th-year Class of 2023 Charity GOLF Outing. The GOLF Outing is raising funds for the Homeless Veterans in our Community and is on May 20th at 9AM at Pine View Golf Course. The cost will be \$75.00. The link is on the local's website.

Retiree Lunches at the following Locations:

April 19, 2023, Blue Dolphin 502 S. Burdick St. Kalamazoo, MI.@11:00

May17, 2023, Dig-in Café, 111 West Michigan Ave. Augusta, MI. @ 11:00

June 21, 2021, Godfather's Pizza, 3815 East Cork St. Kalamazoo, MI. @11:00

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

On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees meet at Brewsters, 5135 Portage Road, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30. Your apprenticeship committee is addressing your concerns and working to assure that the training opportunities for our members

are timely and of quality content. To achieve this goal, we are actively seeking **APPLICANTS** for all positions. If you have a skill set that you are willing to share to help train our members or administrative skills to help improve the program, then we want to hear from you. I know that we have a tremendous amount of talent in our local and I encourage your participation. Local 131 is widely respected for the skill of our workforce and with your help we always will. If you would like to help, then please send a letter of interest and a resume' to

president@ibew131.com RETIREMENT: NEBF, IBEW PBF, and Local Pension application take at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up

(Continued next column)



Local 498

Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949'

IBEW Local 498 TRAVERSE CITY - Meet-

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, April 10th, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting - The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, April 10th, 2022.

Solidarity Picnic- We have a volunteer to do the picnics before the meetings! That being said, plan on Hamburgers, Hot dogs and a side dish for a meal before the next regular meeting. Food will be served at about 6:30 directly in front of the meeting.

Resale Items – Local 498 Challenge Coins are in the hall for your purchase. They are \$10.00 each. We also have Local 498 tshirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

Work outlook- work looks to be slow for this year in Local 498. There is a lot of work planned to start in 692, 275, 665, 58, 906, almost every other local in the state. We can get you on the out of work list from the hall for most locals in the state of MI. If you are looking to travel to out of state locals and want us to sign you from the hall, please contact that local union before you ask Caroline or myself to do it. It saves us a lot of time, thanks in advance from Dave and Caroline.

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

Election year- This year will be our year to elect new officers for the local. If you are interested in being involved please call David and he can fill you in on the different positions available and review the election process with you. The regular meeting in May will be Nominations and the election will be at the June regular meeting. As in the past, all ballots will be sent out via USPS to all eligible members and returned to a PO Box for the Election judge and Tellers to take care of. There will be an official election process notification in a later edition of this newspaper as well as by email since we were able to amend the By-Laws to include that form of communication.

(Continued next column)

IBEW 131, con't

an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Nicholas Blaskie, Christopher Conforti, Matthew DeLoach, Stephen, Gay, Easton Lovell, Logan McFadden, Nic McKenna, Mark Melching, Thomas Pickett, Thomas Seeds, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, William Wolgast and Andrew Yezic.

Check out the Local 131 website. Job listings can be tracked. A recorded message of calls for employment will be available after 5:00PM by calling (269) 382-1762 and posted on the website under Job Listings. The job call will list the name of the employer and the number of employees needed. The Union business office will offer all the work calls available at the time of the job offer. Any registrants that are interested in a call may either apply in person at the union business office between 8:00AM and 8:30AM OR leave a message on the recorder, stating they wish to apply for a job call.

In the Members Login section under the Information Center you can find the Contract, Bylaws, Wage sheet and access to Journeyman classes. There is a tab called Benefits Information. You can find health plan and retirement information and useful links. You can also update contact information, check on your dues paid thru, or make a payment.

Morris Applebey **Business Manager**



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT - Our April Union Meeting will be held on Monday, April 10th, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Our March Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday March 27th, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, April 4th, at

Do not 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. Do not wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).

2023 - Monthly Dues -Journeyman \$47.70 a month -Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$44.70 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.

IBEW 498, con't

EVITP - Please call the JATC and get signed up for your EVITP training. There are state and federal requirements for all workers that are on Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure projects to have this training. Tim will get you set up if you call him, it is an online class and a proctored exam at the hall when completing the class. There is \$100 deposit for the class refunded on completion. So far we have two Journeyman that have completed the training. Please consider getting this important training if you want to be eligible to work on these projects

when they are available. 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.

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!

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

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, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/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 Remember to check the hall

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

"Be not extravagantly high

tions of men thou likest, it may make the hearer's stomach rise. -Thomas Fuller (1608

in expression of thy commenda-



IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

SAGINAW - Union News-Hello brothers and sisters! Lots of goodies this week.

Firstly, Thank you so very much to all those who came by the Food Packing event. We packed over 50,000 meals in 3 hours, great job! All those meals go to help local families. All paid for by labor! Wonderful to see so many IBEW family members and retirees in attendance. And kids, even if your parents Did drag you along, it was cool to see.

This week at the Michigan Capital was historic. A Special Thanks to all of our legislators who helped Reinstate Workers Rights and voted to repeal Right to Work! Rep. Amos O'Neal, Senator Kristen McDonald-Rivet, Senator John Cherry, and Senator Sarah Anthony for being such good friends to Labor! We couldn't have done it without their dedication to the working class. The chambers roared with applause and even the Lieutenant Governor couldn't help but crack a smile.

Another shout-out to all those who came to the Mid-Michigan Area Labor Council's Meet and Greet with local and state politicians! We had a phenomenal turn out for our first time. We were even fortunate enough to meet some Teamsters who drove over 2 hours to thank the legislators for their hard work. People asked poignant questions and our panel gave no-nonsense answers. Everyone felt welcomed and the atmosphere couldn't have been better. Thank you Angie Miller for your hard work putting this together!

IBEW Michigan will be hosting an inaugural Women's Conference. The event is to be held July 26th through the 28th in Detroit at the Motor City Casino. Registration is available for \$100 per person. If you would like additional details please contact your local.

Registration is ongoing for the Special Olympics/choroideremia Golf Outing. This years outing will be on June 10th at Valley View Golf Course. Registration information can be found at the Hall of you are interested in sponsoring or putting together a team.

Card Night will be held at the hall on March 28th at 6:30pm.

The local's new CBA increase will occur in June. Discussion on how we should disperse the increase of \$1.97 will be happening in the next few months. Looking forward to the discussions on this. This is the last increase from the previous 3-year deal. We all know we're more than likely going to have to throw some at the Health Plan again this year. Health Care costs and rising prescription costs are the reason for the increase.

The Health Plan Board continues to meet leading up to the final negotiated number.

We're still looking for baseball participation! If anyone is interested in going on a Detroit Tigers Game Bus Trip on July 8th in Detroit, please contact the Hall to be put on the list. Family members are welcome! Cost is \$57.50 which includes the ticket and buffet. The bus fare is an additional cost based on participa-

MEMBERSHIP MEET-INGS- Our next meeting is April 4th at 5:30pm. We're probably going to be discussing the pay increase over the next few months, so you might want to swing by.

MICHIGAN INITIA-**TIVE- Please contact Brother** Gus Voisine for any organizing issues you see or have. If our members have any questions or work tips they can reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

UNION HALL OPER-ATIONS- We're back to our regularly scheduled program. If you have any questions or issues, our Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-oftown Books, please call the hall to arrange this.

WORK OUTLOOK- Hope those of you who are laid off are enjoying time with family. We got some new stuff-Pierce Power has the Swan Valley Schools Auditorium, some Heritage High School

Work, Saginaw High Remodel. VanHerweg picked up a project at Hemlock Schools. Nelson picked up St. Louis Schools. Conti has added some more HSC peojects. Solar Farm in Gratiot County will kick off in May. This will be the largest solar field Local 557 has to date. The Frankenmuth Water Park has some delays. Sorry guys- that's all she wrote for now.

Saginaw Township Community Schools have announced a bond proposal for the May 2nd election. Currently, the local has 36 members who live in that voting district. If you all could please spread the word about voting "Yes", we could all benefit from a great deal or construction work in that area.

A Citizens Campaign has kicked off to support the passage. There will be some upcoming opportunities to help out in the township community to spread the word and get voters out there. Absentee ballots will be sent out by months end. The local has been attending school board meetings already so if you want to come show support, every bit counts. This months school board meeting is on March 13th and March 20th.

HEALTH CARE- The completion of the Optum pharmacy services transition is now taking place. Members who did not receive a new Blue Cross card last year will get one this year. Keep an eye out for these new cards in the mail don't throw them away. If you used Expressscripts for your RX needs, BCBS has opted to use Optum Rx in its place. The main changes apply to members who have their Rx delivered to their homes. Action is necessary to not see a break in your service.

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 Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include: instant access to EOB's, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOB's can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt requests.

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

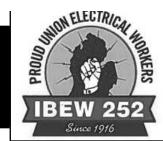
CONTACT NUM-BERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectricalhealth.org

In Solidarity, Breanna DePottey Press Secretary/Registrar

"Against logic there is no armor like ignorance.

-Laurence J. Peter (1919 -





IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR - OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 252: The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on May 10, 2023, beginning at 6 p.m. at the local meeting hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations, or, provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to 252electionjudge@gmail.com that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221 that they will accept the nomination.

A member may nominate themselves for office. NO member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager / Financial Secretary, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected).

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. Apprentices cannot be nominated or elected to any office EXCEPT if they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect.

Pat Ulanowicz, was appointed Election Judge on Feb. 8, 2023 (IBEW Constitution Art.16, Sect.11, Amendment 30). The IBEW Local 252 President will appoint Tellers as required. None of these may be a candidate for any office. All Tellers will be vetted for a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252 by the Local 252 Financial Secretary (IBEW Constitution Art.16, Sect.11).

The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on June 17, 2023 at the local union meeting hall, 7920 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media (or other appropriate place) by the close of business on the day following the election.

Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221 or emailed to 252electionjudge@ gmail.com. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election.

Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the post office box after 8 a.m. on June 17, 2023, will not be counted. In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on July 8, 2023. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 12, 2023.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. (The candidate themselves may be the observer.) Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election results. Further, protests of the election

IBEW LOCAL 252

may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2023 IBEW Local 252 election can be emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com, mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 58, Adrian, MI 49221, or consult by phone 517-918-8948.

SOLAR: The Biden Administration's investment in infrastructure and renewable energy generation is going to result in massive amounts of labor hours for all of the building trades. Please take advantage of the continuing education courses offered at our training center to help secure this work and show our commitment to this scope.

BE SURE TO KEEP BEN-**EFICIARY FORM UPDATED:** Beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at BOTH.

TRAINING CLASSES 2023: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

1. CPR/FIRST AID- Tuesdays: June 6th & 13th, September 5th & 12th, December 5th & 12th.

2. BISCI IN225- Mondays: Aug. 28- Dec. 4. This is worth 35 BICSI CEU's. You must possess BICSI ITSIMM to attend the class. There is a charge of \$115.00 for the workbook.

3. BICSI TE350- TBD. We need 6 people to start this class! Please sign up at the school if you are interested...

4. Solar-TBD

5. Instrumentation Part B-Tuesdays: Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18.

6. OSHA 30- Wednesdays: March 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 17 & 24.

Will there be a code update required in 2023? We will offer classes as soon as the state adopts a new NEC 2020 or 2023.

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

Retirees' Card Game: The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m.

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

Blood Drive: Red Cross will be at the Union Hall on Wednesday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can make an appointment or walk-in. To register, visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code Jeremy.

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

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

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

Condolences: The Local sends our sincere condolences to (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 58

The next General Membership Meeting the Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at http://www.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, call the Training Center at 586-751-6600.

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. 9x9 brick pavers can have up to 7 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line (letter height .75"). \$100 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department-Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt - if your paid-through date shows 12/2022 or earlier, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind). If it has 09/2022 you are going to lapse on 3-31-2023. It is YOUR responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement or death benefit. The last day to pay on the APP/Website is 3-28-2023 to be credited by the end of the month and if paying by phone/cash/check must be in office by 3-31-2023 at noon. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email and phone number. Thank you!

Local 58 Motorcycle Group: Group meetings have moved to Sundays at different restaurants before a ride. Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Anthony Anderanın (a) <u>aanderanın(a)gmail.</u>

IBEW 252, con't

the family of Cain Molina, who passed away on March 7, 2023.

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 2023:** Effective Jan. 1, 2023, union dues for "A" members will increase to \$131.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will increase to \$67.80 per quarter for 2023.

DUES PAYMENTS -Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2022, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 per quarter for 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January thru March) are due now. Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 31, 2023.

com or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next meeting will be on April 4 at 5:30 pm at the Union Hall. All prizes from the Super Bowl event are provided by ABC Warehouse in Canton. For a discounted price call Ryan Heinrich at (734) 981-7780. All Tradesmen and families are welcome to receive this Building Trade discount. The Local 58 Commemorative Quilt Raffle tickets are now available at the Hall, \$10 each or 3 for \$20, please contact Kelly Lynch to purchase.

Members of the Commu**nity Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, at 5:30 pm. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 PM.

EWMC of Southeastern MI- The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 6pm. This will be an inperson meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

Our DPSCD National Reading Month event had to be postponed. The new date that we will be reading to students is Friday, March 24, 2023. If you are interested in participating you must fill out the security clearance form. Please contact Andre Crook for more information. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the future. We will be creating more tie-dye t-shirts in the coming weeks. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with this fundraiser and the Lottery Raffle.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee **meeting** will be on Monday, April 10 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)- If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at registrar@ibewlocal58.org. Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

Local 58's Women's Committee- Our next meeting is on April 27 at 5:30 pm in-person at the hall and on Zoom. We are in the process of reviewing and updating our ARC Scholarship, look for more information as to when it will be open for submissions. Mother's Day is fast approaching and this year it falls on a Wobbly

Kitchen Sunday. We are putting together Mother's Day bags to hand out during the event, and we need help getting donations! Small, like or similar items are the idea (small scented hand lotion, ChapStick, hair brush, scrunchies, manicure set...) as we would like to get 75 bags to pass out on the day of the event.

We will be having a decorating party for the bags on April 29 (date??) so bring the kids, and come help us decorate some stuff for Mom. We're asking that any and all donations be turned in by May 5, so we can pack our bags May 6 and 7. If you have questions, contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at <u>58womenscom-</u> mittee@ibewlocal58.org

IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is April 12, at the local union hall in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the building. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. Retirees that have not already been interviewed and who would like to be a part of the Oral History Project that the local is undertaking, please call the local union at 313 963-2130 to request an interview, you will be put on a list, you will receive a return call to set up an interview, to add your history to this collection. Thanks to all who have already been interviewed.

We will be hosting the Annual Pin Party, on Saturday April 29 at the union hall. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at noon, awards presented after the meal. The gathering will honor 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70-year pin recipients. This celebration takes place in lieu of a luncheon in April. You don't have to be an honoree to join us. Mark your calendar now.

Invitations have been sent out to those who will be honored, please RSVP by April 14. Lunch is provided for our Honorees. To reserve your spot for the Pin Party, send your checks, made payable to the "Retirees Association", \$20 per person to IBEW local 58, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit, MI 48232-0756. For reservation questions call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

Local 58 Retiree's Association Fall Bus trip. The retirees coach trip to Charleston, S.C. is gaining momentum with deposits for the Fall excursion. The \$75 per person deposit is necessary to claim one of the 50 seats on the coach and is due May 10. Payment in full for each participant must be made by July 3. Trip insurance is available if you prefer. The trip dates are Sept. 10 thru 16. A flyer can be had at the luncheons or by contacting Rick Koerber. Mail to: rick dona@ hotmail.com The position of group leader for future trips is still available if you would like an enjoyable vacation with your friends. You don't need to be a retiree.

Electrical Workers Credit Union - Not A Member? Stop by Monday-Friday 9am-4pm or give us a call at (313) 963-6060 and we can mail you an application to join packet. You can also check us out at WWW.EWCU. NET. We are located right across the street from the union hall.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Douglas Groves, Steve Nelmark, and Russell Weathers.

Members that have Passed Away: Carol Anderson, Wife to Pension member Thomas Ander-(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK - First Aid/CPR class. There is a copy of your Successful Completion of the First Aid/CPR training here at the Hall. We should have the laminated cards in a couple of weeks. If you would like your completion including a copy of the card, please contact the Hall. The next First Aid/CPR will be held March 2024.

Local 445 Officer Elections 2023 If you have wanted to be more involved in Your Local, becoming an Officer of the Local is a good start. Please consider running for an Officer position. The Nominations will be at the May 2023 meeting and the Voting will be in June 2023. You will be getting a letter in the mail giving specifics. Now is the time for you to put your name in the hat!

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

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

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

IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for July 15, 2023, with shotgun start at 8am. Mark your calendars.

Dues Increases Over the next four and a half years, the dues increase voted on at the International Convention in 2022 are as follows, "A" and "BA" membership dues will increase \$2.00 per month effective January 1, 2023, \$1.00 per month effective July 1, 2024, and \$1.00 per month effective July 1, 2025.

Also "A" Member Pension Benefit Fund dues will increase \$2.00 per month effective Jan. 1, 2023, and \$2.00 per month effective Jan. 1, 2025. The PBF increases are to ensure the I.O. retirement remains strong for our members and our members of the future and to assist in a larger premium at retirement for our Members.

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, JIW rate is \$57.00/month and \$171.00/ quarter, AP rate is \$46.00/month and \$138.00/quarter. If you have already paid dues past January 2023, you will be able to make up your Difference in Dues when you make your next payment in 2023.

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

Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary

IBEW 58, con't

son; Yook Fong, Pension member, 46 year IBEW membership; Edward Gonzales, Pension member, 37 year IBEW membership; Robert C. Hall, Pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; Robert E. Johnson, Pension member, 45 year IBEW membership; Ilene Masiarczyk, Widow of Pension member Joseph Masiarczyk, Mother to Pension member, JIW, Bethany Saigh; Mary Podrasky, Sister to Pension member Michael Podrasky.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD BAY CITY OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS MICHIGAN

IBEW 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The April monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 3, 2023.

Executive Board Meeting. The April Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Message from the Business Manager. On Jan. 13, 2023 GM announced investing \$216 million into our GM plant right here in Bay City. What we know at this time is this investment will keep our GM plant viable for the next 10 years. What we do not know is the manpower that will be needed to complete this project.

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

Nelson Electric – GM Powertrain work started on Oct. 3 and will run through the first quarter of 2023. Swan Electric – Multiple DTE natural gas pumping stations throughout Zones 1 and 2. This project just as many others have seen delays due to supply issues. J.Ranck Electric - continuing work on phase 2 of the SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility. Ranck Electric has also secured the Balance of System work on a Solar Farm in Gladwin County.

Newkirk Electric has a solar project near Mio. More calls for this project are expected as the weather breaks. Master Electric has the new Isabella County Jail. Robinson Industries in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in their recent fire. Countyline Power has secured this work. Clements Electric is on site at Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay) and has begun work.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing may soon have calls getting into Book II if you are looking to travel. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial

Organizers Report. Prolabor legislation has been swiftly working its way through the House and Senate to eventually land on Gov. Whitmer's desk awaiting her signature. The Michigan GOP and some business organizations have been vocal in their opposition to the repeal of Right-To-Work and the reinstatement of Prevailing Wage provisions on State and Federal construction projects. It should come as no surprise that these groups will attempt to frame their opposition to such measures as "defending workers'

right to choose." In reality, these groups have proven time and time again that the only rights of workers they are concerned with is the right to weaken their unions' strength at the bargaining table by refusing to pay dues, or the" right" to work for less pay and benefits on projects funded by taxpayers. Opposition groups will also claim to have an issue with the speed at which these recent packages have been introduced and voted on. These claims are made without merit, as we all remember what happened on 2012, when Republican Gov. Rick Snyder initially made Michigan a Right-To-Work state during a lame-duck session. Ultimately, elections have consequences, and Local 692 wholeheartedly agrees with Democratic leaders that both repealing Right-To-Work and reinstating Prevailing Wage will benefit working families in our state.

692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to build a higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations. If you know any unrepresented workers in our industry, please reach out to them and share your experiences as an IBEW member. There is a pathway to IBEW membership available to all workers in our industry.

Organizers have recently been involved in multiple career day and similar events across our jurisdiction, including Cheboy-

gan, West Branch, Mio, Tawas, and the Greater Bay region. Signatory contractor Conti Corporation recently participated in the second annual Build Like A Girl event held at Midland's Great Hall. We'd like to recognize Local 692 apprentices Angela Cripps and Harleigh Johnson for volunteering their time to promote our industry to a future generation of tradeswomen.

We continue to see open calls in the Alpena area as organizing Zone 2 workers remains a priority. It is essential that we are able to supply our contractors with adequate manpower so they feel comfortable bidding all projects in out northern jurisdiction. If you are looking for work and are willing to accept a call in Alpena, please let an agent know. If you'd like to register on any other IBEW Local out-of-work lists, please reach out to the hall for details on which locals accept fax or email registration. Brian Klele 989.252.9225 Bren-

don Baranek 989.327.4131 Union Dues. The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022 approved a per capita increase of \$2.00 as well as a \$2.00 increase paid into the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF). Therefore, effective Jan. 1, 2023, monthly dues will

increase to \$45.20 per month. If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.

2023 Dues: Monthly \$45.20 Quarterly \$135.60 6 months \$271.20 Yearly \$542.40

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

Retirees Lunch. The next retiree lunch is scheduled for 10 PM on Thursday, April 20 at Red Oak Family Restaurant, 322 W. Saginaw Road in Sanford.

RENEW. It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their local union. If you are a member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in 692's RE-NEW committee, contact Cody (989.600.4643) for more information. RENEW meetings are held once a month following our general membership meeting.

The RENEW committee would like to thank all who participated in the second annual Brotherhood on The Bay fishing tournament. Although Mother Nature didn't cooperate by providing less-than-ideal ice conditions, it was great to see some anglers come together for brotherhood nonetheless. Special thanks are due to member Josh Revard for providing the walleye and preparing an outstanding meal, and congratulations to Aaron Guigar for earning the honors by snagging the heaviest perch. RENEW looks forward to next year's event.

Examination Board Vacancy. There are currently only four members serving on the Examination Board. As a result, any Journey-level member who is interesting in serving as the fifth Examining Board member is invited to notify the Executive Board in writing. Examining Board members typically meet outside of working hours to supervise the examination of applicants for membership to determine their qualifications for the trade. Executive Board hopes to appoint a member to fulfill the vacancy in the coming month.

Fringe Benefits. if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms

can be obtained from the hall. REMINDER: If you contact the Health Plan Office about going on short term disability, it is important for you to notify the Hall as well. A copy of your paperwork will need to be submitted to the Hall for your file. This will also freeze your position on the out of work list.

Important links & numbers 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 NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300IO

Pension: 202-833-7000



Local 275

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE - Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The work outlook remains the same as it has over most of the winter with some calls starting to come in for work.

Newkirk should be putting in calls sometime this Spring for the LG Chem battery plant in Holland. We will keep you updated as info on other projects become available. If you are interested in traveling for work in the meantime, please call the hall for up to date information on available calls that need filled elsewhere. If you are interested in salting, contact Geoff or Walt for more information.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Grand Rapids. It was a great show of solidarity for the Kent Ionia CLC, and was a good time had by all!

The annual West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for April 20 at the Barclay Place in Muskegon. Please contact Nicole for tickets if you are interested in attending. If you have any venison, fish, or other wild game meat you would like to donate, let Walter know. There will be separate raffles for all who donate.

The next regular scheduled membership meeting is Tuesday April 18, 6pm at the union hall. We will have the new solidarity shirts available at the meeting if you have not gotten yours yet. As a reminder these shirts cannot be bought but are given for attending a union meeting or giving your time for one of the many volunteer opportunities that present themselves throughout the year.

Please remember that re-sign is the 10th-16th of each month. If you re-sign is not in before the 16th you will be rolled off the book and will need to do an initial sign once again. Resigns and initial signs may be sent to Geoff at gyonkers@ibew275.org. If you are in need of assistance to resign other books, please be aware of that Local's re-sign policy. We are not aware of every Local's resign policy outside of Michigan and this may lead to you rolling off books if that Local's re-sign policy is not followed.

Dues for 2023 have increased to \$46.90 per month. Please adjust when making payments through the mail and automatic bank payments.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in dues: Dennis Gabbert, Damien Keglovitz, Brian Kelly, Braydn Vanpatten, and Timothy Wenk. Please make every effort to get caught up.

"Never be entirely idle; but either be reading, or writing, or praying or meditating or endeavoring something for the public good.

-Thomas a Kempis (1380 -1471)

'The way you overcome shyness is to become so wrapped up in something that you forget to be afraid.'

-Lady Bird Johnson (1912 -2007)

"If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself alone. A man should keep his friendships in constant repair.'

-Samuel Johnson (1709 -1784)

"The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish spurting out ink. '

-George Orwell (1903 -

"Take away the miseries and vou take away some folks' reason for living.

-Toni Cade Bambara

"Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

-Abraham Lincoln (1809 -1865)

"Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working.' -Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)



WE'RE A BIT LATE for Women in Construction Week, March 6-9, but we can still recognize some of the women of Iron Workers Local 25. Shown (l-r) are apprentice Marlana Prime, apprentice Ashley Craig, Journeyman Inside Wire(woman) Tonia Curtis, JIW Heather Hamilton, JIW Terri Powless and apprentices Anna Ciesinski and Jordyne Goolsby. They're all members of Local 25's Woman's Group.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI - March's Union meeting will be Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open. This will be the 3rd and Final Reading of the BY-LAW Proposals submitted in January '23. The Vote date on these proposals will be April 5, 2023 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at all Union Halls.

Local Union Elections: Nominations for the Election of Officers will take place starting at 7:00 am March 27, 2023 through March 31, 2023 closing at 4:00 pm. Nominations will be conducted through The Members Only Section of our Website (www. Ironworkers25. org). A member can nominate himself/herself; or a member can nominate a fellow member. Considering this is an Officer Election year, please be sure we have your current address on file at the Novi Hall. If you have moved recently and/or are unsure of the address we have, please call the Hall to double check (248-344-9494).

Steward meeting(s): NEW DATE/TIME: The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday March 27, at 6:00 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday April 19, at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday April 27, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

The Ironworkers Local 25 Training Center is now accepting resumes for the full-time position of JIW Instructor for the Hudsonville, MI Training Center location primarily and some weeks at the Wixom, MI Training Center. Members that are interested can call the Wixom Training Center at (248)960-2130 to schedule a time to submit their resume, also all candidates will take the ACT Work Keys "Talent" Assessment here at the Wixom Training Center, this test is ap-

proximately an hour in length. Please read the Ironworker Instructor Job Description for qualifications and requirements located in the members section on the ironworkers25.org website. The deadline to turn in resumes will be FRIDAY April 21st, 2023

@ 2pm. 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

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 for your pay raise slips.

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule. The 2022 Raising Gang Training schedule is one the website. Please call the school to make up days **Do not just show** up and expect to be allowed to stay.

The Ironworkers Local 25 APP & Website: Members are able to access the log-in section

and can sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website (www. ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the

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

FRINGE BENEFIT OF-FICE: 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 (April 1-April 30).

RENEFIT FOR CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next openenrollment period (April 1-April

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Novi Chapter Board of Directors will meet Tuesday April 4, 2023 at 8:30 am. The Retirees meeting/ luncheon will be Tuesday April 18, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday April 4, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Future meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

The Bay City Chapter: The next quarterly meeting will be 1:00 pm on April 20, 2023 at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be April 21, 2023 at 9:00 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club Scholarship available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school. Retiree must have a minimum of five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their annual club dues to be eligible and apply. Contact John Miller: text/ call (734) 812-8036 or email ilmillertime50@yahoo.com. (NEW) Dial 988 for help

in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 988 connects cell phones & land lines to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available - its free & confidential. Alternately 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

Check out Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT: http://www.impact-net.org/ safety/suicide-prevention-resources. US Crisis Text Line: Text **HOME** to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

MDHHS launches the OpiRescue smartphone app to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses. The OpiRescue app is available for Android and iOS platforms/cell phones. It is free to use and anonymous. It can be downloaded at Apple iOS app store or through Google Play. OpiRescue provides informa tion ant a 5-step process for how to respond to an opioid overdose event. The guidelines have been developed by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)".

The OpiRescue App can be used to Find Treatment for substance abuse & mental health, with a quick link to the **National Help Line.**

Help available at: Find-Treatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city etc. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).

In Memory: Ilene Masiarczyk passed away March 4, 2023. She was the mother of JIW Richard Masiarczyk #1160944. Lifetime IW Donald A. Horn # 598860 passed away March 5, 2023 at the age of 92. He was a 66-year member. Donald is survived by his two sons Brian Horn #1220075 & Eric Horn #1197184.

Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Mar 20, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

'Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain

dealing. -Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

"The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest her or his patients in the care of the human frame, in a proper diet, and in the cause and prevention

of disease. -Thomas A. Edison (1847 -





Local 7 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, April 13, 2023, at 6:00

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

*Zone 2 May 16st at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 May 10th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

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

*Zone 4 May 9th at 6:00 p.m. *Zone 5 April 6th at 6:00 p.m.



NEWS: Local No. 7 –**Union Hoodies** available through the Lansing office for \$44.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Red with White logo. Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2023. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you SAM are having issues registering.

FULLER

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 download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

ZONE 1 Info. Brothers and Sisters, please welcome new Business Representative Vance Saunders. Vance will begin his duties as the Battle Creek/Kalamazoo Representative on 3/20/2023 and will have the same phone numbers as the previous Representative. Work has been steady as we are heading into spring and looks to remain this way for the remainder of the year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

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

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

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The

Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014 (Retirees, please notify James or Eric of any changes or additions

you would like) In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders

ZONE 2 Info: Zone 2 work remains steady and looks good into the summer. As a reminder, always call in to the Business Agent when traveling to another Zone or Local, it is the members responsibility to do so. Dues payments are always do prior to the first of every month. Mark your calendars for July 22nd, the Local 7 picnic will be held at the Double JJ Resort again this year, this is always a great time. Work Safe and Thank You, Mike Adams

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the Saginaw area remains slow, but should be picking up soon, we do have some nice projects and it will be a busy year once things get moving. Other areas are starting to pick up also especially with the battery plants in Lansing and Holland getting started. If anyone needs any journeyman upgrade classes, first aid/CPR, OSHA 30, MSHA please contact me or the training center. Just a reminder to please schedule your physical in this calendar year (2023). If you do not get your physical, your deductible will go up next year. Retirees meeting March 28 at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City, Michigan, hope to see all the retirees there. Thank you, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting will be June 15th at 6pm at the Mill Pond Event Center. Work is still steady across the area and will remain strong. We are constantly looking for new members, if you know anyone interested please have them go to our website and fill out an application. The SASMI benefit for July 1 – Dec. 31, 2022 is under 750 hours. If there are any questions on the new yearly physical requirement or the SASMI boot program call me. Our disbursement meeting will be on March 30 at the Freeland hall at 6:00pm, call me for carpooling info. In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: I hope everything is well with everyone; spring is just around the corner. Work outlook for the upcoming season is very promising. Any member wishing to take continuing education classes through (ITI) please contact Training Coordinator Dan Bryant, cell: 810-219-4636 office: 810-785-8111. Just a reminder if any of our Zone 4 members are looking to travel to some of the upcoming projects, get with me, most are requiring either OSHA 10-30 or MUST training. Your Brother Scott Brotherton

ZONE 5 Info: Our next meeting will be April 6 in Gwinn, at 6:00 pm. Work in the U.P. is going strong! We have a few travelers currently and are looking for many more in the upcoming months. If you know anyone interested in our trade, contact me at (231) 590-1112. If you get laid off, you must sign up for the out of work list as you can probably go back to work the next day. For those of you, who are eligible for SASMI, contact me as you should have received the form in the mail by now. In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: SASMI benefits for period 2022B – Hours are from July 1, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2022. You must have worked under 750 hours in that time and have been a member in good standing to qualify. Please contact your Business Agent to apply.

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

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

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

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

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

882-4064 Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer)

517-882-4064

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

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200 Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752 Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552 John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112

(Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

Local 80 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. *Date change for the April meeting, the meeting will be on April 18, 2023 at 5:30pm.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2023 schedule is as follows: April 17, 2023, June 19, 2023, Aug. 21, 2023, Oct. 16, 2023 (Holiday Party) and Dec. 18, 2023. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding TIM joining the Retirees Association please contact

MULLIGAN Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. **RETIREE NEWS**: Retiree lapel pins with

the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday May 13, at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to rsvp 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year's wage allocation at the April union meeting. April's meeting will be on April 18 at 5:30pm.

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

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: William Derr, Chris Steer, Eric Vinci, Eugene Hartsuck, Alexander Fabian, Gerald Hoga, William Nelson, Steven Young, Tim Koester, Mike Dostilio, Anthony Caleca & John Hill.

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.

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

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

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

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

LAYOFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon layoff, even if you only work one day. These are the Bylaw 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 layoff.

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

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 biannually: March 1 through March 20 and Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

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

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisor EAP.com. Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.

Save the Date:

Wage Allocation: April 18, 2023; General Election Nominations: May 23, 2023; General Election Vote: June 27, 2023; Golf Outing: July 15, 2023; **Picnic:** August 12, 2023

Training Center News.

The Keith Clos Memorial Copper Class – Students enrolled in the Copper Class will receive materials and instructions to build one copper project (copper lighthouse, hurricane lantern or birdhouse). The class will meet on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks starting on Wednesday, April 12 from 5-8pm. Registration for Local 80 Journeymen starts March 24 and apprentices can apply starting March 29.

The deadline to register is Monday, April 10. The class is limited to ten people.

March 24, 2023



Local 292 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Local 292

TROY - MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. 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 will be held on March 28, **2023**, at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you Must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and also through all shop stewards.

This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

TRUHEARING: On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, we would like to introduce TruHearing, the NEW exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

PAUL

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To GUALDONI access your MUST account, please go to www. mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that

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

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

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

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

RETIREES NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 2023 schedule for the Local 292 Retiree luncheon are as follows: April 6, June 1, Aug. 3, Oct. 5, and Dec. 7. The retirees luncheon will be held at: Tavern on the Main @ 12:30 p.m. 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street.

Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292. com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

Please join us for lunch, great conversations and story telling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292. com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners 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.

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

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 on April 1, 15th & 22nd. 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.



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Local 47 Heat and Frost

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

Insulators

LANSING - The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI

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.

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, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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 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.

Local 47's Annual Picnic Invites and Scholarship Drawing forms have been mailed out. Please RSVP by May 5, 2023 so we can be sure to have enough food and beverages for everyone. This years Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

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

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

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079 Telephone: (517) 321-7502 Fax No.: (517) 321-7508

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

1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804. To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroac-

tively 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 (Continued next column)



Frost Insulators Heat & Frost Insulators Local

SOUTHFIELD - UNION MEETING - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take



Street, Southfield, MI 48033. BYLAW READING:

place Thursday,

April 13, 2023

at 6:00 p.m. at

the Union Hall,

21353 Bridge

The second CURT McGLONE reading of the proposed Bylaw

changes read at the March 9, 2023 will take place at the April 13, 2023 Membership Meeting

SPECIAL CALLED MEM-**BERSHIP MEETING**: There will be a SPECIAL CALLED Membership Meeting - Strike/ Ratification on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. This meeting is MAN-**DATORY** for all apprentices.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MOD-ULES: In order to be eligible for the safety module stipend, you must contact the Union Office **PRIOR** to taking the safety

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

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 48 hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

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

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

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

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

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

Local 47, con't

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to

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."



Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., April 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., April 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan membership informational meeting is scheduled for Tues., April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

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

Brother Stanley Adams, he was 82 years old and a 53-year member. Brother Adams past on

Brother Emil Camaiore, he was 89 years old and a 63-year member. Brother Camaiore past on 3/16/2023.

Rest in Peace Brother Stanley Adams, and Brother Emil Camaiore.

Detroit Wage Allocation. During the April 4, 2023, Detroit membership meeting, proposals will be taken to determine how to allocate this year's \$1.60 raise.

Detroit Vacation Checks (quarterly). The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, April 21, 2023 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, April 22, 2023 for anyone that cannot make it down Friday.

Those who have their vacation pay Direct Deposited; will have their money deposited in their bank on April 17, 2023. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you want the check mailed.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas. To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit 149 members. Dues must be current in or-

der to enter the Training Center.

Moving? If you have a new address please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information for recruitment purposes, and hopefully to get a picture of our members for Facebook.

CLEARANCE CARDS. Are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

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

MID-MICHIGAN AREA Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular informational membership meeting is scheduled for Tue., April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

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

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368, or midmichroofers149@ gmail.com to make arrangements.

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

The publication above is as 3/20/2023, 1:00p.m.

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



District Council 1M

Gonzalez

6 p.m.

Business Manager: Robert

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of

every month at 6:30 p.m., with

the Executive Board meeting at

Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren

MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin

Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of

Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Gales-

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann

Web site: www.iupat-local514.

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of

Business Rep - Fred Freder-

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of

Place: 419 S. Washington Av-

Meeting date: The Fourth

Wednesday of every month at

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Free-

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of

Place: District Council 1M,

14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of

Place: District Council 1M,

14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

District Council

1M MICHIGAN

Sign, Pictorial &

Display Local 591

eral Membership Meeting will

be held on Tuesday, April 4, at

6:30p.m. Trustees and union

standing (dues up to date) with

District Council 1 app or receipt

membership and who 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

union issues, please call Jeremy

Haviland at 586-899-0183, your

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

TO WORK: procedure for out of

and back to work: When laid off

or going back to work, call the

office. 586-552-4474

NFPA 70E

TRAINING

OUT OF WORK: BACK

Business Representative.

Any questions on local

Questions pertaining to

Council By-laws

of paid dues to attend meeting

stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

WARREN -The next Gen-

Members must be in good

Anyone possessing a union

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

Business Rep: Tony Parker

every month at 6:30 p.m.

Ave, Lansing MI 48933

every month at 6:30 p.m.

every month at 7:30 p.m.

Local Union 312

burg, MI 49053

Arbor, MI.

Local Union 514

<u>Local Union 826</u>

every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St.

Local Union 845

every month at 7 p.m.

Local Union 1052

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

every month at 5:30 p.m.

land, MI 48623

Local Union 2352

Local Union 2353

every month at 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m

MI 48529

enue, Lansing, MI 48933

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

Burton, MI 48529

iupatdc1michigan.org

DC1M FACEBOOK: www. facebook.com/iupat1m DC 1M UNION CARDS*

received a card please contact the DC1M offices at: Warren Office: (586)552-4474

(989) 695-6888

4425

SICKNESS and DEATH Retired DC 1M Office Manager Connie Ragatzki passed away. Connie is sister to Local 2352

our Brothers and Sisters in your thoughts and prayers.

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

For ANDROID got to

lied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id# Password: painters

alerts, and communications from your Union, etc. GET INVOLVED AND PAR-TICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

going back to work.

Michigan Painters

District Council

Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers Lo-

uled union meeting will be held

on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at

Stanley, which manages our Lo-

cal 357 annuity, will be at the

April union meeting to speak with

us on our individual investments.

and answer any questions we may

dated the pension website. There

is new information that could be

that you can download. It's called

IUPAT Mobile Member Portal.

You can find this in the app

store, and it is a free app. Once

you download this app, you will

need your union member id to log

in. You can find your member id

printed on your quarterly union

card. Once you log into this app

it's a helpful tool to track your

hours worked, and it all has a

digital copy of your union card.

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.

mailed to the Union Office at

14587 Barber Avenue, Warren,

MI 48088. Make checks payable

to: DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M

of town, all members are remind-

ed that they must check in with

the local that you are working in

as per the International Constitu-

Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint

Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI

48098-066; phone number: 248-

modules, please contact your

employer if you are employed or

the union office @ 586-552-4478,

if you're not. Any questions call

the hall or call the Council @ 586-

552-4474. Participation is very

important to keep our union strong,

so try to make it to a meeting.

-Business Rep- Don Stepp

641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

tion and our local C.B.A.

in care of Glassworkers #357.

Dues payments may be

When traveling to work out

The Fund Office address is

If you are in need of safety

Keep your working status

helpful.Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT pension has up-

The IUPAT has a new app

6pm. Please attend.

WARREN - Our next sched-

Erik Burger, with Morgan

cal 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

Painters DC 1M WARREN – Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.

> Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union card, or if you have dues inquiries or have not

ROBERT GONZALEZ extension 100

Freeland Office:

FTI of the GREAT LAKES INSTRUCTOR POSITION. FTI of the Great Lakes is looking for a part time Glazing instructor at our Lansing Training Center. Anyone interested should submit their resume to Shawn O'Neill at dot@iupatdcm.org or (517) 304-

retiree Carmen Tuzzolino.

Please keep the Families of

PAINTERS DISTRICT

For IPHONE go to IOS store, Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Al-

With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

"Our patience will achieve more than our force." –Edmund Burke (1729 -





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Factor/Transient Studies & Corrections



tors 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, (517) 719-

2316, or the Business Manager

Henry Williams, (313) 215-5063.

ules and drug test are up to date,

there are some plant jobs that

do require the MUST modules.

You can go online at: www.mus-

tonline.org Call the Local if you

have all of your current contact

information, address and phone

number so we can keep the fund

offices updated for your health

care and pension and also if you

are having your vacation checks

mailed out. If you have moved,

please contact the Local and we

will change your addresses with

FOR PLASTERERS AND

DETROIT COMMERCIAL

CEMENT MASONS: You are

IMPORTANT NOTICE

all of the fund offices.

Please make sure that we

need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure your mod-



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

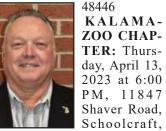
BAC Local 2 WARREN/ LANSING – APRIL 2023 CHAPTER

MEETINGS METRO DETROIT **CHAPTER:** Tuesday, April 04, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANNARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 04, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 05, 2023 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street,

Lapeer, MI



PAUL MI 49087

DUNFORD LANSING **CHAPTER:** Monday, April

Drive, Lansing, MI 48906 MARQUETTE CHAP-TER: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street,

10, 2023 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy

Marquette, MI 49855 SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay

City, MI 48706 TRAVERSE CITY CHAP-TER: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City, MI

SPECIAL RECOGNI-**TION:** Congratulations are in order for apprentice, Ryan Gordon! He was named the 2022 Bricklayer Apprentice of the Year by AGC of Michigan. He was nominated by Instructor, Matt Cecora for his attendance and punctuality, commitment to the trade and outstanding craft achievement, to name a few.

ANNOUNCEMENT: *AT-TENTION* If you worked with Ron Darga from 1958 to 1985 and would be willing to assist his attorneys with an asbestos/ mesothelioma case please call Kerry O'Sullivan at Simmons Hanly Conroy at direct dial 618-219-6250.

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother John Bertoia (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 19, 2023. Brother Bertoia had been a member for /3 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** Billy Douglas (Pointer, Cleaner, Caulker) who passed away on February 27, 2023. Brother Douglas had been a member for 36 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of former President of BAC Local 2 of Michigan, James McNeilly who passed away on February 23, 2023. Brother McNeilly had been a member for 72 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** Matthew Selewski (Chemical Products Worker & Tile Layer) who passed away on February 11, 2023. Brother Selewski had been a member for 46 years.

MARK YOUR CALEN-**DAR:** BAC Local 2 and Motor City Cruise have partnered up to offer a discount on their upcoming games. Tickets are \$5 each but the first is free. Members can purchase up to 4 tickets total. Use the link below and be sure to use

BAC as the discount code. https://fevo.me/bac2

WEBSITE UPDATES: Be sure to check out our new website at https://www.bricklayers.org and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORK-**ERS:** Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a Signing Bonus for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as 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.

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

*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!!

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAIN-ING CENTERS: Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to https://www.michiganbricklayers.org to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2023 online training classes.

APPRENTICE WORK-**SHEETS:** Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at https:// www.michiganbricklayers.org/ resources. For more information on the Training Centers visit: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org

MEMBERSHIP 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 https://bacweb.org/ member-service/member-assistance-program-map and are also



Operative Plasterers' and Cement

DETROIT - The membership meeting in April is can-

"The story of the labor movement needs to be taught in every school in this land.... America is a living testimonial to what free men and women, organized in free democratic trade unions, can do to make a better life. We ought to be proud of it." -HUBERT HUMPHREY

We are happy and proud to announce the 14th Annual Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship application form that needs to be submitted applicants can be picked up at the local.

The official Scholarship Application Form can be found on the OPCMIA website www.opcmia.org for qualified applicants to apply.

The completed form should be returned to the International Headquarters no later than April 1, 2023

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full Social Security number

Local 2, con't

available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday – Friday 8 am - 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

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

BAC 2 MĪ 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 INFORMA-TION. BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244 Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800

Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550

CALL-A-DOC - (800) 835-

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Local 514



of your social security number.

Masons' Local 514 Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/ register and select register now.

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

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

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

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

> Attention all Apprentices: now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions". You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

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

The Local's website is: www.

opcmiami.org. Please refer to website for

updated information. O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has

a satellite office in Flint, MI. We welcome Members and Contrac-

able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, www.Principal.com or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways: Go online: Principal.com

If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identify), and your ID number (this is either you So-

cial Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you.

Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address.

Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, ROAD BUILDERS can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502. PLASTER-ERS' 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 Michi-

For the INTERNATION-AL PENSION Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.

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You and your health . . .



WHILE THE BARRAGE of TV ads for prescription drugs can make you aware of medicines that address some of your health concerns, please remember this: these commercials are aimed at selling expensive drugs, and not much else.

Are these expensive drugs worth it? Do they really do any better than other drugs or therapies?

The short answer: A great majority of the time - no according to two recent studies appearing in professional medical journals.

Only about 20 percent of the most heavily advertised drugs were found to have high added clinical benefits over existing drugs or treatments. That translated into about \$16 billion being spent to advertise drugs that had little to no benefit over older medicines or therapies.

Yet, big pharmaceutical companies blanket the airwaves so completely with ads that the jingles associated with some of them often become annoying earworms. One study, published in JAMA Network Open that was done by a group of physicians including a Harvard Medical School professor, tracked TV drug advertisements from 2015 to 2021.

They found that \$22.3 billion was spent on ads for 73 drugs, and counted 663,000 TV commercials in 2016 alone no wonder you have that song/ jingle stuck in your head!

Why spend for little benefit?

Some argue that advertising increases awareness of health issues, and encourages people to talk with their health professionals to get needed help. Others say expensive new drugs that aren't terribly effective need the advertising blitz so that consumers will badger their

TV Ads for Prescription Drugs Don't Make Them Better -**Just More Expensive**

"Imagine if the drug ads you saw on TV were required to tell you how well the drug performed against alternative drugs for the same disease. That might change how interested you would be in the drug."

 Gerard Anderson, professor of health policy, Johns Hopkins Univ. and study author

doctors to prescribe them.

In a Vox article about prescription drug advertising, George Porter, a professor at the University of California San Diego, recounted how he reached out to his doctor about a prescription eye drop he saw advertised to help with blurry vision. He never heard back from his doctor, but instead got a call from his pharmacy saying the prescription was ready.

"I was actually expecting to ask some questions about effectiveness and safety," said Porter, but he never got the opportunity.

When he went to pick up his prescription, he found his insurance didn't cover it, so he shelled out \$79 for a 19-day supply. After a short trial that admittedly was less than the 30 days the drug maker claims it may take to see results, Porter said the drug did nothing for him.

In the same Vox article, a Washington pharmacist offered her insights into why Porter's experience may be happening. All of the advertising "puts doctors in a position of thinking, 'Well, it's not really going to hurt them, I don't really want them to have it, but they're going to fill out some survey saying I wasn't listening to their needs and I'm a horrible provider," she said.

Doctors barraged too

Consumers aren't the only ones targeted by drug compa-

nies to push sales. The big dollar amounts spent on direct-to-consumer-advertising actually pale in comparison to what drug companies lavish on doctors.

According to the latest data from the CMS Open Payments database, health care professionals received \$10.88 billion in payments from pharmaceutical companies in 2021 for things such as consulting fees, meals, travel, gifts, or speaking fees.

Coupled with what drug companies spend on "detailing," the practice of sending more than 70,000 pharmaceutical reps to visit doctors' offices to ply them with free prescription drug samples, the total budget for marketing to health care professionals tops well over \$20 billion a year.

One need only think about the opioid drug crisis that began with over-zealous prescribing practices - and encouraged by the drug manufacturers - to see the harm that may come from these practices.

What's the purpose?

As consumers, we want the drugs that will assist us in achieving the best of health. Unfortunately, with so much money awash in the prescription drug industry, it's prudent to view drug ads on TV for what they are: an effort to sell an expensive product, and not necessarily the best way for you to achieve the goal of good health.

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



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members:

\$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers!

BAC Local 2- Michigan is offering up to a \$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers and Masonry Restoration Workers who join now and who stay working for our contractors!

Our Members who refer these new members will get the same bonus as well!

Journeymen Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$35.54 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions. Our Contractors have immediate opening for Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.

For more information go to: bricklayers.org

Outdoors Our happy little trees





Brian Dunn, park supervisor at Port Crescent State Park in the Thumb, holds a Happy Little Trees sign before its permanent installation in the park's campground.

By Michelle O'Kelly Parks and Recreation Division Michigan Department of **Natural Resources**

The Happy Little Trees program began in 2019, during Michigan's state park centennial celebration, as an initiative to brand a partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Each year, the DNR collects seeds from native tree species in state parks and takes them to correctional facilities to be planted. The seedlings that are produced are cared for by prison inmates.

When the trees grow to approximately 5 feet tall, they are transported back to state parks to be planted to replace diseased and

damaged trees. The DNR approached Bob Ross, Inc. to get permission from the late how-to painter's company to name the DNR/DOC program "Happy Little Trees."

The program's name is a tribute to the American artist and TV host Bob Ross who was known Inc. was intended to solicit volunfor his painting of landscapes teers to plant trees in the parks. and his gentle demeanor. Ross, who died in 1994 at age 52, starred in the television program Bob Ross image as well as com-"The Joy of Painting," which memorated the DNR centennial aired from 1983 to 1994 on PBS

"happy little trees" while teach- help, we knew we had a special ing people how to paint them. concept. Later that first year, we The premise of the DNR/DOC's program "Happy Little Trees" was that the trees would be able to happily leave correctional facili- Trees 5K" was born. All proceeds ties to live in a state park.

Joan Kowalski, executive director of Bob Ross, Inc., gladly accepted the DNR proposal and claimed, "Bob would have loved

The DNR/DOC's partnership has produced more than 100,000 native plants, shrubs and trees since its start in 2014. With support from the Bob Ross partner- out to gauge interest in the 5K ship, more than 2,100 trees have run/walk event, and more than been planted within 20 Michigan 20,000 people wanted to particistate parks.

The initial partnership be-

Volunteers received "Happy Planting" T-shirts that featured a

With an overwhelming out-Ross often talked about pouring of people wanting to decided to do a fundraiser for the program.

celebration.

The concept of "Run for the support tree planting and forest protection efforts, including invasive plant and forest pest management and early invasive pest detection surveys in Michigan tate parks.

It was anticipated the DNR would host a small 5K in one of the state parks with a couple hundred people. A notice went

The DNR quickly pivoted tween DNR, DOC and Bob Ross, from an in-person event to a

requests to participate from all over the world.

In April 2020, the first "Run for the Trees 5K" took place. With 19,500 participants, running, walking and hiking, we covered all 50 states and several

Friends and families participated, and even if they were unable to gather together because of the coronavirus pandemic, it gave them a sense of togetherness and purpose. It was quickly decided to make the Run for the Trees an annual event.

The event saw another 18,000 participants in 2021 and 14,000 in 2022. Registration is still open for the 2023 event, and we are quickly approaching another 10,000 participants.

Participants are encouraged to complete their 5K over the time span between April 22 and April 28, approximately between Earth Day and Arbor Day each

The program has raised over \$1 million dollars since it started.

Wanting to "share the love" with other states, the DNR has embarked on a partnership in 2023 that will allow the agency to donate proceeds from the event to other states.

Now, when participants register, they can pick from five

virtual event to accommodate Ohio and Indiana have joined Michigan in the program in hopes of receiving proceeds to support stewardship efforts in their states.

The need for tree protection knows no boundaries, and the mission is to have this event support trees across the United States within the next couple of years.

Due to demand, registration was extended to March 17, and participants can still sign up at runsignup.com/bobross5k. Packets will ship before the end of the month and will include a commemorative T-shirt, bib number and finisher's medal in time for the April event.

Participants are encouraged to get outdoors and complete their 5K by walking, running or hiking on their favorite trail or at their favorite state park and to submit photos on the DNR's website and social media by tagging #runforthetrees, #bobross5k and #mistateparks.

The success of this event has been realized by not only those who love to be active outdoors, but also by those who are looking for a cool experience to share with friends and family, those who are inspired by Bob Ross's gentle nature and love of trees, and those who want to make a positive difference for future generations to

Learn more about the Happy states their race proceeds can go Little Trees program at Michigan. to. South Carolina, Wisconsin, gov/DNRHappyLittleTrees.

Much to like about revival of prevailing wage

(Continued from Page 1)

Director Lee Graham: "When the state repealed prevailing wage it undermined the very safety and training elected officials said they valued. By lowering the standards and wages in construction, the message was clear: Michigan businesses and Michigan workers aren't worth it."

The new law, which at press time still needed a few details to be worked out between the House and Senate, has the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) setting the prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits for those in the skilled trades on a state building project. It is "substantively the same" as the 1965 bill that was tossed aside in 2018, according to the House Fiscal Agency.

Detroit IBEW Local 58 Registrar Jeannette Bradshaw, speaking on behalf of the IBEW State Conference, told the Labor Committee: "Prevailing wage laws are clearly best for the construction industry the best for taxpayers and create more paths for a middle class living for workers."

Neil Parish, executive director of the Michigan Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, testified on behalf of their network of 300 small businesses before the Senate Labor Committee on March 14. He said prevailing wage is a "vital protection" for worker and small businesses in Michigan."

He was followed by Battle Creek's Motor Shop Electric President John Banks, a union contractor who urged the reinstatement of prevailing wage. He said he is often approached by local business owners about completing projects started by low-bidding, low-skilled contractors who simply abandon jobs they start. "I am the guy they call when it comes to finishing projects started with unskilled labor," he said.

State's road repair tab is going to sting, group says

(Continued from Page 1) between \$285 to \$535 every year to fund the repairs.

Funding solutions have proven elusive. Early in her administration, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer floated the idea of instituting a 45-cent per gallon gas tax – an unpopular idea that she withdrew in favor a limited, one-time \$3.5 billion bond issue to be repaid over 25 years. But other solutions have proven elusive.

To meet the funding gap, PSC said they examined five potential options "that have been considered and implemented by other states and countries." They include variations on fuel tax hikes; increasing the apportionment of sales tax for transportation; allowing local governments to charge their own sales tax, and instituting mileage-based user charges, which would seem to be more widely directed at electric vehicle owners.

"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

-William James (1842 - 1910)

"Whenever you commend, add your reasons for doing so; it is this which distinguishes the approbation of a man of sense from the flattery of sycophants and admiration of fools."

- Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729)

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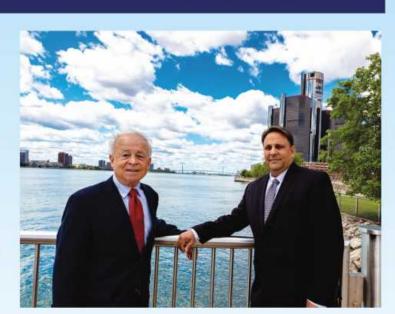
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