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SHORT CUTS

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\$2T plan would be a jobs machine

President Joe Biden has released his plan for a massive infrastructure bill, which is subject to approval by Congress.

The \$2 trillion plan would invest serious capital in revitalizing the U.S. transportation infrastructure, water systems, broadband, and manufacturing.

Some of the specifics in the proposal include:

- \$621 billion to fund transportation infrastructure, including rebuilding roads, bridges, public transit, ports, airports, and electric vehicle development.

- \$580 billion for American manufacturing, research and development, and job training efforts.

- \$400 billion to create a health care infrastructure to care for elderly and disabled Americans, including rebuilding or repairing many VA facilities.

- \$300 billion to improve drinking water infrastructure, expand broadband access, and upgrade the electrical grid.

- \$300 billion to build and retrofit affordable housing, along with constructing and upgrading schools.

In Biden's announcement of the plan, the administration set a goal to revamp 20,000 miles of roads and highways and repair 10,000 bridges. They also want to create a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2030.

To improve the nation's drinking water, Biden has proposed replacing all lead pipes within the nation's water system. They also want to finally deliver universal, affordable broadband to the entire nation.

Additionally, funds will be used to build or retrofit 500,000 homes for low- and middle-income Americans. The administration also said that they wanted funds to ensure that everything from schools and transportation to utility grids is made more resilient in marginalized and lower-income communities where investment hasn't always been as high as in wealthier communities.

The plan would spend about \$16 billion in investments to plug countless defunct oil and gas wells and to reclaim abandoned coal mines. The Biden Administration expects this money will put hundreds of thousands of people to work in union jobs. Many of those people will be workers whose jobs have been lost or are in danger of being lost due to the move to more renewable energy.

These projects will be subject to the federal prevailing wage law and would generate millions of good-paying union jobs.

(From the UComm Blog)

Quotable

"I hated to bat against (Don) Drysdale. After he hit you he'd come around, look at the bruise on your arm and say, 'Do you want me to sign it?'"
— Mickey Mantle, 1931-1995

Ban union organizers from employer land? Supreme Court takes a look

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Worker opponents, led by two big California growers, the Chamber of Commerce and other right-wing interests, urged the U.S. Supreme Court to literally ban union organizers from ever contacting workers on job sites, even in break rooms and in off-hours.

And in a March 21 oral argument, those same right-wing interests largely downplayed the greater implications of their written briefs sent to the justices beforehand: That private property owners could ban federal and

other government inspectors, too. The case potentially has enormous implications for broadening the rights of business property owners to disallow access to their property.

"Reasonable government inspections are a background principle of property law that do not affect your property right or your right to exclude," the growers' attorney, Jacob Thompson, told Chief Justice John Roberts during the session via Zoom on *Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid*.

At issue were California Agriculture Labor Relations Board rules, challenged by the growers.

The rules let union organizers contact workers on farms — private property — only if there's no other way for them to do so.

The union contacts are limited in hours and days. But Thompson argued to Justice Barrett any intrusion on private property, even if only for one hour once a year, is a "taking" of the owner's property rights "without just compensation" and unconstitutional.

"In our case, the government is not searching" or inspecting. "It is authorizing third parties" — union reps — "to come on to proselytize," Thompson told Justice Clarence Thomas.

Justices Stephen Breyer and Amy Coney Barrett called them on it. "They send someone out there," Breyer said, referring to government agencies, "as here, to talk to workers to find out what the conditions are, for example. Can they do that?" Thompson's one-word answer: "No."

Justice Breyer responded: "They're searching for conditions. They're searching to see whether they'd like to belong to a union. They can't do that. What's the difference?"

"If it is a power the government possessed at common law,"

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY's Aviation School is renovating and expanding their facilities at Battle Creek's Kellogg Airport. The existing brick building and control tower, at right, are being supplemented by new facilities, at left, that will allow the program to enhance and expand its educational offerings.

Photo credit: WMU webcam

WMU aviation school expands at Battle Creek's Kellogg Airport

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

BATTLE CREEK — A \$20 million expansion and renovation of Western Michigan University's Aviation Education Center is in its final approach, in a project that will go a long way toward improving the way future pilots and air-industry personnel are educated.

Located at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, the project will add classroom space, a computer room, composites/paint laboratory upgrades, a state-of-the-art simulation center, a research center, student briefing rooms, faculty office space, a café and other amenities, as well as the latest technology, according to WMU. The expansion will expand the former airport terminal

from 16,000 to 67,000 square feet.

"We will increase our classrooms from four to 10, greatly improving the scope of our instruction and research capabilities," said WMU College of Aviation Dean Dave Powell. "The needs of our industry are tremendous, and these trends are expected to

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MALL CITY MECHANICAL foreman Matt Hatfield of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 works on a cabinet heater unit near the main entrance of the new terminal building at Battle Creek's Kellogg Airport.

MI Dems make improbable attempt to reinstate prevailing wage

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING — State House Democrats are attempting to resurrect prevailing wage for the state's construction industry.

It's almost certainly a hopeless effort, given that there is no reason to think there is a change of heart by state Republicans,

who continue to control both the state House and Senate, and who pushed through the repeal of the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act in June 2018 without a single vote by a Democrat lawmaker.

House Bill 4594, sponsored by state Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac) calls for reinstatement of the law, which requires that on

taxpayer-funded projects, construction worker wages "shall be not less than the wage and fringe benefit rates prevailing in the locality in which the work is to be performed." Carter introduced the bill on March 25, and a related online press conference was held March 31.

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'We congratulate our proud union brother' Senate OKs Laborer Walsh as new Labor Dept. secretary

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — By a 68-29 margin, with all the "no" votes coming from Republicans, the Senate on March 21 confirmed Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a member of the Laborers union, as U.S. Secretary of Labor. He's the first unionist to hold the job in decades.

"Workers who are the backbone of our economy have been pushed to the brink. They need... Marty Walsh so we have a secretary who will take quick action to address the urgent challenges we face and be a valuable partner in helping our economy come back stronger and fairer for all workers," Senate Labor Committee Chair Patty Murray, D-Wash., told her colleagues.

The "road to recovery," Murray said, from the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic depression "is long, and there are still many steps we need to take, including raising the federal minimum wage to one fair wage of \$15 an hour, passing the Pro Act into law to strengthen workers' right to join a union, and passing the Be Heard in the Workplace Act to

protect people from harassment, assault, and discrimination. We have a lot to do and no time to waste... We need a secretary of labor we can trust to stand up for workers and not huge corporations."

Walsh, who resigned his position as mayor of Boston to take over as the new secretary of labor, is a card-carrying member of the Laborers Local 223. Prior to being mayor, he was president of the Boston Building and Construction Trades Council.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka cheered Walsh's success. "For four years, the Department of Labor has been devoted to serving a handful of elite interests, instead of working people. Not any more," Trumka said. "We congratulate our proud union brother. He understands the power of collective action, and his

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Tesla's anti-union 'insignia' rule gets tested at NLRB

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Unless there's a "special circumstance" identified by an employer, current U.S. labor law allows workers to wear clothes and uniforms on the job with union insignia (buttons, pins) and printed union logos.

But that concept is now being revisited by the National Labor Relations Board, which is reviewing a 2019 case decided by an administrative law judge involving the anti-union automaker Tesla. The judge issued a decision that Tesla violated labor law by prohibiting production associates from wearing union-logo shirts, a shirt ban that was part of a series of unfair labor practices that Tesla was found guilty of.

Fast forward to February

2021, when the NLRB — a panel still controlled by anti-labor Trump appointees until August — asked the public to submit comments on the case on whether it should change its legal test for union insignia. Pro-business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the HR Policy Association filed briefs calling for the pro-union, Obama-era standard to be overturned.

A memo from Biden-appointed Acting NLRB General Counsel Peter Ohr asked the NLRB to retain the current policy on wearing union insignia at work. Ohr's brief, said *Bloomberg Law*, "is another sign of his willingness to carry out a pro-union agenda even as the Biden administration's general counsel nominee Jennifer Abruzzo waits for Senate consideration."

"Ohr, in one of his first acts as the head of the NLRB's legal arm, cited the National Labor Relations Act's stated goal of encouraging collective bargaining and protecting workers' rights. He also said he wouldn't spend his time in office as a 'potted plant.'"

The business group's briefs with the NLRB, Bloomberg said, said the existing standard "puts an excessively high burden on employers to prove their neutral uniform policies comport with federal labor law."

The AFL-CIO and Service Employees also filed briefs, defending the existing standard. In their brief, the AFL-CIO said that Tesla's prohibition of union shirts was illegal and that under the company dress code, workers could substitute all-black clothing as long as it was work-appropriate, mutilation-free, and didn't create a safety risk. The AFL-CIO highlighted the fact that Tesla only had a problem with workers wearing something other than all

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Challenges? U.S. construction industry has 'em Supply chain woes, material prices beleaguer contractors

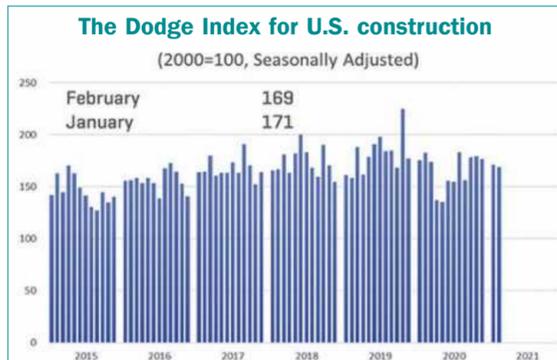
Over the course of the past year since just before the COVID-19 pandemic began, construction employment in Michigan proceeded to whipsaw from seeing many job sites shut down, then roaring back to being among the leading states in creating jobs, to settling down in the middle of the pack.

A year later, the new normal in Michigan and elsewhere shows an industry struggling to regain

its footing. Certainly it's not a gloomy picture everywhere — in fact, Michigan has hosted travelers among various trades over the past several months to complete some high-profile projects.

But overall, only two low-population states, Idaho and Utah, gained a significant percentage of construction jobs during the 12-month period from

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Viewpoints



Go with the PRO Act

Workers scored a triumphant victory as the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act passed the House with bipartisan support on March 9, but there is still a long, uphill battle to fight those who have squandered monstrous resources to keep American workers beat down.

The PRO-Act is the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the Great Depression. It will empower workers to exercise our freedom to organize and bargain, end employers' practice of punishing striking workers by hiring permanent replacements, hold corporations accountable by strengthening the National Labor Relations Board, and repeal "right to work" laws that lead to lower wages, fewer benefits and more dangerous workplaces.

Michigan is the birthplace of the modern American labor movement. Our fathers and grandfathers fought, starved and even died to earn a fair wage and safe working conditions in the mines of the Upper Peninsula and the factories of Detroit. For an all-too-brief time, the tentative peace between large corporations and their workers made Michigan one of the most prosperous and equitable economies in the world.

In 1960, Detroit had the highest per-capita income in the United States. The city is now the poster child for the failure of the American dream. The same can be said for the many Upper Peninsula residents who live below the poverty level, in ghostly, fading towns.

Union workers in the Upper Peninsula fare far better than their non-union counterparts, enjoying decent wages and good benefits. But even they are suffering with sustained corporate and government interference with worker solidarity, collective bargaining and the ability to strike. Public sector workers are under constant threat of losing fairly bargained and promised benefits and pensions as our economy continues to shrink. Our local heroes, our teachers, our police officers and our firefighters are told they must continue to do more with less. This type of neo-liberal ideology costs jobs, and has severe consequences for employees who have an unhealthy work-life balance and no recourse to stop it.

All workers deserve union protection! Data indicates that more than 60 million Americans would choose to join a union if they were able. The PRO-Act will hold employers accountable for union-busting activities.

The PRO Act will make America's economy work for working people. Between 1948 and 1973, when New Deal era laws expanded and enforced collective bargaining, hourly wages rose by more than 90 percent. But over the next 40 years – from 1973 to 2013 – hourly wages rose by just over 9 percent while productivity increased 74 percent. The growing gap between income and productivity is a cold, hard fact that illustrates how many businesses have abandoned any kind of responsibility for the real human beings who produce their goods and services with their intellect, their sweat, their blood, and, especially this past year, their lives.

The people of the Upper Peninsula are known for their fierce independence and exceptional work ethic. Unionism has a long, proud history in the Upper Peninsula and those lucky enough to be members still reap many of the benefits our ancestors fought for. We cannot let their sacrifices be for nothing. We can't continue to back down from the fight against corporate greed. We deserve our dignity, our humanity, and our right to have a real voice in our workplaces.

-Michael Thibault, President
Upper Peninsula Regional Labor Federation

WMU aviation school expands

(Continued from Page 1)

continue as projected increases in passenger traffic fuel the demand for these highly skilled, highly paid industry jobs."

The addition and renovation project will wrap up later this year. Mall City Mechanical foreman Adam Hatfield of UA Local 333 said the project employed 12 plumbers and pipe fitters at peak employment. "It's a nice facility, and our people did a really nice job here," he said.

Western's aviation college has seen its enrollment grow 35 percent in the past five years to about 1,000 students as high job growth and demand for aircraft pilots, aircraft technicians and management place WMU in the position to be Michigan's major resource to prepare students for these jobs, Powell said.

WMU's College of Aviation is among the oldest such academic units in the nation, beginning in 1939 and evolving over time from a single program to its current status as a full academic college in July 1999. It has been located at the W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek since 1997 and has been the site of nationally recognized intercollegiate flight teams and state-of-the-art flight and technical training initiatives and important research undertakings.



INSTALLING SOLID BAFFLES in the addition to the Battle Creek Kellogg Airport is Rod Eberhard of Carpenters Local 525. He's employed by Cooke Jackson.

W.K. Kellogg Airport, located about three miles west of Battle Creek and a few miles north of I-94, is the third busiest airport in the state. It is located on a 1,260-acre site and was the third busiest airport in Michigan in 2019. The airport doesn't offer commercial flights, but is the base of operations for about 55 private individuals, as well as the WMU College of Aviation, the Battle Creek Air National Guard,

Duncan Aviation, WACO Classic Aircraft and Centennial Aircraft Services.

Joe Sobieralski, president and CEO of Battle Creek Unlimited, an economic development agency, said of the improvements at the airport: "It is exciting to know that the next generation of

pilots and aviation technicians will be trained and educated right here in Battle Creek. This is not only great for Western Michigan University, but it is also great for Battle Creek—it doubles-down on one of Battle Creek's most strategic assets on the economic development front."

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

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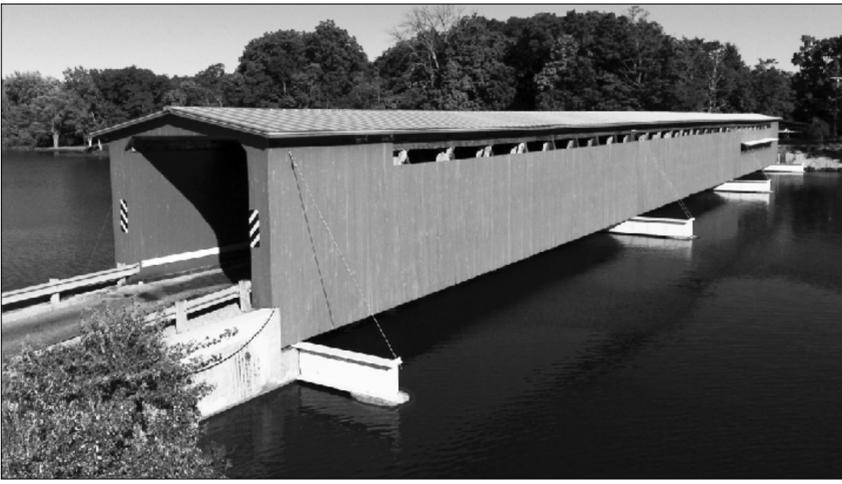


BUILDING MICHIGAN!

The Langley Covered Bridge

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE PICTURESQUE Langley Covered Bridge in St. Joseph County, painted a striking shade of red, is one of only a few such bridges remaining in Michigan. The 282-foot-long span, completed in 1887, underwent repairs in 1950-51 after the bridge had been getting stressed with heavier vehicular traffic. The 1951 work involved the placement of four steel I-beams to support the bridge. They rest on concrete piers in the St. Joseph River. In 2008-09 the roof was replaced and siding rehabilitated.

Photo credit: Joshua S. Goodrich, J.D., via Wikimedia Commons

Covered bridges weren't given a roof and walls in order to provide temporary shelter from rain and snow for travelers, although they undoubtedly provided a welcome haven on occasion. Nor were covered bridges built to provide a picturesque photo opportunity – although 19th and 20th Century artists loved to paint them. Today... well of course, nearly everything is a photo op – so new and refurbished covered bridges have often become a destination themselves, while keeping a practical purpose of moving people and vehicles over obstacles.

Actually, bridges were covered for the intensely practical consideration of slowing Mother Nature's inevitable deterioration of the span's deck, foundations and trusses. After all, bridges were expensive public works projects, usually spanning a river, and vital to a community's economic prospects. They were indispensable conduits for the movement of people, vehicles and livestock, and it behooved a community to keep their wooden bridge in good working order by protecting the structure with a roof and walls.

"Covered bridge, timber-truss bridge carrying a roadway over a river or other obstacle, popular in folklore and art but also of major significance in engineering history," says the related entry in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. "The function of the roof and siding, which in most covered bridges create an almost complete enclosure, is to protect the wooden structural members from the weather."

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, about 14,000 covered bridges have been built in the U.S., mostly in the years 1825 to 1875, with only a tiny fraction of them still standing. Michigan only has a handful of covered bridges remaining – eight according to a history provided by MLive – with the longest being the Langley Covered Bridge in southwest Michigan's St. Joseph County.

"Stretching 282 feet across the St. Joseph River, the Langley Bridge is the longest of West Michigan's few remaining covered bridges," says Michigan.org. "Langley Bridge is also one of the longest in the nation. Langley Bridge was built in the fall of 1887. The bridge features three spans, each 94 feet long. It is 16 feet high and 19 feet wide."

Located four miles north of Centreville, which is east of Three Rivers and about 13 miles north of the Indiana border, the Langley Bridge is still open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic (one way). It was named for Thomas W. Langley and family, pioneers who helped establish the Village of Centreville in the mid-

1880s. The span has been raised and refurbished over the years, but it has maintained much of its original appearance.

The bridge was designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1965. Its marker reads: "This is the longest of Michigan's few remaining covered bridges. It is 282 feet long with three, 94-foot spans of the Howe-truss construction. The bridge was built in 1887 by Pierce Bodmer of Parkville, using the best quality white pine for the frame timbers. The bridge's name honors a pioneer Centreville family. When the Sturgis Dam was built in 1910, the Langley Bridge had to be raised eight feet. In 1950-51 extensive repairs and replacement of parts on the bridge were carried out by the St. Joseph County Road Commission to preserve for the future this historic link with a bygone era."

The longest covered bridge in the U.S. is the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge (1866) between communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. It has an overall length of 460 feet. The 53-foot long Hyde Hall Covered Bridge (1825) in New York state is the oldest of its type still in existence in the U.S.

The first long covered bridge in America was a 180-span over the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia built in 1806. "Covered timber-truss bridges soon spanned rivers from Maine to Florida and rapidly spread westward," *Encyclopedia Britannica* says.

"The timber truss bridge – especially the covered bridge – is such an American icon that one might think it was invented here," said *Civil Engineering*. "On the contrary, timber trusses originated in Europe. The Romans built them, and in 1570 the Venetian architect Andrea Palladio revived the idea."

The Langley Bridge's employment of the Howe Truss, invented for bridge design in 1840 by American architect William Howe, was a slight, but important advancement on the traditional design of repeating diago-

nal trusses.

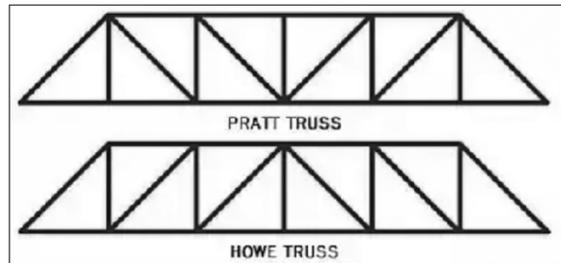
"William Howe did not invent the wooden truss bridge, but he may have perfected it," says a June 2012 *Civil Engineering* magazine article. "The truss he designed quickly became the most popular type of railroad crossing in the mid-19th Century. It also played a key role in the transition from timber to iron bridges."

The Langley Bridge's truss system, obviously visible only from the interior, uses diagonal structural beams in a series of triangles that slope toward the bridge center, while competing Pratt trusses flipped the frame set-up to utilize diagonal beams that slope outward from the center of the bridge. This approach makes diagonal members of Howe truss bridge in compression, while vertical web members are in tension. They were both good designs, but the Howe design was suitable for longer spans than the Pratt truss.

An account of the Langley bridge by *MLive* said "historical accounts say prime white pine logs from Michigan timberlands were floated to the construction site. The bridge's planking rested on 40 beams, each measuring 8 inches by 12 inches and 19 feet long. The side trusses included 180 cast-iron angle blocks that were held in place by 132 heavy rods."

The Langley bridge has a 7-foot height restriction and a three-ton weight limitation. Arches were erected on both sides of the bridge to enforce the height restriction. A new wood plank floor was added in the past few years. The community holds here an annual covered bridge festival to celebrate its landmark.

After extensive work on the bridge was completed in 1951, P.M. Pashby, then-county road commission superintendent, wrote: "We feel its value cannot be estimated. It is one of the intangibles which future generations will thank the (road) commission for as the perfect relic of the old horse-and-buggy days."



THE LANGLEY Bridge, whose interior is shown below, employed a Howe Truss system along its sides, a design which was slight tweak in the Pratt Truss that allowed for lengthier spans. Howe's design also used steel rods in the vertical sections, threaded at the ends with nuts so that tension could be adjusted. Below, steel pieces have also replaced wood in parts of the Langley truss to improve its strength.



Photo credit: Joshua S. Goodrich, J.D., via Wikimedia Commons

Construction industry has its challenges

(Continued from Page 1)

February 2020 to February 2021. And only four other states saw positive job growth during those 12 months, all under 2 percent, with 44 states seeing their construction job percentages decline. The numbers come from a March 26 analysis of federal employment numbers by the Associated General Contractors of America.

"Today's figures show most states are still far from recovering the construction jobs lost a year ago," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "The overall economy is recovering, but huge price spikes and ever-lengthening delivery times threaten to set construction back further."

His comments were echoed by Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Data & Analytics: "With spring just around the corner, hope is building for a strong economic recovery fueled by the growing number of vaccinated Americans. But the construction sector will be hard-pressed to take advantage of this resurgence, as rapidly escalating materials prices and a supply overhang across many building sectors weighs on starts through the first half of the year."

Michigan lost 5,700 construction jobs during that 12-month February to February period, a 3.2 percent decline, ranking us No. 23 among the states in terms of jobs gained (or lost). And some of the most populous states

were among the biggest job losers: Texas lost the most construction jobs from February 2020 to February 2021 (-56,400 jobs or -7.2 percent), followed by New York (-41,100 jobs, -10.1 percent) and California (-35,000 jobs, -3.8 percent).

And Michigan certainly has not started 2021 with a bang - the Big Mitten lost 3,200 jobs from January to February, the latest government figures show. The rest of the country also hasn't started 2021 in a strong position: After falling 4 percent from January to February, total U.S. construction starts dropped 2 percent in March, Dodge reported.

The AGC warns that that contractors and owners can expect a wide variety of materials "undergoing steep and frequent price increases and delivery delays," a combination that "threatens to hold up the start or completion of numerous projects and add to the downward pres-

sure on construction employment."

Lumber prices, for one, have gone through the roof during the pandemic. "As of the week of March 11," Fortune reports, "the price of lumber per thousand board feet is at \$1,044, according to Random Lengths. That's an all-time high, and up 188 percent since the onset of the pandemic. The National Association of Home Builders calculates that current lumber prices are adding at least \$24,000 to the price tag of a typical new single-family home."

In addition, the pandemic has led to factory closures, a shortage of truck drivers and a host of other issues that have thrown the supply chain off-kilter. That has led to material shortages and higher costs of items like windows, cement, faucets and appliances, which have led to higher costs and longer lead times for project completion.

Ban union organizers from employer's land? Supreme Court takes a look

(Continued from Page 1)

then you do not have the right to exclude the government from undertaking that power," Thompson replied. But union visits are not a government power, he said.

That declaration brought the Chamber of Commerce and radical right groups in on the growers' side and turned the case into a legal "big deal." If they win that big point, firms and farms could bar not just union reps, but government health and safety inspectors and anyone else who might conceivably engage in a "taking" from the business.

The *Wall Street Journal's* analysis of the justices' line of questioning indicated that the business owner's could win at least a partial victory in the case.

"The Supreme Court seemed ready after Monday arguments to pare back union organizers' ability to visit farmworkers in California's agricultural fields," the *Journal* said, "but it was unclear whether the justices viewed the case narrowly or as an opportunity to dramatically expand property rights."

There were indications the court was looking for a middle ground. Conservative Justice Amy Barrett, appointed by President Trump, summed up one potential line of thinking. "Why would it be that big of a deal for California to say to the unions: Listen, to compensate for the taking if you want access, you pay 50 bucks?" she said.

Said liberal Justice Sonya Sotomayor: "I suspect that there's very little economic damage that's being done," by the appearance of union organizers at company property.

The Supreme Court will make a decision by July 1.

Senate OKs Laborer Walsh as new Labor secretary

(Continued from Page 1)

confirmation strengthens our fight to improve the lives of working people across the country.

"We're going to protect workers from COVID-19. We're going to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. We're going to build 21st-Century infrastructure and create a new generation of good-paying union jobs. And above all, we'll finally protect our right to organize by passing the Protecting The Right To Organize (Pro) Act."

Said Laborers President Terry O'Sullivan: "As a labor leader and community activist, Marty Walsh helped tens of thousands of workers build strong, middle-class lives for themselves and their families."

"As mayor, Walsh made his deep roots in the trade union movement a central part of his political career, proudly wearing his union affiliation on his sleeve, and displaying his union card wherever he goes. He fought for Boston's working families, made city government more responsive to all those who live and work in Boston, and distinguished himself as one of the hardest-working, most innovative big-city leaders in our nation today."

"With his dedication and devotion to the cause, the purpose, and the mission of the labor movement, Walsh will restore and re-energize the Department of Labor's role as a powerful guardian of workers, and strong and effective enforcer of labor laws."

Just joking

A German shepherd, a doberman, and a cat died and all went to heaven.

When they arrived, all three faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in.

The German shepherd said, "I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master."

"Good!" said God. "Sit at my right side." Then God asked, "doberman, what do you believe in?"

The doberman answered, "I believe in the love, care, and protection of my master."

"Aha," said God, "you may sit on my left."

Then God looked at the cat and asked, "And what do you believe in?"

"I believe," replied the cat, "that you are sitting in my seat!"

(Continued from Page 1)

black when workers began coming to work with black shirts that had a UAW logo on them. The shirts were specifically designed to comply with Tesla's dress code policy.

"In short, prior to the August 2017 application of the policy to ban wearing black union shirts, there would have been no legal basis for challenging the policy on its face," wrote AFL-CIO General Counsel Craig Becker.

Other unions, said the Union Communications blog, also warned the NLRB that changing the standard could also allow companies to ban other types of insignia that are entwined with the culture of the worksite. The Carpenters union brief said that stickers are often used to indicate specific training a worker has, to promote workplace safety, to identify a jobsite steward, or to remind them of a fallen colleague. All of these could be banned either intentionally or unintentionally if the NLRB rolls back the union insignia rule.

The board's Republican majority – slated to control the five-member panel until at least until one of the three GOP members is replaced in late August – actively chose to solicit briefs challenging the test for union insignia.

"In today's modern world of brand identity and imaging," writes employment attorney Grant Peco for the National Law Review, "the ability to wear union insignia in the workplace is often at the forefront of labor relations. In this regard, the general rule has always been that an employer cannot prohibit union insignia in the workplace absent "special circumstances," even where the employer requires employees to wear uniforms or other designated clothing. However, the application of the general rule to nondiscriminatory uniform policies now appears to be under review."

Re-institute prevailing wage

(Continued from Page 1)

"In the long run," Carter said, "studies show that we can save taxpayers money by paying wages to ensure the job is done right. Restoring prevailing wage is a win for Michigan workers, who deserve a fair wage for their skilled labor. It will keep our skilled workforce here in Michigan. It's a win for Michigan's economy, providing funding for apprenticeship programs that will keep skilled labor and money flowing into our local businesses. And it's a win for the Michigan taxpayer, who will receive a better return on their investment in our roads and infrastructure."

Predictably, the Associated Builders and Contractors- Michigan – which funded two costly petition drives leading to repeal of the law and lobbied Republican lawmakers to do the same – panned the legislation. "These bills are a broadside attack on Michigan workers, Michigan taxpayers, and Michigan's middle class," said ABC- Michigan President Jimmy Green, as reported by MIRS News Service.

There has been no reputable research released on whether the State of Michigan saved taxpayers dollars as a result of prevailing wage repeal – although it has been less than three years since repeal and COVID-19 has skewed the numbers over the past year. But research in other states has show that prevailing wage repeal hasn't saved taxpayers any money, while the workers' wages and benefits have been reduced, workers have left the area or the industry because of lower wages and apprenticeship programs have been degraded from lower funding levels.

"Michigan thought that it would save money by gutting the prevailing wage law, and really that turned out to be a short-sighted mistake, a mistake that reminds us of the old saying, you get what you pay for," said state Rep. Terry Sabo (D-Muskegon). "By reinstating prevailing wage we can not only support hard-working Michiganders, and stimulate our economy, we can ensure that we have the most skilled workers, to make sure that public projects are done the first time and built to last."

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

Local 1191

Laborers 1191

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

Monthly Membership Meetings: We continue to monitor new orders and directives pertaining to COVID-19. Decisions about membership meetings will be determined and relayed to you as they approach. Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at the Union Hall (except for holidays).

Retirees: Retiree Council's monthly meetings will resume starting May 2021. Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

Union Dues For 2021: Effective Jan. 1, 2021 regular monthly dues are \$35 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.

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 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.**

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

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

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

NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, GPS LOCATION. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not! FYI: By taking the (Continued next column)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111

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

The next scheduled union meeting will be on **April 29, 2021 in Escanaba @ 7:30 EST.**

If you missed the recent MRA webinar with Zenith American, you can access it again on our website at LU111.com, click on the Zenith link, click on the MRA link and enter the password. Please check it out for useful information.

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

Condolences: To the family of Robert Carlson who passed away on 3/25/2021, he was a 66-year member and was and former Apprentice Instructor.

To the family of Leonard St. Vincent who passed away March 25, 2021. Leonard was a 72 year life member!

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

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

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

Please update all Non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30 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 website ua111.com and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

MSHA Training: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Ann at (906) 226-6511 ext. 4 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

Laborers 1191, con't

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 pm and 4 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 regularly.

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register 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.**

Members are urged to report new project starts to the Local Union.



Local 190

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANNARBOR – UNION MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WILL BE A NORMAL IN-PERSON MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 12th and will start 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings. Masks and maintaining social distance will be enforced.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – UNION HALL HOURS: Effective Monday, April 5th the office will resume normal business hours. The office will be open on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 (the office will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1:00 p.m.) There will be no foot traffic to the back offices.

Currently Local 190 is not accepting any apprenticeship applications. A note will be put in the paper when this current status changes. **MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN ENTERING THE UNION HALL BUILDING AND TRAINING CENTER DUE TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.**

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 9th. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 9th <https://uascholarshipfund.com>. You can contact the union office at (734) 424-0962 for further information.

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

47th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Our annual golf outing will be held on Saturday, July 31. Our event will be held at *Whitmore Lake Golf Links, Whitmore Lake*. Mark your calendar for this special event. Tickets will soon be available to purchase at the union hall. If you have questions please contact Karen, (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

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

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

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

UA LOCAL 190 WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the "Members Only" section using your last name and UA card number. ****** NEW ON THE WEBSITE:** Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

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

LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK – IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid off or report back to work *please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210*, to report the last day in which you worked or to report the day you went back to work. **PLEASE NOTE:** Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

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

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

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

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

CLASS INFORMATION – TRAINING CENTER – OFFICE PHONE: 734-426-3700. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. You must wear a face mask while inside the building. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

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

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

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

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This class is complete. Next class to be in the fall.

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): This class is complete. We will have another class in Sept.

Med Gas Installer and Brazier Certification (40hrs): The next class will be in the fall.

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

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): The UA and EPRI have developed a test to cover both the Rigging Certification and a Signal Person Certification. The standalone Rigging Certification will no longer be offered. Please call Retha to be put on the list for the next class. Once we have enough, we will put this class on. Looking to put this class on in the late summer, early fall, as we are upgrading our rigging course.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (16hrs): This class will be four days long. The Training Center is looking to put on a recertification/upgrade class. This upgrade is a 120-question test. All rigging certification and re-certification classes will include the signal person certification going forward. Please call Retha to be put on the list. We will run this class as soon as we have enough for a class.

ICRA Certification (16hrs): Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. Next class possibly in-person at the Training Center. In-person class is limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to get put on the list for the next class. If it is on-line, it will be ran through Zoom. For the online class, you must have a (Continued next column)



Local 370

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 7:00pm. and has been designated a **special called meeting for wage allocation.**

Covid-19 Vaccinations. The Genesee County Sheriff, along with the Genesee Co. Health Department has opened up vaccinations to all Local 370 Brothers and Sisters. If you have not received your Covid-19 vaccination and would like to get one, please call Karla and get on the list.

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

Please note that you monthly work hour statements from TIC now show your Health Care banked hours and Benny card dollar bank.

Scholarship Applications for the 2021-2022 school year are now available online at our website UALOCAL370.ORG The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 370. Complete lists of qualifications and applications are also available at Local 370 Hall. Applications are due by May 15, 2021.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – Wednesday

Local 190, con't

computer with good reliable internet access and a webcam. You must also have a valid email account. Test day will be at the Training Center.

EPA Universal Certification (12hrs): We will be running an EPA Universal certification class this spring. Will be in-person. This class will be on Thursdays. Once we have enough, those signed up will be notified of the start date. Please call Retha to be put in this class.

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Michael Bouchard. Mike initiated on April 28, 1998 and retired April 1. Wishing him best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS: Our member Dennis Liss and his wife Shaun are very proud to announce the birth of their new grandson. Asher Zapeda was born on March 3, weight 6 lbs. 2 oz and 19 inches long. Congratulations to the new parents Samantha and Christian Zapeda. Someone special, someone dear. Someone new to love is here, congratulations to all.

CONDOLENCES: Our member Bill Cloke passed away on March 20. Bill initiated July 9, 1990. To all family members and friends. We extend our most heartfelt sorrow and condolences. May the love of family and friends comfort you during these difficult days. God rest his soul in peace.

Our member Julius Smith passed away on March 20. Julius initiated on Oct. 14, 1974 and retired Sept. 1, 2011. To all family members and friends may all of the fond memories you were able to have comfort all of you during this hard time in your life. We all feel your loss and send our sincere condolences.

Our member James Maye passed away on March 23. James initiated Aug. 1, 1963, retired June 1, 2006 and became a lifetime member Aug. 1, 2013. To all family members and friends, we are truly sorry for your loss, may our sympathy and heartfelt condolences bring you comfort during this difficult time.

RETIREE MEETINGS – **SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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

"A schedule defends from chaos and whim."
–Annie Dillard

day, May 19, 2021 at 3:30pm

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Carl J Ranger. Carl passed away March 12, 2021 at the age of 91. Carl retired in 1990 and was a member of Local 370 for 56 years. Rest in peace Brother.

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

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

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

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

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 who 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. Check it out at 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 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 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

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

Local 370 ball caps and winter fleece caps are available at the union offices. Ball caps, \$10 and fleece caps \$5. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.

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

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

"Success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed."
–Emily Dickinson (1830 - 1886)



Sprinkler Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

FARMINGTON – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, April 14th at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M. Please note masks will be required for entry to the meeting.

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

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

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

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

Congratulations to the following retired brothers of Local 704 on achieving their 50 year status with the UA and Local 704. James Topp, Roy Moore and Michael Lawrence. Thank you for your years of service.

Please keep your information updated with the union hall.

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



Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting scheduled for **May 6, 2021 at 7 p.m.** This will be an **IN-PERSON meeting unless notified otherwise. If it is a "virtual" meeting, notifications will be sent via our App (UA Local 671). The Executive Board will also meet in person on May 6th at 6 p.m. If any Member wishes to see them, please contact the Hall prior to the meeting.**

The Hall is open if a Member needs to sign the out of work list or have any other problems that can only be handled in person, but we still are encouraging everyone to call instead whenever possible. The payments for dues or insurance can be taken over the phone.

Condolences: We were saddened to receive word that Retiree Rich Freels passed away on Saturday, March 27th after battling long term health issues. Rich was the Brother of Retiree Jerry Freels and Cousin of Members Jeff Curtis and Rick Wing. Brother Rich was a longtime leader of Local 671 on and off the job. Local 671 lost one of the great ones and he will be missed by all who knew him.

We also are sad to report that Mrs. Audrey Padot passed away on Saturday, April 3. Mrs. Padot was the Mother of Members and Local 671 Officers Paul and Jim Padot, and also Grandmother of Member Kyle Padot. In addition, her husband, Robert (Bob) Padot was a past president of Local 671, and her Father-in-Law Maurice Padot was a Local 671 Charter Member and our first President. Mrs. Padot was also a long-time fixture at our Retiree Luncheons who will certainly be missed.

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

Congratulations: We congratulate Brother Mike Bradford and his wife Becky on the birth of a son, Aiden Lee on March 15th.

Congratulations also go out to Brother Hunter Mudge and his wife Cierra on the birth of their Son, Hudson Thomas on March 4th.

We hope you all enjoy this wonderful time together!

We would also like to congratulate several Members who have recently retired: Dennis Trowbridge, Larry Vanisacker, Tony Abalos, Doug Chinavare, Phil Lazette, Rich VanHove

Thank you for your service and may you enjoy a long, healthy retirement!

Work Opportunities: As reported in the Informational Meetings, we have a significant amount of work upcoming this Spring and Summer. Please continue to call the job line for Local jobs.

AFL-CIO Scholarship: The applications are being accepted for the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Memorial Scholarship Program. The AFL-CIO will be awarding (2) \$1000 scholarships again this year to graduating 2021 Seniors and they are available to the **Son or Daughter of a Member in good standing.** If anyone is interested, contact the Hall and we can send you an Application Packet. **The Application Due Date is April 2, 2021.**

Team Elly Blood Drive: There will be an Annual Team Elly Blood Drive on Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 12p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at The Monroe Church of the Nazarene 3401 S Custer Rd, Monroe, MI. Please consider being a donor and making a difference. They have 73 appointments to fill and they need help to reach their goal! If you can't donate, please share the information with your family or friends.

Local Pension: I would like to inform everyone that near the end of 2020, Jason May, financial advisor for our Defined Contribution Plan, left Morgan Stanley/Graystone Consulting. After discussion with the Health & Welfare Board of Trustees, the decision was made to follow Jason to his new firm of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America. Jason has been very helpful to the members of Local 671 and we appreciate the service and time he has given to all of us.

The current Defined Contribution Plan will remain with TransAmerica for administration, and Jason will continue his consulting work with the committee to help provide a best-in-class investment lineup as well as monitor the overall costs of the plan.

He will also still be available to the members of Local 671 at any time, just as he was with his prior firm. Once we get past the current pandemic, we will look to have Jason come to the Hall for a day of education, as well as schedule additional dates for one-on-one in-person consultations as we have done in the past. **If any Member is currently contemplating retirement, please contact the Hall to set up an appointment with Mike.**

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 number.

We recently have sent Push Notifications out with important information such as Covid-19 updates and Informational Meeting notices. This mobile app is a great tool to stay current with all the latest information from the Union Hall. **PLEASE DOWNLOAD THIS APP SO YOU CAN KEEP UP ON CURRENT INFORMATION THAT THE HALL NEEDS TO GET OUT.** The App is available in the Google Play Store or on iTunes.

In Closing: "The only answer to organized greed is Organized labor." Stay safe and healthy on and off the job. God Bless Local 671.

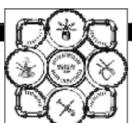
Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: vinnie@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com
Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

"I never guess. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

"Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion... or you shall learn nothing."

—Thomas H. Huxley (1825 - 1895)



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: All Union Meetings face-to-face are cancelled until further notice. The Finance Committee and Executive Board will conduct their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. We will conduct a **Zoom Meeting** in place of a face-to-face membership meeting starting at 6:30 pm on April 13, 2021. There will be an email with instructions on how to participate in advance of March's union meeting. You can only receive this email if you have given us permission to send you emails. Please call Lori at the Hall, (269) 679-2570, to confirm your email address and/or consent to us sending you emails.

ORGANIZING: Congratulations to Phil Curtis on being selected as Local 357's next Organizer. On March 18th, International Representative Kevin Carden and Michigan Pipe Trades Lead Organizer Ben Ranger interviewed five members of Local 357 and picked Phil to be the next Organizer. Kevin and Ben remarked on the quality of applicants to choose from thus making their job difficult. Phil will start training in the coming weeks and when we get his contact information we will share it with you.

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International provides a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at 1-888-281-3461. If you are not satisfied with the service you have received, please call me, Ken Willcutt, at (269) 569-3492.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corporation and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and Create your own password.

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

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, remarried, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call TIC at the phone number above and Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date. **There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** (See Pages 6 & 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification) Time limits apply for reporting status changes so let the hall know ASAP!

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

NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE IS PAID BY THE CONTRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the families of Paul & Matt Walraven on the recent passing of their father.



Plumbers Local 98



Membership of Plumbers Local 98

DETROIT – Brothers and Sisters, On behalf of your officers and staff, we hope you are all doing well and enjoying your spring. Please consider joining us for some spring cleaning on April 17 for Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway week, see good and welfare for more details. Please continue to be safe, stay healthy, and wear a mask!

MEETINGS. Special Called Meeting*** for wage allocation is scheduled for **Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be held outside at our Union Hall and all Covid restrictions are in place using social distancing and masks. Please contact your Business Agent and give them insight on the possible ideas you may have for new monies.

Please note June's Monthly Meeting will be on the third Thursday of the Month due to the State Convention. June's meeting will take place on Thursday, June 17th at 7:00 pm in person, outside at our Union Hall and all Covid restrictions are in place using social distancing and masks.

E-Board meetings. E-Board meetings are the first and second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If you need to contact or see the board, please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841.

Retiree Meetings remain cancelled: The President of the retiree association is still working on a detailed plan dealing with restarting these meetings back up.

Due to the surge of increased COVID cases, we will have an **Awards Night** with refreshments this fall. Please watch the paper for information.

OTHER EVENTS. At this moment, the State Pipe Trades Convention is on for this summer for our elected delegates. This will take place the second week of June. More information will be laid out April 8th at 5pm at the hall for delegates. We are still waiting for an update on the National Convention.

LICENSE RENEWAL. Time is running out to renew your State of Michigan Plumbing License. If it's due for renewal this year, it will expire on 4/30/21. It is online and you can renew by going to <https://aca3.accela.com/LARA> (note mobile devices may not work with new site). If you are a Master and a Contractor for the same company, you may be able to have your fee waived. Any other questions EMAIL LARA-BCC-licensing@Michigan.gov. For all continuing education opportunities or classes, call Training Coordinator Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435.

BA's Gary Glaser and Tom McWilliams are admins on the Must/Most program, contact them if you need help.

DUES. You can pay your dues online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto-payments. If you have any questions or need to pay dues, please contact Kristina Lodovisi at (248) 307-9800 ext. 4 or on her cell at (248) 331-7232.

COVID-19 Information and vaccine!

Registration is now open for the FEMA/State of Michigan Ford Field COVID-19 vaccine clinic! There are three options to register for a vaccine:

- Go to <https://clinic.meijer/register/CL2021> or
- Text "EndCOVID" to 75049.
- Residents who don't have access to the internet or who need assistance navigating the vaccine registration process can call the MDHHS COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vaccines are still available at the TCF Center. You can call 313-230-0505 between 9am & 8pm M-F to schedule an appointment at the TCF Center, or go to the website detroitmi.gov and click on the COVID-19 Vaccine Updates, for the most up-to-date information.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 you can go to the website Michigan.gov/protectmicommission. Or, if you would like to be a part of the conversation and join a workgroup, you can reach out to protectmicommission@michigan.gov or michigan.gov/covidvaccine for locations or information regarding COVID-19 updates.

WEAR YOUR MASKS! Any concerns with COVID-19 safety protocols or lack of PPE contact the **Business Agent in the area**

or the Union Hall.

Additional vaccination sites are available on our website, please visit ualocal98.com/covid. **UNION HALL. The Union Hall is CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC.** You will need to schedule an appointment to come to the hall. Properly worn masks are required. There is a COVID-19 questionnaire that **MUST** be filled out by everyone entering the Union Hall. If you do have an appointment at the Union Hall, please use the south entrance. All the officers are continuing to work.

SUB APPS/OOW CHANGES/BENEFITS. Due to influx of travelers, we are closing SUB pay to all except for medical or COVID related injuries. It is your responsibility to fill out a SUB App when you are laid off. Please fill out SUB Apps electronically. This can be found on the web page under the **OOWL** section. If you're still having unemployment issues call BAs Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams. For any issues that are unresolved at BeneSys, please get the name of the person you are dealing with and contact Carlo or Jon or the Union Hall immediately.

Insurance Pharmacy Drug Card Change. Our new prescription Benefit Manager is now **Costco Health Solutions.** They will provide you with full-service pharmacy benefits at more than 64,000 retail Pharmacy stores Nationwide. You DO NOT have to use a retail COSTCO pharmacy. However, you do not need to be a member to use their pharmacy. To find an in-network Pharmacy near you, please visit: www.costcohealthsolutions.com. We still exclude the use of Wal-Mart or Sam Club's for our prescriptions. Your Pharmacy benefit allows you to fill your 90-day generic medications at any retail Pharmacy. If you have further questions call customer care hot line at 1-877-908-6024.

As always please get the name or badge number of any representative you may talk to.

RETIREES. Congratulations to Brother Edward Herczak on his retirement. We wish him a long and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORIAM. Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of Brother Michael Loftus who passed on March 25, 2021.

GOOD/WELFARE. Congratulations to Brother Zach Richardson and his wife Michelle on the birth of their first child, Thomas, on March 30, 2021.

Join us for Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway week on April 17th thru 25th. Please call BA Gary Glaser (313)580-0148 or BA Tom McWilliams (248)752-2994 for more information and to sign up so they can assure they have adequate equipment for the number of volunteers. This is a great volunteer opportunity for any high schoolers in need of volunteer hours.

Cleveland Cliffs (AK Steel) update: No more onsite witnessed drug tests! Cliffs is now accepting ofsite MUST drug tests administered within the last 6 months. They retired the old legacy AK Steek barred list. If you were previously banned from AK Steel, your name can be submitted for reinstatement. Any questions call BA Gary Glaser.

We are currently looking for Residential and Service Plumb-

ers. 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.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

The Training Center is open and adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

Michigan State Plumbing License Renewal - There is not an update required to renew the Michigan State Plumbing License this year. In order to renew your license, go to Michigan.gov/lara and click on License Renewal. ****Remember to renew by April 30th** in order to avoid a late fee.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification exams are scheduled quarterly. Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. For those who are eligible, please call the Training Center to register and pre-pay by check only before the deadline June 25, 2021. The next scheduled recertification class is **July 27 & 28, 2021.**

OPEN WELDING Every Thursday 4 pm-8 pm, other days & times available- Call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 to reserve a booth and visit the updated welding shop. Looking to try something new? Ideas for a class? We're here to help.

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING Tests** will be Saturday, May 8 & June 5, 2021. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next **BRAZING Cert Session** will be Friday, May 7 & June 4, 2021. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

2021 Course Hour reimbursement forms are now available at the Training Center. You **must have 8 hours** (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2021 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement.

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

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

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



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

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



KUDERIK AND ASSOCIATES

Kuderik and Associates PLLC
Certified Public Accountants

32121 Woodward Avenue
Suite 202, Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174 COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: ALL-IN-PERSON UNION MEETINGS AND RETIREE BREAKFASTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. **Tuesday, April 6th at 7pm we will broadcast our Local Union Update on the Facebook members group chat. We will return to in-person meetings as soon as the capacity restrictions will allow us. We will have an in-person meeting on Tuesday, June 1st at 7pm to allocate our upcoming raise. The meeting location has not yet been determined.**

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

Condolences: Local #174 Would like to offer our sincere condolences to the families of Brother(s) Dale Wissner, Doug Kulicamp and Tim Speck on their recent passing. Brother Wissner was initiated in January of 1988. Brother Kulicamp was initiated in May of 1965. Brother Speck was initiated in April of 2004. Local 174 would like to thank them for their many years of service. May they rest in peace.

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

Food Truck: The Lakeshore Community Labor Council is sponsoring a food truck on April 15th at the Mona Lake Inn at 3446 Hoyt St, Muskegon Heights. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you're able to help distribute food. Volunteers report at 3pm we begin handing out food at 4pm.

UA Convention Delegate Election: Congratulations to our elected delegates listed in order of votes received below. Thank you to all who stopped by and voted. Thank you to our election committee and Office Manager/CPA Lisa Johnson for your help. Our final delegate count will be based off end of March membership numbers, but we'll likely have 9 delegates plus the business manager.

1. Jason Finch
2. Nathan Phillips
3. Clint Fowler
4. Terry Brown
5. Mark Mangione
6. Frankie Pagan
7. Jeffery Rumsey
8. Jeremy Raap
9. Jason McDiarmid
10. Chris Pelton (1st alternate)
11. Robert Barnett (2nd alternate)
12. Lenny Dehoff (2nd alternate)
13. Micah Perkins (4th alternate)
14. Jeffery Rumsey II (5th alternate)

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

Golf League: The Local #174 Golf League will start on Wednesday, May 5th at 5:15pm at Hickory Knoll Golf Course in Whitehall. It's a two-person team with handicapped scoring. Show up on the first night and get signed up. If you do not have a partner contact the Union office and we'll pair you up.

Local Union Picnic: The Local #174 Family Picnic will take place at Heritage Landing in Muskegon on Saturday, July 17th from 11am to 3pm. This year we would like to purchase prizes from local vendors. If you know of a local small business we could support please forward their info to Ryan at rbennett@ua174.org.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The Local #174 Golf Outing will take place on Saturday, August 7th at the Falls at Barber Creek. The format will be a four-person scramble. Each team must have two Local #174 members. Registration at 8am and shotgun start at 8:30am. The cost is \$65 per person.

DHE Plumbing and Mechanical: We would like to talk to DHE's workers. If you know of a jobsite where they're working please contact Chris Pelton. **Contact Information:** If you have a change in contact information PLEASE CONTACT CAMI so we can keep our system up to date.

TIC, 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 fix the problem.

COVID-19: The virus is showing up on many jobsites throughout our jurisdiction. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash your hands frequently.

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

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

- Single Medicare \$262.55
- Retiree & Spouse Medicare \$525.09
- Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse \$677.55

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

Dispatch: We will be splitting up the dispatch responsibilities between the business agent and the assistant business manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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

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

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

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

Retiree Breakfast: Cancelled until further notice.

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm
Lakeshore - 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TIC) West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing,

MI 48917-9275

(517) 321-7502 Phone
(855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free
(517) 321-7508 Fax

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

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

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

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

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

Training News
FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next class will be held April 15; this will be the 3rd Thursday in April rather than the second, due to a schedule conflict for the instructor.

WELDING: The next weld test event will be Saturday, May 8, 2021 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, May 6, 5:00p-9:00p. Please call and sign up if you plan to test.

OPEN WELDING: Open Welding on Wednesday evenings has been cancelled until further notice due to lack of participation.

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-PAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: April 26, 28, May 1, 3, & 5 (Exam). The cost for the exam is \$120; if taking this class within 12 months of successful completion of the ASSE Tester, the exam cost is \$75. Exam fees are due prior to testing.

ASSE BACKFLOW TESTER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 10, 2021 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: May 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 26 & 27 (Exam). Saturday classes are scheduled for 8a-4p. The cost for the exam is \$120. Exam fees are due prior to testing.

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

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

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

"The trees that are slow to grow bear the best fruit."
-Moliere (1622-1673)

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."
-Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

"There is a lot more to life than just struggling to make money."
- Ann Richards



INSTALLING HEAT TRACE on a cooling tower at the expansion project at Battle Creeks Kellogg Airport is Marty Preston of Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333. He's employed by Mall City Mechanical.

Pipe Fitters Local 636's column – See page 7



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – Union Meetings will resume as the normal scheduled fourth Wednesday of each month starting April 28, 2021. Meetings will be held at the Union Hall located at 3535 Bay Road and start at 7:00 PM. We hope to get back to normal, but everything is subject to Covid-19 positivity rates.

Seeking licensed plumbers to work in Alpena, if interested please call Clint Steele at (231) 499-7330.

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

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

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513
jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515
jbador@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

The next Northern Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm at BJ's in Gaylord.

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.

GODBLESS 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

"I've always followed my father's advice: he told me, first to always keep my word and, second, to never insult anybody unintentionally. If I insult you, you can be goddamn sure I intend to. And, third, he told me not to go around looking for trouble."
- John Wayne (1907-1979)

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."
- Abigail Adams (1744-1818)

"Give to every other human being every right that you claim for yourself."
- Robert Ingersoll (1833-1899)

submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in-person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (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 indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your Insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up to date information.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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

"The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be."
-Robert Fulghum (1937-)

"To be a saint is the exception; to be upright is the rule. Err, falter, sin, but be upright. To commit the least possible sin is the law for man. Sin is a gravitation."
-Victor Hugo (1802-1885)



Plumbers and Pipefitters 333

LANSING – April's union meeting CANCELLED.

May's union meeting will be held, **May 19, 2021 at 6 pm at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI. 48933.** We will be voting on a contract proposal and the Lansing Hall remodel. A formal notice will be mailed to all members in the coming weeks. Please plan to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Scholarship applications for the 2021-2022 school year will be available April 1, 2021. Students who received an award last year will receive an application in the mail. Applications will be available at all three union halls or members may request an application by calling Joni at the Jackson office, 517-784-1106, Ext. 4.

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

Jackson's weld class: Tuesday's & Thursday's, 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek's weld class: Monday's & Thursday's (KCC) RMTTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

If you are interested in signing up for other classes please call the Training Center (517) 323.0333, and we will sign you up for that class, as our website is currently being updated.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications.

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

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

Reminder: Anyone with an Apprentice, Journeyman, Master or any type of Plumbing License needs to be renewed by April 30. If anyone needs assistance in logging in, or submitting their payments on the L ara website, please contact Diana at 517-323-0333.

Attention Members: If you have served in one of our United States Armed Forces, please call the Lansing Hall with the branch of military service you served and the dates. We are putting together a Local 333 Veterans Wall. If you have this information for any of our deceased members who have served in the military, please give us their information also.

The deadline is May 1, 2021. Please note this is our second request for this information. If you have called previously there is no need to call us again.

CASH FOR SCRAP METAL

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

McNichols
Scrap Iron & Metal Co.
6500 E. McNichols (near M. Elliot)
mcnicholsscrap.com
(313) 365-6100

Detroit
Iron & Metal Co.
8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)
detroitironandmetal.com
(313) 841-5100

Pipefitters Local 636
DETROIT – The Next Union Meeting will be Monday April 20, 2021 will be a Special Called Meeting for the purpose of Reading the 2020 Year Financial Statement. This will be held in person at Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia 48150. It will start at 7pm.

By Law change was proposed to Article III which reads: No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, shall work with tools. **The proposed change to:** No Foreman who has five (5) or more Journeyman under his supervision, or on a job with more than one (1) Foreman, shall work with tools. **The 3rd and final reading and the vote will be held at the April 20, 2021 Union Meeting.**

Please submit to Terry Gilligan or Steve Spurlock in writing or by email any suggestions for the .90 cents to be Allocated on June 1, 2021.
tgilligan@pipefitters636.org
sspurlock@pipefitters636.org

The Pipefitter 636 48th Annual Golf Outing will be held Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the Links of Novi. Tickets are limited to 216 golfers, first-come first-serve basis. Foursomes can be reserved at a cost of \$400. This will include a continental breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch on the turn, soft drinks/beer, prizes and a buffet dinner immediately following completion of play. All ticket orders must be received no later than Friday May 28, 2021. Please contact Terry Gilligan for tickets at 248-538-6636.

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Brother Jamie Maye on the passing of his father James L. Maye who passed away on March 23, 2021. James L. Maye was also a Life Member of Local 190.

Pipefitters 636 would like to wish a speedy recovery to Brother Rodney Hay who is home recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Pipefitters 636 would like to inform the Local 636 members of the current Office Administrative Changes they are as follows (please notice the changes in the SUB FUND correspondence): Receptionist/Dues/Address Changes/General Inquiries: Craig Harmon email: charmon@pipefitters636.org

Sub Fund Office: Kristina Springer: Please send all SUB Fund Requests to email: kspringer@pipefitters636.org 248-538-7065

Account Management/Death Notice: Margaret April; email: mapril@pipefitters636.org 248-538-6636 extension 102

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

The contract with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has been finalized and Jason May has new contact information 248-655-4048.

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

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

UA password good thru March 31, 2021: UA2021

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

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

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

You can now login to your (Continued next column)



Local 25
Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25
NOVI – April's ZOOM Union meeting will be Monday April 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The Ironworkers June Wage Allocation Vote Results for AGC Structural, Rigging, Rod, Conveyor, West Michigan and Erickson Agreements is posted in the member only section of the website (www.ironworkers25.org).

All bylaw proposals passed and they are also posted in the member only section of the website.

The Vote Results for Delegates to the International Convention will be posted in the member only section of the website. Due to a tie for the 12th Delegate, the Judges of Election will conduct a recount.

ZOOM: If you have not yet signed up for Notifications please sign up as Notification will go out via the APP. To participate in the Zoom Union meeting is very easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We are leaning toward communication through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS** – Please download the APP if you haven't done so yet!! Again, via our website!

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues IS CHANGING very soon. We will mail a letter to all once we acquire the new IVR phone number. Comerica has changed the processing platform in compliance with new banking regulatory rules. The new platform will now require all new and existing users to authenticate themselves. Anyone who has used the prior system will need to set up brand new payment information AND will need to create a new log-in and password the first time you log in. The link is still via our website www.ironworkers25.org

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

NEW Organizer's Minute: Have you heard the saying "Let's NOT make a Federal case out of this?" Well, that's exactly what

Local 636 cont'd

Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys. All inquiries.

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

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

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

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

Worker Assistance Program: Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. Call 248-545-8301 to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling.

Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund. Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits.

the unrepresented Ironworkers of American Steel Construction (ASC) brought against the owner of their company in November. A majority of the ironworkers came together in solidarity with Local 25 and fought to bring the owner to the bargaining table. While talking with one of those ironworkers about the impact this action could have on the future of ASC he said, "We have taken our issues to the management many times over the years, and every time we were promised help or change, they lied to all of us. No matter what happens to the company now, THEY are the ones who put us on this path."

I will never forget the moment I realized how grievously these men had been deceived. When union ironworkers view unrepresented ironworkers as our enemy, we play into the parasitic-owners plan perfectly. However, when we work together (the very definition of union); those greedy owners start shaking in their boots.

The campaign against ASC is ongoing and I need membership's help. If you think you've got what it takes, stop commenting on Facebook, and come effect real change by helping to grow your union. "Actions speak louder than words." Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. In Solidarity, Your Organizer Hank Kiluk (313)600-8242.

DEADLINE for the completed Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP applications is Friday, April 30, 2021.

IT'S MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU VISIT ANY OF THE UNION OFFICES OR UNION HALLS.

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30am to 4:30pm. The mailing address for member BENEFIT related matters is: Iron Workers Local 25 Fringe Benefit Funds, PO Box 99219, Troy MI 48099-9219. Blue Cross Health Claims and Customer Service 877-790-2583. Delta Dental Claims and Customer Service 800-482-8915.

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April30). A birth certificate will be required.

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April30). A Marriage certificate will be required.

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

Stewards' Notes: 1) STW Meetings cancelled until further notice. 2) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website www.ironworkers25.org LOG-INDIRECTIONS will follow once you click the link that reads "Electronic Steward Reports" These forms are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so. 3) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING 4) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.

MUST Safety now has an APP. Download from the APP store or google play. Search key word "MUST SAFETY."

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 (Continued next column)



Local 8
Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 8
Tim Roman
Business Representative
UPPER PENINSULA –
WELDCERTIFICATIONS: Weld certifications are being held on an as-needed basis. Please



AT WORK AT Battle Creek's Kellogg Airport are (l-r) Local 85 elevator constructors Devin Richmond and Andrew Pawlowski. They're employed by Schindler Elevator.

Local 25 cont'd

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

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc. Due to the high volume of apprentices doing their make-up days, we are limiting the number to 10 per day. Please call the school to make up days ... **Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.**

IRONWORKER-TRACTOR PROFESSIONAL: Autodesk training is now available online on the Learning Management System (LMS). Those who enroll will gain access to all 14 courses for just \$99 per year. Contact your local training center to register. (248-960-2130).

Welder online Verification: For an accurate and quick review of welder certifications please visit www.welderscertification.org. On the homepage click "login" and type "read only" as both your username and password.

Once logged on, type the member's book number in the column on the left marked "advanced search," click the "go" button, wait until the name pops up, and then click on the welder's first or last name. On the next screen, click "list certifications."

Every welding certification the welder has will be available for viewing and you can see that if it has been renewed; it is good until the year 2021. The site also allows you to print out a copy of the welder WPQR if needed. Click on "list test results." Click on the actual test code you want to see and you will see the test details. On that page click "Printable Form" (WPQR) and you can print the WPQR. If you read this please contact the Training Center for meeting credit.

The Novi retiree meeting will be Tuesday, April 20 at 10 am.; The Novi retirees Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, May 4 in Novi at 9 am. Watch for updates at (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching "Iron Workers Local 25" to stay informed on union matters.

Jim Hamric is starting up breakfast on the last Friday of the month at Mom's Restaurant 9:00 am. Located 2691 Fort St, Trenton, MI 48183. All are welcome!
Tentative: The Bay City Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 15 at the Bay City American Legion Post #18, 700 Adams St. Bay City MI 48708.

CONGRATULATIONS to John Lord a Senior from Clarkston High School who qualified for the MHSAA individual state finals in Wrestling at 160 Lbs. John is the son of Tony Lord

contact Rich Hanson at the Apprenticeship office for more information. 414-476-9372.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The Membership Meeting will take place by video conference on April 28th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Members can gain access to the meeting at https://meeting.iwl8.org on the afternoon of the meeting.

MINE SAFETY TRAINING: The next MSHA Refresher Class will be held on April 17th, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. To sign up

for this class, and provide your email address, please contact Ann Lakenen at Pipefitters #111, 906-226-6511.

If you sign up for MSHA classes and do not attend or cancel, you will be charged a fee of \$30.00 and will be suspended from any further Mine Safety classes until the fee is paid.

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

#1249171.

In Memory: Shirley Bush passed away March 17, 2021 at the age of 85. She was the wife of Kenny Bush #507836, the mother of Robert Bush #1082432 and Leonard Bush #1053482.

The family has many friends in the ironworking industry! Lonnie Cox passed away March 24, 2021 at the age of 65. He was the father of Chad Cox #1453548. Alois "Al" Kudzia #544848 passed away March 29, 2021 at the age of 87. He had 66 years in the trade. He is survived by his wife Shirley, daughter Katrina Kudzia-Wikaryasz #1251847 and son Scott May #1058884. Also many other friends and family in the Ironworking Industry.

Dale Dumas #752652 passed away March 30, 2021 at the age of 78. He was a 41-year member and the father of former 340 Business Manager and Apprenticeship Coordinator Ken Dumas #1139670. Also the father of Todd Dumas #1367649 and the Brother of LaVerne Dumas #658267 and Gene Dumas #613692. **Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

To all Union Members: Please be safe in this pandemic!

"If you would convince a man that he does wrong, do right. But do not care to convince him. Men will believe what they see. Let them see."

–Henry David Thoreau (1817 -1862)

"Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening."

–Dorothy Sarnoff

"He who builds a better mousetrap these days runs into material shortages, patent-infringement suits, work stoppages, collusive bidding, discount discrimination--and taxes."

– H. E. Martz

"There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm."

–Willia Cather (1873 -1947)

"One man alone can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothin' can beat teamwork."

–Edward Abbey (1927 -1989)

"The least of learning is done in the classrooms."

–Thomas Merton (1915 -1968)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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



Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

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

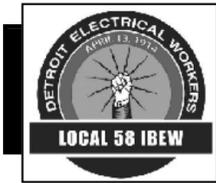
In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

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

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

- ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES
- WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU
- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

www.ssdfighter.com



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW 58
DETROIT – The next **General Membership** meeting will be April 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Due to gathering restrictions in order by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, this meeting will take place entirely outdoors. Weather permitting. We remind everyone to follow COVID-19 guidelines on safety.

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

VACATION FUND: Disbursement from the Vacation Fund is anticipated to be transferred to your PNC Bank Stored Value Card or if you elected, direct deposited into your checking or savings accounts, on or around May 25, 2021. Please check the listed contributions from your employers with your pay records for accuracy. A list of contributions may be obtained from the Benefit Office Website, www.ejwb.org by logging into your personal information and clicking My Benefits then Vacation Benefits. If you require a paper statement, please contact the Benefit Office for a printout. If there is an error, contact the Benefit Office, (586) 575-9200 ext. 212.

ATTENTION – TO UPDATE BANKING INFORMATION THE FUND OFFICE MUST RECEIVE CHANGES BY April 30, 2021. You may check your Stored Value utilization history by logging on to www.pncpaycard.com and by entering your 16-digit card number listed on the front of the card and the last four digits of your Social Security Number, also referred to as your Account Access Code (or AAC for short). Customer Service can be reached by telephone at (866) 453-5071.

Local 58 Dues Information: Dues should be paid by the first day of the quarter. You can pay your dues with our APP. Go to Apple/Google Play and download the IBEW 58 APP. In the APP, go to My Profile, My Member Tools and that's where you find the information to pay your dues. When putting in your credit card number, put in dashes between your numbers and this should help in processing your payment. Please make sure you put your phone number on the submitted form in case we need to contact you. You can also pay by phone with credit/debit or mail a check.

Local 58 is starting a Motorcycle Club! For more information contact Anthony Anderanin at aanderanin@gmail.com or Grace Trudell 313-244-2268 for more info.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 5 pm.

The 12th Annual Local 58 Detroit River Walleye Tournament will be Saturday, May 1, 2021, 7 AM until 3:00 PM - Rain or Shine! Outside event, masks and social distancing required per State/MDHHS Mandate. Fish Fry following weigh-in at the Union Hall. Entry form and rules are available at Local 58 or on our website at: www.ibewlocal58.org. Entries must be received by Wednesday, April 28, 2021. AFL-CIO affiliated Local Union families and friends are welcome! Don't forget to buy your 2021 Walleye Raffle. Grand Prize this year is a Sportsman cooler, Rod & Reel, \$50 Cabela gift card. Tickets available at the union hall until April 30, 2021. No need to be present to win, proceeds benefit the Local 58 Benevolent Fund. TICKETS \$10 Each.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2nd and 4th Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union

hall.
 The Community Service has a follow-up regarding the funds that were collected last summer at Grosse Pointe South High School. All the proceeds collected by the employees of Conti Electric at the job site BBQ last summer were used to purchase gloves, hats, and socks that were then distributed to the needy at the wobbly kitchen in Cass Park this past winter.

Thank you to the members who organized and cooked for the event: Jason Patterson, George Costigan, Chris Crimmins, Javon Wiseman, Darryl Lewis, & Barry Ferman. Also to Lake Erie Electric for generously donating 500+ pairs of socks that will be donated to those less fortunate at Cass Park this summer. Thank you Lake Erie Electric for lending a helping hand!

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Wednesday, April 13, 2021, 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 19, 2021 at 6pm. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? We have started our Toiletary and Sock Drive to benefit the Detroit Public Schools Community District Office of Homeless and Foster Care. New and unused toilettries and socks can be placed in the collection container at Local 58 anytime during regular business hours. Thank you to those who continue to attend our Zoom meetings as we navigate through these difficult times. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the community. #ibewstrong

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

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

The Political Action Committee (PAC) meets the 1st Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 dollars that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction cut our resources in half, and we would like to assist local candidates and our members looking to run for office.

Local 58's Women's Softball team, The Live Wires will be celebrating its 20th year anniversary this year and welcomes new players. Season begins April 26. We play single recreational games, USA Softball rules, Monday nights at Claude Allison Park in Redford on Beech Daly Rd. All skill levels welcome to join the camaraderie and solidarity. If you or someone you know would like more info please contact Grace Trudell at 313-244-2268.

Local 58's Women's Committee – Our next regular meeting is Thursday, April 22 at 6 pm on Zoom. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon.

ARC Scholarship and Awards are back for 2021! Scholarship applications and award nomination forms are available under the Women's Committee tab on the app/website. Scholarship applications are due Friday, April 30th 2021, award nomination forms are due Wednesday, March 31st. ARC Awards dinner is being planned for July 17. Bids have been opened for catering, music/entertainment, photography, and tent rental. If you or someone you know offers these services and would be interested on participating in this event please contact the women's committee. You can Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org or call committee chairs Angela Panicucci (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 557

SAGINAW — Union News- Hope everyone had a safe and happy Easter holiday.

The Freeland Walleye Festival is back on! April 23 at 5:00pm. Come out and show some brotherhood as we'll be marching our banner in the parade. But as we've recently seen a spike in Covid-19 cases, we urge our brothers and sisters to stay diligent in keeping co-workers, and loved ones safe. Please bring your mask.

The following policies are in effect to keep our members, their families, and the union hall staff as safe as possible:

-The Union Hall is OPEN. Please limit trips to the Hall for critical business through utilization of the glass service window.

-When visiting the Union Hall, you must wear a mask and stay socially distanced.

-Please continue to take care of as much business as possible via email, phone, or fax when you can.

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

-Apprentices should continue to monitor emails and correspondence from the school regarding upcoming class schedules. Please make sure you are up-to-date on all work reports and book payments. You can send book reports via email, fax, or drop them off at the hall.

-Stop by the hall and purchase your short or long sleeve 557 shirt. Represent your local with pride wherever you go.

Keep in mind, all of these decisions have been made to keep members and their families safe.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-

The last union meeting was held on April 6th at 5:30 in Roberts Park Pavilion. Members were set to vote on a contract ratification. Thank you to all the members who made our meeting safe and kept with township guidelines on social distancing. The Executive board is set to meet on April 20.

MICHIGAN INITIATIVE OPENING- The Michigan Initiative Field Organizer is open for interested applicants. If you are interested in helping the brother-

IBEW 58, con't

(586) 291-8014 or Kayla Pauli with any questions. Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook Local 58 Women's Committee.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: It continues to be a "stay at home" time as covid-19 is still keeping us from our regular activities. Retirees Association luncheons and other activities are still suspended. We know that patience must prevail, vaccines need to be given, masks need to be worn in public places, and we must continue to distance in groups and be cautious.

We expect all of us to come together in the future, just not sure how near in the future that will be. Dues were due Jan. 1, 2021, \$8 a year, per person. Please send your dues (payable to the Retirees Association) to Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville 48167. If you still owe dues for 2020, please include them.

If you haven't sent us your email address yet, please send it to 58Retirees@ibewlocal58.org. Stay safe, take good care.

As of 03/31/2021, the following members have lapsed membership: Bell Jr, Michael J.; Bethae, Roderick L.; Franzel, Jamie J.; Gott, Kurtis J.; Le Blanc, Brian R.; Lesnew, Brent T.; Mc Carty, Theresa M.; Perry Sr, John A.; Pietila, Todd A.; Platt, Zachary D.; Rider, Lawrence W.; Simmons, Jordan; Slater, Jimmy J.; St Aubin, Donald A.; Sullivan, Timothy J.; Westcott, David A.; Whitley, Justin D.; Williams, Anwar K.; Yanne, Ronald A.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Kevin J. Giroux and Daniel D. Hawley Sr.

Members that have Passed Away- Concetta (Connie) Gressman, widow of the late pension member Martin Gressman Jr.; Bruce Parkinson, pension member, 47 year IBEW membership.

We extend our sincere sym-

hood organize, please contact your Business Manager. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place on May 6th. You must submit a resume to your Business Manager. This position demands a total commitment to furthering the purposes of the IBEW and its number one objection: ORGANIZING.

Organizing is a full-time job that can be demanding at all times during the day and all days of the week. Interested members should be good at talking to strangers and in front of large groups. This position may include some overnight travel at certain times during the year and you will helping out various Locals throughout the State. Computer skills are also a necessary component to the position.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- The Union Hall is open. Please limit visits to the Hall for critical business if possible. We ask that if business can be taken care of with phone calls, emails, or a fax that you please do so. Otherwise, the glass service window in the front of the building should be utilized as much as possible to keep everyone as safe as possible.

BOOK SIGNING- Out of work lists can be signed for other Locals through fax or email. This is to continue to cut down on as many in-person transactions as possible. Contact your home local and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing.

WORK OUTLOOK- Delays have pushed some projects back. But leg work continues for work such as Saginaw County Animal Shelter and Saginaw City Schools. Master continues work on Rosein Towers and Grey Iron has a lighting project in the near future. Conti continues their work over at Hemlock Semi Conductor. And work on Mary Free Bed continues to truck along. Leddy Electric picked up one JIW for service van call.

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

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

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.

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 NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielelectrical.health.org
Breanna DePottay
 Press Secretary



IBEW Local 948
FLINT - Information regarding the April Union Meeting will be coming soon.
 Our April Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

The Retiree Club Meetings are still cancelled until further notice. 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).**

2021 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month
 2020 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

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

Gregory Remington
 Business Manager

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



IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership** meeting is scheduled for April 5 at 6 p.m.. The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on April 19 at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone number, please email Christine at cbhms@ibew131.com

Dues pricing – The price for dues in 2021 is \$40/month. If you're unsure about your balance, please call the Hall for the exact amount or email Christine. If your dues ticket reads paid through March 2021, your dues are not current; please contact the Hall.

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

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

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

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

Condolences: Brother James Stewart passed on January 17th, 2021. Brother Gary Yack passed on January 31st, 2021. Brother Wes Smith passed on March 29th, 2021.

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

FROM THE APPRENTICESHIP: Journeyman Upgrade Classes: Fall 2020-Winter 2021: 6. Foreman Training W March 10 to May 12, 2021 • 7. CPR S March 13, 2021 • 8. CPR S April 10, 2021

Code Update Classes: it is now required for Journeyman to pay in advance to hold your spot in the Code Update Class. We require 48 hours' notice for cancellations if you need to reschedule for another available Code Update Course.

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

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

Negotiations: The Local Union has set its bargaining team for upcoming negotiations thank you to the following Brothers and Sisters for volunteering: Tim Hayden, Scott Mueller, Kari Collison, Scott Bryer and Brian O'Donnell. We are continuing to process feedback from the Negotiations Survey. At this time, we have presented our proposals NECA and will continue negotiations on March 29.

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

"United we Bargain; divided we beg"

Brian O'Donnell
 Business Manager/Financial Secretary

IBEW LOCAL 58 BENEVOLENT FUND

2021 WALLEYE RAFFLE

MAY 1, 2021 @ 4 PM
1358 ABBOTT ST.
DETROIT, MI 48226

GRAND PRIZE

SPORTSMAN COOLER, ROD & REEL, \$50
 CABELA GIFT CARD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE UNION HALL
 UNTIL APRIL 30, 2021

NO NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
 PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LOCAL 58
 BENEVOLENT FUND

TICKETS \$10 EACH

'MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS'

DONATION PROVIDED BY:

KLP/REPRINT/00 IBEW LOCAL 58 20210

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Message from the Business Manager. After careful consideration, the Union Hall is open to foot traffic. Until further notice masks and social distancing must be adhered to at all times when visiting the union hall.

Please be vigilant in your efforts to stay healthy and safe from Covid-19. Local 692 continues to have more and more members and their families affected by this pandemic by the week. Please keep all of our brothers and sisters in your thoughts. Science tells us both washing your hands and wearing a face covering can protect the public from contracting this virus. Stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters. Please contact myself or one of our agents for any questions you may have regarding Covid-19.

The May monthly membership meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held outside. Please stay tuned and watch your email for further updates. We are currently monitoring orders coming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and will update the membership as soon as we have information.

We are currently right in the middle of negotiations for our "Inside" collective bargaining agreement. As soon as we have reached a tentative agreement, I will be notifying the membership and a ratification vote will need to occur.

Work Report. The new Meijer in West Branch has been bid. Master Electric has been awarded this project. Master Electric has also secured the new Isabella County Jail located in Mt. Pleasant. Both of these projects will have a spring start. Ted's Electric has been awarded some of the work at Midland Public Schools with Barton Malow being the G.C. Ted's was also awarded the Bay County lift station project. There is also a large energy upgrade project currently being bid for Midland Public Schools. Alpena Schools have been awarded to John's Electric out of Alpena. John's has also been awarded the Alpena library project and a large marijuana grow facility located in Harrisville. Clements Electric has been awarded the Sterling Saw Mill, Monitor Township Fire Department, Bay-Arenac ISD bus garage, the Troll Smokehouse, multiple marijuana dispensaries and the Handy Middle School office renovation.

Another nice project for Bay City Public Schools will be out for bid in the next month. Countyline Power has secured Midland/Gladwin County dam work, the Mackinaw City lift station and the Roscommon Airport. Consumers Energy work for the summer includes Karn 1&2 utility separation, and also work on the generator at Alcona Dam. Northern Valley Electrical has the LaFarge PLC upgrade. Northern Power (Local 498 signatory contractor) has secured work on the Shepler Docks in Mackinaw City. There are also a large number of Solar Projects that are slated for our jurisdiction. We are currently working on a timeline for all solar work. Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Work remains very good in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

Organizers Report. 692's membership development team continues to reach out to those workers in the industry not represented by the IBEW. A few hands have been organized since last report and relationships have been strengthened with other prospective members currently employed at merit shops performing work within our jurisdiction. We have noticed our competitors contacting the newly organized members directly to attempt to entice them back into working non-union. It seems as though merit shops are experiencing difficulties not only retaining but also recruiting sufficient manpower, which is good news for us. As COVID-related restrictions are relaxed, job site visits are becoming a more regular occurrence. That being said, tools for remote organizing will continue to be utilized as we look to organize more new members.

We'll continue to reach out to our membership for help identifying not only non-union contractor activity but also out-of-town signatory contractors performing work within our jurisdiction. Efforts to keep a watchful eye on such activity seems to be paying dividends as more non-local IBEW electricians have been checking in with the hall which ultimately allows us to collect assessments when appropriate. When we catch a represented hand in our jurisdiction performing electrical work who has not checked in, that individual will be invited to explain their actions to our executive board. Obviously, we expect the same courtesy call from our members when traveling outside of 692. Stay safe, Brothers and Sisters.

-Brian Klele 989.252.9225 • Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied. 2021 Dues (Effective January 1, 2021)

Monthly \$41.20 • Quarterly \$123.60 • 6 months \$247.20 • Yearly \$494.40
To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.

Death of Members. We regret to inform you of the death of retired Brother Kenneth Hauff, Card Number D130594, who passed away on March 29, 2021. Brother Hauff was born on April 7, 1940 (80 years old). He was initiated on September 1, 1963. Kenneth resided in Alpena, Michigan.

#324 Local death fund assessment \$5.00 each (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 692, 1300 w. Thomas, Bay City, MI 48706.

Local 692 Retirement Party. The retirement party originally scheduled for May 2021 has been postponed to **March 11, 2022**. It will be located at the DoubleTree in Bay City. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this great event to honor our retirees!

Retirees Lunch. All retirees' lunches have been postponed.

Fringe Benefits. REMINDER: if you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

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

RENEW Committee. IBEW Local 692 is still working on supporting our RENEW committee as they get off the ground. For those that are unfamiliar, RENEW stands for Reaching out and Engaging Next generation of Electrical Workers. This committee meets the second Monday of the month at a rotating location. If you are 35 and younger and looking to get more involved in the local please reach out to the hall and we can get you the information needed. This is your local Brothers and Sisters, get involved!

Ryan Charney
Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Important links & numbers

IBEW Local 692, 989-684-4510, www.ibew692.org

Health Plan 517-321-7502

Michigan Pension Fund, 517-321-7502, ww.michiganelectrical.org

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

NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300

IO Pension: 202-833-7000

"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin."

-H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

"A man may well bring a horse to the water but he cannot make him drink."

-John Heywood (1497 - 1580)

"Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work."

-H. L. Hunt



IBEW Local 498
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings. Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for May 14, 2021 @ 6pm. We are planning on in-person meetings unless Covid restrictions apply, we may hold them out doors so please dress accordingly.

MEETING – We are planning on having the next regular membership meeting in-person unless Covid restrictions apply, the meeting will likely be outside if more than 25 members attend, so please dress accordingly. The meeting will be held on May 14th, 2021 @ 7pm.

WAGE DISBURSMENT – We will be deciding on what we want to do with our next negotiated wage disbursement at the May meeting, we will likely have an increase in our health care contribution. I should know what it will be after our April Health plan meeting, we will have the rest of a \$1.30/hr increase to decide what or how we want it disbursed. So please bring any of your ideas to the May meeting to be voted on, the wage package increase is scheduled to take place on May 31st, 2021.

Michigan Initiative – At the April IBEW State Conference meeting it was decided to add another MI Initiative organizer to fill a vacancy. If you are interested please send your resume and any information you want included to the 498 Union Hall so we can get it forwarded to the State Conference. This will get you lined up for an interview, the schedule for the interview will come from the State Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

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

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES. Jan 1, 2021 – No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter

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

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

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



IBEW 252
Since 1916

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – WE ARE SEEING AN UPTICK IN POSITIVE COVID TESTS AND QUARANTINES ON JOBSITES. Please keep yourself, your coworkers, and the public healthy by following CDC and MHDDS jobsite guidelines. This includes social distancing and proper wearing of masks.

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

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

TRAINING CLASSES: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 p.m.

1. CPR/First Aid-April 13, 2021

2. Master License Prep Class- Thursday nights, April 8th and 15th and May 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

3. Instrumentation Part B hands-on- Tuesday nights, March 9-April 27, from 5-9 p.m.

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.

COVID-19 UPDATE: If your employment is disrupted due to COVID-19, please contact the Hall so that we can ensure that you get everything that's entitled to you, and that proper protocol is followed for everyone's safety.

Local 252 Website & App: The Local's website www.ibew252.org is up and running. There is also a Local 252 App available to download. Search "IBEW 252" in the app store. You must create a new login and password to access the Members Only section. Your login for the old website is no longer valid.

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

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

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

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

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

Retirees' Breakfast: The Retirees' Breakfast will resume on April 14 and 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.

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2021, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2021. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2021. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (Apr. through Jun.) are due now.

Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.



Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan – Regular Membership Meeting. The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular membership meeting will be broadcasting live on "Detroit Roofers - Radio Active" channel 88.5 on your FM dial. You must be within one mile of the Union Hall to hear the radio station. Providing that the weather is fine, we will have the regular membership meeting outside in the parking lot.

Executive Board meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother: Brother Mike Saban, he was 96 years old and a 56-year member. Brother Saban past on 3/31/2021. Rest in Peace Brother Saban.

Vacation Checks (quarterly). The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, April 23, 2021 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, April 24, 2021 for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you want the check mailed.

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standings. You can pay dues over the phone with a credit or debit card. Monthly dues can be taken out of your vacation check by filling out a form at the Hall (active Members only). If you have to come in to our office to pay, please understand that we are adhering to Michigan COVID19 guidelines; masks and social distancing are being enforced to protect our staff and our tenants. The mailbox is only to be used for checks and money orders do not put cash in the mailbox. To be eligible for the International Union Burial Benefit, a member must be in continuous good standing.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the Hall at 313-961-6093

Election Results. Results for the Negotiating Committee and Business Agents will be in the next Building Tradesman Newspaper publication. In addition to the publication, members can contact the Hall to get the results.

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

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

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 LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

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

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

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

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

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – Local 445 Business Office: The Business Office is now open normal hours to walk-in traffic, but you are required to wear your masks.

Members in arrears are: J Arney, M Bish, C Brown, S Counts, A Davidson, B Davis, C Doubleday, J Eyre, S Flynn, M Gay, K Green, B Hansen, B Harris, K Huestis, B Littell, T Madry, C Matuschuka, M Messenger, N Minniear, J Morris, C Palmiter, J Stone, S Tuttle, W Vanderford, D Vore, T Weiland, G Wenger and J Zima.

Attention: The dues for 2021: JIW are \$53.00/mo. or \$159.00/qr. and AP are \$42.00/mo. or \$126.00/qr. You can pay cash, check, money order or credit/debit card. For those that have scheduled payments, please verify with your bank that you are sending in the correct monthly amount.

Building Committee: The Hall is looking for Members that are interested in being on the new Building Committee. You can be an Apprentice or JIW to be on the Committee. Please submit your interest in writing to info@ibew445.com.

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

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

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

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

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



PRIORITY LIST
#1. A Safe and Healthy Workplace

Roofers 149, continued

gan regular membership meeting scheduled for Tue., April 13, 2021 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

At the April 13, 2021 regular membership meeting, we will be taking proposals on administering the \$1.85 raise.

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 of 4/5/2021, 1:00p.m.

-In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149



BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON
Real Estate Training Inc.
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120
Troy, MI 48068
www.middletontraining.com
248-885-8311



Robert P. Matouka Insurance Agency
Auto • Commercial • Builders Risk • Surety Bonds • Life Insurance Products

414 S. Main St., Suite 211 B
Rochester, MI 48307
248.652.7333
R.MATOUKA@FARMERSAGENT.COM

OFFERING **HAGERTY** CLASSIC CAR INSURANCE

Worked with construction trades for over 30 years and a Vietnam veteran



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office at (517) 886-9781.



CHUCK KUKAWKA

APRIL 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7 PM, 1231 Hastings St., Traverse City, MI 49781

May 2021 CHAPTER MEETINGS. The May Chapter meetings will also include the Special Called meeting in all Chapters for the purpose of NOMINATION/ELECTION of Chapter Chairman, Recording Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms for each Chapter.

If an election(s) is necessary in any of our Chapters, it shall be conducted by secret ballot election at that June Chapter meeting. The remaining May Chapter meeting will be listed in the next paper.

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 04, 2021 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 04, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 05, 2021 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother James Cusin** (Bricklayer, Cement Mason & PCC) who passed away on March 30, 2021. Brother Cusin first became a union cement mason in 1994.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Harold Hines** (Bricklayer) who passed away on December 19, 2020. Brother Hyatt had been a member for 30 years.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: Local 2 has started a TV and Radio ad campaign to recruit Skilled Bricklayers and Restoration workers. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We are currently looking for experienced Bricklayers, Masonry Restoration Workers and Tile Setters. Those who are interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 for a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get 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. You can view the full Signing Bonus policy on our website.

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount. We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

UPDATE - BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members but **visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment.** Please contact our Training Centers at the numbers listed below for an appointment for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS and other services.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER: To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Tom Ward directly at (734) 552-7066.

TMT RTI CLASSES RESUME WITH REDUCED CAPACITY DUE TO COVID-19; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

To register visit detroitroweltrades.org and click Calendar. Classes are filled on a first registered first served basis and will be held on the following Saturdays from 7:00am – 3:30pm: Apr: 24 • May: 1, 15 & 22 • Jun: 5 & 12

Apprentices, remember that Related Training Instruction (RTI) classes are a requirement of your Apprenticeship, failure to attend will delay your apprenticeship and raises. Additional classes will be added as necessary to accommodate all apprentices. Feel free to contact your BAC field representative or the Apprentice Coordinator should you have any questions.

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 pm.

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.

BAC 2 MI Texting Program. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by •texting 2MI to 877877

•You’ll receive a confirmation text asking for your member no. (IU#)
•Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION: Bricklayers Metro Detroit Local Pension Fund (248) 641-4954
Detroit & Vicinity Health Insurance (Brick, Cement and TMT) (800) 435-4080 or (248) 828-6000 (dvtv.org)
MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, michiganbac.org)
Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)
CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund)
International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement and TMT) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (dvtv.org)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for a Telephonic meeting. Please feel free to call the Business manager or any agent with questions on how to sign up.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the retirees that you all are safe and well.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

Adolfo Santos – 25 Years
John Predkelis – 25 Years

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

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

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.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.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let’s work together to secure our future!!

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more an Apprentice must be on the crew. Help out! Call the Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure that we have all of your current contact information, address and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated for your health care and pension and also if you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved please contact the Local and we will change your addresses with

(Continued next column)



Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m



ROBERT GONZALEZ

DC 1M UNION CARDS* Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at: Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI OF THE GREAT LAKES APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION. To all Apprentices, the FTI of the Great Lakes Apprenticeship is back to in-person classes. If you have any questions regarding this, call the Apprenticeship School.

D-BAR-A BOY SCOUT CAMP ANNUAL MIX FIX 2021. Members, the Mix Fix is on! Come out with your Brothers and Sisters to help the Boy Scouts. Breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner are provided. Camping space provided for those who want to stay Friday and /or Saturday night. Painters, Finishers, and Glaziers can stay at the Jack Lord Bunkhouse (bring a sleeping bag, toiletries and pillow)

WHEN: SATURDAY MAY 8, 2021 @ 8AM

WHERE: D-BAR-A BOY SCOUT CAMP, 880 EAST SUTTON Rd., METAMORA, MI 48455. For more information contact: Shawn O’neill- DC 1M Apprenticeship Director, Office- (586) 552-4481 • Cell- (517) 304-4425.

Cement Masons 514, con’t

all of the fund offices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS: You can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: www.retirement.wellsfargo.com or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-6550 with any related questions.

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the Local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local.

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.

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

Michigan Painters District Council

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL IMSMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its’ all new APP.

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

Search for “Painters and Allied Trades” download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

OUT OF WORK/BACK TO WORK: To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work. Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888. New job starts should be reported to the Union office,
Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.

Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin

Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Fred Frederickson

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovall

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Keith Anderson

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.

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

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

Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6pm. We will hold Union Business Representative nominations at this meeting.

Brothers Corey DiNardo, and Mike Domzal passed away in the month of March. Please keep them, and their families in your thoughts.

We will be hosting a Union Stewards education class on Saturday, April 17th. This class is a 6 hour class, and will be held at the Warren union hall. 8am start. If you are interested in this class please contact Don Stepp, 586-335-6480. We are only able to hold 30 members in this class, so please let us know to reserve a spot for you.

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

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

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

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

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

–Business Rep- Don Stepp



Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

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

THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
- HRA’s, HSA’s, FSA’s
- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
- HIPAA Compliance

With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

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| Louisville, KY | Salt Lake City, UT | |

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



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – All Local 47 Union Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office.

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79-hour rule.

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

Per the Rules and Procedures:

Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

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

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double 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 with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

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

We have received our Breath of Life Gun Raffle Tickets, if you interested to purchase any tickets please call the Union Office or you can get a hold of someone on the job site who is selling them.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Dr., Lansing, MI 48917-9275
Toll Free (800) 323-8079
Telephone (517) 321-7502
Fax Number: (517) 321-7508
Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

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

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

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org
Please complete and return (Continued next column)



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD – REMINDER: We continue to be under the directive of the International Union and pursuant to that directive, the APRIL 2021 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.



CURT
MCGLONE

SUB FUND BENEFIT INCREASE: At the February 25, 2021 S.U.B. Fund Meeting the Trustees voted to increase the S.U.B. Fund weekly benefit. Effective March 1, 2021, both the disability S.U.B. Fund benefit and the unemployment S.U.B. Fund benefit will increase by \$50.00 per week.

APPRENTICE APPLICATION: Apprentice applications will be accepted during March 2021 and April 2021. To learn more and apply online, visit HeatFrostInsulators.org/Apprenticeship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the can contact the Union Office (248) 352-1850.

QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS LOCAL 25 APPRENTICESHIP

1. Must be at least 18 years of age by June 1st, 2021, and have a valid driver's license.
2. Complete the application. Be sure that you sign the application and you must upload any required supporting documents, including documents that support previous employment or extracurricular activities.

If you are a current High School senior, you must provide your Diploma or GED certificate (proof of completion) by June 1st, 2021.

3. Successfully complete an aptitude test when scheduled, (at the applicant's expense of \$30).
4. Appear for an interview when notified.
5. Have a residence and live in the Territorial Jurisdiction of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25 as follows:

In the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, and neighboring counties as well as the Townships of Ann Arbor, August, Lodi, Northfield, Pittsfield, Salem, Saline, Scio, Superior, Webster, Ypsilanti, York in Washtenaw County.

6. Before employment, all applicants accepted for probationary apprenticeship will be required to pass a physical examination and pre-employment drug test as prescribed by the local JATC.

APPAREL: New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, (Continued next column)

Local 47, con't

the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

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

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

Condolences to the Family and Friends of Christopher Jarman who passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.



Abatement Workers Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for Spring so be prepared for work. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines



KEVIN
MEAGHER

that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

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

Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Spring outages are coming! With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go.

They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for Late March so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.

BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!

Local 25, con't

lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct.

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

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

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

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

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

"Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength."
–Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

– George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)



WMU project takes off at Kellogg Airport

THE \$20 MILLION expansion of Western Michigan University's Aviation Education Center at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek will result in an expansion of the terminal building from 16,000 to 67,000 square feet and added classroom space. The expansion will also bring a new research lab facility, simulator lab, a paint lab and a cafe.

Labor Department moves quickly to reverse anti-labor edicts

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI)– With one exception, which we'll get to at the end, the federal Labor Department, other agencies and even the GOP-dominated National Labor Relations Board seem to be rushing to reverse Trump-era rules and edicts.

DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration will send real inspectors to high-hazard workplaces – especially hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and meat and poultry processing plants – to ferret out and slam hard on violations of anti-coronavirus protections.

No more phony inspections by phone, as happened under the Trump Administration.

The NLRB dropped the Trumpite General Counsel's challenge to neutrality agreements during union organizing drives, in a case involving Unite Here and a Seattle hotel.

DOL "has suspended enforcement" of Trump rules to curb or even end unions' and shareholder activists' use of proxy votes to force firms to disclose and – in the glare of publicity – change corporate anti-worker, anti-consumer politics and policies.

"Those rules were motivated by corporate lobbying in the previous administration," says Brendon Rees, the AFL-CIO specialist in monitoring corporate and capital markets – a statement that could just as easily apply to all the Trump rules Biden's officials are dumping.

Biden's new Education Secretary, Miguel Cardona, a past member of the School Administrators union, reversed an edict from Trump's Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. She made it virtually impossible for past students of shady for-profit "colleges" to have loans forgiven after their schools went broke. Many students stuck with five- and six-figure bills are women and students of color. DeVos forgave only 3 percent of the loans.

And even Trump's NLRB majority dumped its prior proposed rule, which would have been written in stone like other federal rules, to ban private university research assistants and teaching assistants from unionizing and collective bargaining.

And that's just for starters. The actions, many following President Joe Biden's executive orders, show he was prepared to hit the ground running once he took over the Oval Office.

And though Biden is a congressional veteran, he isn't waiting for lawmakers to move, either. He knows full well that Senate GOP filibusterers would hamstring a lot of his plans.

The DOL led off by dumping two late Trump edicts that sharply curbed workers' rights:

• One Trump scheme would write DOL's "joint employer" rule into the stone of federal regulations. In plain English, Trump wanted to leave workers between a rock and a hard place, unsure of which of their bosses – a local McDonald's or McDonald's corporate headquarters, for example – was responsible for obeying or breaking labor law.

The Obama-era DOL, and its National Labor Relations Board General Counsel ruled both the local boss and HQ are both responsible for following the law, be it bargaining orders (the NLRB) or the minimum wage and overtime pay law (DOL). Before that, suffering workers, who lost wages, benefits and even the right to organize, were being

bounced from pillar to post.

Trump's DOL actually wrote into federal rules, which are tough to repeal, the split responsibility, which leaves workers at sea, unsure who's responsible for not paying them or for breaking labor law.

But last November, a federal judge in New York, responding to lawsuits by workers' rights groups and state attorneys general, called a halt to enforcing that split responsibility workers must face. The judge said the Trumpites broke the law which demands considering public comments on its scheme. Trump's DOL planned to appeal the judge's decision to higher courts. Biden's DOL dropped the appeal, and withdrew the rule.

• The other was Trump's plan, again to be a federal rule, to make more workers "independent contractors," by favoring bosses' declarations that they were.

Unlike "employees" under labor law, "independent contractors" can't organize, and must pay for their and the company's share of Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. They can't get jobless benefits or workers' comp. They also aren't covered by the minimum wage and overtime pay laws. They're "independent, because they're their own bosses."

Except the workers really aren't. In the real world of construction contractors, port truckers, adjunct professors, franchise restaurants and the gig economy, real bosses control practically everything the worker does, from uniforms she wears to his hours behind the tractor-trailer's wheel. Biden's DOL, specifically its Wage and Hour Division, recognized that.

"The division's mission is to protect and respect the rights of workers. Rescinding these rules would strengthen protections for workers, including the essential front-line workers who have done so much during these challenging times," Principal Deputy Administrator Jessica Looman, its current top official, said in a statement.

"Misclassification of employees as independent contractors denies workers access to critical benefits and protections the law provides. Additionally, removing a standard for joint employment that may be unduly narrow would protect more workers' wages and improve their well-being and economic security."

Biden's Mine Safety and

Health Administration followed OSHA's lead in planning more enforcement in the nation's mines against worker exposure to the coronavirus. The United Mine Workers welcomes that, but wants strong bans on worker exposure to diseases through the air, like the virus, written into law. That's what National Nurses United and other unions demand of OSHA, too.

• Even the NLRB got into the act. New Biden-named Acting General Counsel Peter Sung Ohr – who's holding the spot until the Senate OKs Biden's permanent nominee – trashed a plan by his fired GOP predecessor, Peter Robb, to really curb unions' ability to communicate with workers. The GC is the NLRB's top enforcement officer.

Other media reported "Robb told regional NLRB staffers in September he wanted to tee up" court cases to do more than just ban neutrality agreements, as the venal, vicious National Right to Work Committee sought.

• Robb also solicited right-wingers and corporate interests to bring cases to ban any access to plants by union organizers, even to break rooms and during lunch hours, to let firms refuse to give unions required contact information, and to ban organizers from advocating for a specific union when talking with workers. Ohr banned those bans.

But the GOP majority at the NLRB isn't dead yet, proving it by deciding another case against workers. In plain English, the two Republicans, over objections of sole Democrat Lauren McFadden, said a company could come down hard on workers' "inappropriate communications" on social media postings, whatever that means – and get away with it.

The firm could ban discussing pay and benefits, ban use of company logos to promote the firm (or not) and ban "disparagement" of the firm.

"Legitimate justifications for the respondent's (the employer's) non-disparagement rule are substantial, and we find they outweigh any potential adverse impact of the respondent's facially neutral rule on protected rights" of workers, the NLRB's Republican majority wrote.

"It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."

– W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

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Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 14, 2021.**

Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

The **E-Board/Stewards** meeting is scheduled for **April 27, 2021** at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

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

2021 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: At this time, Local 292 is planning to have our annual charity golf outing. The place and date of our outing is TBD at this time.

NEW PRESCRIPTION CHANGES: The Board of Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Health Fund (the Fund) is introducing a new prescription drug benefits program effective January 1, 2021. The new program will be administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (replacing EnvisionRx). Since Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan already administers our Simply Blue PPO Medical Plan, your medical and prescription drugs will be integrated and coordinated, which should make it easier for you and lead to better care. The new card will be used for both medical and prescription drug coverage.

You should have already received your new Blue Cross cards in the mail. If you have not received the new cards, please contact BeneSys immediately to request one. You can also download the Blue Cross app to any smart phone. The app provides tools and features to help you access information pertinent to your account. These changes are for active members and pre-65 retired members only.

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

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

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

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

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

Prior to the start of work on the project the employee must provide confirmation of negative results to a MUST Substance Abuse Test or equivalent test within the last 30 days.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 is now partnering with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Services are of no cost to active members and their dependents.

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

DUES: Membership dues are required to be **paid in advance of the month for which they are due.** The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are **60 days late.** To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by **4 p.m. on the last business day of the month.** Payments received after **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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

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

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

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with hard hat stickers and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390** (Dave) or Quintin **248.495.6764.**

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class April 17th & 24th.

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 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 and 3 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.



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal 80

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

****REMINDER**** Meetings are no longer held at the Plumbers Hall and are now held at Local 80's Union Hall.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall. 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. *There is a tentative ratification of potential contract at this membership meeting. Stay tuned for updated information regarding this. Updates will be posted in the paper, on Facebook, the website and a text message will be sent. If you have any questions or concerns you may call the union hall.*

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 20, 2021 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The April 19 meeting is CANCELLED. We will be going month to month for 2021. Please keep an eye on the paper for an updated schedule. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association, contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

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

RETIREMENT CLASS: We will be hosting a retirement class in May with Greystone Consulting. The date has not been finalized but there will be limited spots. Please call the hall if you would like to get on the list. The finalized date will be available soon.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Chris Ketelhut, Todd GOSney, Nicholas Fischer, Brendan Fecteau, Ryan Spauling, Jared Miller, Clayton Schaffhauser, Brian McDonald, Justin Brown, David Sheprak, Eric Simmons, Hayden Cluck, William Glidden, Jarrett Hill, Garry Sanchez, Sergiy Bondarchuk, Blake Grubb, Anthony Caleca, William Harding, Eric Vinci, Robert Fair, Robert Moore Jr., Zachary Zerafa, Christopher Sanchez, Matt Fraser, Andrew Sienkiewicz & Riley Priest.

RETIREMENT: Congratulations to Charles P. Mack on his recent retirement. Charles has been a Local 80 member for 33 years! We wish you all the best.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and Sept. 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

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

SAVE THE DATE: Local 80 Golf Outing: July 17, 2021

Local 80 Picnic: August 7, 2021

Training Center News.

Spring/Summer Classes at the Training Center:

EPA 608 Certification. This 2-day class will prepare the student to take and pass an EPA Section 608 Certification Test. This class will be held on Monday, May 3rd and Wednesday May 5th from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The certification test will be given

(Continued next column)



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, June 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1- May 13th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 –May 18th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3- (Saginaw) May 12th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3- (Traverse City) June 17th - 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 4- May 11th - 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 –June 3rd - 6:00 p.m.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2021. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.



SAM 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.labelscantireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info: Work in the Zone 1 area continues to remain strong. Please remember to inform James

or Eric of your employment status in the case of a layoff. Apprentices please remember to also inform Kevin at the Zone 1 Training Center of your employment status. If you are experiencing any problems with unemployment, contact your Business Agent for assistance. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your Business Agent or call BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. Any Journey-person interested in upgrade classes, please contact Kevin at the Training Center (269) 781-7183. Please note that class availability depends on the level of interest. The Zone 1 Retiree meetings may resume per the restrictions set forth in the MDHHS Order which can be found on the Local 7 website @ www.sheetmetal7.org. **In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.**

ZONE 2 Info Zone 2 is currently in contract negotiations and working for a tentative agreement to be voted on by members. Look for a meeting card in the mail later in April for a possible meeting date. Our next meeting regular meeting is May 18 2021 at Grand Rapids hall at this time. **Thanks Dave**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Zone 3 is getting busy and we have a lot of good jobs coming up. Looks like we are going to be busy all summer. Our retirees are going to have their retiree meeting in person on April 20 at 12:30 at the Ponderosa in Bay City due to Covid restrictions the usual place could not accommodate the amount of people that we usually have. Continued prayers are asked for one of our members, Bob Vargas and his family. His 6 year old daughter needs a heart transplant and could use our help, you can go to Facebook at #TrinityStrong or contact me for details on how to help out. Hopefully everyone is staying safe out. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next Traverse City Meeting will be Thursday June 17th at 6 PM. Contract Negotiations are ongoing in the Zone 3 Area, when a tentative agreement is reached a postcard will go out with information on the ratification vote.

Northwoods Mechanical has signed the agreement and will be doing primarily residential work. We are going to have a busy summer ahead with school work. Best wishes to all members and their families and stay healthy! **Thank You, Travis Eastman**

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 has slowed a bit, we only have a few members on the out of work list. Spring looks to be good with lots of good size projects. We will be having in person meeting in May; masks will be required in the union hall/training center. Anyone who is not working and has not contacted me, please do so. **Your Brother, Larry Kinzie**

ZONE 5 Info: I hope everyone had a Happy Easter. Work in the area is slowly picking up as we move into spring and summer. Our next scheduled meeting is June 3rd at 6 pm. **Respectfully Greg Faust**

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: Underemployment – Filing for period 2020-B is from July 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020. Eligible members who worked less than 750 hours from July 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020 may receive an underemployment benefit. Health and welfare benefits paid on your behalf will be deducted from your benefit. NOTE: Members who received an Emergency Advance Benefit must file for Underemployment to receive the remainder of that benefit for the stabilization period. In addition, you must provide copies of all W-2 forms for the entire year of 2020.

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samuel Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) **517-882-4064**

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

James Callahan (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-342-8842**

David Rutz (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-458-2313**

Wayne Stover (Saginaw) **989-692-0002**

Travis Eastman (Traverse City) **231-943-5150**

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

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

Local 80, continued

in the last part of class on Wednesday. The deadline for registration is Wednesday April 28, 2021. **Instructor:** Dennis Marentette

Keith Klos Memorial Copper Class. Students enrolled in the Keith Klos Memorial 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 May 5, from 5-8 P.M. The deadline for registration is Friday April 30, 2021. The class is limited to ten people. Local 80 Journeymen can register starting April 5, 2021. Registration for all other eligible members begins April 12. Apprentices can register for this class if they have completed and passed Sheet Metal Layout during their in-class training or the night/upgrading class. **Instructor:** Sam Velez

Pipe Welding/Welding 1-4. This will be the same class that is offered on Thursday nights during the Fall and Winter terms. It is a 12-week class that begins Thursday, May 6. Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 29. **Instructor:** Matt Kelly



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – The next Union Meeting, scheduled for Friday, April 9, 2021, will be held in Area Four at the Operator's Hall – 802 Clark Drive, Gladstone, MI. Masks are required for entry.

The Union Hall has resumed "normal" operations with the previous safety measures in place, which include social distancing, mandatory mask use, and limited occupancy. As always, if you do not feel well, do not come to the hall.



BOB HUTSELL

As the current pandemic continues to drag on, I am encouraged by the efforts to get Americans vaccinated. Vaccines are now more available than ever, and I encourage every member to trust proven leaders in the medical profession by getting vaccinated.

Often, Boilermakers inform engineers, project managers, and superintendents, of issues on the job that are quickly dismissed or ignored. Usually, when this happens, problems arise. Just as Boilermakers have honed their skills and acquired knowledge of the aspects of our industry, so too, have those in the field of medicine. Don't make your decision about getting vaccinated based on what you saw on Facebook, or some rumor.

Leading professionals in the field of medicine agree, in order to defeat COVID-19, we need to get vaccinated. I, along with my wife and children, have all been vaccinated, and I encourage you to do the same. By working together, and following the recommendations of proven experts, we will defeat this pandemic and get back to a more normal way of life.

Congratulations to the delegates elected to our 34th Consolidated Convention, which will be held virtually on July 19th, 2021. All proposed amendments to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution must be submitted in duplicate, no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the convention. All other resolutions having to do with the establishment or declaration of policy of the International Brotherhood shall be submitted to the International President, in duplicate, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the convention.

All resolutions shall be attested to by the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the subordinate body. All questions regarding submission of resolutions should be directed to, Local 169 President, Mike Card, and Local 169 Business Manager-Secretary Treasurer, Bob HutSELL.

Union dues for 2021 are \$49.85 per month. The union hall accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the hall and over the phone.

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

Training Center: The Area One Training Center is in the process of reopening. You will be notified by your Area Agent when you have an assigned training day and time

Apprentices: Congratulations to the Spring 2021 apprentice graduates!

Sweatshirts are available for purchase for \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. If you live out 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.



Elevator Constructors

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular **Membership Meeting was planned for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm.** As of this printing we are having a meeting in the parking lot only, we are seeking alternate ways to communicate if the weather does not cooperate or a venue to accommodate us. Letters and Emails have been sent all Members. Keep watching your email for possible changes!

Attention, our NEBA contract will be expiring July 9th of 2022, so we had **Nominations** for the Delegates for the 32nd General Convention at our February Meeting. Congratulations to our Delegates for the 32nd General Convention, Michael Vandervennet, Russell O'Donnell, Sean Walker, Jeff Patti and Jim O'Brien. **Any Resolutions** for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and By-laws before our April 26, 2021 meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, continue accessing the NEIEP website/email frequently for all instructions. Mechanic's review is available and Exam invitation will be coming for those eligible at NEIEP. **Monthly OJL Forms** are now online at NEIEP which must be completed before the 9th day of the next month. **If you are working out of our jurisdiction, laid off or a probationary, OJT forms must be filled out and turned into the Hall. This is a requirement of the Department of Labor.** Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill your responsibility. Reminder to All that the NEIEP website is available to All interested in review and Continuing Education.

Attention All Members. W-2s should be in your possession. It is your responsibility to comply with Article XIV, Sec 2. Par 14, of the Local Constitution and Bylaws, letters have been sent to all Members. Check your pay stubs regularly, there have been multiple issues with several companies with Pay and Rates paid per specific tasks. The hours you are paid should match hours to-

ward vacation, benefits and expenses submitted. Remember our wage increased on Jan. 1, 2021. All may request a copy of the time you submit, according to the NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 2. Any changes made to your time are to be documented and given to you, NEBA Agreement, Article XI, Par 1. We recommend all request a copy as issues with payrolls seem to be rising. Put in for your check cashing along with 50 cents per Local Expense Agreement and verify you receive it. All Testing must be done according to Code and your Company's Maintenance Control Program. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information. When paying for this quarter dues card please include an extra \$10 for the loss of two members.

All Members, Local 36, Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPFF are holding outreach sessions on Monday nights, 6-8 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes. Contact the Hall if you are interested. The link will be sent to you for either online or phone participation. Maintenance Control Programs reference the Codes, are you being Code compliant? Know what the MCP is referencing for you the

Licensed Journeyman.

Reminder, please keep your State of Michigan and City of Detroit licenses current. Sign up to receive Safety Alerts at IUEC.org for safety and product alerts to your phone. All Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork, keep the hall informed of all jobs.

We regret to inform all mem-

bers, but the Executive Board and Officers have decided to cancel this year's 2021 Picnic due to Covid concerns.

Please follow COVID-19 guidelines for your safety and those around you. E-mails were sent to all Members and Companies for the effort to make the Covid-19 vaccine available to all their employees who are requested to visit Front Line Facilities.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list.

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Outdoors



Cougars, Michigan's 'ghost cat'

By Karen Cleveland and Cody Norton
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

You may have read the stories on Facebook or on other social media platforms.

Tantalizing and captivating claims from across Michigan: cougars seen wandering backyards in the suburbs around Detroit, black panthers skulking through farm fields and attacks all over the state on pets and livestock.

But what's the truth about mountain lions in Michigan?

How many are there? Where are they? And how worried should we be?

Cougars, also called mountain lions or pumas, are native to Michigan and would have been found here prior to European colonization of the region. Early European settlers, however, saw the cat as a threat to them and their livestock, as well as a competitor for venison and other wild game.

Consequently, by the late 1800s, cougars were almost eliminated from the eastern United States, driven by these fears. Wholesale logging of the forests the cougars called home also played a role, as waves of settlement converted much of the state to farmland.

Many states and the federal government created bounties, money paid to people to kill cougars and other predators, with the goal of erasing them from the landscape. These efforts worked so well that cougars were eliminated from Michigan by the early 20th century.

While memories of these big cats persisted in communities across the state, trying to find physical evidence to support reported sightings proved to be a bit like chasing a ghost.

When evidence was collected at the scene of a reported cougar sighting, like photographs, the culprit was often found to be something other than a mountain lion.

These would-be cougars were actually animals as mundane as a large housecat seen from an



A COUGAR IS photographed by a trail camera at a deer baiting site in Mackinac County. All but one of the verified cougar sightings the DNR has reviewed have been in the Upper Peninsula.

MDNR photos

angle that made it appear much larger or as unusual and exotic as an escaped pet serval – a large wild cat from Africa that's definitely not legal to keep as a pet in Michigan.

As reported sightings became more common, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources created a "cougar team" in 2008 to review reports of cou-



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources' large carnivore specialist Cody Norton, handles a cougar as part of training the DNR cougar team received on how to tranquilize and handle cougars.

gars and to try to verify them.

Brian Roell, a DNR wildlife biologist at Marquette, takes the mission of the cougar team very seriously.

"The team is made up of wildlife biologists for the DNR who have received specialized training in how to identify cougars from photos, as well as from tracks, scat and other physical evidence they may leave behind," Roell said. "It's important that we're able to identify these animals correctly, not just for conservation purposes but also so that residents can be informed about the wildlife living around them and take common-sense precautions."

Over the 13 years since the formation of the cougar team, its members have met weekly to review

reports with supporting evidence submitted to the DNR.

If the evidence appears to have come from a cougar, DNR staffers will follow up with a site visit. This helps the biologists verify that photos haven't been faked or reported from false locations. The visits also let the biologists measure trees and other objects to help estimate the size of animals in photos submitted with reports.

Sometimes, the team members even use a life-sized, cardboard cougar silhouette to try to recreate the photo to help arrive at a correct identification.

So far, their hard work has verified 65 cougar reports in Michigan.

"We don't think these are all different cougars," Roell said. "Many of these reports include photos from trail cameras, and it's very likely that the same cat is being spotted in different places as it moves through the forest."

What does this tell us about how many cougars are in Michigan?

"There's no evidence of a breeding population here – no signs of kittens in any verified report, and all of the animals where

we've been able to determine their sex have been male," said Kristie Sitar, DNR wildlife biologist at Newberry.

Sitar said some DNA studies have been conducted on the cougars found here, using evidence collected from verified reports or a cougar poached in Schoolcraft County several years ago.

This testing has shown the animals being reported in Michigan have traced back to a population found in South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska.

"These are likely young male cougars looking for areas far from home where they can find mates and establish their own territories, and they just keep moving when they don't find any female cougars," Sitar said.

Should you be worried about seeing a mountain lion near your home? All but one of the verified cougar sightings the team has reviewed have been from the Upper Peninsula. Chances of seeing one in the Lower Peninsula are extremely low.

Like with most wildlife, there are some simple preventative steps you can take to make your home less attractive to cougars.

Remove sources of food, shelter and safety. For cougars, this means not letting pets roam outside alone, providing shelter for livestock, not feeding wildlife,

removing landscaping that provides shrubby cover for animals to hide in near buildings and installing outside lighting with motion detectors.

If you encounter a cougar when you're outdoors, your best bet is to try to appear too dangerous to tangle with: don't turn your back on the animal, look as large as you can by standing tall and waving your arms, and talk loudly.

Never run from a cougar, though you can move away slowly. If you are attacked, fight back and never play dead. Remember that the likelihood that you'll ever see a cougar in Michigan is extremely low, and the likelihood of an attack is even lower.

"These cats are very rare in Michigan," said Pete Kailing, a DNR wildlife biologist in Paris. "Much of the data we've been able to gather so far is thanks to the willingness of Michiganders to share their photos and other evidence with us."

If you're interested in learning more about cougars in Michigan, Kailing suggests starting at Michigan.gov/Cougars, where you can find tips on how to tell if the animal you've seen is a cougar, how to report a cougar sighting and the current status on where cougars have been confirmed in Michigan.

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