

House and

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No movement for Michigan's minimum

Michigan's overall minimum wage will stay at \$10.10 per hour, and so will the state's minimum wage for tipped employees, which stands at \$3.84 per hour.

The wages won't move up because a unanimous Michigan Court of Appeals panel on Jan. 26 reversed a lower court's order that would have raised the state's minimum wage to \$13.03 per hour in January and increased the minimum wages of tipped employees to \$11.73 per hour. The case is almost certainly headed for review by the Michigan Supreme Court.

The court of appeals ruling kept in place a unique tactic by the Republican-led state Legislature in 2018. A citizen-led petition drive by a group called One Fair Wage successfully gathered enough signatures that year to raise the state's minimum wage to \$12 by 2022, with annual inflation adjustments.

However, the Republican-led state Legislature sidestepped and superseded the successful petition effort by raising the minimum wage before the citizen's petition language took effect, and replaced it with a lower wage. Instead of the \$12 an hour wage by 2022, the GOP adopted a law that increased the minimum wage rates more slowly, ultimately to \$12.05 per hour by 2030.

A court challenge resulted with a Michigan Court of Claims decision last July that voided the Republican-backed legislation, while issuing a stay on moving the existing minimum wage rates until Feb. 19, 2023. Now, the Court of Appeals ruling said the GOP was legally OK in its unprecedented action to basically usurp a successful citizen's petition. Out in the real world, one study said that more than 99 percent of Michigan workers is earning more than that \$10.10 minimum wage.



WELDING IRON on the lower lift at the entrance of the Tom Izzo Football Building at Michigan State University in East Lansing is Dan Six of Iron Workers Local 25. He's employed by **Sterling Erectors.**

Revamped 'Tom Izzo' facility will be a haven for MSU football

By Marty Mulcahy

Editor EAST LANSING - Michigan State Univer- the Fund said. sity's football team will start their 2023 season on Sept. 2 at Spartan Stadium, taking on the Central erations Dylan Marinez said work on the project Michigan University Chippewas.

But during this "pre-season," consideration of the health and well-being of Spartan student athletes is front and center. Construction manager Granger Construction, its subcontractors and building trades workers are creating new and renovated space for the athletes at the soon-to-betransformed Duffy Daugherty Football Building across Shaw Lane from the stadium.

'Today, the Duffy Daugherty Football Building is a mix of all student-athletes walking through maze-like corridors, crossing in front of football spaces to reach their destinations," said The Spartan Fund, the fundraising unit of Michigan State Athletics. "Football player havens like the lounge and locker room are in the middle of high-traffic pathways. For the players, there are no spaces that offer privacy or escape, resulting in less time spent with teammates. The focus of this eighth addition to the building is to create a home for these athletes." The Spartan Fund said the new 6,907-squarefoot addition to the football building places all student-athlete spaces on the north end of the complex, cutting off any cross-pedestrian traffic from the rest of the football spaces. The remainder of the addition is entirely dedicated to the football program, the heart of which is the new locker room suite. Scheduled to be ready for the fall season, the \$67 million project will yield large lockers, expanded weight areas, a recovery pool, recruiting ASCENDING TO INSULATE a roof drain at corridor, nutrition station and a private lounge. The the Tom Izzo Football Building in East Lansing space will be a suite of interconnected rooms for is Derek Heerlyn of Heat and Frost Insulators training, recovery and relaxation. It will be the Local 47. He's employed by 3MI.

players' "home away from home," a place to come together or relax alone after a hard day's practice,

MSU Assistant Athletic Director/ Event Op-(Continued on Page 15)



State Dems start process to repeal right-to-work law

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING - A month after the Michigan House and Senate members were sworn into their new terms on Jan. 11, repeal of the state's right-to-work law by the state's new Democratic majority remains a major piece of unfinished business.

Right-to-work repeal may never happen in Michigan. It's an incredibly divisive issue, powerful and moneyed voices are arrayed behind keeping the law in place, and Dems have only razorthin majorities in both the House (56-54) and Senate (20-18) to make repeal a reality. And history

RTW advocates mean business; won't be going away quietly

isn't on labor's side: Michigan one of 27 RTW states - would be the first state in 60 years to overturn a statewide right-to-work law

Although, there is confidence in some corners. "Good news, labor!" tweeted State Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) last November. "Union-busting Right to (Continued on Page 4)

U.S. labor unions gain members in 2022, but see record low density

By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)-The U.S. had 14.285 million union members in calendar 2022, 273,000 more than the year before, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported Jan. 19 in its annual survey.

But because the overall workforce grew faster as the nation recovered from the short coronavirus-caused depression of 2021, union density declined 0.2 percent. "The 2022 union-ization rate (10.1 percent) is the lowest on record," the BLS said. "In 1983, the first year for which

The decline in union density continues to illustrate the challenges labor unions face. The good news: 71 percent of the nation supports labor unions, the highest percentage since 1965, according to Gallup researchers.

More good news: according to the National Labor Relations Board, there were 1,363 workplace union elections held last year - the most since 2015, and unions won 1,041 of those elections. Most of those elections (Continued on Page 4)

Michigan's

Settlement OK'd in iobless fraud case

A Michigan Court of Claims judge on Jan. 23 approved a \$20 million class action settlement that will refund money to thousands of unemployment insurance claimants falsely accused of fraud.

Widespread errors from 2013-2015 by an automated computer system assumed claimants seeking Unemployment Insurance Agency benefits were committing fraud, and it may have affected up to 40,000 workers in Michigan. Many claimants were reimbursed after they were forced to pay back the money along with penalties. But the damage to their credit records and their lives was done-including declarations of bankruptcies and loss of homes and vehicles and a class action lawsuit against the state followed.

Court of Claims Judge Douglas Shapiro signed off on a deal that was reached last October between claimants' attorneys and the state.

Quotable

On right-to-work: "Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)



PREPPING A CHILLED WATER line for installation at the Tom Izzo Football Building in East Lansing are (l-r) Eric Capps and Jeremiah Ramsey of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by Myers Plumbing and Heating.

comparable data are available, the union membership rate was 20.1 percent."

All the gains came in the private sector, where union membership increased by 293,000, to 7.223 million. The public sector, which has yet to fully recover from Covid-related job losses, reported 7.062 million members, plus 823,000 "free riders" who use union services but don't pay for them. The public sector unionization rate was 33.1 percent (down 0.8 perent) to 7.1 million workers.

In a statement, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler noted the absolute numbers of unionists grew despite intense corporate union-busting by goliaths such as Amazon and Starbucks.

"In 2022, we saw working people rising up despite often illegal opposition from companies that would rather pay unionbusting firms millions than give workers a seat at the table," she said.

"The momentum of the moment we are in is clear. Organizing victories are happening in every industry, public and private, and every sector of our economy all across the country. The wave of organizing will continue to gather steam in 2023 and beyond despite broken labor laws that rig the system against workers.'

unionization rate climbs in 2022

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

LANSING - Despite the state's decade-old right-to-work law - which allows "free rider" workers to enjoy union benefits without paying for them - Michigan's unionization rate rose to 14 percent in 2022 from 13.3 percent in 2021.

That's the word from the latest U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report on unionization, released Jan. 19. Michigan's unions saw an increase last year of nearly 50,000 members.

"For nearly 40 years, politicians in Lansing have unjustly inserted themselves into our collective bargaining agreements, tipping the scales in favor of corporations and millionaires. But yesterday's Bureau of Labor Statistics annual report proves the resilience and power of Michigan's labor movement," said Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber on Jan. 20. "The growth in union membership demonstrates the urgent need for our pro-worker legislative majority to act upon the will of the people that elected

(Continued on Page 2)

Beyond White guys: Trades seeking greater diversity

By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – The nation's building trades have a diversity and equity problem, and North America's Building Trades Unions are advocating plans and pushing programs - especially registered apprenticeships with "wrap-around" services, too – to solve it.

If they do so, and they intend to succeed, they'll ensure the a striking decision that could put long-term prospects for construction crafts, and long-term growth in their own union numbers, advocates say.

'This is a time we reflect on opportunity, diversity and fairness," NABTU President Sean McGarvey explained in opening

a Jan. 17 two-hour conference, been leading this effort for deat the Laborers' headquarters in D.C., on how to achieve that goal.

"Some colleagues" in local building trades councils "have but it's uncoordinated."

the Opportunity Pipeline Forum, cades," he told the packed audience. The problem until recently, McGarvey said, "is we're doing a lot in registered apprenticeships,

standard curriculum, starting in 2008, and campaigned to have councils and locals adopt it for their apprenticeships and training programs. The problem, he admit-

So NABTU put together a ted, "is that we need to do a deep dive to figure out what worked. That was the point of the session. "We haven't accomplished all we wanted."

(Continued on Page 3)

NLRB jolt broadens potential awards for illegally fired workers

By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) - In more money into illegally fired workers' pockets - and that may make bosses think twice about breaking labor law-the National Labor Relations Board has ruled those fired workers must get not just net back pay, but compensation for all the other costs they

shoulder to keep themselves and their families alive while battling for their rights and reinstatement.

That includes "costs such as out-of-pocket medical expenses, credit card debt, or other costs that are a direct or foreseeable result of the unfair labor practices" by their bosses and employers, NLRB Chair Lauren McFerran wrote in the ruling.

"The board determined com-

pensation for those losses should be part of the standard, makewhole remedy for labor law violations," she added in its decision, one of three notable pro-worker judgements the NLRB issued just before the holidays.

All three were decided by 3-2 votes. The board's Democratic members, named by President Joe Biden, sided with the workers.

Employment law firm Jack-

sonLewis said in light of the case, "now more than ever, employers must remain mindful that unfair labor practice claims may further increase costs and liabilities as a result of the Board's expanded remedies and will almost certainly make compliance proceedings more complex."

Republican Donald Trump's two holdovers voted against the (Continued on Page 15)

Viewpoints

Right to work in jeopardy

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was reelected last November and Democrats won control of both the state House and Senate, giving the party total control of the governor's mansion and the legislature for the first time since 1984. They also held on to the attorney general and secretary of state positions.

"It's like asking Santa for a pony, and instead you get a Dodge Barracuda," said IBEW-Michigan Political Director Joe Davis, a member of Lansing Local 352. "You wake up and it's there, and it's an amazing feeling. Everything came together for us."

The election puts Michigan in position to repeal the right-towork law that went into effect in 2013. Right-to-work laws allow employees to enjoy the benefits and protections of a collectively bargained agreement by a union without paying fees. "Right-towork, the union-busting law, we'll repeal that," Dayna Polehanki, a state senator from Livonia, told Detroit television station WXYZ.

No one is sure how fast it may happen. The legislative session began on Jan. 12. But lawmakers have a realistic chance to tackle right-to-work, as well as several other initiatives that would benefit the state's workers, such as making prevailing wage a permanent part of state law again. "We have an opportunity to help all the residents of the state, whether they are organized and represented or not, and fix what has basically gone wrong for the last 40 years,' Detroit IBEW Local 58 registrar Jeannette Bradshaw said.

Michigan wouldn't be the first state to repeal a right-to-work law, but it hasn't happened in generations. New Hampshire repealed its law in 1949, two years after it was passed, and attempts to reinstitute it have failed since. Indiana passed and signed into law a right-to-work bill in 1957 that was repealed in 1965. The GOPdominated legislature and governor's office passed and signed a new right-to-work law in 2012 that remains in effect.

Right-to-work advocates have made no secret that the laws are used to undermine the influence of unions and their ability to advocate on behalf of their members. "The first thing I would like to see, in my opinion, would be a right-to-work repeal," said Geoff Yonkers, a business representative for Muskegon Local 275 who was one of the IBEW's leaders in the Michigan campaign.

Other issues the legislature is expected to address include:

•The re-institution of project labor agreements, which ensure that highly skilled construction workers are paid a fair wage on the state's public projects. It also makes it harder for less-scrupulous employers to exploit workers by classifying them as subcontractors as opposed to full-time employees.

"Economically, they really are beneficial to labor, and they don't hurt nonunion contractors unless you're a contractor who doesn't follow the rules in the first place," Davis said.

•The elimination of the so-called pension tax, part of a GOP tax overhaul in 2011 that scaled back or eliminated most exemptions taxpayers could take on their pensions.

Changing a law that requires public-sector union members in Michigan to fill out membership fees paperwork annually, another effort from the state's GOP-controlled era to weaken unions. "We need to look out for everyone, not just ourselves," Bradshaw said. 'If we do that, we can show the state we're not just in it for us and really leverage our political power."

From the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Media Center, Jan. 19, 2023

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



Contributing to Care House

MOUNT CLEMENS – Another year, another helpful donation by building trades unions to Care House, a facility that helps women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Building trades union reps raised and delivered \$8,950 on Jan. 20 to Care House, a facility located in an old home on Market Street whose mission is to "prevent and reduce the incidence and trauma of child sexual and physical abuse in Macomb County through collaborative, multidisciplinary and effective family-centered activities." The contribution was made in the form of \$25 Meijer gift cards, which are used by the group throughout the year for clients to purchase gasoline, food and personal items. Care House has responded to more than 10,500 families and interviewed more than 9,500 children since it opened in 1996, and the building trades have been making similar donations for the past 23 years. Pictured (I-r) are Nichole King, Care House intervention coordinator/lead forensic interviewer; Cara Ciraulo, Care House volunteer coordinator; Gary Glaser, Plumbers 98; Jeff Patricia, IBEW 58; Jim Ritchie, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 2; Jimmy Horvath, Iron Workers 25; Rob Williams, Sprinkler Fitters 704; Tony Parker, Painters District Council 1M; Jason Grunenwald, Sheet Metal Workers 80; Kevin Zimmerman, Operating Engineers Local 324. and Jeremy Haviland, Painters District Council 1M.

A Wall Street sob story

By Jim Hightower

Six-figure minions who engineer corporate takeovers have been forced to grapple with smaller bonuses - and perhaps even forego a luxury purchase.

> I don't usually cover sob stories, but



year in the caverns of New York City, only to find at year's end that their pay was being cut by up to 50 percent.

Actually, it's not their salaries that were cut - but their bonuses. You see, these are Wall Street investment bankers whose

annual salaries total only a few money for these hard-hit financial hundred thousand dollars each (poor babies), but they generally expect to double or triple that in bonus money.

After all, theirs is a dirty job. They engineer multibillion-dollar corporate mergers that increase monopoly power, eliminate the jobs of thousands of regular workers, and further enrich the super rich. It's devilish work – hence the big bonus payouts to keep them doing it.

Last year, though, the number of whopper deals plummeted, the revenues of Wall Street investment banks sank... and, oh, how sad it was to hear the wails of so many poor Wall Street millionaires whose bonuses were whacked.

See, I told you – it was a sob story.

But worse than the loss of

toilers is the tragic crimping of their lifestyle.

The New York Times reports for example, that Wall Street's bonus bust has al-ready resulted in fewer of these dealmakers buying hundred-thousand-dollar luxury cars this year.

Can you imagine the pain of that? The dinging of annual bonuses is even stirring radical sentiments among these restive rich workers. In one survey of financial professionals, 72 percent said they would consider quitting if their bank cut their bonus.

Now there's an enticing new source of labor activism for the unions that are organizing at Starbucks, Amazon, McDonald's, etc. Why not a Wall Street banker union? Solidarity forever, brothers and sisters!

(via otherwords.org)

Michigan's unionization rate climbs in 2022

(Continued from Page 1) them and restore their union freedoms and collective bargaining rights."

Michigan's labor movement this year is pushing hard to get the newly elected Democrat majority in Lansing to overturn the state's right-to-work law.

"These statistics highlight the urgent need to repeal Michigan's anti-union right-to-work law," said state Sen. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.). He sponsored one of the first pieces of legislation of 2023-to repeal right-to-work. "Our new legislative leadership has the opportunity to take long-overdue action to remove existing restrictions and ensure workers are able to more freely negotiate the pay, benefits, and protections they deserve."

The average statewide unionization rate in the U.S. was 10.1 percent last year. Eleven states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent in 2022.

The lowest rate was in South Carolina (1.7 percent), followed by North Carolina (2.8 percent) and South Dakota (3.1 percent).

Two states had union membership rates over 20.0 percent in 2022: Hawaii (21.9 percent) and New York (20.7 percent).

"We pay a price for everything we get or take in this world; and although ambitions are well worth having, they are not to be cheaply won, but exact their dues of work and self-denial, anxiety and discouragement.'

-L. M. Montgomery (1874 - 1942)

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.' -Bill Gates (1955 -)

"Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length.' -Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

"Storms make oaks take deeper root."

-George Herbert (1593 -1633)



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THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 3 February 10, 2023

BUILDING MICHIGAN: The loneliest place in North America? HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy

The U.S. Coast Guard calls this Michigan lighthouse the "the loneliest place in North America."

And by the pictures and descriptions we've seen of the Stannard Rock Lighthouse, that's tough to argue. No other lighthouse in the United States is situated so far from shore.

Located about 25 miles east of Keweenaw Point and 42 miles north of Marquette in Lake Superior, the lighthouse was sited atop a reef that had been a hazard to Great Lakes mariners for decades. The reef was discovered on Aug. 26, 1835, by merchant Captain Charles C. Stannard, whose ship was blown off course and barely missed crashing into the reef.

"Stannard Rock, lying about 23 miles southeast of Manitou Island, was for years the most serious danger to navigation in Lake Superior," says a history provided by the Coast Guard. "The rock was first marked by a day beacon in 1868, but by 1871 the rapid increase in commerce between Duluth and the lower lakes demanded the construction of a lighthouse on the rock." The mile-long reef is actually the top of an underwater mountain that sits submerged in just four feet of water in some spots.

Making the decision to erect the lighthouse, and then getting **Congress to incrementally fund** it, proved much easier than actually building it. A "practice" day beacon erected in 1868 proved it could be done.

The process of building the permanent Stannard light was actually helped along by the construction of the Spectacle Reef Light, which was also located out in the water, but in northern Lake Huron, about 18 miles east of Cheboygan.

"The construction of Spectacle Reef Light presented a similar problem – it had been started in 1870 and it was believed that all the costly apparatus and machinery purchased for that job could be made available for constructing a lighthouse on Stannard Rock," said the Coast Guard. "In 1873, when the Spectacle Reef construction was threequarters completed, Congress appropriated \$10,000 for a preliminary survey (for the Stannard light)."



STANNARD ROCK LIGHTHOUSE in Lake Superior - some 25 miles from mainland Michigan – hosted a crew of about four keepers for decades after its first light in 1882. The keepers usually kept a three-weeks on, one-week off schedule - an incredibly difficult job for most.

'So no matter where I look I see the lake. It's the sound of the waves, it's the seagulls who never go away. It's cold and it's damp because it never gets warm in that place. Your mattress is damp from that cold. It's not unheard of to have winds in excess of hurricane force. And of course the tower would shake, the tower would scream and moan with the wind and you had to be there. The floors at the base of that lighthouse were 71/2 feet thick. A capsule of rock. And you were just living in the middle of it. You're buried alive. And of course without radio and television and all things that distract us today, you have a deck of cards. And you're probably playing cribbage, again and again and again. But it took somebody with a different type of personality to be a really good lightkeeper. "

–Fred Stonehouse, maritime historian, Northern Michigan University

Photo credit: U.S. Coast Guard

"A crew of four was put off

Even though the tower

The light became fully

riodically by the Coast Guard.

It remains one of the loneliest

places in the United States.

nard Rock Ligh

An additional wrought iron cover with exterior iron plating was built around the foundation. The deck of the foundation is 23 feet above lake level."

With the base in place, the light tower was erected, and stands 80 feet about the base and 102 feet above the lake.

"Stannard Rock lived up to "The tower's sandstone its reputation as the loneliest blocks, weighing 12 to 30 tons outpost in the United States and each, were quarried at Kellys Isthe toughest duty post, far and land on Lake Erie and brought away, on any inland seas. to Stannardsville by barge," said Lake Superior Magazine. the rock by launch with enough "To be certain every block fit supplies to last, hopefully, until before being transported, the the next scheduled landing, entire tower was built on shore, weather permitting. Spring then hauled out to the reef piece duties included steaming ice by piece and reassembled. from the tower with a boiler "The tower has 10 rooms hose and breaking ice from on seven levels, from the kitchwindows with a pick. Keepers en, at the base level up through were generally scheduled three the sleeping quarters, libraryweeks on, one week off. reading room, watch and lens rooms. Walls at the base are 7.5 walls were 10 feet thick in feet thick, tapering to 22 inches places, the wild storms of at the lens room." Lake Superior which regularly Also on site is a fog-signal erupted around the tower often building for the engines, boilers knocked furniture over and and two 10-inch steam whistles spilled drawers and shelves and boat cranes were also conto the floor. In fall, when comstructed on the concrete crib merce on Lake Superior fell deck. More than 240,000 tons off, the four-man crew was of rock, iron and steel assured removed from the rock and the lighthouse was built to last an automatic 24-hour gasfor centuries. powered beacon was left behind The new light was first illuto warn ships of danger. minated July 4, 1882. Today it's a classic 19th Century tower standautomated in 1962. By then its ing tall in a spot few will see and importance had been greatly in an area ships want to avoid. reduced by changed shipping The lighthouse was originally routes and the advent of navigational radar. The rock and modgiven a second-order beehive Fresnel lens covering a light that ern light, now unmanned, is still could be seen for 25 miles. in operation and is checked pe-

Beyond White guys: Trades seeking greater diversity

(Continued from Page 1)

Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers about construction crafts, from Laborers through Bricklayers through Electrical Workers, Plumbers, Teamsters, Operating Engineers and others reveal one big fact: An overabundance of aging white guys.

BLS's most recent numbers show the construction industry is 93.8 percent male, 58.7 percent non-Hispanic white, 30 percent Hispanic – including 6.3 percent Hispanic Blacks, 6.2 percent female and 5 percent non-Hispanic Blacks. Obviously, categories overlap. In gender, construction workers don't look like the rest of the U.S. workforce. By race, there's a better reflection.

And while the median age for a male construction worker is 38.3, compared to a 39.8 median age for a woman construction worker, most of the men are between 19 and 50, with another significant share staying on until age 60, though the numbers decline every year in that group. The women's share stays constant and low all the way from 19 through 65.

All the numbers were the unstated subtext of the conference, which highlighted both a report NABTU commissioned on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the construction workforce and "best practices" of what individual unions and building trades councils are doing to solve it.

"We can do better and we will," McGarvey vowed. "We are changing lives, one at a time and one community at a time" by providing entry to well-paying union middle-class jobs. And NABTU is helping its locals and councils through its Tradesfutures program. But the one problem the report said still persists are high drop-out and flunk-out rates from apprenticeship training, union and non-union.

One other point the report and the speakers made: When unions tackle the diversity, equity and inclusion issue in the industry, they do so by collaborating with their contractors, and provide wrap-around services - everything from bus fares to child care – to help trainees stay and become registered apprentices, and then journeymen and journeywomen. Nonunion firms might undertake similar programs on an initiative from the firm's CEO, with less-robust programs and with no extra aid.

Redmond, the AFL-CIO's first Black secretary-treasurer. "They give people the opportunity' to move from a job "to a lifechanging career."

The AFL-CIO's first female president, Electrical Worker Liz Shuler, also attended the session. That extra aid made a difference to Judaline Cassidy in what is now a long career as a union plumber. It paid so well she now has set up a foundation to encourage and aid women of color - including elementary schoolers – to enter construction crafts.

"Being a plumber is my life," said the Trinidad and Tobago native, who grew up poor, and who legally immigrated to the U.S. after receiving plumbers' training in her homeland. Her work ethic attracted a UA Local 1 recruiter. "I got my union card, and my house, and my daughter is a sheetmetal worker."

How frequent are her wellpaying jobs? "Most people in their lifetimes will need a plumber before they need a lawyer," she said, to laughter.

The report and a panel of regional building trades council leaders from Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles-Orange County and Central (Albany)-Northern New York described a wide range of initiatives to encourage diversity, equity and inclusion in construction crafts.

Rutgers Professor Tracy Wells, lead author of the study, said government participation is also a key, both in setting up conditions where such programs can succeed - by legal requirements - and often by providing money through construction contracts with diversity requirements built in. That includes registered apprenticeships and project labor agreements.

Just joking

A Canadian lumber camp advertised that they were looking for a good lumber-



jack. The next day, a skinny kid named Joe showed up at the camp with his axe and knocked on the head

lumberjacks' door. The head lumberjack took one look at little Joe and told him to leave. "Just give me a chance to show you what I can do," said Joe.

'Okay, see that giant oak over there?" said the lumberjack. "Take your axe and go cut it down."

Joe headed for the tree, and in five minutes he was back knocking on the lumberjack's door. "Done!" said Joe.

The lumberjack couldn't believe his eyes and said, "Where did you get the skill to chop down trees like that?"

"I'n the Sahara Forest," replied little Joe.

"Huh? You mean the Sahara Desert," said the lumberjack.

Joe laughed and an-swered back, "Oh sure, that's what they call it now!"

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Congress got the ball rolling on actual construction of the Stannard light with an appropriation in 1877. The machinery and equipment used for Spectacle Reef Light was moved to the Stannard Light's staging area at Huron Bay, about 25 miles northwest of Marquette. Workers' quarters, docks, offices and shops had to be erected for the project at a place dubbed "Stannardsville."

Construction started with building a permanent 62-footwide cylindrical protective crib. "Construction of the lighthouse and pier on which it stands was one of the neatest engineering feats accomplished in the Great Lakes region during the 19th Century," says the (successful) 1972 application for placing the lighthouse on the National **Register of Historic Places.**

"An initial foundation for the tower was formed by sinking a cofferdam on Stannard rock and filling the bottom portion of the cofferdam with more than 3,000 cubic yards of stone ballast. The stone was then decked over and a wrought iron foundation was constructed over the resulting pier. The foundation was filled with cement and broken rock.

"Throughout its history as a manned light," says the Historic Places application,



THE STANNARD Rock lighthouse on April 29, 1922. Lighthouse crews here endured miserable conditions and would use steam and picks to clear ice from the beacon.

Photo credit: U.S. Coast Guard



BATTERED BY 20-FOOT WAVES, dumped on by seagulls, encased in ice for more than half the year, the Stanard Rock Lighthouse has stood tall since it was first lit in 1882. The lighthouse is in need of about \$2 million in renovations, go to www. stannardrock.org for more information. The lighthouse is today owned by the Superior Watershed Partnership to preserve it as a base for climate change research. Both the National Parks Service and the website *Megaprojects* said as a result of the engineering challenges involved with the construction of the lighthouse, the structure is "one of the top 10 engineering feats" in the U.S.

Credit: Superior Watershed Partnership

The union programs "reflect the value of the labor movement," said steelworker Fred

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BAC Local 2- Michigan is offering up to a \$2,000 Signing Bonus for **Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers and Masonry Restoration Workers** who join now and who stay working for our contractors!

Our Members who refer these new members will get the same bonus as well!

Journeymen Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$35.54 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions. Our Contractors have immediate opening for **Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.**

For more information go to: bricklayers.org

Roofers 149

DETROIT – Attention. This

General Membership

Executive Board Meeting.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-

Thank you to the 699 mem-

Peter Raad, Jeff Rabi-

paper is to serve as an official

Meeting. The general member-

ship meeting is scheduled for

Tues, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The next Executive Board meet-

ing is scheduled for Tues., March

Michigan membership informa-

tional meeting is scheduled for

Tue., April 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at

810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

bers who have paid their Union

Dues a year in advance and be-

yond (continued from the prior

due, Brandon Rabidue, Luis

Ramirez, Gerardo Ramirez, Rob-

ert Ramirez, Javier Ramirez, Al-

berto Ramos, Guillermo Ramos-

Plascencia, Robert Raney, Jason

Rankin, Sean Ray, DeAngelo Ray

Steven Raymer, Perry Redmon,

John Reid, Craig Reno, Christian

Reyes, Mark Rhine, Steven Rich-

ardson, Richard Ridley, Chris-

topher Ritenburg, Jose Rivera,

Rivera-Calzada, Julian Gerardo

Rivera-Calzada, Chad Roberts,

Anthony Robertson, Samuel

Robertson, Jr., Trevor Robinson,

Thomas Robson, Robert Roe,

Rogelio Rojo-Sanchez, Luis

Romero, Mark Ross, Timothy

Ross, John Ross, Timothy Ross

Jr, Scott Ruhlman, Jose Ruiz,

Scott Rush, Charles Russell,

Daniel Russom, Martin Sanchez,

Adalberto Sanchez, Jaycob San-

chez, Matthew Sanson, Rene

Sanson, Rocco Santilli, Kenneth

Sawyers, James Sayre, Karl

See, Gary Self, Paul Serafin,

Jeremy Shaffer, Elijah Shanklin,

Michael Sharber, Daniel Shaw,

Timothy Shaw, Christopher

Shellnut, Robert Shier, Jr., Troy

Shinabarger, Garrett Silva, Jose

Silva, Jerry Six, Jeffrey Skinner,

Zackrey Skinner, Harvist Slater,

Tyler Sloat, Logan Sloat, Jeremy

Smelser, Chris Smelser, Dustin

Smith, John Smith, Steven Smith,

Michael Smith, Myron Snell,

Daniel Solis, Gregory Spencer,

St. Aubin, Anthony Stadwick,

Floyd Spudowski, Jr., David

David Spudowski,

Edward Schweyer, Gage

Schnoor, Jade Schodowski,

Antonio Rivera Perez, Erick

Carlos Rivera.

7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

issue):

notice to the membership.



Local 169 **Boilermakers**

Boilermakers 169

ALLEN PARK - Our next membership meeting will take place on March 10, 2023, at 8pm. It will be in area 1 at The Boilermaker Hall. The address is 1755



accordance with the International Brotherhood BOB of Boilermak-

48101.

Cur-

HUTSELL ers Constitution. The

Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union 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.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons have resumed.

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

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon lunch is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We will be meeting at the 702 Bar on Feb. 15, 2023, at 11 am. The address is 702 Jefferson Avenue, Midland, MI 48640.

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

The Annual Boilermakers Local 169 Dinner Dance will be on Feb. 18, 2023, at the Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Boilermakers will receive a reduced room



Andrew York, Clifford Young, Joseph Zsembery.

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

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standings. You can pay dues at the Hall with a cash, money order, credit, or debit card.

Union dues can be paid 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). 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 questions, please call the Hall, 313-961-6093

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money. To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone who's dues are paid up to 12/31/2023 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2023 dues in full by Jan. 31, 2023. Shirts are available for pickup at the Union Hall

Moving. If you have a new address, please make sure to let the Union Hall know.

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

CLEARANCE CARDS. Are 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. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1-



CHECKING PLANS at the Tom Izzo Football Building project in East Lansing are (l-r) pipe trades foremen Tim Dayrell and Rick Newman. Both are Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 members employed by Myers Plumbing and Heating.

New York adopts strong new law beefing up penalties against negligent

contractors

ALBANY (PAI) - In an aggressive move to hold companies responsible when a worker dies or is severely injured on the job, New York will now fine construction contractors up to \$500,000 when that occurs, Harvard's On Labor blog, The Gothamist and New York Public Radio report.

New York building trades unions supported the law, sponsored by State Sen. James Sanders, Jr., D-Ozone Park. Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) signed it just before Jan. 1.

Named Carlos' Law, in memory of Ecuadoran immigrant Carlos Moncayo, 22, who died when a 13-foot trench collapsed on him, the law leaves enforcement to local prosecutors. In the past they've been reluctant to pursue contractors, who are politically powerful in the Big Apple. And the prior maximum fine for such deaths or severe injuries was \$10,000.

That may change. On Jan. 19, Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg indicted Long Island City contractor Oneteam Restoration, owner Mario Rojas and the firm's accountant for "reporting a false workforce size" and filing false documents "to New York state's insurance carrier to

State Dems start process to repeal right-to-work law

(Continued from Page 1) Work' is gonna go bye-bye." She didn't say when.

Adopted in the waning hours of the 2012 legislative session by ruling Republicans - without the benefit of public comment and soon prompting the presence of thousands of protestors out-side the Michigan Capitol building - the state's right-to-work law allows workers in a bargaining unit to enjoy the benefits of a union contract without paying dues. It's an unfair concept: Residents aren't allowed to opt out of paying taxes, and any chamber of commerce would not allow a business to become a member without paying dues.

Even though there were hopes that state lawmakers would send a strong message by making right-to-work repeal Thing One on the legislative to-do list in 2023, that has to be tempered with a dose of reality: an understanding that Dems haven't held full control of the power levers in Lansing in 40 years, and there is new leadership and a lot of new lawmakers getting their feet wet. It's early - but there's sense of urgency on both sides of the right-to-work issue.

So what's the rush? For organized labor, the priority is to get the law repealed before Dems potentially lose the majority if one or two or their caucus falls ill or finds another job.

For Republican lawmakers and their big-business backers, the priority is to sway lawmakers and the general public to keep RTW on the books, through personal lobbying and loud public relations efforts. That process has already started, on statewide and national levels.

Weighing in with efforts to keep the state's right-to-work law intact, using op-eds and/or lobbying efforts, are the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the increasingly vocal conservative academics at Hillsdale College, the conservative think-tank Mackinac Center, the national Right-to-Work Committee, and the Wall Street Journal's editorial page, among numerous others.

State Sen. Darren Camilleri (D-Brownstown Twp.) did get the ball rolling on Jan. 12, sponsoring SB 0005, which was moved to the Senate Labor Committee. "My first bill of the term is to repeal the anti-union, so-called Right to Work bill. It's time to restore power to working people," he tweeted.

Camilleri and 19 other Democratic senators signed on as sponsors of the bill - essentially assuring its passage in the Senate. "I think they probably have the votes already," said state Sen. Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe) to Hillsdale College's The Collegian.

In the House, Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park) was a main

rate of \$249.00 when using the reservation code. The code for reservations is BM021723.

Please call the Union Hall to reserve a seat at the Dinner Dance and provide a deposit in the amount of \$50.00. This helps us estimate food and beverage availability and will be returned to you upon entrance to the event.

Doors open and hors d'oeuvres are served at 5:00. I encourage all retirees, active members, and apprentices to attend this event. This is always a great time and a chance to meet and interact with your Union Brothers & Sisters at something other than a work site. I look forward to seeing you there. The cutoff date for reservations is February 8th, so do not delay, after this date room rates will increase!

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph Stagnolia, III, Travis Stanfill, Casey Stang, Frank Stevens, John Stewart, Josephe Stewart, Peter Sucura, Mark Sullivan, Jesse Sullivan, Terry Sumpter, Andrew Sundt, Dana Swan, Raymond Sweet, Joseph Swierkosz, Ronald Swindlehurst, Kevin Tamachaski, Juan Tamayo, Morris Taylor, Leisa Taylor, Morris Taylor III, David Tebbe, Leonard Thayer, Jesse Thomason, Austin Thompson, Anthony Thompson,

Bret Thompson, David Thomson, Eric Thrush, Bruce Tiernan, Waldo Todd, Earl Tolbert, Victor Toral, David Torrence, Juan Torres, Bravan Torres, Patrick Touhey, Travis Tucker, Terry Turner, Roydelle Underwood, Nathan Underwood, Saul Valdez, Ramiro Valentin, Jason Van Sickle, Lunzie Vance, Daniel VanDeventer, Salvador Vazquez, Antonio P. Vazquez, Isaias Vazquez, Jose Vazquez, Filiberto Vazquez, Porfirio Vazquez, Francisco Vazquez-Palacio, Marcos Vazquez-Palacio, Isidro Vega,

Antonio Vega, David Vega, Antonio Vega, Guillermo Vega-Granados, Roberto Vega-Granados, Francisco Vega-Solis, Dustin Velasco, Paul Vella, Jose Vera, David Vermurlen, Jason Vernier, Matthew Vettraino, Jose Victoria, Raymundo Victoria, John Vujnov, Jared Wade, Shawn Waitkus, Charles Walker, Thomas Walker, Dana Walker, Dallas Walker, John Walker, Charles Walker, Charles Wallace, Richard Wallace, Thomas Walters, Jesse Wangler, Randy Wargnier, Charles Washe, Donald Watkins III, Christopher Watson, Paul Weber, Richard Weir, Jeffrey Wells, Stephen West,

George Wettlaufer, Jr., De-Quan White, David Whitefoot, Craig Wiegert, Darrell Wiegert, Robert Wilder, Charles T. Williams, David Williams, Ronnie Williams, Darius Williams, Bryan Williams, Jeffrey Williams, Gordon Willis, Randy Willis, Jeremy Willis, Michael Willis, Timothy Wilt, Joseph Wimberly, Gary Winisky, Sr., Brett Wise, Cody Witherspoon, Brian Woltman, Rico Woodley, James Wright, Michael Yeoumans,

Monday, January 16, 2023 Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2-Tuesday, January 17, 2023 BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday January 18, 2023 BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, January 19, 2023 Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, January 19, 2023

All classes begin at 6:30pm.

Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/ Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Tom Jaranowski, or Dean Kucharski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

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

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

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

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

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

The publication above is as 2/7/2023, 6:00a.m.

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

save money on workers' comp premiums." The fraud, in 2019-20, cost the state and city \$7 million.

As might be expected in heavily unionized New York City, all but five of the 22 construction workers killed due to bosses' negligence in 2022 were non-union. Most, like Moncayo, were immigrants, as are 53 percent of New York's construction workers. Nonunion contractors easily exploit undocumented migrant workers in entry-level jobs via low pay and unsafe working conditions, State Sen. Jessica Ramos, D-Jackson Heights, told public radio.

The New York law is notable for another reason. With Congress gridlocked over many issues, including workers' rights, and with the Republican-run House hostile to unions and workers, the action arena for unions, workers and their allies increasingly shifts to the states.

Blue states such as New York, California and Illinois approve measures protecting workers while red states such as Texas and Florida strip rights away.

Thus while Hochul signed the law cracking down on criminally negligent contractors, viciously anti-union Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., again made his state's teachers a top target for his ire. He introduced a socalled "paycheck protection" bill, banning public employers from collecting dues and assessments workers agree to in their contracts. Unions call such legislation "paycheck deception."

But DeSantis goes farther, by cutting teachers' union leaders' pay, too.

DeSantis's proposal, expected to easily pass the Republican-legislature, also "orders school unions to notify members of membership costs." It says shop stewards and officers must represent their members on their own time and on their own dime. And paid local teachers' union officers can earn "no more than the top rate" for teachers they represent.

sponsor of the similarly anti-RTW legislation HB 4004, and it was referred to the House Labor Committee on Jan. 17. HB 4004 has 51 Democratic co-sponsors in the House. That's five short of a majority, although it's quite common for lawmakers to vote for legislation that they haven't sponsored.

"The phrase 'right-to-work' is a lie," Weiss said, "These laws do nothing but hurt hard-working Michiganders by hamstringing their ability to effectively organize for good benefits and competitive wages."

That's not a view shared by the aforementioned array of conservative lawmakers and groups urging hands-off Michigan's right-to-work law. "Any attempt to repeal right-to-work shows that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Democrats aren't serious about economic development," said Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton).

Chiming in from the National Right-to-Work Committee - a group established to spread RTW laws – is the group's Vice President Matt Leen. "Why would Michigan want to give up this advantage?" he said. "Just so some greedy union bosses can collect more money? Well, yes. The answer is as simple and as shocking as that. And as we have seen, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and many Michigan Democrats have bought into this idea to force thousands of Michigan workers who want nothing to do with a union – to pay millions of dollars to Michigan union bosses."

And a Jan. 13 Wall Street Journal editorial said Michigan Dems "are about to use their narrow legislative majorities to coerce tens of thousands of workers back into the union fold. The passage of rightto-work was a hard-won achievement by state Republicans."

In reality, that "hard-won" achievement of RTW passage in 2012 was the bully work of major corporate donors who wanted right-towork in Michigan, and threatened to find candidates for the next election to oppose any GOP lawmaker who voted against the anti-union law.

Efforts to keep the RTW law in place are expected to intensify as the legislation moves through the legislative process.

"It's clear that scuttling the RTW repeal is job one for right-wing groups and lobbyists who have already launched comically bad ads,' wrote Susan Demas for The Advance. "If they succeed, Democrats will send a terrible message to their constituents that they're too scared to take on special interests."

U.S. labor unions gain members in 2022, but see record low density

(Continued from Page 1)

were held at small bargaining units, like individual Starbucks coffee shops. Still, there were larger organizing victories, such at the 8,300-employee Amazon warehouse on Staten Island, and various union wins among nurses, university staff or even among 600 workers at Chicago's Art Institute.

"Aside from seeing their ranks swell, organized labor has other reasons to celebrate," said attorney David Pryzbylski of the firm Barnes and Thornburg in an analysis for the National Law Review. "The NLRB ended last year with a flurry of significant pro-union positions, that tilt the legal landscape in their favor.

Among these rulings were favorable changes to rules on union insignia, union dues payments, and micro-units. Bottom line: Union numbers are down, but they remain active and labor unrest remains palpable as we enter 2023."



SETTING A BLOCK WALL in the lobby of the Tom Izzo Football Building on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing is Brian West of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He's employed by Schiffer Masonry.



BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED (EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER MEETING LISTED BELOW) FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023 DUE TO THE SEMI ANNUAL **MEETING.**

MARQUETTE CHAP-**TER:** Monday, Feb. 20, 2023 at 7 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SPECIAL RECOGNI-TION: Congratulations to 1st year Brick Apprentice Melvin

Marroquin!



and took 1st Place in his PAUL division! The DUNFORD competition

was strong but Melvin's determination and skills developed at our training facility helped to place him at the top. We couldn't be prouder of our member! We look forward to seeing what your future holds!

DEATHS REPORTED. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Harry Funk (Bricklayer) who passed



Bricklayers and Allied

Craftworkers

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAC Local 2 apprentice Melvin Marroquin, who took first place in his division in the MCAA's Masonry Skills Challenge in Las Vegas on Jan. 18. Left to right here are Howard Hipes; IMI Statewide Coordinator; Melvin Marroquin; BAC Apprentice; Brett Gierak; Financial Secretary of BAC Local 2, and Paul Dunford; President of BAC Local 2.

Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

Applicant must submit a typed information sheet which will include: Applicant's name, applicants address, applicants email address and telephone number, college/university attending, course of study – major & minor and anticipated graduation date of applicant. They must also include the name of the member, members I.U. number, relationship to member, address and telephone number of member and members branch of trade.

All information must be

portunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAIN-ING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual **RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for** other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to https://www.michiganbricklayers.org to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future

Local 514 **Cement Masons & Plasterers**

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT - The next membership meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

"For those without personal wealth or political authority a trade union card and a ballot paper are the only two routes to political power." -TONY BENN

We are happy and proud to announce the 14th Annual Patrick D. Finley Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship application form that needs to be submitted by applicants can be picked up at the local. The official Scholarship Application Form can be found on the OPCMIA website www. opemia.org for qualified applicants to apply. The completed form should be returned to the International Headquarters no later than April 1, 2023

Our deepest condolences go out to Bro. Hunter Thorner family. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Membership gold cards-Congratulations! February: Craig Woodley-25 Years

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full social security number and your password is the first four of your social security number.

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/ register and select register now. BENEFICIARY REMIND-

ER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

It is important for all members to keep the Local updated

on addresses, email and phone numbers. If you need to change an address or add an email and phone number, please call the Local at (248) 548-0800.

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

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

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.

Please refer to website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint. 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 nonsignatory 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 all of the fund offices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND **DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS:** You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, www.Principal.com or by telephone, 800-547-7754. Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome a few minutes.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PLASTERERS AND CE-MENT 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.



away on Jan. 4, 2023. Brother Funk had been a member for 30 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** Marvin Sparapani (Cement Mason & Bricklayer) who passed away on Dec. 15, 2022. Brother Sparapani had been a member for 38 years.

BAC LOCAL 2 2023 SCHOLARSHIP: This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades. In order to be eligible, the following information must be **submitted** to the BAC Local 2 WARREN office, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren MI 48091 and received by 12 pm Friday, March 17, 2023:

Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing ACTIVE member. The member must have their dues paid up to date. They may also be a dependent of a recently deceased, formally working member, who has passed away after Jan. 1, 2021. A dependent will be defined according to the guidelines of that member's insurance fund summary plan description.

Applicant must be attending an institute of higher education: college or university. High school students are not eligible for this scholarship.

Applicant must be a **full-time** student, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the Winter 2023 Semester. A copy of the *Class Schedule* showing full time status must be submitted. NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will **not** be considered as a class schedule. A class schedule lists the classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule.

Applicant must submit an Official Transcript, showing their grades from the Fall 2022 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a *sealed envelope*. Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 17, 2023. If your institution participates with the National ALL Local 2 members the op-

submitted by 12 pm on Friday, March 17, 2023 to the BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.

Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12 pm on Friday, March 17, 2023. The winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2023 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

MARK YOUR CALEN-**DAR.** BAC Local 2 and Motor City Cruise have partnered up to offer a discount on their upcoming games. Tickets are \$5 each but the first is free. Members can purchase up to 4 tickets total. Use the link below and be sure to use BAC as the discount code. https://fevo.me/bac2

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

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORK-ERS. Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a Signing Bonus for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a Finders Referral Bonus for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

*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

2023 online training classes.

APPRENTICE WORK-SHEETS. Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at https:// www.michiganbricklayers.org/ resources. For more information on the Training Centers visit: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org

MEMBERSHIP ASSIS-TANCE. During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at https://bacweb.org/memberservice/member-assistance-program-map and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for Membership Assistance Monday - Friday 8 am - 8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

FACEBOOK. "Like" Local 2 on Facebook "Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 of Michigan."

BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by texting 2MI to 877877. You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#). Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH **INSURANCE INFORMATION** BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000 Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) - (800) 531-2244

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800

Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550 CALL-A-DOC-(800) 835-

2362

International Pension/Annuity Fund - (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Register NOW for Fall Labor Classes!

Scholarships Available!

Labor School

- The online leadership certificate program consists of ten, 5-week courses.
- Basic Grievance Handling, Your Rights in the Workplace and Building the Union.

Advanced Labor Leadership Academy

- Fully online and consists of five, 5-week courses.
- Transformational Leadership, Strategic Planning, Media Matters, Advanced Grievance Handling and Powerful Presentations.

For More Information and to Register

Follow the QR code or register directly at go.wayne.edu/LaborSchoolreg. Call the Labor Studies Center office for more information 313-577-2191.



WARRIOR STRONG

labor.wayne.edu



Local 636 Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters Local 636

DETROIT – The next Union meeting will take place on February 21, 2023, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075. The special election for the one open position of Trustee will take place prior to the union meeting with the polls open from 3-7p.m.

The order of candidates nominated as drawn at the January membership meeting are as follows: 1 Jeff Selph; 2. Nicky LaButel 3. Eric Hall; 4. Jeff Rimer; 5. Mark Lafferty; 6. Mike Sylvester

Also prior to the Feb. 21, 2023 union meeting, there will be a presentation and discussion at 6 p.m., concerning the new NON-Medicare "pre 65" retiree insurance plan for this year, conducted by Shane Olsen from Humana.

There will be a **Stewards meeting** at the union hall on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023 at 5 p.m. This is for current Stewards and those that attended the stewards training during last year. Please R.S.V.P.by Feb. 13, 2023.

Prior to the March 21, 2023 union meeting, there will be a presentation and discussion at 6 p.m., concerning the new BlueCross Blue Shield insurance plan for Active Participants.

Eligibility to Nominate and Vote in Local Union Elections. SEC. 124.(a). No member shall nominate candidates for or vote in any election of any description unless he has been a member in good standing in the Local Union where the vote is being taken for a period one year immediately prior to the date of election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to nominate candidates for or vote in any Local Union election. See Section 160(a) regarding eligibility of contractor members to vote.

The General Secretary-Treasurer will upon request of the Business Manager or the Financial Secretary of a Local Union furnish an eligibility list indicating those members eligible to nominate, vote and seek office in Local Union elections. The request for such list should be made at least 30 days prior to nominations in the Local Union. CALLING ALL RETIR-**EES!** The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall. The next retiree meeting will be held, Feb. 16, 2023.

greater access to in-network providers locally and throughout the U.S., as well as reduce costs.

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

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

1. Select "Find a Doctor" on the left hand side of the page,

2. Click "Search Without Logging In",

3. Enter zip code and select "PPO".

Then search by provider category, provider name or specialty.

Please contact the fund office with any questions.

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

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

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

1. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select "Find a Doctor",

2. Enter ZIP CODE and select "Insurance Through Your Employer".

3. Select network "HUMA-NA/Choice Care Network PPO".



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, February15, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

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

It is the members responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.

Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

TIC International: 248-645-6550 for D.C. Fund distribution questions.

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

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

A speedy recovery to all our sick and injured members.

Local 636, con't

VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new no.r for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider no. is 7526.

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

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



Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW-The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday,

Feb. 22, 2023 at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road starting at 7 PM. The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

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

Contact Information: Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org Jamie Badour, Business Agent

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

(989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330

csteele@ualocal85.org Bobby Anderson, Organizer

(989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

GOD BLESS ORGA-NIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

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

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

CHANGE OF THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLX-SYS): The Boards of Trustees of the West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union No. 174 Pension Plan, Health and Welfare Plan, and 401(K) Retirement Savings Plan (collectively, "Plans") are pleased to announce that Solxsys Administrative Solutions is now the Plans' *NEW* Third Party Administrator **effective Nov. 1**, **2022.**

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting in July the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/ 2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 \$7.20 over 3years.

The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language. Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on negotiations and to the members of Local 174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

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

Local 174 condolences: Local 174 would like to offer condolences to the families of Mike Kellogg (1/19/23) and Keith Gardner (1/23/23).

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

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

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

Nonunion Worker Open House: We will be hosting an Open House on **February 22nd from 5-7pm** at the Union Hall. We need your help in spreading the word on this event to all Non-Union Workers in the Plumbing, Pipefitting, HVACR and Welding Industry. We will have fliers at the Hall, the event posted on our Facebook page and UA174.org.

Please take the time to speak with workers on the job sites, share the event on social media and spread the word at the supply houses. Every worker Deserves the right to join and form a UNION where they work!

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

Organizing Update: I attended the COMET Train The Trainer course and will be holding COMET classes soon. Please be aware that Feb. 22 we will be hosting an open house, if you know anyone with experience with what we do, pass the date along to them for a great opportunity!

If you're working on a job site that has non-union employees/ contractors, shoot me a text, 616-307-8551, I'd love to speak to them about union benefits. Our biggest voice is our workers in the field. *Work safe, Brother Johnny Ortiz LU 174 Organizer*

PLDF update- For the members who have not paid their PLDF see the information below. Remember, dues cannot be accepted until the ten week assessment beginning the week of June 20 through Aug. 28, 2022, is paid.

\$140 for Journeymen/\$70 apprentice, Service Graduates and MES members.

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

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

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

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO OUR LOCAL **636 INSURANCE POLICIES** ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF Jan.y 1, 2023: Active Participants: We are pleased to announce that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) will be your preferred provider network for medical claims and your prescription drugs will be processed through BCBSM. This means BCBSM will be replacing Health Alliance Plan (HAP) as the in-network provider for your medical claims, and BCBSM (in partnership with Optum) will also be replacing Express Scripts (ESI) for prescription drug processing. We believe this change will provide our participants From there you can search by provider category, provider name or specialty. Any questions you have in regards to the provider network, pharmacy Rx or claims, you can call HUMANA Customer Service at 800-448-6262.

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

S.U.B. Please send all requests for payment to Wanda Autrey at **subpay@pipefitters636. org** to be processed.

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of the following member who has passed from our ranks: Journeyman Brother Kevin Cain, who passed away on Jan. 19, 2023. May he rest in peace.

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

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone no. for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **248-641-4936** or **888-646-8920**.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office with Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Please give her a 7-10 day notice so that she can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact BeneSys at the

numbers above as well for your retirement paperwork. Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number 248-655-4048 or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan: For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, (Continued next column) CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887.

It's a new year, are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbsafe. org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register vou. 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. Training Center News. **Construction Night Class 2023 GMAW** Saturday Mike Wall **DOWNHILL** Saturday with

Kurt Moran HDPE/Fusion Saturday

Feb. 11th with Doug Leslie

ORIBITAL Saturday with John Verran

Service Night Classes starting the week of Feb.20th, 2023 5-week classes

*CSD Classes**CSD 2 (Adv.)- Wednesdays Kevin Burns Limit 12

*MET/MES 1 Mon/Thurs Derek Commins /Alex Boyd 120 Hours

*VFD programing and wiring Mon. Feb.20th --Jason Blouin *VRF Basics Thur. Feb. 23rd: Jason Blouin

*Ammonia Safety Thursdays Feb 23rd : Ryan Lietaert

ADV. Burner Class : Feb 23 Chiller Teardown: Feb.22nd Tube Bending Class: Feb 20 HDPE class Sat. Feb 11th CWI class March 4th, call Jim Wilson

Call Kim at the Training Center to sign up for all classes All classes \$50 for journeyman 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: <u>SUB@ualocal85.org</u>

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEM-BERS:

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at

(989) 799-5261. **Website:** 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.

CONDOLENCES: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Robert Ducharme who (Continued next column) **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.

Health Insurance Contact Info:Active and NON Medicare Retirees

Aetna: (888)290-7241

Save-Rx:(800)228-3108

Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

Health insurance premium decrease: Effective Jan. 1, 2023 the Local 174 health insurance premiums will be as follows:

	Current Rate	1/1/23 Rate
Active Member/		
Working Retiree	\$1,233.70	\$1,110.33
Non-working		
Pre Medicare Retiree:	\$879	\$791.10
Medicare Single	\$262.55	\$123.63
Medicare Couple	\$525.09	\$247.26
Medicare with		
Pre-Medicare Spouse	\$677.55	\$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spous	e \$269	\$126.67

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

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.

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: <u>dispatch@ua174.org</u> 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.

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are

(Continued on Page 7)

Local 85, con't

passed away on Jan. 10, 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Roy Lippard who passed away on Jan. 19, 2023.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Steven Eash who passed away on Jan. 30, 2023.

Fraternally, Justin M. Pomerville Business Manager/ Financial Secretary

Local Union 85

"A strong conviction that something must be done is the parent of many bad measures." -Daniel Webster (1782 -

1852)

"Try to learn something about everything and everything about something."

–Thomas H. Huxley (1825 -1895)

"The things you own end up owning you."

- Chuck Palahniuk (1962 -)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, **Gas** Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 13th at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

ATTENTION MI GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING SCHOOL & HELPER SCHOOL: Will begin Tuesday, Jan. 3 and run for 2 months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this school as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding school. Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

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

MICHIGAN GAS 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.

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

CREDIT CARD 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 REMIND-ER TO ALL MEMBERS: All members who get laid off or report back to work please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work. PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under "members only" and fill out a "back to work" form or "laid off" form.

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 2022 HEALTH COSTS: Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2022 health costs personally, you must submit information to our fringe benefit office by Feb. 15, 2022. If you have questions contact Bernadette at 1-888-390-7473

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

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

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

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current! Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule - Mondays - April 3, July 17, and Oct 2. Each class will start at 5 pm.



(Continued from Page 6)

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.

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

Labor Councils:

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

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

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

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

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

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Section 18.5 states, "...employees... shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you follow our agreement. Out Of Work List: Please remember to call the out of work list when you are laid off. You will be placed on the list based off the date you call in your layoff. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list. Training News: FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, March 9, 2023 and Thursday, April 13, 2023. PLUMBING CODE UP-DATE: The last class that will be offered will be on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, 5p-8p, in the assembly hall. Please bring your plumbing license or license # with you to class. The deadline to complete the code update is March 31, 2023. There is no charge to attend the class. 2018 Michigan Plumbing Code books will be available for purchase for \$70.00. MED GAS RECERTIFI-**CATION:** Class is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: 2/15, 2/22 and 3/1(exam). ASSE BACKFLOW RE-PAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: March 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22(Exam).



SHOWING SOME OF THEIR well-plumbed handiwork at the Tom Izzo Football Building on the Michigan State University campus are (I-r) Coy Simon and Jordan Grove of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by Myers Plumbing and Heating.

Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION **MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday – March 14th at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30.

K-WINGS HOCKEY NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a "night out" K-Wings Hockey Game on Saturday – March 4th, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be at the K-Wings WILL CALL window. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before Friday – February 24th, to reserve your tickets.

GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a Union Outing Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on Saturday – June 3rd, 2023 at 6:35 pm. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before Friday – June 2nd, to reserve your tickets.

TAX PREP INFORMA-**TION:** Dollar amounts WILL BE available February 15th, 2023 for 2022 withholdings & dues paid. If you sign up for the e-mail on the website, you do not need to call the Hall for your deductions because you can view and print out your own information. The information that we have is what the contractors have reported on

to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café located at 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 775-1775.

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

WEBSITE INFORMA-TION – FRINGES – TIC:

Check out the website at www. ualocal357.com and the FACE-BOOK Page @ www.facebook. com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box. Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password - and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS. **CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date. There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111 **UPPER PENINSULA -**

MARQUETTE - The next Union Meeting will be in Marquette, Feb. 23, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Training news: Open welding class with David Pedersen is occurring on Tuesdays at 5 pm, on a week

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2023 Schedule – Mondays April 17, July 24, and Oct 16. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

Welding Lab: The welding lab is open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Weld tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors.

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

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

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

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

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

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Class will be 2 days. This class will be scheduled for mid-to-late March 2023. Call the Training Center to register for this class

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Sheryl Barnes. Sheryl initiated July 20, 1999 and retired Feb. 1. We all wish you good health, good luck and best wishes to you on your retirement.

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: to Eugene Noud. Eugene initiated Jan. 8, 2001 and retired Feb. 1. We all wish you tons of happiness in the years ahead.

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Raymond Denoyer passed away on Jan. 20. Raymond initiated on March 22, 1965, retired July 1, 1994 and became a lifetime member March 22, 2015. To all family members and friends, we know that our Lord will bring you all, the much needed peace during this sad time. We send our most sincere condolences.

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Anthony Derucki passed away Jan. 17. Anthony initiated May 13, 1968, retired Dec. 31, 1991 and became a lifetime member May 13, 2018. To all family members and friends we express our sorrow and condolences to all of you during these difficult times.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, March 2 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries and a cup of coffee.

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.

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, March 11, 2023 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 5:00p – 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

CSD-1: Class dates will be posted soon. If you're interested in taking a CSD-1 class please call/text to be placed on the list. Once dates are scheduled, you'll (Continued next column)

the fringes. If you think there is a discrepancy, then you should check your own pay stubs.

NOTE: HEALTH INSUR-ANCE IS PAID BY THE CON-TRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

APPRENTICESHIP AP-PLICATIONS: The Apprenticeship Application process is starting for 2023. Applications must be picked up by the person who is applying starting on Wednesday, February 1st from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday. The completed application along with various documents must be returned, by the person applying, no later than Tuesday, February 28^{TH} at 4:30 pm. Call the Union Hall if you have any questions.

UNION DUES REMIND-ERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is now accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.ualocal357.com. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways

Local 174, con't

be notified of them via text.

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

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to David Long, and family, on the birth of twin sons, Ray and Archer.

Congratulations to Charles Wilkins, and family, on the birth of a daughter, Munro.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of Matt Corliss, on the recent passing of his son.

oud Sheet Metal Workers (586) 362-4689 Local 80 family member

to week basis pending interest. To be added to the notification list or to register, contact John Antoncew. A spot in the class is not confirmed until you receive a response.

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

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

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

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

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site **uall1.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 2022 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. To register for an MSHA class please go to Upconstruction.org and go to the MSHA calendar to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.





Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on March 16. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

Also, please refer to our website <u>https://www.unitedas-sociationlocal671.com/</u> and its **calendar for the latest updates.**

Health & Welfare: The Board of Trustees have recently made some changes to our Health plan. You should have received a notice in the mail with the list of changes. If you have questions please contact Carly at the union hall.

New Contractor Seminar: If you are planning on, or maybe just thinking about opening your own business, Local 370 Flint is hosting a new contractor seminar. This seminar is for current UA members who have interest in becoming signatory contractors in the foreseeable future. The event will be held May 2 & 3 at UA Local 370. If anyone has interest in attending, please notify me and I will register you. Let us not only grow our union but our contractor base as well.

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card No.). The Password is just your book number.

2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update: We held a Michigan Plumbing Code update course on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Union Hall. If you were unable to attend, we do have information available for an online update. Contact the Hall for details. In order to maintain your plumbing license, you must do a code update by March 31, 2023.

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We will also be holding classes to prepare Members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions, or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details. **Open Weld Shop Nights:** We will be holding open weld shop nights on Thursday nights from 6-10 p.m. Weld Shop nights would not be held on Union meeting nights or when we hold a UA weld test session. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Wednesday prior to the practice night. If we have 3 or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333 LANSING – February's union meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. 7:30pm.

March's union meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. 7:30pm.

Dues: As of Jan. 1, 2023 dues will not increase. Active Members will pay \$28 a month, Retired Members will continue to pay \$10. Members will be receiving their new membership card in the mail.

FINAL MICHIGAN PLUMBING CODE UPDATE CLASS WILL BE THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 2023 AT 4:30PM, LOCATED AT THE LANSING TRAINING CENTER.

WELD CLASSES: Weld classes are currently being held in all three regions. Please go online to sign up at www.ua333.org.There is a \$25 fee; please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

Lansing: Jan. 10, 2023 (Tuesday's & Thursday's) 4pm-8pm, Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: Jan. 10, 2023 (Tuesday's & Thursday's) 4pm-8pm, Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek: Jan. 9, 2023 (Monday's & Thursday's) 4pm-8pm, (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed; between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated. Please join us Thursday, Feb. 23 at 6pm, for the Diversity Committee kickoff. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the committee, or just want to network with fellow member, we will be meeting at Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 3301 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing, 48912. at 6pm for an informal meeting. Food and drinks available at cost to attendees. Contact the training center for further information. Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: The next breakfast will be Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023 at 10 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center. If you have any questions or need directions just contact Joni at 517-784-1106 ext#4. Please pass the word to fellow retired members. **Retirees Breakfast in Battle** Creek: Retirees be meeting at the Lux Café, 2587 Capital Ave. SW in Battle Creek for Breakfast at 9 am on Thursday, Feb. 23. We are looking forward to seeing you there! Attention: Local 333 has signed a new drain cleaning company. The owner is Matt Ellis who is a UA Local 333 member. Matt owns Ellis Services, LLC. The company is able to do drain cleaning, camera work, locating and will very soon have a new jet on board. If you, a friend or family member need drain cleaning work, please call Matt at 517-974-3458. If you are working for a UA signatory contractor and have a non-union sub-contractor on your site doing this work, please call your regional business agent immediately. The new GM plant work is requiring MUST MODs completed and a current drug test. Make sure you are current.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023 at 7 p.m.** Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

BackFlow- March 9 thru April 20 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30pm

Test Cost \$130. Refresher first test is free

CPR/ First Aid- Wednesday March 8th at 4:30pm

STAR Prep-Feb. 15 & 16 at 5 pm. Test day Thursday March 2 at 5 pm

EPA 608- March 27, 28, 29 & 30 at 5pm

Dates are subject to change **Night Welding:** Feb. 20 thru March 22. Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30pm

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

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows: Examining Board – Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday Feb. 14, 2023, at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday Feb. 14, 2023, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at 6 pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at 6:15pm JATC Committee – TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTBSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their

Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local 98* Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found there. Go to UALOCAL98.COM.

Meetings & Union Hall. The next Union Meeting is a Special called event for our yearly State of the Union, it will be held on Thursday, March 9th at 7:00 pm at the Union Hall.

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

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

Retiree Meetings. The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, March 8th from 12 pm – 2 pm.

SUB Apps/OOW. SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. Make sure your contact information is up to date as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

Benefits. *Change for "Golden Dental," they are now DENCAP no change in your plan and the good news is there are more locations added to their preferred list. More information can be obtained at 313-972-1400 or <u>info@dencap.</u> <u>com</u>.

We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. His name is Andrew Hill and he is the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Andrew will be receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Andrew. If Andrew is on the other line, please leave him a message and he will get back to you promptly.

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

1964, Brother Earl P Richards of 50-year member Initiated 3-26-1970.

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

In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

by the end of the business day.

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

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

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN PLUMBING LICENSE

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

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FORANY OF THE FOLLOW-ING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2023. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is February 21, 2023 at 4:30 pm. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber- 40 hour classto get a booth.

**2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing session will be Saturday, March 4, 2023. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

2022 Course Hour reimbursement forms are available at the Training Center. You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2022 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement. Deadline to submit 2022 reimbursement forms is March 31, 2023.

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

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

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

"Let tears flow of their own accord: their flowing is not inconsistent with inward peace and harmony."

-Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

"We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action."

-Frank Tibolt

"Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that man can never learn anything from history."

-George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

It is best to do things systematically, since we are only human, and disorder is our worst enemy."

Dates:

Thursday Feb. 16 at 6pm. Thursday Feb. 23 at 5pm **WELD TEST SESSION** (No Practice). Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date.

In Closing: The benefit dinner held on Feb. 4 for Michael Pete and his family was a huge success. We thank all of our volunteers and everyone who donated and attended. I wish we never had a need for these events but unfortunately that is not the world we live in. Local 671 and its members continue to amaze me with their generosity and compassion. I wish I could thank them all by name but there are too many to list. I am so proud to be a Local 671 member and honored to call you all my brothers and friends. God bless you all and from myself, Vinnie, and the Pete family, we truly Thank you.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: <u>mike@ualocal671.</u> <u>com</u>

Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: <u>vinnie@ualo-</u> <u>cal671.com</u>

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: <u>carly@</u> <u>ualocal671.com</u>

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692 New merchandise has arrived. ¼ zip jackets, Full zip jackets, Hoodies, Long sleeve tees and Baseball hats. 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 autho-

rization 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.

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

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense.

Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact Local 370 JATC.

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

Our web site is up, check it out, ualocal370.org

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

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

(Continued next column)

Congratulations to those who have hung up their bibs:

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 questions or want to pay your dues by phone, please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 ext. 3.

The following members are delinquent on dues and are working for our contractors. If you are working with these EX-**PELLED MEMBERS**, please push them to get with the hall and get caught up. Thomas Mann, Steven Hawes, Thomas Mc-Gowan, Shane McCleary, Ian McCullough, Nicholas McCambell, Derek Hardoin, Mike Hofer, Justin Willard, Adam Atkinson, Ken Stone, Jesse Nowak, Jakob Streu. If you know they have left 98 please let us know. Thank you. Good/Welfare.

In Memoriam: Our sympathies to family and friends of Brothers Richard E. Spare, 55-year member initiated 5-26-

Local 370, con't

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

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

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

T.I.C. fringe administrators toll free no. is 1-888-797-5862.

\$100 fee

Spring: March 6 to May 8. Deadline to register February 24 Fall: September 18 to November 20. Deadline to register

vember 20. Deadline to register September 1 Hydronic Heating and Cool-

ing – 40 hour class - \$100 fee Spring: March 9 to May 11.

Deadline to register February 24

Fall: September 18 to November 20. Deadline to register September 1

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

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

4 hour recert class July 25 & 26 Deadline is June 23

4 hour recert class October 24 & 25 Deadline is September 22

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

Fall: September 18 – November 27 Deadline is August 11-\$200

ASSE Repairer: *** Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification

Spring: March 9 – April 13, Deadline is February 10 -\$100 Fall: September 21 - October 26, Deadline is August 11 -\$100

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

Fall: September 19 to October 28, Deadline is August 11 -\$200 Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Spring: March 8 – May 17 Deadline is February 24 -\$200 Fall: September 20 – November 29 Deadline to register September 1 -\$200

OPEN WELDING – Winter is here, it is a great time to get into a booth and upgrade some welding skills! Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call -Hesiod (~800 BC)

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it."

–Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

"Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." –Will Durant (1885 - 1981)

"When a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is any thing you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it "

- Edgar Watson Howe (1853 - 1937)

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

-Gordon Atkinson,

You Are the Missing Piece.



Surprise! **Economy adds** 517,000 jobs in January

By Mark Gruenberg PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)-Surprising Wall Street's stock casino, the U.S. economy claimed to add 517,000 jobs in January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Even governments reported adding 74,000 workers, including 52,000 in state and local schools. BLS said 35,000 of them were University of California system unionized workers who ratified new contracts.

The jobs jump and prior revisions produced more good news. Unemployment declined to 3.4 percent, the lowest point since 1969, when draftees taken off the job market for the Indochina War depressed unemployment rates and numbers.

Some 5.694 million people were jobless in January, the BLS reported, 28,000 fewer than in December. The numbers are not directly comparable. Between the two months, the agency changes its population survey to account for demographic shifts and job category changes.

The big gains disoriented Wall Street's players, who count on the Federal Reserve to dampen inflation by raising interest rates, which in turn affect your credit card rates, home loans and other costs. Fed rate hikes are supposed to lead to job losses and slower wage growth, too.

Well, wage growth - at an 4.4 percent annual rate in January - was still below inflation, which is declining. But as for the Fed's actions throwing people out of jobs...whoops.

The financiers responded on Feb. 3 with mixed gains and losses. When workers lose jobs, the market often rises. Fewer jobs means less pay for workers and more profits for firms and financiers. The AFL-CIO had a different, and much more positive, take on the jobs report.

"In today's @BLS_gov #JobsReport: 517k jobs added in Jan. 2023, broad increases in jobs across industries, inflation slowing faster than wage growth, historic low unemployment rate of 3.4%. Bottom line: A blowout #JobsReport!" it tweeted.

Factories said they added 19,000 jobs in January, rising to 12.999 million, the separate survey of businesses reported. A 6,900-job gain at food processing



Heat and Frost Insulators & **Allied Workers Local 47**

LANSING - The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933.

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

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

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed. you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

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

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

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications.

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



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SOUTHFIELD - UNION MEETING - The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY **MODULES:** In order to be eligible for the safety module stipend, you must contact the Union Of-CURT fice PRIOR to McGLONE taking the safety modules.

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

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 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 LIMI-TATION: Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within thirty (30) days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the thirty (30) days will be denied per the Plan Document.

NOTICE TO ALL: When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges. related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office. BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

February 10, 2023 THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9

LiUNA

Laborers 1191

DETROIT - Monthly Membership Meetings: Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), next membership meeting will on the March, 3 2023.

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

Union Dues For 2023: Effective Jan. 1, 2023 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Reminder: Be sure to keep

the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

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

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

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

Vacation Monthly Dues **Deduction Authorization:** Members may revoke vacation monthly dues authorization at any time by signing a vacation deduction cancellation form. This cancellation form must be sent to the Local Union 1191 office, however understand that Local 1191 needs to have this form on file at least 60 days before the next vacation checks are distributed for the months of May or November. Vacation Check Direct **Deposit:** If your mail delivery is slow or your mail is getting lost, then it is highly recommended to get your vacation check direct deposited into your bank checkings or savings account. A Payee Deposit Agreement must be completed and signed, and the member must return the payee deposit agreement at least sixty (60) days before the following vacation distribution for the month of May, or November. **MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at www.mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have. Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-

North America 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.

Laborers

Union of

International

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 OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

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

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

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

Local 1191

Feel the Power

*Website: Www.ourbenefitoffice.com

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare) *Telephone: (877) 645 2267

BENEFICIARY RE-MINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

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

www.mi-laborers.org

Download the scholarship application and instructions here: MLDC Scholarship Application Packet

MICHIGAN LABOR-**ERS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND** 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Michigan Laborers² Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the 2023-2024 Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for the continued and further education of eligible individuals who have been admitted or are already enrolled as a student in an accredited postsecondary institution. Applications must be received by the fund office on or before May 1st, 2023 to receive full consideration.

In general, eligible individuals who may apply for a scholarship under the Scholarship Program are members in good standing of a Local Union affiliated with the Michigan Laborers' District Council, their biological children, adopted children, stepchildren, a person for whom the member or spouse is or was named full legal guardian (other than a limited or temporary guardian), or survivors of deceased members who were members in good standing of a Local Union affiliated with the Michigan Laborers' District Council at the time of their death. Survivors include all persons listed above. Eligible individuals must also have been admitted or be already enrolled in an accredited vocational school, technical school, or a two or four-year degree granting college or university accredited by the Board of Education.

factories offset a 6,500-job loss at auto and parts plants.

Construction companies claimed to add 25,000 jobs in January, to 7.884 million. Of those, 60 percent were at non-residential specialty trade contractors.

The one semi-negative number in the report was that the biggest job growth came in the lowest-paying sector, leisure and hospitality. Owners claimed to add 113,400 workers, with 99,600 of those in bars and restaurants alone. But they still don't pay the workers enough: \$535.12/week in January. The next lowest payers were in retail trade, at \$712.96/week.

"Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind.'

-Leonardo da Vinci (1452 -1519)

"Such is the irresistible nature of truth that all it asks, and all it wants, is the liberty of appearing."

-Thomas Paine (1737 -1809)

"I always wanted to be somebody. If I made it, it's half because I was game enough to take a lot of punishment along the way and half because there were a lot of people who cared enough to help me."

- Althea Gibson (1927 -2003)

"If you don't risk anything you risk even more." -Erica Jong



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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

> Toll Free: (800) 323-8079 Fax: (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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

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

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

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

"I won't take my religion from any man who never works except with his mouth.'

-Carl Sandburg (1878 -1967)

contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

Vacation Fund

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

Telephone: (833) 389-0025 **Extension 3359 - Direct Number**

Fax: (206) 505 9727 Website: Www.wpas-inc.

com

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

Telephone: (877) 645-2267 Fax: (517) 321-7508 Website: Www.michiganla-

borers.org Delta Dental: (800) 524-

0149

Detroit and Vicinity Pension Fund

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

Telephone: (248) 641-4942 *Fax: (248) 813-9898

"It is equally offensive to speed a guest who would like to stay and to detain one who is anxious to leave.

-Homer (800 BC - 700 BC)

"Use, do not abuse; neither abstinence nor excess ever renders man happy."

-Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

"Don't waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

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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.

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Louisville, KY	Salt Lake City, UT	

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





IBEW 58

DETROIT - The next General Membership Meeting the Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

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

IBEW Local 58 Dues Department! If you have not enrolled in the dues' payment system - vou will need to do so before you can pay (or you can make a guest payment). If you forget your login ID or password, you can request it through the APP/Website on the Existing Users Login Page. You can call the hall and pay over the phone if you choose to or mail in a check. If you have lapsed, you will not be able to pay on the APP/Website. You will need to call and talk to a Business Agent.

REMINDER-When registering for the APP/Website, please use your legal name as it appears on your dues receipt. i.e., Kenneth not Kenny. If your number starts with a letter, use a capital letter.

Local 58 Motorcycle Group: Meetings have moved to Sundays at different restaurants before a ride. Open to everyone, and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Anthony Anderanin @ aanderanin@gmail. com or Grace Trudell, @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

Local No. 58 Benevolent **Fund**: The next meeting will be on March 7, 2023, at 5:30pm at the Union Hall. Our next event will be the Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Event, Sunday, Feb. 12. We look forward to getting back



fill out and submit the conference survey. We will be participating with DPSCD for National Reading Month. We will be reading to 3rd grade students on Friday, March 10. If you are interested in participating you must fill out the security clearance form. Please contact Andre Crook for more information. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities. We will be creating more tie-dye t-shirts in the coming weeks. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with this fundraiser and the Lottery Raffle.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Local 58's Women's Committee- Our next regular meeting is Thursday, Feb. 23 at 5:30 pm at the hall and on zoom. Please watch for emails with further updates and zoom info. This meeting will be hosted on Zoom ONLY. Information will be emailed out closer to the meeting date. If you have questions, contact committee chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski. Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association: Our next luncheon is taking place at The Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Rd., Warren on Feb. 22. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at noon. To reserve your spot for the luncheon, send your checks, made payable to the "Retirees Association", \$20 per person to IBEW local 58, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit, MI 448232-0756. For reservation questions call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885. Mark this on your calendar and make plans to join us. This is always a wonderful time with lots of good food and good company. Our next board meeting will be 10 a.m. March 8 at the local union hall in the Bill Rushford Room in the

lower level of the building. We kicked off the Local



FLINT - Our February Union Meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 6 pm.

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

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, March 7, at 9 am.

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.com.

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

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

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

Gregory Remington **Business Manager**

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



IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK - The General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5 p.m. at the Hall.

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

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

IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for



WE ASKED THIS GROUP of electricians to pause for a photo in a hallway of the Tom Izzo Football Building project on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. They are (I-r) Matt Whittet, Easton Rankin and Steve Marsh. The IBEW Local 665 members are employed by Summit Electric.

IBEW



IBEW 557

SAGINAW - Union News- Hello brothers and sisters! Don't forget Valentines Day is next week, stop procrastinating and get your flowers ordered guys!

If anyone is interested in goig on a Detroit Tigers Game Bus Trip on July 8 in Detroit, please contact the Hall to be put on the list. Family members are welcome! Cost is \$57.50 which includes the ticket and buffet. The bus fare is an additional cost based on participation.

The Financial Seminar is set for Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m., NOT the 15th as previously stated. The Hantz Group will discuss Retirement and Financial Planning. They are a fiduciary and are required to look out for their client's best interest. The Hantz group has several great reviews from our Members. Anyone who is interested in attending please contact the Hall to sign up. Hantz will be providing pizza for everyone.

A poker night has been set for Wednesday February 22nd at 6:30pm. Let's see your poker face! Another fun note- we're still looking for participation for the baseball game. Contact the Hall for any details needed.

MEMBERSHIP MEET-INGS- Our next meeting is March 7th at 5:30pm. Stop in and see everyone!

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

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

BLUE CROSS APP-Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include: instant access to EOB's, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOB's can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt requests. WEX APP- Search for the "TIC HRA" app in Google or Apple and download it today. Utilization of this app will give you access to account balances, receipt reviews and submittals, barcode scanning for covered items, other helpful services. This is a great tool to accompany your Health Care benefits. JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3. **STAY CURRENT ON DUES**: Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards and also E-checks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished over the phone to ensure you are current CONTACT NUM-**BERS-** Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) <u>821-7502</u> or <u>(855)</u> 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectricalhealth.org In Solidarity,



COOPERSVILLE - Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The work outlook remains the same as it has been with some jobs that are looking to start soon.

There should be calls for GM in the coming weeks as well as calls for LG Chem by springtime. We will keep you updated as other project info becomes available. If you are interested in traveling for work in the meantime, please call the Hall for up to date traveling info. If you are interested in salting, contact Geoff or Walt for more info.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be on Saturday, March 11. We are planning on staging @ 9:30am near the Grand Rapids Public Library with the parade starting @ 11am. We are hoping for a big Labor turnout again this year and make sure to wear your Union apparel. This is a great time to show solidarity in Grand Rapids and would count for community service for anyone needing them.

The annual West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for April 20 at the Barclay Place in Muskegon. Please get that on your calendar if you plan to make it this year. If vou have any venison, fish, or any other wild game meat that you would like to donate let Walter know. There will be separate raffles for all who donate. Please remember that re-sign is the 10th through the 16th of each month. If your re-sign is not in by the 16th, you will be rolled off the Book. You may contact Geoff at the Hall if you need assistance. The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st, 6:00pm at the Union Hall. We anticipate having new solidarity shirts this month. You can get one for attending a Union meeting or giving your time for one of the many volunteer opportunities that present themselves throughout the year. Dues for 2023 have increased to \$46.90 per month. Please adjust when making payments through the mail and automatic bank payments. At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in dues: Drew Hawkins, Brian Kelly, Nicholas Petznik, and Braydn VanPatten. Please make every effort to get caught up.

together after a 2-year absence! Super Bowl Raffle Tickets are now available at the Union Hall. All prizes from the Super Bowl event are provided by ABC Warehouse in Canton. For a discounted price call Ryan Heinrich at (734) 981-7780. All Tradesmen and families are welcome to receive this Building Trade discount. The Local 58 Commemorative Quilt Raffle tickets are now available at the Hall, \$10 each or 3 for \$20, please contact Kelly Lynch to purchase. Hope to see you all there!

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 pm. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail).

Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 14, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI- The next meeting is scheduled Monday, Feb. 20 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and 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 at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

Thank you to all of the delegates to the 2023 EWMC National Education Conference. The Local 58 presence was definitely noticeable and impressive. You Union's ORAL HISTORY PROJ-ECT at the Christmas Luncheon. If you are willing to be interviewed for this collection, call the union hall at 963-2130, ask to be added to the list for an interview appointment. Thank you all for your participation in this project.

The Retirees Annual Florida Luncheon will be on Feb. 15 (Wednesday). Arrival time is 11:30 and Lunch will be served at12:00. The location is at Austin's Olde World Restaurant, 14415 Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL 34287. The menu: Caesar salad w/rolls, Chicken Cordon Bleu w/baked potato: Broiled Cod w/baked potato or Pot Roast w/ mashed potatoes. Ice tea, coffee and dessert are included. The Cost is \$27. Please make your selection and mail with a check to: Syl Ludwic, 3491 Capland Ave, Clermont, FL 34711. For Reservations or questions please call or email Syl Ludwic at cell 352-250-1178 or sludwic@gmail.com.

Local 58 Retiree's Association will again support a Fall bus trip. The destination will be Charleston, S.C. Dates for the trip will be Sunday, Sept. 10 to Sat. Sept. 16. An informational flyer can be obtained by request via email; rick dona@hotmail.com They will also be at the monthly luncheons, or if need be, call me at 248-421-2636 and leave a message. If anyone is interested in becoming the future Group Leader, call me and I will discuss the position. Respectfully, Rick Koerber

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

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone no., address, and email.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Stephen Brickner, Kenneth Cole, Craig Davies, Claude Davis, Michele Durham, Jesus Flores Sr., Aaron Isaacs, (Continued next column) July 15, 2023, with shotgun start at 8am. Mark your calendars.

First Aid/CPR class There is a class scheduled for Monday, March 13, after the Union Meeting. We will provide food at the meeting. Please add this to your phone's calendar. We plan on having an annual class in March of each year. so if your card is going to expire after March 2023, you will want to plan on attending this class.

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

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

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

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

IBEW 58, con't

Fayiz Nalu, David Post, Terrence Shudick, and Douglas Watson.

Members who have passed away: David Foust, Father to JIW Daniel Foust; Thomas Gardner, JIW, 41 year IBEW membership; Carolyn McLean, Wife to pension member Frank McLean; and Edward Zemnickas Jr., Pension member, 58 year IBEW membership.

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

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

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

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

WORK OUTLOOK-Pierce Power has the Swan Vallev Schools Auditorium, some Heritage High School Work, Saginaw High Remodel. Van-Herweg picked up a project at Hemlock Schools. Caro Mental hospital is winding down. HSC work remains a dream on the horizon. Solar projects have had some issues and they're still being hammered out. The Frankenmuth Water Park bids later this month. Let's hope for some union work over there!

Saginaw Township Schools will look to pass a bond in May to renovate ALL of their schools in some form. The biggest portion of this work would be a huge renovation to the existing high school. Please spread the word about passing this in order for our members to have an opportunity to work at home.

The United Way is looking for volunteers to help out with their annual meal packing event. This will be on March 16th at Local 85 after work. This organization does great work right in your own back yard. Our local has donated to them in the past. Please consider giving back and passing along that good karma.

HEALTH CARE- The completion of the Optum pharmacy services transition is now

Breanna DePottey Press Secretary/Registrar

'Ask about your neighbors, then buy the house.' - Jewish Proverb

"We are inclined to believe those whom we do not know because they have never deceived us.

-Samuel Johnson (1709 -1784)

"There is only one success to be able to spend your life in your own way.

-Christopher Morley (1890 - 1957)







for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT with discount code 4924966.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date.

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

Congratulations: Congratulations to John Brzozowski Jr. and his wife Chelsea for the birth of their daughter, Rileigh Olivia on January 26, 2023.

Condolences: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Oscar "Mike" Alber Jr., who passed away on January 30, 2023. Mike was father to David Alber.

ANNUAL RETIREES GATHERING: Annual Florida Winter Gathering will meet Monday, March 13th at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral, 4705 US Highway 98 N. Any questions call Ed Allen 734-883-9429.

NOTICE TO RETIREES: If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the hall.

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

UNION DUES FOR 2023: Effective Jan. 1, 2023, union dues for "A" members will increase to \$131.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will remain \$61.80 per quarter for 2023.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2022, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 per quarter for 2023. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your



IBEW Local 131 Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on March 6, at 6 p.m.

Stewards training is scheduled for Feb. 15, 2023. The training will be held from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. Everyone is welcome. Call the hall and register. 269-382-1762

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on February 20, at 5 p.m.

Pension Education meeting is set for Thursday, February 23, 2023, beginning at 6:00PM. If you have questions about selfdirecting. Ted Disabato from Maketa will be here to guide us

Tigers: Local 131 is going to Comerica Park this this Summer, July 8th. Tickets will be available for purchase (\$24.00 + Purchase Fee) to the first 100 members. Be on the lookout for a purchase link. Each member will be able to purchase their own tickets by following the link to the official Tigers Ticket Pay site. All Tickets for Local 131 will be grouped together in the same section.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in counter dues payments: Nicholas Blaskie, Christopher Conforti, Daniel Elliott, Brian Ellis, Stephen Gay, Taylor Grose-Thompson, Easton Lovell, Marty Maher, Logan Mc-Fadden, Nic McKenna, Thomas Pickett, Thomas Seeds, Cody Stokan, Jason Streit, and William Wolgast

Retiree Lunches at the following Locations: Feb. 15, 2023, Julianna's, 2105 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI. @11 March 15, 2023, Red Lobster, 6535 S. Westnedge, Portage, MI. @11

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

On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees meet at Brewsters, 5135 Portage Road, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

RETIREMENT: NEBF, IBEW PBF and Local Pension application takes at least



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, March 13th, 2023 @ 6pm.

Regular Meeting – The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, March 13th, 2022.

Resale Items – Local 498 Challenge Coins are in the hall for your purchase. They are \$10 each. We also have Local 498 tshirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

Right to work – It was a good learning experience for Business Manager Dave Fashbaugh to sit on the State Resolution Committee. At the State level, all of the resolutions that were submitted by the County Democrat seats were reviewed and adopted. Dave attended to push our resolution of the repeal of the Right to Work law and it had unanimous support and will be dealt with at the Democrat State Convention on Feb 11th, which probably will be about the same time this article is sent out. Hopefully by then we have a firm commitment by the Democrat Party to deal with the issues mentioned in our resolution.

Death Notice -Retired Brother Keith Curtis passed away Jan 28, 2023. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family. Brother Curtis was initiated in 1992 and retired at the end of 2002. He worked mostly for Swan Electric.

EVITP – Please call the



Local 692

IBEW Local 692 BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** The March monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 6, 2023.**

Executive Board Meeting. The February Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 20, 2023.**

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

Work Report. The first and most important thing I am going to say about the work outlook is supply issues continue to slow or stall projects. This is our work outlook to the best of my knowledge.

Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include: Nelson Electric - GM Powertrain work started on October 3rd and will run through the first quarter of 2023. Swan Electric – Multiple DTE natural gas pumping stations throughout Zones 1 and 2. This project just as many others have seen delays due to supply issues. J.Ranck Electric – continuing work on phase 1 of the SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility, the second phase of which is valued at over \$300 million and slated to kick off in January 2023. Ranck Electric has also secured the Balance of System work on a Solar Farm in Gladwin County.

Newkirk Electric also has a solar project near Mio. The first call for manpower came in last week. More to come.

Master Electric has the new Isabella County Jail.

Robinson Industries in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in their recent fire, our contractors are expected to secure that work and hire later this year. Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay) has been secured by Clements Electric. You have been seeing both concrete walls and iron being moved on this project.

Rest assured both organizers



IBEW Local 906 UPPER PENINSULA

MEETINGS MARQUETTE UNIT-

First Tuesday IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT-Second Tuesday

ESCANABA UNIT—Second Wednesday

IBEW 906 presented the following members with service pins:

10 Year Pins: William Perry, Michael Stier, Jack Truitt, Jay Lambert, Cole Maraccini, Kurtis Monroe, Josha Mott, Bradley Olson, Alexander Raymond, Andrew Sovey.

15 Year Pins: Daniel Graff, Korey Hanson, Michael Karvala, Mark Mattila, Michael Beaudry, Steven Stiller, Robert Fabbri.

20 Year Pins: Ralph Tinkey, Michael Razmus, Russel Pomerot, Richard McInerney, Brian Engstrom, Karl Hanninen, Scott Heyrman, Steven Heyrman.

25 Year Pins: Jeff Sauer. Daniel Nicholson, Charles McKechnie, Michael Maskart, Patrick Francis, Rick Caudil, Carmen Livingston, Anthony Lawler, Daniel Audette Jr., Thomas Hagberg, Joseph Heikkila, Jason Asplet.

30 Year Pins: William Dupras, Grover Munn, Thomas Schmeltzer, Timothy Soucy, Steve Srock, John A. Bloomquist.

A sincere thank you to the Governor, Senator Mc Broom and Representative Hill for their support of the U.P. in allocating monies for the **\$1 billion** paper machine coming to Escanaba.

The Apprentice of the year banquet was a big success. Local 906 had 35 apprentices in attendance. Our numbers were down because of 15 cancelations due to members working the weekend in Sagola.

There was a special moment

IBEW 252 Since 1916

ANN ARBOR – ELEC-

TRICAL VEHICLE INFRA-

STRUCTRUE TRAINING

PROGRAM (EVITP) The \$1.2

trillion Infrastructure Investment

Act passed last year will provide

millions of labor hours for the

IBEW! We need to be ready

for the installation of upcoming

electric vehicle charging sta-

tions. This training is critical to

securing this work. Please call

the JATC and get on the list to

EFICIARY FORM UPDATED:

A friendly reminder that benefi-

ciary forms are available at the

fund office AND at the hall for

anyone that may need to update

beneficiary information. If your

information needs to be updated,

it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.

2023: ALL CLASSES START

days: March 7th & 14th, June 6th

& 13th, September 5th & 12th,

need 6 people to start this class!

Please sign up at the school if you

Mondays Jan. 23, Feb. 6 & 20.

Tuesdays: January 24th & 31st,

days: January 26th, February 2nd,

Tuesdays: February 14th, 21st,

28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th,

March 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th,

required in 2023? We will offer

classes as soon as the state adopts

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

first Thursday of every month Lo-

cal 252 and UA 190 retirees meet

at the Union Hall for card games

and donuts. The games start at 9

a.m. Please come join the fun.

Retirees' Card Game: The

worn at all times in school.

a new NEC 2020 or 2023.

19th, 26th, May 3rd, 17th & 24th.

4. Solar- TBD

February 7th, 21st, & 28th.

9th, 16th, 23rd & March 2nd.

April 4th, 11th, 18th.

December 5th & 12th.

are interested.

AT 5 PM

TRAINING CLASSES

1. CPR/FIRST AID- Tues-

2. BISCI IN201- TBD. We

3. EVITP Electric Vehicle-

5. Master License Prep-

6. Conduit Bending- Thurs-

7. Instrumentation Part B-

8. OSHA 30- Wednesdays:

Will there be a code update

There is a \$50 fee to hold

BE SURE TO KEEP BEN-

get the EVITP training.

CONTRACTOR OF THE OTHER

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

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www. gtrcf.org/scholarships/ . Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. 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!

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

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

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

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

(New address Michigan Pen-(Continued next column) and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing may soon have calls getting into Book II if you are looking to travel. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

– In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW.

Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to build a higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations. If you know any unrepresented workers in our industry, please reach out to them and share your experiences as an IBEW member. There is a pathway to the IBEW available to all workers in our industry.

Organizers have recently been involved in multiple career day and similar events across our jurisdiction, including Cheboygan, West Branch, Mio, Tawas, (Continued on Page 12)

Local 498, con't

sion and Health Plan) TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917 NEBF 1-301-556-4300 NEAP 1-301-556-4300 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES. Jan 1, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.

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

Please remember it's your responsibility to pay 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. 2# at the banquet, Apprentice Craig Walk was presented with the IBEW Life Saving Award. This award was presented and then Craig received a standing ovation from the attendees. Well done Brother Walk.

Just a reminder that we are entering into negotiations this month on the Inside agreement. The team (Hogan, Monroe, Zar, Gauthier and Koerschner) are preparing the list of improvements needed and are also looking for other suggestions from the membership. We have received numerous replies so far but there is still time to add more. Feel free to contact any member of the committee with your suggestion.

One additional note on the contract. We will not be putting in a clause to limit the Business Managers age to 62 and younger as one person suggested.

A reminder to all that beginning January 1st the monthly dues will increase to \$45. This increase was acted upon and passed at the International Convention in May. Please make sure you inform the service or person paying the dues of this change.

Reminder monthly dues are now \$45.00. Please make timely dues payments to avoid any lapse in death benefits.

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

If you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. Ibew906@gmail.com

"Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody."

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807 - 1882)

"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever."

-Margaret Cho,

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

Pheasant for Life Hunt: There will be a Pheasant Hunt on March 11, 2023 at Ringneck Ranch, 14904 Hanover Rd., Hanover, MI 49241 beginning between 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$150 per person. If a dog is needed the cost is \$80 plus guide tip. Bird cleaning is \$3 per bird if desired. Deposit of \$50 is due by February 15th. Deposits can be accepted via cash, check (made out to Joseph Jarecki), or Venmo (@Joseph-Jarecki-2). Cash and checks can be dropped off at the Union Hall or JATC. Food, pop, and water will be provided, along with one raffle ticket for each hunter. BYOB, no alcohol can be consumed or out until all firearms are put away. Equipment needed is orange vest, proper clothing for the weather, and boots. Steel shot is preferred, but lead is allowed. Contact Joe Jarecki for more information at (734) 770-5114 or joejarecki4@gmail.com.

M.U.S.T DRUG TEST-ING: 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. Phone no. (517) 306-0144. AT&T Discount: Union

members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo.

first quarter dues (January thru March) are due now. **Payments** for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 31, 2023.

3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are near-(Continued on Page 12)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com



Voluntary union recognition is starting to become a thing among U.S. employers

By Aurelia Glass American Prospect

From minor league baseball to Microsoft, businesses in a range of industries are respecting their workers' right to come together in unions.

In recent years, a surge in worker organizing across the country has coincided with unions achieving levels of popular support not reached in decades. A growing number of businesses are now recognizing that their workers want unions workers in intense union election campaigns.

At the same time, since the Biden Administration assumed office in January 2021, voluntary recognition – a process in which a company recognizes a union rather than forcing an election to prove the union has the support of a majority of its workers – has become increasingly common in several industries.

The growing popularity of voluntary recognition demon-

and are opting out of fighting strates that more businesses are accepting their workers' desire to unionize. The voluntary recognition process allows worker organizers to overcome a major obstacle to winning a union.

In a typical union selection process, anti-union corporations can exploit long-standing flaws in American labor law to stack the deck against workers. Even after winning a union, workers still face a long road to reaching a first contract.

While the surge in voluntary



Measure twice, cut once

TAKING THE MEASURE of a sheet of plywood at the Tom Izzo Football Building project on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing is Drew Jansma of Carpenters Local 100. Drew is employed by Granger.



IBEW Local 692

(Continued from Page 11) and the Greater Bay region. For the second consecutive event, IBEW Local 692 was voted Most *Engaging Exhibitor* by area high school students attending Mi-CareerQuest Middle Michigan's talent pipeline exhibit held at SVSU's Ryder Center.

We'd like to thank our apprentices who volunteered to work our booth, offering students a unique and memorable handson experience learning about our trade

If you'd like to register on any other IBEW Local out-ofwork lists, please reach out to the hall for details on which locals accept fax or email registration. There are currently 95 open calls throughout the Sixth District (Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin) and an additional 650 unfilled calls for manpower elsewhere nationwide.

pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied. 2023 Dues: **Monthly \$45.20** Quarterly \$135.60 6 months \$271.20

To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current. Retirees Lunch. The next retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM

on Thursday, February 16 at The

Bier Garten, located at 8 State

RENEW committee to increase

younger members' involvement

in their local union. If you are

a member in good standing, 35

years old or younger and would

like to participate in 692's RE-

NEW committee, please contact

Cody (989.600.4643) for more

information. RENEW meetings

are held once a month following

our general membership meet-

be holding their second annual

Brotherhood on the Bay fishing

tournament on Saturday, Febru-

ary 25th. The cost of the event is

a \$20 entry fee which includes a

fish dinner at the hall that eve-

ning. Registration is 5:30am to

6:30am at the hall the morning

The Renew committee will

ing.

RENEW. It is the goal of the

Park Drive in Bay City.

Yearly \$542.40

of, or you can pre-register by contacting Cody Raymond. Fried walleye dinner at 5:30pm final weigh in at 6:30pm. Cash prizes for heaviest perch and walleye along with pull tabs and door prizes. All IBEW members are welcome, guests can pay to eat. We hope to see as many folks as possible show up to support the next generation of electrical workers.

Fringe Benefits. REMIND-ER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obrecognition is encouraging, congressional action and increased funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to past peak levels are necessary to further secure workers' rights. In the meantime, voluntary recognition offers businesses the chance to build more constructive relationships with worker organizers and respect their workers' right to speak up for themselves on the

Because anti-union corporations often manipulate or violate federal labor law to their advantage, workers frequently face an uphill battle when forming a union in the United States.

job.

Organizers must demonstrate that a majority of their colleagues support the union as their legal representative, most commonly by winning a formal election – a lengthy process that offers many opportunities for corporations to undermine workers.

For example, the alleged anti-union activities of Starbucks and Amazon have been widely publicized, but they are only the most prominent recent examples of widespread union-busting practices.

Corporations have a range of lawful options for pressuring their workers into voting against unionization or delaying the election process, such as holding socalled captive audience meetings where corporations force their workers to listen to arguments that claim voting for a union will jeopardize the business and their jobs.

Furthermore, illegal activity is rampant; in 2016 and 2017, U.S. employers were charged with breaking federal labor law in 41.5 percent of union election campaigns. The NLRB, tasked with enforcing the law, remains underfunded from its peak funding level, and lawbreaking employers face

Even when the agency finds that a corporation illegally fired workers in retaliation for organizing, the agency cannot collect penalties or compensatory damages; it may only require reinstatement and payment of back wages and some consequential damages, such as medical expenses due to loss of health insurance, minus deductions for wages the worker earned in the meantime.

As a result, many organizers wait to trigger an election until they have already secured a margin of 70 percent support or more because they fear that these employers' tactics will intimidate workers into changing their vote. The success of these union-busting tactics means that, although 71 percent of Americans support unions as of 2022 - the highest level in more than half a century unionization rates remain at only 10.3 percent as of 2021, making pro-worker measures crucial for workers' rights.



District Council 1M

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

DC1M FACEBOOK: www. facebook.com/iupat1m

DC

1 M



please contact GONZALEZ the DC1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI of the GREAT LAKES **INSTRUCTOR POSITION.** FTI of the Great Lakes is looking for a part time Glazing instructor at our Lansing Training Center. Anyone interested should submit their resume to Shawn O'Neill at dot@iupatdcm.org or (517) 304-4425

PAINTERS DISTRICT **COUNCIL 1M SMART** PHONE APP

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

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID go 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

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 Acker-

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep - Fred Frederickson Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

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

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: 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.



few consequences.

Agents are always available via cell if you have any questions or concerns

Brian Klele 989.252.9225 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. PLEASE NOTE: The Delegates of the 40th **IBEW** International Convention held in May of 2022 approved a per capita increase of \$2.00 as well as a \$2.00 increase paid into the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF).

Therefore, effective January 1, 2023, monthly dues will increase to **\$45.20** per month.

If you have automatic bill



IBEW Local 131 Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

(Continued from Page 11) ing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications.

The Work Outlook continues to be steady. Pfizer is adding men, looks like a shut down in February. Should last a couple weeks. Moore, Hitech, KEI all have crews working on site. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome looks to be a summer project. Moore Electric is working on the New Justice Facility. Abbott labs in Sturgis is in the planning stage for an expansion, hopefully by summer we will have work there. Nitro Electric has work coming at the Vicksburg High School.

Food Drive: Please help the local collect food for the local food pantry Twelve Baskets. Cans, boxes of nonperishable food can be brought to the Hall. We will even take monetary donations. Please come and help.

Collection will be done during February.

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

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

Have you received a letter from TIC concerning a recent data security incident? The Member data was compromised on March 30, 2022. Please sign up for identity monitoring services with KROLL. In your letter there is a membership number. If you misplaced your letter Call TIC at 517-321-7502.

Check out the Local 131 website. Christine has done a fantastic job organizing it. Job listings can be tracked. A recorded message of calls for employment will be available after 5:00PM by calling (269) 382-1762 and posted on the tained from the hall.

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

Important links & num-

bers **IBEW Local 692** 989-684-4510 www.ibew692.org Health Plan 517-321-7502 www.mielectricalhealth.org Michigan Pension Fund 517-321-7502 www.michiganelectrical.org First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box" NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300IO Pension: 202-833-7000

This includes passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would outlaw much of this union-busting behavior from corporations.

However, pro-worker businesses can adopt alternatives to the contentious election process - voluntary recognition and neutrality agreements – to opt out of the scorched-earth campaign against a union election. The voluntary recognition process is a long-held legal means of demonstrating majority support for a union as a bargaining representative. Once a majority of workers have signed cards authorizing the union to represent them, a business can choose to recognize their union without forcing organizers to petition the NLRB for an election.

Under a neutrality agreement, businesses agree not to engage in typical anti-union practices such as forcing workers to listen to anti-union arguments from management. These alternatives – which are features of other nations' labor organizing systems, including in several Canadian provinces - offer a path for workers to win unions with a far less bitter campaign.

In addition to strengthening the economy by raising wages for workers, unions can benefit business. Researchers have long observed that unions boost worker productivity by reducing turnover. In addition, unions play an important role in reducing inequality and improve workers' earnings. They also promote strong worker protections and safer workplaces, which in turn promotes public health.

be reported to the Union office, please do so



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN - The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 7, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

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 Bylaws

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

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

"There are some defeats more triumphant than victories. -Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592)

"There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

– Freya Madeline Stark

"We can draw lessons from the past, but we cannot live in it.

– Lyndon B. Johnson (1908 - 1973)

Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

WARREN-Our next scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6pm. Please attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member id printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it all has a digital copy of your union card.

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

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

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

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-066; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

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

job call will list the name of the employer and the number of employees needed. The Union business office will offer all the

work calls available at the time of the job offer. Any registrants that are interested in a call may either apply in person at the union business office between 8:00AM and 8:30AM OR leave a message on the recorder, stat-

ing they wish to apply for a job

website under Job Listings. The

call In the Members Login section, you can pay your dues, under the Information Center you can find the Contract, Bylaws, Wage sheet and access to Journeyman classes. There is a tab called Benefits Information. You can find health plan and retirement information and useful links

All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab. If you hear of anyone's passing, please notify the Hall.

 Morris Applebey, Business Manager



Local 80 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

SUB FUND TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: At the Feb. 28, 2023 union meeting we will be taking nominations for a Sub Fund Trustee.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2023 at 5 pm *Notice date change* Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00,



unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours. **RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE:** The 2023 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: Feb. 20, April 17, June 19, Aug. 21, Oct. 16, (Holiday Party) and Dec. 183. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact

Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. **RETIREE NEWS**: Retiree lapel pins with TIM the SMWIA logo are available to all members

MULLIGAN of the Local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the

general membership meeting schedule above. WAGE ALLOCATION: We will be voting on this year's wage allocation at the April union meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dennis Marentette! Dennis retired from Local 80 on February 10, 2323. He joined the local in 1990, became a part time instructor in 1996 and moved to full time on June 1, 2012. We wish you the best!

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

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

CONDOLENCES: Retired member, Steven Gottschling passed away on Jan.29, 2023 at the age of 69. Our condolences go out to his family.

Our condolences go out to Business Manager Tim Mulligan and family. Tim's mother passed away at the age of 85 Feb. 4, 2023. Barbara Mulligan was also the grandmother to member Sean Mulligan.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Javen Borgula, James Carter, John Styles, Edward Ballach, Kevin Stuss, Darwin Brotherton, Richard Basile, Andre Plave, Harold Hamilton, James Walker, Scott Denver, Marc Fornell, Mikel Ogden, Thomas Laskowski, Brian Armstrong, David Clay, Joseph Duffiney, Eric Alvarado, Charles Adams, Tim Willis, Christopher Peltier, Lawrence Schattmaier, Kevin Driscoll, Robert Carlson, Robert Bauer, William Marsh, Michael Flora, Robert Augugliaro, Jeff Czerwinski and Karl Williams.

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 IN-SURANCE 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 \$7,500.00. 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 member's 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.



Local 292 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY - MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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

The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on February 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the



GUALDONI

"links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your **Password** is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall. **DUES**: Membership dues are required to be

paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are

60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments

received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Applications are being accepted for the Sheet Metal Scholarship program. Eligibility requires that an applicant be an active member, a covered employee, or a dependent spouse or child under the age of 25 of a member or covered employee. The applicant must also be a full-time student or be accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college or university. Obtain an "Application Request Form" by visiting https://smart-union.org/ why-join-smart/scholarships/sheet-metal-scholarship-programs/ click on the "Sheet Metal Scholarships" tab to download the form or call 202-662-0858 to request the application form by mail.

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

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

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

Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292. com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list. Please join us for lunch, great conversations and story telling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!! Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292. com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or www. LifeAdvisorEAP.com for completely confidential assistance. Ulliance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Services are of no cost to active members and their dependents. SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.



Local 7 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

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

- *Zone 1 March 9th at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 2 March 21st at 6:00 p.m.
- *Zone 3 March 8th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)
- *Zone 3 March 16th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

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

NEWS: Local No. 7 – Union Hoodies available through the Lansing office for \$44.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Red

with White logo. Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.



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

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, SAM which means more money and work for you. Make FULLER sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract

outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelitscanitreport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

ZONE 1 Info. Work has been steady as we head into winter and looks to remain this way as we go into spring. If you become unemployed, please update your status with James or Eric (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or James for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

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

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

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify James or Eric of any changes or additions you would like) - In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington

ZONE 2 Info: Zone 2 work has been steady as we head through winter and looking to remain that way as we go into spring. Always remember dues payments are due prior to the first of the month. As a reminder, always call in to the Business Agent when traveling to another Zone or a different Local it is the member's responsibility to do so. As always work safe and thank you, Mike Adams

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area still remains slow but other areas are starting to have calls for manpower, please be ready to go when called. If anyone needs journeyman upgrading classes please contact the training center. Everyone should be receiving a post card from Sasmi about work boot reimbursement up to \$275.00, please read or go to Sasmi website for more information. Also don't forget about getting your physicals this year. RETIREES' Next retiree meeting is March 28 at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. Hope to see all retirees there. Thank you, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting will be March 16 at 6pm at the Mill Pond Event Center. Work is still steady across the area, and it is looking to be a busy summer. We are looking for a lot of new people to join our trade in the coming years, if you know anyone interested, please have them call me. Go to www.ourbenefitoffice/smw7-3.com or SASMI.org and sign up if you haven't done so. The SASMI benefit for July 1 – Dec. 31, 2022 is under 750 hours. If there are any questions on the new yearly physical requirement contact me. - In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

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

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

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

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. 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 biannually: March 1-20 and Sept. 1-20. 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 lavoff. 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 (Continued next column)

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

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

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

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

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on February11th & 18th. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

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

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

Local 80 cont'd

documentation that it was weather related.

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

General Election Nominations: May 23, 2023 General Election Vote: June 27, 2023 Golf Outing: July 15, 2023 **Picnic:** August 12, 2023

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 area is staying pretty steady. Anyone interested in travel don't hesitate to call me. Your Brother, **Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work around the U.P. is steady with more work opening up in the near future. The next Retirees meeting will be held May 2023 time and place to be announced at a later date. Thank you **Greg Faust**

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: SASMI benefits for period 2022A - Hours are from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022. You must have worked under 600 hours in that time and have been a member in good standing to qualify. Please contact your Business Agent to apply.

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

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

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI 48910-517-882-4064

Local 7 Officers:

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

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223 James Callahan (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200 Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752 Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095 John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112 Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552





IRON WORKER Bob Aulbert works in the upper reaches of the entrance to what will be the Tom Izzo Football Building at Michigan State University in East Lansing. The Local 25 member is employed by Sterling Erectors.

Local 25

Iron Workers



Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – February's Union meeting will be Monday, February 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open. This will be the 2nd Reading of the **BY-LAW Proposals submitted 1/30/2023.**

The third (3rd) Reading will be during March's Union meeting Monday March 27, 2023, with the Vote date TBD.

Considering this is an Officer Election year, please be sure we have your current address on file at the Novi Hall. If you have moved recently and/or are unsure of the address we have, please call the Hall to double check (248-344-9494).

Steward meeting(s): The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, February 13, at 6:30 pm. The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, February 23, at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

Stewards' Notes: 1) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website www.ironworkers25.org. LOG-IN DIREC-TIONS will follow once you click the link that reads "Electronic Steward Reports." These forms qualifications and requirements located in the members section on the ironworkers25.org website. **The deadline to turn in resumes** will be FRIDAY March 17th, 2023 @ 2pm.

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

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

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule. The 2022 Raising Gang Training schedule is on the website. Please call the school to make up days efit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next openenrollment period (April 1-April 30).

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Novi Chapter Retirees meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 am in Novi. The Board of Directors will meet Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Future meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

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

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

Local 25 Retirees' Club Scholarship available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school. Retiree must have a minimum of five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their annual club dues to be eligible and apply. Contact John Miller: text/ call (734) 812-8036 or email jlmillertime50@yahoo.com. (NEW) Dial 988 for help in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 988 connects cell phones & land lines to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available - its free & confidential. Alternately 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255). **Check out Suicide Preven**tion Resources on IMPACT: http://www.impact-net.org/ safety/suicide-prevention-resources. US Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment. In Memory: David R. Jones #1289898 passed away on January 22, 2023 at the age of 60. Kari Renee Larkin passed away January 25, 2023 at the age of 48. She was the wife of JIW Jeffrey Larkin #1270822. Donna Marie Dutchak passed away December 9, 2022. She was the wife of Tim Dutchak #1235300. For-(Continued next column)

Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36 Bujan Picnic Cor DETROIT – ALL MEM- (586) 787-114.

BERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY February 27, 2023, at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Attention All Members, your Dues statement will be sent out this week, please bring in or send a copy of your W-2 with the dues statement to the Hall by March 31, 2023. You do not have to wait till the end of March to bring in your W-2s.

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

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

I sent out an email about mandatory continuing education (ARTICLE XIX Par.6) for Mechanics passing the Mechanics exam on or after July 9, 2022, anyone who passed before July 9, 2022, this is optional. If you have any questions about this, you can contact the hall.

The picnic was approved on January 23, 2023, at the membership meeting with a cap of \$80 per member. We need volunteers for a picnic committee to ensure we have a great picnic this year. We will meet every month before the Executive board meeting, first meeting being February 20, 2023. If you would like to volunteer, please call the hall, or contact Jon Bujan Picnic Committee Chair @ (586) 787-114.

If you are not getting 40 hours a week, call the Hall and let us know. We want to make sure our members are getting their hours before travelers come in to do the work.

Once again, I can't stress enough how important it is to get your licenses when you are eligible to take the test. Michigan is one of very few states that have licensing to be able to work on elevators and without that any Joe Blow could do our jobs. Getting your licenses, following the codes, and doing it the right way helps preserve our work.

Attention all members who took advantage of the Code Outreach classes and Code Tabbing classes, Brother Scott Hultstrom is tentatively planning on retiring in March, he has been instrumental in helping all of you take and pass the State of Michigan test with these classes and we would like to show our appreciation from Local 36. We would like to get a collection together to give him a nice retirement gift for all his hard work and dedication putting on all these classes. You can drop off any donations to the Hall. The EIWPF code outreach and tabbing classes have been cancelled for the time being and they will be finding a replacement for Brother Hultstrom. I will send out an email when this information is available.

If anyone is interested in QEI training, please call the Hall so we can build a potential class list, we need a few more guys to host it locally. Call the hall if you need more information.

Local 36

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

ATTENTION ALL RETIR-EES, if you requested an Honorary Card in the past year, please contact the Hall. We have multiple cards at the Hall, but we don't have updated numbers or emails to be able to contact you. We can make arrangements to get it to you if you can't make it to a meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, Classes started the week of January 30, 2023, if you haven't been contacted or know what day your class is please call the hall. We would like to thank all Apprentices for their hard work and turning in your OJTs in a timely manner, attendance in class and doing make up classes, this has NOT gone unrecognized. Check your NEIEP emails frequently for any additional information. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9^{th} day of the following month. There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement MUST be signed by the end of each month. If you can't make the union meeting to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the next morning.

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

Be safe and stay healthy!



WE ASKED IRON WORKERS Dave Hawkins and David LaManque to pause for a photo while walking through what will be the new weight room at the Tom Izzo Football Building at Michigan State University. The Local 25 members are employed by Sterling Erectors.



Law Offices of Ezra N. Goldman P.C.

are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so. 2) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOM-ERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING.

3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current. 4) Doby/Travel Service Dues are \$10.00 per week.

HRA UPDATE: Your welcome letter has been mailed along with your HRA card. After an intense programming start-up; the HRA Program is effective February 1, 2023. You will receive your balance on the February statement. We will have a zoom meeting in the near future, strictly to cover HRA information. We will let your now once a date is set. Any Questions please call your Business Agent or the Novi Hall.

The 2023 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available. All COMPLETED applications must be turned in by March 15, 2023. Call the Novi Union Hall 248-344-9494 to get one mailed or E-mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

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

.... Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.

The Ironworkers Local 25 APP & Website: Members are able to access the log-in section and can sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website (www. ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.

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

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

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Ben-

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#893176 passed away January 30, 2023 at the age of 70. He was a 37-year member.

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

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Feb 6, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.).-





2023 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

Aiello Law Group has just released our 2023 Construction Worker's Daily Logbook in both a print and digital version! We have provided logbooks to Michigan's building trades for over 30 years.

The traditional paper version can be picked up in our office, your union hall, the Building Trades office at 1640 Porter in Detroit, or can be mailed directly to you by giving us a call at (313) 964-4900. The digital version can be found in the App Store for Apple or Google Play for Android. Simply search for "Aiello Daily Logbook."







A BLOCK WALL is placed at the Tom Izzo Football Building through the efforts of (I-r) Laborers Local 499 member Joseph Dorty and Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2's Mike Early. They're employed by Schiffer Mason Contractors.

Revamped 'Tom Izzo' facility will be a haven for MSU football

(Continued from Page 1) began last July, and has been progressing according to plan.

"We're very pleased with the work we've seen from Granger, they've been an incredible partner," Marinez said. "Their people have been moving with quite a bit of speed – this is a place with different athletic season constraints and we have a window of time that we're working with."

The completed project will also result in a new name on the building: the Tom Izzo Football Building, named after MSU's head basketball coach at the behest of project donor Matt Ishiba, a former MSU basketball player and president and CEO of United Wholesale Mortgage.

"This facility will show the commitment to excellence that we have for our student-athletes and our football program," Izzo told The Spartan Fund. "This is an important facility for Michigan State athletics and it will put us in the company of some of the best in the nation, and that's where we expect to be. The impact this building will have on our football program will be felt for a long time at Michigan State."

MSU head football coach Mel Tucker said the facilities "show a commitment to excellence. We're competing and recruiting at a high level and a lot of competition is about comparison. We have players that are comparing our campus and our facilities and our staff to the other top programs in the country, so we want to have the best facilities for our players."

MSU said the original building, erected in 1980, is undersized by about 40 percent compared to similar facilities in the Big Ten Conference and elsewhere. Marinez said about 95 percent of the existing structure will be demolished and replaced.

Designers of the new space had to take much into consideration with this renovation and two-story addition. The first level includes an expanded weight room a sports medicine suite.

The north end of the space will house sports science, training and cardio equipment with a new custom-built sprint ramp to the second level.

The second level will also have a weight room, with a sound isolating slab below the equipment.

The Spartan media team will be housed in a new suite at the north end of the addition. The heart of the new facility is a stateof-the-art locker room suite with 131 custom lockers. Athletes will get a new glass enclosed hot/cold recovery pool, and a new equipment room will be designed for improved storage and ease of use.

A "recruiting corridor" will feature what the university calls "wow" space to impress athletic recruits, and a recruiting room is intended to be the football administration's "war room," a large conference room will have floor to ceiling magnet marker boards and the latest conference technology. A new second-floor lounge is intended to provide players an escape from their daily regimens.

The south entry will act as the newly renovated public entrance to the building, which will feature public exhibits, a 20-foot-tall video board and banquet space.

"Top to bottom," Marinez said, "we wanted to improve everything on site for our student athletes, with room for equipment, weights, gathering space, nutrition. We took a look at how we wanted to operate, and made sure that every dollar we're spending here is devoted to the well-being and care of our student-athletes."

A RENDERING OF THE completed Tom Izzo Football Building on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. *Credit: The Spartan Fund*

NLRB jolt broadens potential awards for illegally fired workers

(Continued from Page 1) workers. In one case, involving Musicians Local 21 in San Antonio, the majority, as directed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C., reversed an anti-worker ruling from the former Trumpnamed Republican board majority.

The big deal that could put more money in workers' pockets came from a case originating in Northern California in 2021, after Thryv, Inc., a marketer of Yellow Pages ads, unilaterally laid off its six outside sales reps, members of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1269 of San Francisco, almost two years before.

The union tried to bargain against the layoffs, and then against their effects. Thryv didn't give Local 1269 the information it needed to do so, the board's administrative law judge ruled, and the NLRB agreed. But the board majority used the Thryv case to seek briefs to clarify what the "make-whole" remedy for labor law-breaking should be.

Until now, it's only been net back pay. Now it's going to be a lot more. Reaching back to individual cases in 1938, 1941 and 1955 where NLRBs said all expenses illegally fired workers incurred should be counted, the board made that the rule.

"Upon careful consideration of our remedial authority and our history of addressing the effects of unfair labor practices, we find that standardizing our makewhole relief to expressly include the direct or foreseeable pecuniary harms suffered by affected employees is necessary to more fully effectuate the make-whole

purposes" of labor law, McFerran wrote.

After all, she pointed out "make-whole" is in section 10 of the National Labor Relations Act to produce "restoration of the situation, as nearly as possible, to that which would have obtained but for the illegal discrimination" against the unionists by their bosses.

Just as happens now, the board will have specify how much each worker is owed, and the NLRB's administrative law judge must hold a hearing on those figures, and let the boss contest them. But McFerran also indicated, deep in the decision, that the board might not stop with making the workers whole for all their expenses.

"We emphasize we do not conclude this reflects the limits of the board's statutory remedial authority or that some other form of make-whole relief might not" be ordered, she said.

The so-called National Federation of Independent Business, a key cog of the radical right, posted a reaction on its website. It said it filed a brief with the NLRB arguing the board should stick only to net back pay, which unions point out is minimal and doesn't deter labor law-breakers. "The act does not authorize 'consequential damages,'" the lobby declared.

One of the other two cases pitted "contractors," the musicians of the San Antonio Symphony, members of AFM Local 21, against the bosses of the Tobin Center, the hall the symphony rents. That technically made the musicians "contractors." In a 2017 contract fight, the musicians leafletted Tobin Center attendees outside the hall until the bosses called the cops, who threatened to arrest the unionists for leafleting there. The center won a ban on such leafleting when three Trump nominees controlled the NLRB, but Local 21 went to the appeals court in D.C. It ruled in their favor, finding the Trump majority's reasoning violated the National Labor Relations Act.

By the time the judges sent the case back to the NLRB for a second try, the board's lineup had changed and Local 21 – and "contractors" in general, the board said – re-won their right to leaflet, too. That included informational picketing or similar demonstrations on a public sidewalk.

The other case, involving Operating Engineers Local 139, saw the board majority reaffirm a 1964 NLRB decision cracking down on the "inherent danger of coercion" when bosses question workers as bosses prepare to defend themselves against labor law-breaking complaints. Again, the two Republicans said bosses do nothing wrong.

"The employer must communicate to the employee the purpose of the questioning, assure that no reprisal will take place, and obtain participation on a voluntary basis," the three-member board majority ruled. Bosses "must not be hostile to union organization and questioning...must not be itself coercive in nature. Questions must not exceed...the legitimate purpose by prying into other union matters."

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<u>Outdoors</u> U.P.'s wolf population is steady



(From the Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

Wildlife biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on Jan. 17 released their findings of the latest Michigan gray wolf survey.

The survey, conducted in early 2022, shows the wolf population in the Upper Peninsula remains stable, as it has for more than a decade

"These results show a continued trend of statistical stability, indicating that gray wolves may have reached their biological carrying capacity within the Upper Peninsula," said Cody Norton, the DNR's wolf specialist. "Wolf presence has only been confirmed twice genetically in the Lower Peninsula in recent times; in 2004 and 2014."

The survey, which is conducted every other winter, covers the U.P., including Drummond, Neebish and Sugar islands, with Isle Royale excluded. The wolves on Isle Royale are managed by the National Park Service.

Completing analysis of the field data collected during the DNR's 2022 wolf survey was delayed during the past year as wildlife biologists focused on updating the state's Wolf Management Plan.

The plan was updated using all pertinent social and biological scientific knowledge on wolves to date.

The minimum wolf population estimate from the 2022 survey is 631 wolves, plus or minus 49 wolves. A total of 136 packs was estimated with an average number of individuals per pack calculated at 4.5.

"Our minimum wolf population estimate is not statistically different from the last estimate in 2020," Norton said. "All of the estimates since 2011 have not differed statistically."

However, wolf density appears to have shifted over time. "The density of wolves may have decreased in some areas of the west U.P. and increased in some parts of the east U.P.," DNR wildlife biologist Brian



A GRAY WOLF is shown in Marquette County. The wolf population in the Upper Peninsula has been steady in recent years, and is virtually non-existent in the Lower Peninsula.

Roell said.

This may be linked to significant winter weather events during 2013-2015, which greatly reduced deer densities in mid- and high-snowfall zones of the region.

Trending results. The wolf population in the U.P. showed mostly steady growth from 1989 to 2011. From 1994 to 2007, the population grew at an average annual rate of 19 percent. From 2003 to 2007, the average annual growth rate was 12 percent.

The growth rate was expected to decline as the population moved toward the maximum level the U.P. can sustain.

Since 2011, the minimum estimate for the wolf population has remained stable ranging from 618 to 695. A minimum of estimate of 695 wolves occurred in the U.P. during the winter of 2020.

Lower Peninsula. In October 2004, a wolf that had been captured and radio-collared in the eastern U.P. was captured and killed by a coyote trapper in Presque Isle County of the northern Lower Peninsula. This event represented the first

verification of a wild wolf in the Lower Peninsula in at least 69 years. However, winter track surveys during 2005-2010 failed to indicate the presence of any wolves in the L.P.

In 2014, biologists from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians captured what appeared to be a wolf on a trail camera and were able to collect a scat sample. DNA analysis of the scat confirmed that the animal was a wolf. Although it is possible that wolves occur in the LP, but as of January 2023, no wolves are known to exist there.

New dashboard. The DNR has produced a new online dashboard, making incidence of wolfdog conflicts more accessible for viewers. The dashboard includes mapped data points of conflicts and a database of incidents over many years.

The improvement in presenting the data was suggested during meetings in 2022 of the Wolf Management Advisory Council and sections of the recently update Michigan Wolf Management Plan. Changing legal status. The

legal status of wolves at both the federal and state level has changed several times, which impacts the ability of all agencies to manage wolves. Regardless of changes in legal status, wolves in Michigan have surpassed federal and state population recovery goals for 22 years.

Gray wolves are currently on the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Consequently, they cannot be killed legally unless in defense of human life.

Regardless of the federal listing status, the Michigan DNR will continue to have management responsibility for wolves in the state. It is the regulatory authority over lethal take of wolves that varies with the changing status of wolves.

Implementing some portions of the Michigan Wolf Management Plan are curtailed given the federally endangered legal status of wolves.

Find out more about wolves and the Michigan Wolf Management Plan at Michigan.gov/ Wolves.

DNR's winter free fishing weekend begins Feb. 18

Get outdoors and enjoy time with family and friends during winter Free Fishing Weekend in Michigan, Feb. 18-19. On those two days, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though

all other fishing regulations still

apply. During this weekend, the Michigan DNR will waive the regular Recreation Passport entry fee that grants vehicle access to Michigan's 103 state parks and nearly



MDNR photo

1,100 DNR-managed boating access sites.

Michigan has been celebrating Free Fishing Weekend every year since 1986 to promote awareness of the finest fishing Michigan has to offer and the state's vast aquatic resources. With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams and 11,000 inland lakes, Michigan and fishing are a perfect match.

Give snowy owls some space

Each winter, Michiganders get a chance to glimpse the large, magnificent snowy owl – and this species' appearance across the state attracts a lot of attention.

However, it's important to remember that winter tends to be a stressful time for birds like the snowy owl.

Snowy owls spend most of their year in the Arctic tundra, far away from humans and urban landscapes. When they travel to populated areas in the winter, these new places present unfamiliar threats like curious humans, rodent poison, and vehicle and power line collisions.

Moreover, they often do not display signs of fear toward humans. This can sometimes get them into harmful situations.

Keep the best interests of these majestic creatures in mind. Here are a few quick tips for viewing snowy owls to keep them stress-free and safe:

Give snowy owls space. A good rule of thumb is to view wildlife from a distance, using binoculars or a scope, rather than approaching. If you "flush" an owl, or cause it to move to a new area, you are too close and need to back away or leave. Even if the bird doesn't seem to display signs of fear, it can still be scared and stressed by your presence.



A SNOWY OWL. Credit: Wikipedia Commons

Don't lure owls with audio recordings. While it might be tempting to use audio recordings to attract snowy owls closer to you, hearing another owl's call – even a recorded one – can be stressful for the bird. Snowy owls are solitary and territorial, and the call of another bird can put them on high alert.

Leave "live baiting" to the pros. Scientists and wildlife rehabbers use live bait like mice to entice owls for banding, relocation and rehabilitation. However, this practice can be dangerous for owls when it's done by photographers, birders, or others.

Baited owls learn to associate people with food, and may be drawn to dangerous places – like roads or airports – to find humans.

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