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SHORT CUTS



Primary election set for Tuesday, Aug. 5

With the state's Tuesday, Aug. 5 primary election less than one month away, absentee ballots will soon be in the hands of the state's voters.

The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local councils have compiled on Page 4 a limited list of endorsed candidates for the primary.

Judge restores union rights, for now

SAN FRANCISCO – A federal judge on June 24 restored collective bargaining rights that were taken away from 1 million federal workers by an executive order from President Trump.

But the ruling may be short lived. Trump has claimed that he revoked union rights for those workers because the collective bargaining agreements are a threat to national security.

U.S. District Judge James Donato, an appointee of President Obama, issued a permanent national injunction against Trump's order, saying the union challenges, led by the American Federation of Government Employees, would likely win on their merits.

"President Trump revoked our members' union rights in retaliation for our advocacy on behalf of federal workers and the American people, and we are grateful Judge Donato saw through his disingenuous 'national security' justification and has ordered the immediate restoration of their rights," said Government Employees (AFGE) President Everett Kelley.

"Federal employees have had the right to join a union and bargain collectively for decades... At no time have employees' union rights caused concern for our national security. Revoking these rights was clearly a retaliatory attempt to bust federal unions and wreak havoc on our nation's workforce and the services they provide to the American people," Kelley, a veteran, declared.

By killing the contracts, Trump opened the way for a return to the 1880s-era "spoils system" where workers could be hired and fired based on party ties.

"We are thrilled to see the court block Trump's executive order – an action that was in explicit retaliation against federal workers' unions exercising their First Amendment rights to challenge the administration's attacks on their members," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "This fight is far from over, but federal workers, the labor movement and our allies have notched an essential victory."

The fight is far from over because Donato's decision conflicts with a Washington, D.C., Court of Appeals decision, which lifted another federal judge's block of Trump's executive order.

And likely, a U.S. Supreme Court decision awaits in this matter – and a majority of Supremes have consistently sided with the president in a number of cases.

Donato wrote Trump issued the order, which was challenged by six unions led by AFGE, because the unions "appear to have been deemed hostile to the president."

(Press Associates contributed)

Quotable

"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all – the apathy of human beings."

—Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)



THE GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE between Detroit (in the foreground) and Windsor, Ontario, is approaching completion – set for this fall – after seven years of construction. These photos were released in June, but show the since-removed tower cranes still in place. Construction of the bridge is being entirely funded by the government of Canada, with oversight and operations assigned to the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority. Canada will be reimbursed for the cost of construction over time via the collection of 100 percent of the bridge's tolls.

Photo credits:
Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Completion goal is oh so close for Gordie Howe Bridge

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – Five percent. That's how much work remains to complete the seven-year-long process of erecting the \$4.6 billion (U.S.) Gordie Howe Bridge spanning the Detroit River.

U.S. and Canadian tradespeople connected the middle of the bridge's 1.5-mile long main span last summer, and construction has continued on the wide variety of tasks that have remained. Not only have the trades erected the bridge deck, but the Y-shaped 722-foot-tall towers, the approach lanes connecting the span to Highway 401 in Windsor and I-75 in Detroit, and the massive "back bridge" areas (the U.S. side is about 167 acres with 13 structures).

"Still some work going on the bridge deck, the buildings are constructed but now we're focused on the interior of the buildings, a lot of paving, these are major areas where traffic is moving so a lot of paving is going on," said Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority Chief Relations Officer Heather Grondin, on June 12. "Throughout all of this, as we've always done, safety is our number one priority for our workers."

"We're not doing anything in a manner that would compromise that, and we're also ensuring that we're building to

the quality that we've committed to."

The bridge doesn't have an opening date yet, but traffic is expected to cross in the fall. "We really do have to see the progress that we're able to make on both the construction and the operational side of things over the rest of the summer," Grondin said at the Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island annual general meeting, as reported by the *Windsor Star*.

Named for Canadian and Detroit Red Wings icon Gordie

Howe, the bridge's main span is 0.53 miles in length, the longest of any cable-stayed bridge in North America and the 10th longest of its type in the world.

The latest springtime update on bridge construction from the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority outlines what building trades union workers have been up to over the past several months:

•The pair of 797-foot-tall
(Continued on Page 2)



ALL 216 STAY CABLES have been installed and stressed on the Gordie Howe Bridge. A stay cable is comprised of rope-like metal strands housed in a high-density polyethylene plastic pipe. The metal strands inside the pipe are anchored to two points – an anchor box inside the tower and an edge girder on the deck. Each stay cable on the Gordie Howe Bridge will have between 38 and 122 strands inside the HDPE pipe, totaling more than 16,000 strands. In total, the deck will be supported by 3,107 miles of cable.



MID-SPAN of the Gordie Howe Bridge.

U.P. college link bolsters apprenticeship value

ESCANABA – Leaders from across Michigan's education, labor, and workforce development sectors gathered June 25 at Bay College for a landmark event signaling a major step forward in aligning union apprenticeship programs with higher education.

The signing of the Upper Peninsula Articulation Agreement marks a first-of-its-kind effort to award advanced college credit

for registered apprentices in the union construction trades.

The agreement, formally signed during a press conference at Bay College, sets a new standard for recognizing the rigor and relevance of U.S. Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship programs. Under the terms of the agreement, apprentices who have completed a registered program will receive advanced standing to

ward an associate degree from Bay College – leaving only 15 general education credits to complete.

"Today's announcement is about recognizing the value of the skills and training that union apprentices bring to the table," said Dr. Nerita Hughes, president of Bay College. "This agreement provides a meaningful bridge between hands-on career training and academic achievement."

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Strong construction employment continues in Michigan

Construction employment in Michigan took a bit of a stumble this year at the beginning of spring, but the most recent government numbers show our state has re-established its years-long pace as one of the nation's top job-creators for Hardhats.

The job gains were strong: Michigan saw an increase of 10,400 construction jobs between

May 2024 and May 2025, pushing its total headcount up by 5.3 percent, to 205,800. That percentage gain ranked Michigan No. 9 among the states during that period. In the month between April and May 2025 alone, Michigan saw an increase in 4,300 construction jobs.

The numbers were released June 24 by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, and show that the good times in Michigan

Union history is unfolding. Let's review:

Trump's order has ended collective bargaining for 81.8% of federal workers

Editor's note: We have been reporting on the rampant union-busting by the Trump Administration. But it's worthwhile to review the historically bad behavior that's happening as we watch.

By Aurelia Glass
Policy Analyst
Center for American Progress

In spite of its claims of "putting American workers first," the Trump Administration has ended collective bargaining for four out of five federal workers represented by unions at more than a dozen federal agencies.

According to a Center for American Progress analysis of federal employment data, the Trump Administration ended collective bargaining rights for more than 1 million American workers, or nearly one out of every 15 workers nationwide covered by a union contract, via an executive order issued on March 27, 2025, and a prior decision to end collective bargaining at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

According to Georgetown University labor historian Joseph McCartin, this order is "by far the largest single action of union-

President Trump's executive order is 'by far the largest single action of union-busting in American history.'

–Georgetown

University labor historian
Joseph McCartin

busting in American history."

Federal unions today represent more than 1.3 million workers. This executive order, along with a previous Trump Administration action ending collective bargaining for TSA workers, ends collective bargaining for 81.8 percent of workers represented by federal labor unions.

Most of these workers lost their collective bargaining rights immediately after the order was issued. Although more than 39,000 U.S. Department of Transportation workers still have their rights as of the time of publication, they could lose them at any time since the order delegated the secretary of transportation to end collective bargaining at the

(Continued on Page 3)

Globally, loss of union rights 'stark and worsening,' report says

By C.J. Atkins
Managing Editor, People's World

Around the world, workers' rights are in "freefall," with the Trump Administration in the lead of a global far-right alliance that's waging a "global war on labor rights."

That's the conclusion of the latest *Global Rights Index* report from the International Trade Union Confederation, the world's largest trade union group, representing 191 million workers in 169 countries.

"We are witnessing a coup against democracy, a concerted, sustained assault by state authorities and the corporate underminers of democracy on the rights and welfare of workers," the 2025 Index says. "This attack is orchestrated by far-right demagogues backed by billionaires who are determined to reshape the world in their own interests at the expense of ordinary working people."

The *Global Rights Index* is the only comprehensive international study of the state of workers' rights and trade union freedoms. It has been produced annually since 2014. This year's edition of the report warns of a "stark and worsening global crisis for workers and unions."

While similar trends are being observed in multiple countries, the Trump Administration is clearly seen as leading the

charge, followed by politicians elsewhere. Trump, the ITUC points out, "has taken a wrecking ball to the collective labor rights of workers and brought anti-union billionaires into the heart of policymaking."

Mass layoffs of federal workers, the stripping of union protections for TSA and other federal workers, the firing of a member of the National Labor Relations Board, and other offenses by Trump all come in for heavy criticism.

The report takes an assertive class struggle approach to analyzing the erosion of democracy internationally, pinpointing

(Continued on Page 3)

They're baack – but harmless, for now. GOP revives RTW, prevailing wage repeal

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Their return was just a question of time.

Legislation to reinstate Michigan's right-to-work law and eliminate the state's Prevailing Wage Act were introduced June 24 by Republican lawmakers in the state Legislature.

State Sen. Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) is the lead sponsor of the revived right to work bill for private sector workers, the lead state Sen. Roger Hauck is the lead sponsor of the same legislation for public workers.

State Sen. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs) gets a major raspberry from the building trades, as he is the lead sponsor of legislation that would repeal the restored and improved Michigan Prevailing Wage Act. Other GOP lawmakers introduced legislation to remove prevailing wage requirements for public utility and alternative energy projects.

Reinstating prevailing wage and the elimination of the state's right-to-work laws were both done early in the short window of 2023-24 when Democrats held a trifecta of power in the state Legislature for the first time in four decades. Republicans won back a majority in the state House last November, and it was

(Continued on Page 4)

haven't necessarily been shared by other states. Associated General Contractors officials noted that "employment gains in the industry have been muted amid questions about a range of federal labor, tax and trade policies."

"Construction has been in a holding pattern for several months, with gains in a small majority of states," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist.

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Viewpoints



Union-buster-in-chief

The Trump Administration is seeking to strip collective bargaining rights from large swaths of federal employees in a test case union leaders argue is part of a broader attack on U.S. labor unions that could land before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A Trump win would deliver a severe blow to labor unions in the U.S. Some 29.9 percent of all federal workers were represented by labor unions in 2024 compared to 11.1 percent for all U.S. workers.

On March 27, Donald Trump issued an executive order, citing national security, to exempt collective bargaining at several federal departments for more than 1 million workers. Unions filed motions to dismiss the lawsuits, and have filed their own lawsuits against Trump’s executive order. Bipartisan legislation has also been introduced in the House to restore collective bargaining rights for targeted federal workers.

Rushab Sanghvi, the American Federation of Government Employees’ general counsel, expects the four cases are likely to end up in the Supreme Court. Sanghvi sees the administration’s legal action as part of a broader, authoritarian efforts against labor unions, law firms, universities and other opposition to the Trump Administration. Authoritarian governments, historically, have prioritized eliminating labor unions in consolidating power, he said.

“The stakes for the labor movement are extremely broad,” said Sanghvi. The administration is attempting to get rid of collective bargaining in the federal sector “for anyone they think will oppose them,” he said. “That’s huge for our members but it’s also huge for the labor movement as a whole because they’re not going to stop here. They are going to go further and this is just a test. If they win here, they are just going to keep going and going until they get rid of all unions.”

–From an article by Michael Santaino, “Trump’s attack on federal unions a ‘test case’ for broader assault, warn lawyers,” in *The Guardian*

...

Union response:

• “AFGE is not going to be intimidated by a bully who is throwing a temper tantrum because our union is beating them in the court of law and in the court of public opinion,” said AFGE President Everett Kelley. “Federal employees have had the right to join a union and bargain collectively for decades – through multiple wars, international conflicts, and a global health emergency during President Trump’s first term. During all that time they served the American people with honor and distinction.

“No one, including President Trump, ever suggested unions were a national security concern. Trump’s newest order to revoke union rights is a clear case of retaliation. But I’ve got news for him: we are not going anywhere.”

•AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler: “The Trump Administration’s union-busting executive order breaks federal law with an alarming and dangerous escalation of attacks on our most fundamental freedoms. This retaliation is a direct attack on the working people who make sure our food is safe to eat, care for our veterans and protect us from public health emergencies.

“But if the Trump Administration gets away with robbing federal workers of their right to collective bargaining with the stroke of a pen, it won’t stop there. This illegal executive order is a threat to every union, every contract, and the freedom for every single person to organize on the job and speak up for themselves and their co-workers.”

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

Gordie Howe Bridge completion oh so close

(Continued from Page 1)

tower cranes were separately disassembled in a 35-hour process over three days in May (Canadian side) and then mid-June (U.S. side). In a process that began with their initial assembly in 2020, they climbed throughout the process of constructing the towers. They were removed in sections with the use of a 600-ton

crawler crane fitted with a boom length of 541 feet

Throughout construction, the tower cranes were used to lift heavy materials such as rebar, formwork, anchor boxes and all 216 stay cables.

•The bridge deck’s concrete paving is complete.

•All 216 stay cables have been installed and stressed, and

protective finishes have been applied to the stay cables.

•A multi-use path on the east edge of the span will allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross the bridge toll-free, will also be separated from vehicular traffic by a concrete barrier.

•Ongoing tasks include electrical work, drainage systems, barriers and fencing systems, and

fire suppression.

•Once complete, the bridge will include six lanes, three in each direction, with separate lanes for commercial and passenger traffic and the ability to convert lanes through dynamic signage based on traffic volumes. The span will have the ability to accommodate oversized vehicles and full-width emergency lanes in each direction.

•The authority said all buildings and structures on both the U.S. and Canadian Ports of Entry (POE) are nearing completion with interior finishings taking place. Crews are working on the installation of light fixtures, desks and lockers as well as flooring and tiling. The respective border agencies that will operate at the POEs are beginning equipment fit up at the sites.

Work is also taking place on the 24 primary inspection lanes at the Canadian POE, and the 36 primary inspection lanes at the U.S. POE.

Testing the bridge’s thousands of LED lights will take place over the summer.

Just joking

Scene in a lawyer's office:

Nick was sitting across from his lawyer.

"Do you want the bad news first or the terrible news?" the lawyer said. "Give me the bad news first."

"Your wife found a picture, and it's probably worth about \$500,000!"

"That's the bad news?" asked Nick. "I can't wait to hear the terrible news."

"Well, for you, the terrible news is that the photo is of you and your secretary walking into a motel."

...

I was best man at my brothers wedding in Paris.

At the reception I raised my glass of champagne and said, "Eggs, cinnamon, bread and maple syrup!"

Americans might not understand, it was a French toast.



GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE designers employed an “unbalanced cantilever” system, with the back span of the road deck having been constructed first, supported by temporary falsework bents, before construction progressed on the main span over the Detroit River.

Photo credit: Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority

Obscenely rich

By Jim Hightower

Gosh, I miss the old days of CEO greed, when the pay gap between Boss Hog and everyday employees was merely gross.

Today, the guiding ethic for top executive enrichment is to have no ethics. Grab as much as you can as fast as you can, everyone else be damned. And never mind that as chief, you did absolutely nothing to “earn” that exorbitant stash of cash.

How exorbitant? Corpo-

rations try to hide the actual numbers, but under an insider accounting measure called “compensation actually paid” reveals the obscene truth.

Last year, America’s 10 highest paid CEOs averaged more than a billion dollars each in pay. One person, one year, one billion.

And the Number One highest-paid corporate honcho last year, Alex Karp, made off with nearly \$7 billion! That’s \$560 million a month in personal pay. With the exceptions of Jesus and Dolly Parton, no one is worth anywhere near that!

And what does Alex do? He’s the CEO of Palantir, a high-tech outfit now working

for Donald Trump to collect and computerize all of your and my personal data, creating government dossiers so federal agents can monitor us. Sleazy, but in today’s Corporate America, that’s a path to untold riches.

Still, for the insanely rich, too much is not enough. So, they, their lobbyists, and Republican congress critters are now furiously pushing for what Trump calls a “Big Beautiful Bill.”

It would cut Medicaid, food stamps, and other basic human needs for America’s lowest-paid working families. Why? To give a billion-dollars more in annual tax cuts to hucksters like Karp... and Trump himself. This is worse than kleptocracy – it’s sleazocracy.



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Water power at the Soo

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



AT THE TIME IT WAS COMPLETED IN 1902, the red sandstone hydroelectric plant at Sault Ste. Marie was the second largest in the nation behind a plant at Niagara Falls. Stone used in the plant's exterior was excavated from the bottom of the canal that feeds it. The quarter-mile long plant today has 74 horizontal shaft turbines on the generation floor level. Water from the canal drops through gates to make the turbines spin, which turns a generator rotor, creating electricity.

Photo credit: US Army Corps of Engineers, Richard McDonald

Around the turn of the prior century, one big-thinking industrialist from Maine put his energy, reputation, money (and plenty of other people's money) into the questionable, well-worn economic development theory that "if you build it, they will come." He and others had big plans for a massive engineering project in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and other major projects across the St. Mary's River in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

In the 1890s, the Soo region's claim to fame was, and is, the home to a series of vital locks on the St. Mary's River that have raised and lowered Great Lakes ships 21 feet between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The first locks, built in 1855, were engineering marvels as a conduit for shipping, but they weren't exactly economic drivers for a remote region whose winters were long and where the local population was relatively sparse.

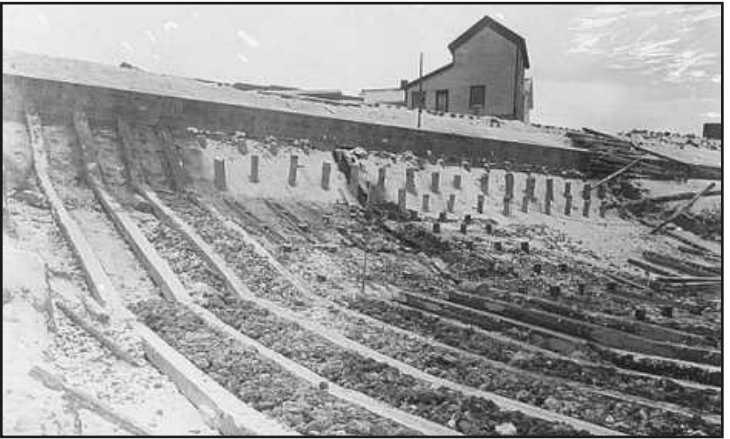
Businessman Francis Clergue wasn't the first one to see the economic potential in harnessing the St. Mary's River rapids. Hydroelectric power technology on a large scale was just coming into its own, as engineers were beginning to understand how to effectively deflect and channel water, slow or speed its flow, build foundations and structures in challenging soil conditions, and then place turbines and generators that weren't too big or too small, but were just right for electrical production now, while eyeing potential expansion in the future. Spoiler: the engineering and construction obstacles were overcome at the Soo.

For nearly 120 years, a big (and architecturally beautiful) hydroelectric plant envisioned by Clergue was erected and has to this day continued to produce power at the site. But the beginning was a little hairy. Or should we say "horry." (See the photo below).

"It had long been acknowledged that the key to the industrialization of Sault Ste. Marie rested with the development of the hydroelectric potential of the St. Mary's River rapids," says *Sault History Online*. "By 1894, the failed attempts by a private syndicate and then by the town of Sault Ste. Marie to develop hydroelectricity resulted in little more than a partially collapsed power canal and minor power plant. What confronted Clergue, then, upon his arrival in Sault Ste. Marie was this partially completed hydroelectric installation, a diminishing population base and a lack of market for electricity even if the plant had been completed."

Employing a hydroelectric system designed by German immigrant A.E. von Schon, who had served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clergue and a number of money-men from Philadelphia backed the construction of a new works in the Soo in 1898, which eventually became the Michigan-Lake Superior Power Hydroelectric Plant.

Nothing was easy about the construction process. Labor was difficult to import to the region, and the workforce that was present was busy on the Canadian side, where a new hydro powerhouse had been built. A new paper and pulp mill were in the works, and the new Algoma Iron, Nickel and Steel Co. plant was under construction, as well as railways to serve them.



THE EXCAVATED eastern slope of the canal feeding the hydroelectric plant at the Soo in January 1901. The timber pilings, with rubble in between, was an effective solution to erosion and remains intact today.

struction, as well as railways to serve them.

Clergue's theory for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan: "All he had to do was develop that hydro and industry would beat a path to his door," said *Sault History Online*. "Much to his disappointment, that didn't happen. The completion of the power plant did not result in the anticipated influx of industry." But there was some foresight: allowances were made during the design of the plant for other companies to take advantage of the hydro power, even if those plans didn't go as expected.

Initial plans included the excavation of three separate canals in the river to service a power plant, a gristmill and a sawmill.

After work started, it was revealed that pre-construction surveys didn't reveal issues with soil composition that included much quicksand and deep clay, and Clergue opted to go with construction of a single large canal, 2.25 miles in length, 200 feet in width and 15 feet in depth.

"Half of the power plant's large feeder canal was dug through rock," said the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), "but the other half passed through a mixture of sand and clay unable to withstand the force of the canal's water flow. Installing a timber lining – completely submerged to help preserve it – solved this problem. The timber lining remains intact today."

And while work was going on in the river, a massive power plant was being built.

"The headhouse of the Sault Ste. Marie plant is more than a quarter-mile long and contains 80 turbine chambers," the ASCE said, "only 40 of which were used when the plant was opened. The 40 horizontal

turbine mechanisms manufactured and installed in 1902 remain in place at the facility and in operation."

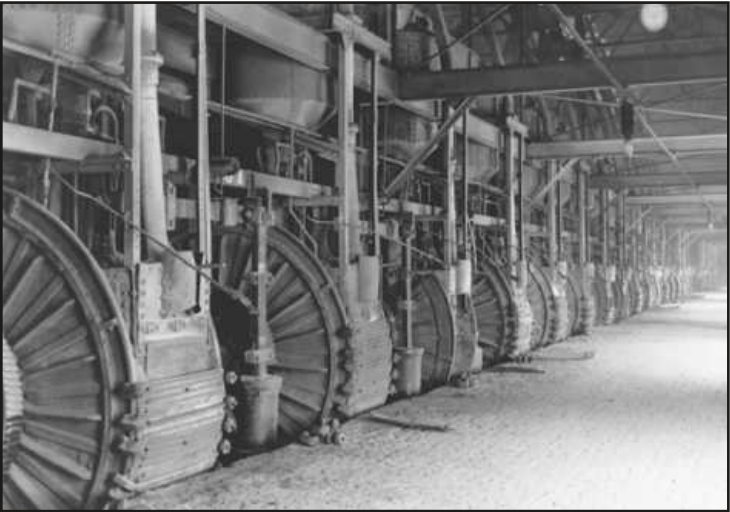
Union Carbide, a then-fledgling company, was an original investor in the Soo hydro plant, and it threw its weight around a bit during the plant's various design phases. Union Carbide actually intended to set up shop in the plant, making calcium carbide, an essential ingredient in the manufacture of acetylene.

"Union Carbide signed on in April of 1898, providing the capital to continue the project," said Cloverland Electric Cooperative. "Union Carbide insisted their electric furnaces be placed not more than 30 feet away from the generators to reduce power loss, in order to provide the space for carbide furnaces, a second story would need to be added to the structure. It was also felt that a two-story structure might have a more imposing and satisfactory appearance than just one floor, half submerged in a single story edifice."

Clergue's Michigan-Lake Superior Co. didn't last long as the plant's operator. Having incurred \$12 million in debt by 1903, the company went into receivership, but continued to operate.

Chronically devoid of big power customers who didn't come to the Soo, the plant was sold to its sole big customer, Union Carbide. Union Carbide purchased the hydro facility in 1914, forming the Michigan Northern Power Co. UC owned the plant until 1963.

Today, after various owners, the Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Soo hydro plant is one of the oldest continuously operating power plants in North America. It continues to generate between 25 to 30 megawatts.



UNION CARBIDE may or may not have been the savior of the Soo's hydroelectric works when it stepped in to buy the plant a few years after it was built – but their histories are intertwined for half a century. Shown here is a row of Union Carbide's "horry" furnaces at the Soo, which used water power as a source of power for an electric furnace which could reach temperatures of 4,500 degrees. The goal of the process was to combine powdered limestone and coke as raw materials in the circular hoppers for the extraction of calcium carbide ingots, used in the production of acetylene.

Photo credit: U.S. Library of Congress

Trump's order has ended collective bargaining for 81.8% of federal workers

(Continued from Page 1)

Collective bargaining enables workers to come together to protect themselves for speaking up on the job and to negotiate for improved working conditions, including better overtime, paid leave, and health and safety standards.

Without the hopes of being able to negotiate future contracts for the duration of the Trump Administration, federal workers lose not only their ability to negotiate for better working conditions but also some of the protections that enable them to blow the whistle when they see something at work that is dangerous to the public.

Many of the affected workers do not have a national security role. President Trump cited national security concerns as his reason for eliminating collective bargaining for the vast majority of unionized federal workers – even though the government has long recognized the right of workers at agencies such as the Department of Defense to bargain under the law, which permits collective bargaining for workers at agencies with national security roles as long as workers' bargaining is not incompatible with national security needs.

This includes the workers who inspect food to prevent outbreaks of disease, conduct research on respiratory hazards faced by mine workers, and keep nuclear power plants safe for the public.

The Department of Defense has the most workers represented by unions with nearly 400,000, but hundreds of thousands of workers with no meaningful national security role also lost their rights – for example, 82,000 workers at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, including workers at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, which runs the government payment system; 39,000 at the U.S. Department of Transportation, including workers who offer safety and maintenance flight inspections at the Federal Aviation Administration; and 8,000 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which includes workers who keep the public safe by inspecting food for safety.

Ending collective bargaining for federal workers harms both workers and the public. A closer look at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) workers affected by this order shows how it harms workers and the public. By ending collective bargaining at the VA, 377,000 workers lost their collective bargaining rights, including nurses at VA hospitals and medical centers across the country, marriage and family therapists, and blue collar workers at cemeteries where veterans are buried. These workers negotiated contracts that protect not only workers but also the veterans they serve: Collective bargaining agreements protect VA whistleblowers who have uncovered problems at the agency such as the mismanagement of veterans' private information or the illegal restraint of a patient at a VA medical center.

Unions are challenging the legality of the executive order in court. The largest unions that represent federal workers – including the American Federation of Government Employees; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the Service Employees International Union; and the AFL-CIO – have all joined together in a lawsuit against the Trump Administration, alleging the Administration not only violated federal labor law but also retaliated against unions for trying to protect their members from losing their jobs. The National Treasury Employees Union, another union representing federal

workers, filed a lawsuit of its own. However, the order has also disrupted union members' ability to pay dues, which in turn makes it harder for workers to support the negotiations and lawsuits they need to protect their rights.

On April 1, 2025, representatives in the House introduced a bill to overturn the executive order, co-sponsored by a majority of members.

In a fact sheet promoting the executive order, the Trump Administration claims a federal union is "fighting back" against the administration's agenda and "filing grievances to block Trump policies," including the firing of tens of thousands of federal workers and the shutting down of federal agencies.

However, joining together to stand up against employer abuses such as illegally firing workers is one of the many reasons workers form unions in the first place.

Additionally, workers at the Department of Labor who are meant to enforce labor laws, such as wage and overtime protections on behalf of the public, are being threatened with potential criminal penalties for speaking out against attacks on the agency.

These attacks could not come at a worse time for the American public. Unionized federal workers have negotiated important protections that

preserve scientific integrity; compensate workers on recovery or investigation missions for American prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action; protect workers who report patient abuse at VA hospitals; safeguard worker safety for USDA food inspection workers; and reinforce whistleblower protections at federal agencies that protect the public, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

At agencies where workers recently lost their bargaining rights, the administration allegedly forced federal regulators overseeing vaccine safety to resign and ordered the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to stop doing its job of issuing new rules that keep nuclear power plants safe.

The Trump Administration has launched many attacks on workers – such as cutting the minimum wage for hundreds of thousands of private sector workers – and its latest move targets workers' right to come together in unions. Workers in the federal government have exercised their collective bargaining rights for decades to improve working conditions at one of America's biggest employers as well as to enshrine protections for the public they serve.

Ending collective bargaining hurts not only workers and unions but also the American public.

Globally, loss of union rights 'stark and worsening,' report says

(Continued from Page 1)

attacks on unions and workers' organizations are spearheaded by the most extreme elements of big capital, which lodged themselves directly in the highest positions of the state.

"Whether it's Donald Trump and Elon Musk in the U.S. or Javier Milei and Eduardo Duhalde in Argentina, we see the same playbook," ITUC General Secretary Luc Triangle said at the report's release. "The concentration of economic power" is allowing "a small group of billionaires to exert outsized influence over global decision-making," Triangle said. He argued "the global trade union movement is the largest democratic social force in the world" and the stronger workers' organizations are, the stronger will be the struggle to preserve the rights of all.

"Our democratic freedoms are under attack by an ever-smaller number of people in control of an increasingly disproportionate slice of the pie... a tiny fraction of the global population – less than 1 percent – controls nearly half the world's wealth," the report says. And it is that tiny fraction which is leading the "coup on democracy."

Trends observed globally include a sharp escalation in the violation of basic rights, including restricting access to impartial justice, limits on free speech and assembly, banning the rights to strike and organize workplaces, and sharp curtailments of collective bargaining.

Only three countries on the entire planet – Australia, Mexico, and Oman – saw their Global Rights Index ratings improve in 2025. Across the board, average workers' rights ratings declined in most countries over the past year. Only seven out of 151 nations studied received a top-tier rating, down from 18 a decade ago. Average scores in Europe and the Americas were at their lowest level since the Global Rights Index began.

Some 87 percent of the world's governments violated the right to strike last year; 80 percent violated the right to collective bargaining, and almost three-quarters restricted workers' access to fair courts when facing problems with employers or public officials.

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Building Trades Endorsements



Following are 2025 endorsements of the Political Action Committee of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council for the Tuesday, Aug. 5, Primary Election.

- City of Detroit
Mayor: Mary Sheffield
City Council (at Large): Janee Ayers
City Council (at Large): Coleman Young II
City Council District 2: Helena Scott
City Council District 3: Scott Benson
City Council District 4: Latisha Johnson
City Council District 6: Gabriela Santiago-Romero
City Council District 7: Denzel McCampbell

City of Livonia
City Council: Steven Alexander, Kayleigh Kavanagh-Reid, Jennifer O'Connor

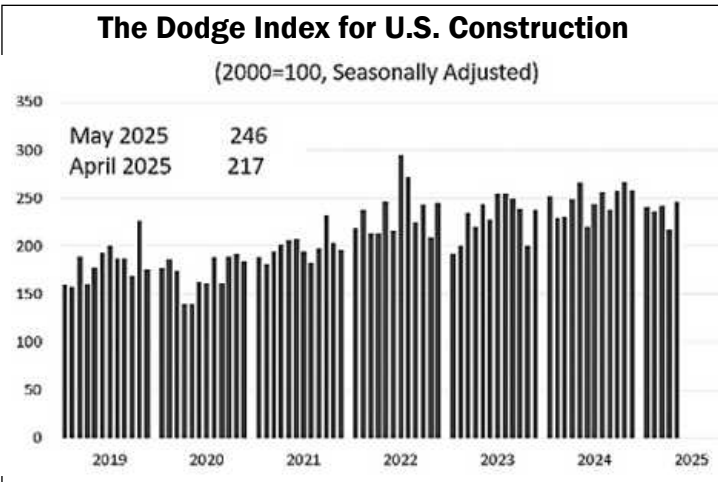
City of Pontiac
Mayor: Mike McGuiness

City of Southfield
Mayor: Ken Siver

City of Westland
Mayor: Kevin Coleman
City Council: John Sullivan

City of Sterling Heights
City Council: Rick McKiddy, Michael Radtke, Henry Yanez

City of Wyandotte
City Council: Adriana Villanueva-Cerulla, Kelly Stec



They’re baack – but harmless, for now. GOP revives RTW, prevailing wage repeal

(Continued from Page 1)

just a matter of time before they attempted to make their case for resurrecting RTW and for eliminating prevailing wage, again.

“Lansing Democrats have moved our economy backward by relying on failed strategies that discourage economic growth and prosperity,” said Albert in reintroducing right-to-work legislation. “We must reverse course before it’s too late. Our new proposals will make our state a more attractive place to do business while creating more economic opportunity and freedom of choice for Michiganders.”

Michigan became a right-to-work state when former Gov. Rick Snyder signed RTW into law in 2012. A right-to-work law is anathema to labor unions, allowing workers to enjoy the benefits of a union without paying dues.

The state instituted a prevailing wage law in 1965, but it was repealed by ruling Republicans in 2018, then re-enacted with several improvements by majority Dems and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2023. Prevailing wage laws establish baseline wages for trades workers, and help reduce the ability of lowball contractors to win bids by underpaying workers on taxpayer-sponsored projects.

“Today, we are coming together to restore workers’ rights, protect Michiganders on the job, and grow Michigan’s middle class,” said Whitmer in 2023, signing legislation to restore prevailing wage and eliminate right to work. “Michigan workers are the most talented and hard-working in the world and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. These bills will protect health and safety, ensuring healthcare workers can put patient care ahead of profit, construction workers can speak up when there’s a safety issue, and employees can call attention to food safety threats and other problems. Let’s continue delivering for working people and ensuring Michigan is open for business.”

With Whitmer holding the veto pen, and Dems currently holding the majority in the state Senate, the GOP legislation has zero chance of passage.

Strong MI construction employment continues

(Continued from Page 1)

“Uncertainty over tariffs, immigration, federal funding, taxes and other policy shifts is causing many types of projects to be put on hold across the country.”

Between May 2024 and May 2025, 33 states and D.C. added construction jobs, 16 states shed jobs, and employment was unchanged in one.

Texas added the most construction employees (28,600 jobs or 3.4 percent), followed by Ohio (17,000 jobs, +6.9 percent), Michigan (10,400 jobs, +5.3 percent), Florida (9,900 jobs, +1.5 percent), and New Mexico (9,100 jobs, +17.2 percent).

The state of Washington lost the largest percentage of construction jobs (11,200 jobs, or -5.0 percent of its workforce), followed by New Jersey (-2.8 percent) and Oregon (-2.3 percent).

The AGC urged Congress and the Trump Administration to work together to enact a final budget bill, and swiftly resolve the underlying trade disputes prompting threatened higher tariff levels and to clarify whether recent immigration enforcement actions are focused on undocumented workers engaged in additional criminal activities or if they are broader. “The more certainty Washington can provide about taxes, tariffs and labor policy, the more likely developers are to come off the sidelines and start delayed projects,” said Jeffrey Shoaf, the AGC’s chief executive officer.

Meanwhile, beyond the employment numbers, total construction starts rose 13 percent in May, the Dodge Construction Network announced June 20. The rise was led by nonresidential starts, up 20 percent for the month, compared to the 2 percent rise for residential.

The “nonbuilding” construction sector – mainly infrastructure – saw starts improve 20 percent in May. The starts are fueled by the massive infrastructure bill passed during the Biden Administration.

“Total construction starts rebounded across most sectors in May, bouncing back from a sluggish April,” said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. “However, year-to-date figures remain below last year’s pace. Ongoing uncertainty around trade policy and the economic outlook is likely to keep construction activity in check in the months ahead.”

On a year-to-date basis through May, total U.S. construction starts were down 4 percent from last year.



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators 47
LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC’s, and the with the International.

If you are Non-Active retiree or Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving the Building Tradesman please contact the Union Office to let us know.

Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoff’s to the Union Office. Leave the start/layoff date and the name of the contractor along with your name.

LAST CALL! Our Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, July 19 and the cost is \$85/person. If you are interested in golfing with us this year please call in with the name of your team along with chicken or steak for each person. Do not wait until the last minute to call in your team, spots are filling up fast!

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79 hour rule for all Retirees effective July 1, 2025.

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.

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

Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

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: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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.”



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators 25
SOUTHFIELD – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Question: What did the duck say when it bought ChapStick? **Answer:** Put it on my bill.

CONTACT UPDATE: We are now using **admin@heatfrostinsulators25.org** as our primary contact email for all communication with the Union Hall. Please update your contact information accordingly.

Union Hall Contact Emails: bob@heatfrostinsulators25.org eloany@heatfrostinsulators25.org connie@heatfrostinsulators25.org marty@heatfrostinsulators25.org finsec@heatfrostinsulators25.org

ANNUAL PICNIC: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Picnic will take place on Saturday, August 2, 2025. The festivities will take place at Willow Metropark, Flint Wood Picnic Shelter located at 23200 South Huron Road New Boston.

Attention Apprentices, remember that volunteering at the picnic counts as a union meeting towards your required six meetings per year. If you are behind on meeting attendance for September advancement, or if you would like to “bank” a meeting, this is a great opportunity!

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Save the date for the Annual Local 25 Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. The event will take place at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25’s Constitution & Bylaw’s Article III Section 5. Failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report job starts will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President.


PLEASE, call in all job starts so we can avoid fining members.

PER CAPITA: Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local’s jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization turned on. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within forty-eight hours. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information.



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **July 11, 2025.** This meeting is at the IBEW Local 275 Hall, located at 140 64th Ave N, Coopersville, MI 49404.

Golf Outing- The Annual Scholarship Golf Outing on June 20th was a huge success! A big thank you to Business Agent Don Fajardo for all his hard work. Together with our vendors, Boilermaker locals, and signatory contractors, we raised the funds needed to sponsor our annual Scholarship contest. Please remember if you have a child graduating from High School this year and heading to college they can apply for the Scholarship by answering an essay question and getting it back to the hall by August 15.

The essay question can be found on our website and is as follows. **What can the Democratic or Republican party do to benefit union workers?** The scholarship contest awards \$3,000.00, \$2,000.00, & \$1,000.00 for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place.

I want to thank all the members that attended our 130th Anniversary Dinner Dance. This event was a huge success enjoyed by all. I would like to thank the agents, their wives, and the office staff for all their hard work setting up the event. Jackets, beer mugs, & shot glasses that were handed out at the dinner dance are available at the union hall while supplies last.

Summer is here, and so are many of our annual events. With picnics and Labor Day events in all four areas, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and attend these events. We need more of our younger members to get involved if we are to continue our rich tradition of Brotherhood at these family fun events.

Area Picnics
Area 1 - July 19, 2025 at Camp Dearborn, 1700 General Mills Drive, Milford, MI. 48380. Festivities begin at noon. Please bring a side dish to share.
Area 2 - September 1, 2025 following the Labor Day Parade at Heritage Park. The address is 1050 Seventh Street, Muskegon, MI. 49441.
Area 3 – August 16, 2025 at Sanford Lake beginning at noon.
Area 4 – August 2, 2025 at Pioneer Trails Park, Escanaba, New Pavilion, 6822 US -2, Gladstone, MI. 49837. Festivities are 1-5 PM. I encourage every member to make safety your number one priority. The busy workload looks like it will continue throughout the year so please make every effort to safeguard yourself and your Brothers and Sisters on the job.

We are scheduling an MSHA class for the upcoming Tilden Mine work. Any member that requires this training should contact Area 4 Business Agent Jim Calouette or contact the Union Hall to be added to the list. You will be informed of the time and location of the training once the class is filled.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more information.

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corteva please contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons
Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar located at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.
Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11am at Whitlow’s Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.
Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be July 16, 2025, at 11AM at The Boulevard Lounge. The address is 316 S. Saginaw Road, Midland, MI. 48640. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.
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.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.org 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. 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.

Retiree James Micheau passed away on June 28, 2025. Visitation, Military Honors and Services will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at Crawford Funeral Home in Escanaba, Michigan beginning at 2PM. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts during this difficult time.

“We did not change as we grew older; we just became more clearly ourselves.”
– Lynn Hall

“Preach not to others what they should eat, but eat as becomes you, and be silent.”
–Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)



The Building Tradesman

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Patrick Devlin
Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Claywell
President

Visit our website: www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

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Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY AUGUST 12th*

There will be a Statewide General Membership meeting on Tuesday August 12th. We encourage all members to attend. We will use our video conferencing system for this statewide meeting. You will receive a postcard in the weeks ahead.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

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

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Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

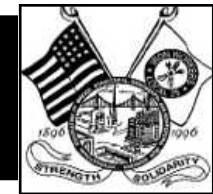
Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



District Council 1M Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – The July Union Meeting will be Monday July 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm and will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will also be available.

We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails**. You can download our APP for android on google play or for iphone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. **Or sign up via our website** (www.ironworkers25.org).

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday July 24 at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday July 28th at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

NEW: Beginning Wednesday July 30th 2025 from 8 am to 12 noon a HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns. This will be ongoing during the last Wednesday of each month. A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday August 6, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494.

The 41st Annual International Iron Workers Festival will be held August 8, 9, 10, 2025 in Mackinaw City MI. Please plan ahead and reserve your hotel room(s). For more information, please go to www.mackinaw-chamber.com/events

Awards Night will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at the Novi Union Hall. **A LETTER WILL BE MAILED BY JULY 31, 2025 to those eligible members.** We will have a social hour with appetizers/beverages starting at 5pm. Awards ceremony starts at 7pm. **All are welcome.** Awards Night supersedes the August Union Meeting and will be IN PERSON ONLY AT THE NOVI UNION HALL. All other Union Halls will be CLOSED.

The 9th Annual Local 25 ICIF Fundraiser will be Saturday **SEPTEMBER 6th 2025** at the Novi Union Hall at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be bought at the door or through any Business Agent. **Join us for food, drink and comradeship. We have great prizes to raffle off as we've done in the past!**

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" and "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org) to view the 2025 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the Trade-School Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

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).**

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a newborn 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).**

FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. 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.

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com (where you can create a log-in)

Check you online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three (3) years.

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday July 15, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday August 5, 2025 at 8:00 am. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The Northern Michigan Chapter next Retiree luncheon date and site is yet to be determined.

The next quarterly meeting & Picnic for the **Bay City Chapter** will be in July 17, 2025; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9:00 am on **August 15, 2025** at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. **MentalHealth.gov** pro-

(Continued next column)

July 11, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149

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

The next **General Membership Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Aug. 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14, 2025, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

New Officers. The results of our recent election for Officers and Trustees. After a thorough and democratic process, here are the elected individuals who will lead us forward:

Elected as Business Manager/ Financial Secretary: Brian Gregg

Elected as Business Agents: Joe Gilliam and Gary Johnsen

Elected to the Executive Board: Don Watkins III, Joseph Wimberly, Eddy Perez, Kevin McCaslin, and Luke Brown

Elected as President: Tom Jaranowski

Elected as Vice President: Robert Colston

Elected as Recording Secretary: Raphael Hamilton

Elected as Sergeant at Arms: Dean Kucharski

Elected as Trustees: Lee Bruner, Walt Connell, Randy Witherspoon

Elected as Health & Welfare Trustee: Jonathan Crosby

Appointed by BM as Industrial Stewards: Jonathan Crosby and Rick Baird

Officers were administered the oath of office by International

Vice President & proud LU 149 member Bob Peterson.

We look forward to the new ideas and energy they will bring. Thank you to all who participated and made your voices heard.

Out-Of-Work. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. 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.

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.

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

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

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

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. The next term for all Mid-Michigan Apprentices will be as follows:

Every Thursday from 6:00pm – 8:00pm until further notice

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 to make arrangements.

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

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. Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

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.

The publication above is as 7/7/2025, 1:00pm

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



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Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Local 190
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANNARBOR – A MONTHLY UNION MEETING will be held on Monday, July 14 and will start at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: Members can pay your union dues online. <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security number, temporary password is the last four digits of your social security number. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

51st ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: will be held on Saturday, July 26. Our event will be held at *Whitmore Lake Golf Links, Whitmore Lake*. Mark your calendar for this special event. Tickets are available to purchase at the union hall. *Check or cash payments only, no credit card payments.* If you have any questions please contact Karen at (734) 424-0962 Ext. 210.

FUSING CLASS: Anyone interested in registering, 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.

INFORMATION - ANNUAL PHYSICALS need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2025. Please remember to bring in the 2025 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Monday's and Wednesday's at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Closed for Holidays. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. **Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email:** kristyn@190jtc.com or **mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103**

Available Journeyman classes:

OSHA 10/30 Online: Members interested in taking the **OSHA 10- or 30-hour** training online should contact Kristyn to register. Participants will need internet access through a computer or tablet.

M.U.S.T Safety Online: Members interested in taking **M.U.S.T Safety** training modules online should contact Kristyn to register. Participants will need internet access through a computer or tablet.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 **Schedule - Mondays – July 21, and Sept. 29.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2025 **Schedule – Mondays – July 28th, and Oct. 6.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs): Journeyman members who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced once the class is full. Members

must meet all the requirements to sign up.

Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs): This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety. Participants will receive training on the Lincoln Virtual Welding Machine (VR), before heading into the welding lab. **Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.**

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 9.** Courses run on **Wednesday and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE **PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to **\$85** for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2025 Schedule:** The third course starts **Oct 14.** 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 or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a mandatory 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. You must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2025 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept. 2.** Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Da-Te (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2025 Schedule:** Second course starts **Oct. 7.** 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 or register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **the course is to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

Special Notice: Hiring Full Time HVACR Instructor. The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC is hiring for the full-time position of HVACR instructor. The position includes teaching day and night classes year-round for apprenticeship and journeyman upgrade classes. The instructor will be responsible for HVACR curriculum development utilizing the equipment being serviced and installed by contractors in the SE Michigan area. The ideal candidate must be knowledgeable in all aspects of the HVACR. Strong communication, math, and computer skills (Microsoft word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and CANVAS) are required with a background in teaching.

Travel will be required throughout the year for UA Local 671 and the instructor training program through the UA ITF department regional training. The ideal candidate shall possess the following credentials:

Journeyman status with the United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters.

10 years or more of field work experience as a HVACR Technician

EPA 608 Type I, II, III (Universal) Certification.

UA (United Association) HVACR Star Mastery Certified.

Excellent knowledge of commercial HVACR systems, including installation, maintenance, and repair of the following:

Packaged Heating and Air Conditioning Systems

Heat Pump Systems including Geothermal

Hydronic Heating and Chilled Water Systems

(Continued next column)



UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday Sept. 10, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month.

Please sign up for **MDLive**. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

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.

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): 248-540-2091 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

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

Mark your calendars. The Sprinklerfitters Local 704 Golf Outing will be held Aug. 2. We will again be at The Lakes of Taylor Golf Course. You can purchase tickets for the event online. Just go to local704.com and under the About section, click on Events and there is a link to purchase your tickets. Deadline to purchase tickets is July 25th.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 190, con't

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VAV and zoning systems
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Excellent knowledge of equipment, including installation, maintenance, and repair of the following:

Chillers including scroll, screw and centrifugal

Power burners including Siemens, Honeywell and Fireye controls

Boilers including cast iron sectional, Fire tube and Water tube
Rack refrigeration including Co2 and Emerson E3 controls
Cooling towers
Pumps and specialties
Variable Refrigerant Flow systems including Mitsubishi City Multi and Daikin

Candidate's responsibilities would include:

Obtain/possess: an Associate's Degree in Applied Science – Industrial Training
UA#1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1006 UA/WCC Instructor Certification
Obtain/possess: UA#2012 UA Foreman Instructor Certification
Obtain/possess: NITC proctor qualification
Develop and update course syllabus, daily lesson plans and instructional material
Develop practical lab activities for hands-on training
Develop test, assignments, and hands-on assessments

Maintain lab equipment with the latest industry trends and technologies

These lists are not exclusive, nor final and future classes will be required as technology and trade advancements continue. This position will be paid at UA 190 Journeyman foreman rate with full benefits package, paid vacation, and earned sick leave.

Please submit a copy of your resume, transcripts, and other certification documents to **The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC by July 31, 2025 to kristyn@190jtc.com** or mail to **8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103** All candidates will be contacted for a scheduled interview after the July deadline.

RETIREE MEETINGS—Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and coffee.



Local 85
Plumbers &
Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 PM.

NEW DATE: The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, at 7 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

Contact Information:
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org
Andre Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org
Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@ualocal85.org
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

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

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

JATC News: Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects. If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters
& Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The outing will be held Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025 at The Falls at Barber Creek with an 8:00am registration, 8:30am shot gun start. It is a four-person scramble, \$80 per person, \$320 per team. Each team must have 2 UA members on the team. Please contact Therese at the front office to sign up. Space is limited to the first 30 teams to sign up *and pay*. Money must be paid no later than July 25th.

Volunteers needed - Family Picnic: This year's Local 174 family picnic will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Heritage Landing in Muskegon from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Volunteers will be needed at the picnic for stations as well as set-up and take-down. Please call Therese at the office if you can volunteer. Thank you!

Plumbing Law Changes: Starting March 20, 2025, anyone performing plumbing work in Michigan must either be registered and in good standing with the State as a plumbing apprentice or hold a current journeyman or master plumbing license. The new legislation also establishes a ratio of one journeyman for every two apprentices, with significant penalties, including steep fines and the suspension or revocation of a plumbing contractor's license for non-compliance.

This is excellent news for our industry and presents a great opportunity to expand our market share in West Michigan. Make sure that your license or apprentice registration is up to date with the State. If your license has expired or you need to register as an apprentice, you must contact the State Licensing Division at 517-241-9316.

Contract Ratification: At the special-called meeting on July 1, 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 \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30/\$10.80 over 3 years. Language changes: Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foremen pay.
Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked.
*The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

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.

Organizing Update: *Pipe welders, commercial/industrial HVAC techs and workers with a plumbing license are in high demand! Our members are our biggest weapon when it comes to organizing by educating the non-union worker. If you were organized, reach out to someone that still works there, tell them how it is being a member. They deserve the same benefits and wages we get. With our 3-year contract negotiated and voted in, we should be focused on gaining market share for the next 3 year contract! When we control the labor force, we have the upper hand when negotiating!*

Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION!
—**Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551**

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.

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

Health Insurance Contact Info:
Active and NON-Medicare Retirees Aetna: (855) 878-4101
EAP: (888) 238-6232 • Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108
Medicare Retirees Retiree First: (616) 345-0788
Current Health Insurance Premiums:
Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63 • Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

Autopay for Window Dues: As a result of the rising postage expenses and the significant number of members who have opted for autopay, we have made a change in the way receipts are delivered. Going forward, members will receive their proof of payment via email instead of traditional mail. If you are currently enrolled in autopay but do not have an email address on record and would like a receipt, please contact our office to update your information.

Dispatch: We have split 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 of: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

Training News:
FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00p-9:00p. The next class will be held Thursday, August 21st, 2025. Please Note: this is the 3rd Thursday in the month of August.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. **Please note: there be NO WCP Test event in the month of August.** Next capabilities will be Tuesday, September 9th, and the test to follow Thursday, September 11th at 5pm.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your **welder certification status cards are now being emailed** instead of sent via USPS mail. If you have turned in your continuity but have **NOT** received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

****WAITING LIST:** Effective immediately, the Training Center will no longer maintain a waiting list for upcoming classes. When a class is scheduled, the dates and times will be announced in the following locations: • The Building Trades article • The Local 174 Members Facebook page • The announcement screens at the Training Center

Going forward, it is your responsibility to call and sign up for a class once it is posted. Please monitor these sources regularly to stay informed about new class opportunities.

Please contact Chris Phillips or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Nicole (231)206-4213.



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next regular Union meeting is July 15, 2025 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075

Special guest from Ulliance will appear just prior for updates and to answer any questions from membership.

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

Special Announcement: as of 1/1/2025 all active, retired, and opt-out members are being enrolled in vision coverage through Delta/VSP Vision. For details please contact the Union Hall 248-538-6636 or VSP member services 800-877-7195 or Member Portal www.memberportal.com for dental and vision benefits.

The 15th Annual Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference is happening again in Chicago Sept. 19-21. All Tradeswomen and allies can attend. The ladies will be selling their raffle tickets to raise funds. The winners will be drawn at the September Union Meeting. If you are interested in attending you can contact the union hall.

The Local 636 Picnic will be held on Aug. 9 from 11-4pm at the Sara Club 3945 Club Dr. Brighton, MI 48114. We will have kids' games and prizes, door prizes, swimming, fishing, cornhole tournament, food and drinks, Kona-ice truck, face painting and tattoos, bounce houses and great times with your Brothers and Sisters. Hope to see you there! Call Tony Sievert for any other info or to volunteer 248-939-3636.

The 636 Retiree Golf League is hoping you'll join us this season. We play on Thursdays, usually around 11 am, spring through fall on a different course each week. All skill levels are represented and there is no obligation to play each week. Most courses played are in Macomb County and Oakland County. If you are interested, simply call Jim Dunn at 248-709-7036 or Joe Bourgeois at 313-590-0448.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held July 17. 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 on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

REMINDER: Please open all correspondence with the Local Union, BeneSys, and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

Congratulations to Eric & Madelyn Finn on the birth of their daughter Nora May 29, 2025.

Following is a list of recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. **Congratulations on your retirement!**

May 2025: Richard Bonne, Brian Dyer, Dan Fortier, Alisa Lisecki, Joseph Petrocella **June 2025:** Robert Desandre, David Yuhn **July 2025:** John Dozbush, David Machcinski.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member James C. Davis June 24,2025; Darrell Simmons June 20, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to; John G. Skiver; James Davis, Marty Sosnowski, Ray Sterna, Larry Cirillo, Ed & Noreen Nys, Rashad Dooley, Chris Fye, David Hochstein, Thomas L. Williams Jr, Justin Morgan, Ron Sarata, Robert Cabanaw, Michael Downey, Gregory Firth, Ryan Girard, Kristofer Gojcaj, David Hatch, Tanya Holland, Jason Howe, James Juracek, Bryan Kelly Jr., Hunter Kiger, Raymond Kuhowski Jr., Earl Marshall Jr., Steven Miles, Jeremy Morgan, Daniel Mosey, Ernie Murphy, Ted Richardson, Brian Robinson, Ryan Seitz, Mark Troutman II, Brian Mierendorf, Robert Filar.

DUES – 3rd Quarter Dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. 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.

The Ulliance Member As-

sistance Program is available to all members and retirees. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. For more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

New 988 crisis helpline. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

S.U.B. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday. After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

Direct Deposit is now available, members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website or you can call the Local for one.

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **888-646-8920**.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a **new contact number 248-540-2091** or email him at jason.may@ml.com

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution **corrected** website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security no., without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60-90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

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

WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98, Congratulations on ratifying and allocating our new four-year contract. Effective June 2, 2025, the finalized wage and fringe benefits went into effect. Please call your officers if you have any issues with your check.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 7 pm.

Retiree luncheon meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 from 12-2pm.

The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings. **The next board meeting is Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 6 pm** due to the fourth of July holiday.

Union Meeting date changes: Due to scheduling conflicts the following months meetings will be held on the third Thursday, August's meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025 and October's meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025.

Possible By-Law Change: At June's membership meeting a motion that was accompanied by the signatures of 20 members in good standing was made to change the times of all membership meetings. "Union meetings shall be called to order promptly at 6 pm and adjourn no later than 9 pm." This motion will be read off again at July's membership meeting and voted on at August's meeting on Aug. 21, 2025.

Our Annual Plumber's picnic was held on June 28, at Lake St. Clair Metropark. This year's picnic was a huge success! We were able to reserve an area directly next to the beach and the weather was amazing. It was a true celebration of unity and the hard work that makes 98 special. Thanks to Jimmy Cools and the rest of the officers for all your hard work in putting this event together. We'd also like to thank Chris Woods, Alaister Corey, Madeline Rose and Connor Socrates for doing all the grilling, John Linardakis for helping out, and Milwaukee Tools, W.J. O'Neil and Dorian Tagai for donations.

Local 98 Detroit Plumbers Scholarship Golf Outing will be held at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford on **Aug. 23.** 9am shotgun start. Spots are selling out fast. Don't wait, call the hall or email us at golfouting@ualocal98.org to sign up your teams and for sponsorship opportunities. *Please be sure to sign up soon as spots are limited!*

Congratulations to Plumbers 98 softball team on an impressive and hard fought 5th place finish at the 45th Annual UA Softball Tournament in Cincinnati. This year's roster was made of Jeremy Pitts (manager), Dave Schroeder (coach), Chris Wright, Greg Wacker, Craig Zube, Trevor Dockham, TJ Hill, Jim Oniel, Mike Joiner, Tyler Defrank, Brandon Beranek, Austin Sinda, Noah Tunnecliffe, Cam Walsh, Josh Johnson and John Sowards. Thanks for representing 98 well!

Pipe Up is the official podcast of the UA General President. The program offers monthly stories, skills and a look into the lives of our membership. Access the podcast at ua.org/pipeup.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

Expelled Members: We currently have 14 expelled members: Jonathan Balfour, Jordan Contreras, Austin Doran, Jonathan Hartman, Calvin Klein, Michael Kurvi, Lester Labroski, Edward Laske, Joseph Marciniak, Kyle Martin, Peter Pacific, Michael Scott, Tracy Stump and Drake Vandekerckhove.

SUB Apps/Out of Work List. SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. *We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments.* 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 Rufus Hamilton.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call our Organizer Rob Moses.

Benefits. We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues **PLEASE CALL BENESYS at (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.** If they are on the other line, please leave a message and they will get back to you promptly.

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and lead by our health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

Additional information can be found at ualocal98.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org
Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313) 542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org
Jim Cools, Business Agent (248) 762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org
Paul Smith, Business Agent (313) 938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org
Jeff Kavalair, Business Agent (313) 938-1554 jkavalair@ualocal98.org
Rob Moses, Organizer (248) 763-2187 rmoses98@ualocal98.org

In solidarity, Gary Glaser, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98! Protecting the health of Metro Detroit since 1893.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 18, 2025. 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. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is PENDING at 4:30 pm. This is **not** a code update class. 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 Baker at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.**

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Aug. 5, 2025, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, July 23rd, and Wednesday, July 30th. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. 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 to get a booth.

****2024 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be July 12th, 2025. ****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.** Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2025.

(Continued next column)

July 11, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 333

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 7 pm.

Condolences to the family and friends of Brother Barry Smith. Barry passed away July 6, 2025 at the age of 63. Rest in Peace Brother.

UA Local 370 is hiring a full-time Office Professional for the Training Department. Responsibilities include processing wage increases, managing digital records, scheduling classes, and supporting instructors. Applicants should be proficient in Microsoft Office and Google Workspace, with strong organizational skills. The position begins late July to early August and includes PTO, paid holidays, and benefits. If interested, please send your resume and any questions you might have to Dan Gaudet dgaudet@ualocal370.org.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, August 11th at 9:00 am.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and trustees. Results from June election are:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer- Dan Gaudet.

Business Agent- Zach Desrochers.

President- Michael Fromwiller

Vice President- Chad Adams.

Recording Secretary- Mike Blake.

Inner Guard- Andrew Fromwiller.

Executive Board- Kevin Gaby, Tony Slatton, Bobby Kelly, Keaton Dungey.

Pension/Insurance Trustee- Zach Desrochers, Tony Slatton, Dan Gaudet, (ALT Tyler Smith).

Finance Committee- Bill Desrochers, Cody Bland, Tyler Smith.

Sub/Sick Trustee- Shawn Bashore, Chad Adams, Zach Desrochers, Dan Gaudet.

Building Fund Committee- Tyler Smith, Carl Wilson II, Michael Fromwiller.

Scholarship Trustees- Zach Desrochers, Tony Slatton.

FMR Fund Committee- Craig West, Dale Collins, Zach Desrochers, Keaton Dungey, Andrew Fromwiller, Marcus Eubanks.

Examining Board- Glen Chatters, Lonnie Birchmeier, Marcus Eubanks, Mark Pieper.

Plumbers 98, con't

The deadline to register for fall upgrade classes is Aug. 22.

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

ASSE Repairer: Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110

Tester Certification - 20 hour class

CAD/BIMI - 40 hour class

ICRA and Water Quality: * Prerequisite: Must Have

OSHA 10 or 30 – 40 hour class

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour)

Hydronic Heating and Cooling – 40 hour class

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber - 40 hour class

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: 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:

4 hour recert class Oct. 21 & 22 Deadline is Sept. 26

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.

2026 UA National Convention Delegate- Mike Fromwiller, Kevin Gaby, Zach Desrochers, Tony Slatton, Bobby Kelly, Chad Adams, Dan Gaudet.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is now available to all members and retirees as of March 1. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Golf Outing: Saturday, July 19 at Flushing Valley. 8am registration. 9am shotgun.

2nd Annual Labor Day Parade Come be a part of this Family Fun Event and help support not only our union but all unions in Genesee County. Monday, Sept. 1.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

First Aid & CPR Sept. 17, 2025 at 4:30pm

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 Ext 15 or at training@ualocal370.org

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available for \$85. Check, money order or Credit Card.

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, Aug. 12, 2025 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday August 12th,2025 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, August 12th,2025 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, August 12th,2025, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, August 12th,2025 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee - Tuesday, August 12th,2025 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 MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work.

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. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The 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 you 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.

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UA LOCAL 671
MONROE – The Local 671 Membership Meetings have now been moved to the 3rd Thursday of the month. The **next meeting will be held on July 17, 2025, at 7pm.** The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **July 17, 2025, at 5pm.** If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board please contact the Union Hall.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassocialocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

Retiree Luncheons: We want to remind everyone that the Retiree Luncheons are always held at the Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 12pm. The only exceptions are August, November, and December due to the Picnic in August, and proximity to the Holidays in November and December. We always look forward to seeing everyone there!

Local 671 App: To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Vinnie at the Union Hall.

All upcoming courses and certifications have now also been added to the App under the Training tab. Please contact Justin to register for any training opportunities.

If you are not receiving the Push Notifications from the App please contact Vinnie!

Open Weld Shop Nights: The open Weld Shop nights are now **Tuesday** nights from 6pm-10pm. A booth will need to be reserved by noon on Friday 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.

Effective immediately, all UA weld test sessions will be held on the first Thursday of each month. The next UA Weld Test Session is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, July 31st**

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We continue to hold 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.

Upcoming Recertification Classes: We need to hold a Med Gas Recertification class this Summer. Please review your certifications and contact Justin to get signed up for these classes. We will get the date of the class out to everyone as soon as we finalize it.

Congratulations: We would like to congratulate Brother Hunter Mudge and his wife Cierra on the birth of a new baby girl, Lainey Jewell Mudge on June 24th. She was 7bs. 19oz. We're told Mom and Baby are doing great!

In Closing: We hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing 4th of July Holiday. To provide an update on Summer here, construction on the new school building is moving along nicely.

Also, the 2025 Local 671 Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on July 12th. In terms of outreach, we are currently participating in the High School and Adult Summer Camps and the Monroe County Fair is rapidly approaching. If anyone would like to volunteer at the Fair, please contact Kristina at the Union Hall. We appreciate it!

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com

“Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever.”
–Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)

“If we can connect in some tiny way with a human that doesn't agree with us, then maybe we won't blow up the planet.”
– Nancy White



Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333
LANSING – August's union meeting will be held Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 6:30pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911.

September's union meeting will be held Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:30pm, Gene Davis & Sons Catering Hall, 3575 Francis St., Jackson, MI. 49203

Weld Classes
Lansing: Monday evenings- 4-8pm.
Jackson: Monday evenings 7-8pm.

Battle Creek: There will be no weld classes.

Backflow class, new certification class will be in September, the date will be announced
Lansing Orbital Welding: 40 hours. You must have your UA21 and UA41 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed-up. This will be for the fall class.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of January 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

Please sign up on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.

Battle Creek Retirees' Breakfasts are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am. Please spread the word.

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing Shopping Center.

“The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and their families. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall

If you have a change in address or phone number, birth of a child, marriage or divorce, or to update your beneficiary paperwork. Please contact the Lansing office to make the necessary changes.

Do not opt out of health care coverage on your auto insurance. If you are injured in an auto accident our health care coverage will not cover, you.

Save the Date: Membership Picnic, September 14, 2025, High Caliber 12pm-5pm RSVPs will be mailed to the membership.

“Habit is habit and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.”

– Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

“When I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my own country. I make up for lost time when I come home.”

–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

“The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball - the further I am rolled, the more I gain.”

–Susan B. Anthony (1820 - 1906)

“Seize the moment of excited curiosity on any subject to solve your doubts; for if you let it pass, the desire may never return, and you may remain in ignorance.”
–William Wirt (1772 - 1834)



UA Local 357
KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Aug. 12** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

UPCOMING UNION EVENTS:

Sportsman Alliance Dinner – **Thursday July 17, 2025** (Limited Seats still available)

Growlers Baseball Game – **Saturday July 19th, 2025**

Annual Picnic – **Saturday July 26th, 2025**

Golf Outing – **Saturday September 13th, 2025** (Details to follow at a later date)

Call Lori at (269) 679-3708 for details on any of these events.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9:00 am at **The Crew** located at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

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 and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change.

There also 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).

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the entire Nadrasik Family on their mother / grandmother's recent passing.

“You are young, my son, and, as the years go by, time will change and even reverse many of your present opinions. Refrain therefore awhile from setting yourself up as a judge of the highest matters.”

–Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)

“The self is not something ready-made, but something in continuous formation through choice of action.”

–John Dewey (1859 - 1952)

“Train up a fig tree in the way it should go, and when you are old sit under the shade of it.”

– Charles Dickens (1812 - 1870)

“Just think of the tragedy of teaching children not to doubt.”

–Clarence Darrow (1857 - 1938)

“Never learn to do anything: if you don't learn, you'll always find someone else to do it for you.”

“Talent and intelligence never yet inoculated anyone against the caprice of the fates.”

– J. K. Rowling

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

–Thomas a Kempis (1380 - 1471)

“Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster. Your life will never be the same again.”

–Og Mandino (1923 - 1996)

“I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to.”

–Elvis Presley (1935 - 1977)



UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – This paper is to serve as the official notice to the membership.

ATTENTION: The next Union Meeting will be in Marquette, July 31 at 7:30pm. This will be a special called meeting to review the Locals financials.

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

Call Escanaba or Marquette for 111's Lay Off Line; Ext. #7 and Job Line; Ext. #8.

MRA FUND - This is a reminder that you are required by the IRS to provide proper substantiation for your MRA debit card usage. Many members have received Substantiation Request letters from the Local 111 Benefit Fund office, Zenith American Solutions.

As per IRS regulations, the use of the MRA card must be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. **These IRS requirements are mandatory, and the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is YOUR responsibility** to ensure that all requested documentation is submitted to the Fund office in a timely manner. To check whether receipts are required for any transactions, please log in to the Zenith American Solutions Portal website or app.

Failure to respond to these Substantiation Request letters will result in suspension of your MRA card until all requested documentation has been received.

If you have any questions, please contact Zenith American Solutions at 1-866-823-4730 ext. 1 or the Union Hall.

New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

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 lu111.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 one year.

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

“Every improvement in communication makes the bore more terrible.”

–Frank Moore Colby

“Insanity in individuals is something rare - but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule.”

–Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

“Above all things, reverence yourself.”

–Pythagoras (582 BC - 507 BC)



Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT- ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be **July 28, 2025, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **July 21, 2025**, at 5pm at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email. **Our August Meeting has been cancelled.**

This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions.

Attention All Members, upcoming events for 2025 are as follow: **IUEC Local 36 picnic** will be on Saturday July 26, 2025, at St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds, located at 11541 21 Mile Road, Shelby, Mi. 48315. The park opens at 10:30am.

Our Annual IUEC Local 36 Kyle Owsley Golf Outing is on Saturday, Sept. 6, located at the Links of Novi 50395 W 10 Mile Road 48374. Registration is at 7am. Contact the hall with any questions.

September 2, 2025 @ 9am Local 36 will be taking applications for their recruitment. Anyone interested, go to neieprecruitment.org to apply.

September Union Meeting, nominations for delegates to the convention, Monday September 22, 2025, located at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216 at 5:30pm.

October Union Meeting, vote for delegates to the convention, Monday October 27, 2025, location 1640 Porter Street at 5:30pm.

Labor Day Parade is on September 1, 2025, located at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. We will be at the hall @ 8am.

There was a motion presented by a member in good standings and signed by five members in good standings at the regular membership meeting on June 23, 2025. The motion was to change the local Constitution and Bylaw **Article V** Duties of Officers, **Section 7:** Business Manager/Financial Secretary, **6.** The Business Manager/ Financial Secretary shall be paid 45 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate and the Business Agent will be paid at 40 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate.

The motion for the change reads: The Business Manager/Financial Secretary shall be paid 50 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate and the Business Agent will be paid at 45 hours at Mechanic in Charge rate. The first reading was at the June membership meeting, the second reading will be at the July meeting and the third and final reading will be at the September meeting followed by a discussion and vote.

If you haven't enrolled in the IUEC's new National Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) benefits, go to <https://iuecvip.com> or call the IUEC Service Center at 224-487-5030. These tax-free benefits can help you continue to get paid when you're unable to work due to illness, injury, surgery, mental health conditions, substance abuse treatment, or death. The benefits are paid in addition to other benefits you may receive, providing a financial safety net when you need it most.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison was appointed to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans. You don't have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran's benefits has done for him and I'm a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one week waiting period.

The IUEC would like all active members and Probationary Apprentices to sign up for Safety alerts. The only thing you will receive are safety alerts, nothing political, just safety alerts. **Text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.**

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. **When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic's phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting January 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.

NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.**

Attention All Apprentices, we are done with our spring NEIEP classes, fall classes are tentatively scheduled for the 3rd week of August. I will update everyone when we get closer to those dates. Enjoy your summer and keep up with your OJTs. If you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your **NEIEP** emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month at the **Union meeting**. If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall **NEXT MORNING**. If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**

Attention All Retirees, if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.

We would like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick list. Be safe and stay healthy!

“If the people who make the decisions are the people who will also bear the consequences of those decisions, perhaps better decisions will result.” –John Abrams

“Marriage is the only adventure open to the cowardly.”
–Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

“Put up with it and you will get more of it.”
–Lynne Deal





Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: ****NEW LOCATION****: Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083, 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **August 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm**. Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **July 26, 2025**, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall.



PAUL GUALDONI

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 8/7/25 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. 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**.

CONDOLENCES: Sadly, we lost two Local 292 members in June. Erik Ramirez and William Wenzell. Erik joined Local 292 in 2017. He worked his way through the Apprenticeship program and became a Journeyman in 2023. We lost Erik suddenly, and he will be dearly missed.

William "Bill" Wenzell. Bill has been a member of Local 292 since 1961, retiring in 2002. He was liked and respected by many throughout the years. Please keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-38-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist 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 members and their dependents.

37th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING: Our 37th Annual Golf Outing will be held on August 23, 2025, at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club. The Outing sold out very quickly again this year. We look forward to another fantastic event in support of two great causes: Diabetes Research and the Children's Christmas Party.

SMOHIT HELPLINE: Call 877-884-6227/ Available 24/7. For SMART 292 Members and their families experiencing an immediate crisis or who need a helpful ear.

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

SMART 292 APP: Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292. There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please get in touch with the Union Hall and we will make the change.

TRUEHEARING: This benefit of premium hearing aids is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

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

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please get in touch with the union hall to update your address.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The new Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd 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 now has hard copies if anyone is interested in having one.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have received 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. The IRS requires this validation; the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the members' responsibility to ensure all requested documentation is returned to the Fund office promptly. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

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

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 certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, 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 at 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on. July 12th, July 19th, July 26th, August 2nd, & August 16th.

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

Note: Anyone who 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.

"It is a mistake to regard age as a downhill grade toward dissolution. The reverse is true. As one grows older, one climbs with surprising strides."

"While the fates permit, live happily; life speeds on with hurried step, and with winged days the wheel of the headlong year is turned."
—Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

LANSING – NOTICE: This Newspaper Article shall serve as the Official Notice of ALL meetings for Local 7!

The next Statewide Meeting will be Aug. 21 at 6 p.m.

*Zone 1 Sept. 11th at 6 p.m.

*Zone 2 July 15th at 6 p.m.

*Zone 3 Sept. 10th at 6 p.m. (Freeland)

*Zone 3 Aug. 20th at 6 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 Sept. 9th at 6 p.m.

*Zone 5 August 14th at 6 p.m.

Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16 Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

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

ZONE 1 Info: Work in the Zone 1 area continues to be busy and will remain this way through the end of the year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

– In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders
ZONE 2 Info: The work outlook for Zone 2 is steady with just a handful of members off. Congratulations to the new journeyman that just recently turned out. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is Tuesday July 15 at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Rd., Norton Shores, MI. at 6 pm. If your employment status changes please keep me informed, apprentices also let Tanner know. The Local 7 picnic is just a few weeks away, July 19th in Traverse City at Timber Ridge Campground always a great time. Please make sure your dues are current if you don't have a July dues slip you are behind. In Solidarity, Your Brother, Mike Adams
ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Next Zone 3 meeting is September 10th at the Freeland hall.

This year's Local 7 picnic is at Timber Ridge in Traverse City July 19. If you're interested in camping call (231) 947-2770 to see if any camp sites are available.

This year's Local 7 golf outing will be held at the Lynx Golf Course in Otsego Mi. if you are interested in playing call the Lansing office.

Please call Lansing office (517) 8824064 if you have changed your phone number or address.

Please make sure you are current on your dues. They are due the first of every month. Next retiree meeting is Sept 23rd at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd

– In Solidarity, Joe Dotson
ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse

City). Work outlook in our area and across the state is going strong. If there is anyone you know of that wants to get into the trade or if anyone has any questions on the SASMI boot/ physical requirements or anything else, call me. SASMI eligibility is under 650 hours from Jan. 1 to June 30, anyone eligible will be getting the form to fill out and mail back, the deadline for filing is October 1. Work safe and remember the picnic is July 19.

In Solidarity, John Amalfitano
ZONE 4 Info: Work continues to be outstanding, with summer on us now and schools letting out it will be another great summer. We have successfully filled our apprenticeship classes for the July 1 start date, I would like to wish all the new apprentices good luck in your new positions!

Please don't forget about the Local 7 picnic this summer, it is a great event for the kids and adults as well. Also remember to register for the golf outing this fall, for any questions reach out to the Lansing office regarding both events. I hope everyone has a great 4th of July with family and friends. **Thanks, your brother, Scott Brotherton,**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP remains steady and should stay that way through the rest of the year. There's a lot of mine work coming up in the next several years, so if you don't have your mind safety training, make sure you get signed up for that at upconstruction.org. Just a reminder our next union meeting is on Aug. 14 at 6 at the hall in Gwinn. Also the next retiree breakfast will be at the Dry Dock in Harvey on Aug. 2 at 10 am.

In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.

Dues Department: *Online dues payment is now available* Dues from 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.

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.

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing, MI 48910 – **517-882-4064**

Local 7 Officers:

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

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

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-569-9200**

Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-299-3752**

Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) **989-225-0095**

John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) **231-590-1112**

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) **810-836-3552**

Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**



Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting is July 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. We will be raffling off Tigers tickets at this meeting!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2025 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday-Friday 7:30-4, unless otherwise indicated.

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2025 Retiree Meetings: August 18,



JASON GRUNENWALD

held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Trevor Seeling, Perry Hopkins, William Harding, Luke LaRoy, Christian Hedlund, Brian Tulpa, Ronald Maynor, Johnnie Downing, Justin Cook, Gania Marsee, Nicholas Fischer, Randal Kaufmann, Kenneth Simons, Daniel Bleyaert & Paul Hinkelmann.

DUES PAYMENTS: are due prior to the 1st of the month. Books close at the end of business day on the last day of the month. Payments made on the 1st will be considered late. No exceptions - once the books are closed, they cannot be reopened. To help you stay on track, you will receive a text reminder before the end of the month. If you're not receiving these reminders, please contact the hall.

WORKING IN OTHER LOCALS: Please remember that if you are working in a jurisdiction outside of Local 80 you must call their union hall and check in as a traveler. It is the members responsibility to do this, not the contractors! If you have any questions please reach out to an agent.

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please ensure that you have designated or updated your beneficiary choices for all Local 80 and International Association benefits.

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

October 20 (Holiday Party), December 15th. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance.

Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: Lashone will be in Monday to Thursday from 9-4pm. To schedule an appointment, please call 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to the family of David Arthur. David passed away on March 24, 2025 at the age of 78. He was a member for 51 years and will be greatly missed.

Proof of UIA benefit payments due within 21 days of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to **248-557-0297**. To ensure payment by Friday, proof due by **2:00 PM on Tuesdays**.

Important: Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office. For questions, call the hall at **248-557-7575**.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply:

Complete the SUB application at the hall. Provide a pay stub for the week. The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you're facing challenges in your family, relationships, or dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, grief, or substance use, please reach out to our Assistance Program **Ulliance** at 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Golf Outing – July 12; Picnic- August 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES

• WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU

• OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

www.ssdfighter.com

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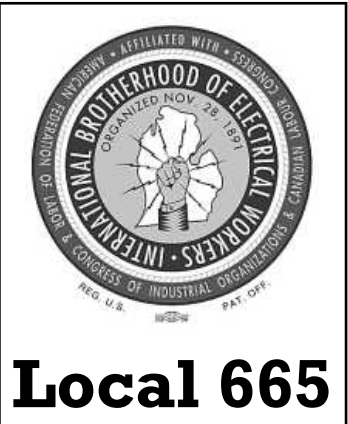
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IBEW Local 665
LANSING – **HALL RENOVATIONS:** Local 665 has finished most of the renovations to our union hall. The modifications are coming along nicely.

IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary: IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June of 2026. Please save the date June 6th 2026 to celebrate with us that evening. Please look here and in your email for more information.

WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters. Call the hall for the most up to date information. 665 will be experiencing unfilled calls for all of 2025.

Financial Strategies Group open house: FSG will be hosting an open house on Oct 23 at Lansing Brewing Co. If you're looking for financial planning this will be an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss options with a company that understands our benefit structure. You will receive an invitation via the mail if you have any questions please contact the hall.

CODE UPDATE: Code update classes have passed. If you still require code update class to renew your state license, feel free to contact flint JATC (810) 720-0583 or fsajatc.com. Flint has an online version of the code update class.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just surpassed 800 members in the local. Of which 180 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

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

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

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatc.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

IF YOU REQUIRE First Aid/CPR, contact the JATC for the next available date to sign up.

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #356. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of Local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal.

Glendon "Bill" Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25, Raul Torres 10/19/24, Ronald Oberlin 12/16/24, Dale Battley 11/14/24, Stephen Bair 09/16/24, Jackie "Jack" Heart 04/21/24, Stanley McLellan 04/17/24, Arthur "Dave" Benzinger 03/28/24, James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23.



IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – **The Local 445 Family Picnic** is scheduled for Sept. 6, 2025. Bring your kids for some good family fun.

Local 445 Golf Outing is scheduled for July 12, 2025.

Local 445 Night at the Ballpark The Local 445 Battle Jacks game is scheduled for August 2, 2025. If you would like information, please call the Hall.

Paying dues late If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed a \$10.00 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

Death Benefit Assessments Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due's payment.

Organizing If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states **"The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry."**

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

2025 dues structure The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

Accordingly, effective January 1, 2025, there will be an increase of \$1.00 for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only, and one \$1.00 for the IBEW Per Capita. Effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase of one dollar (\$1.00) for the IBEW Per Capita.

As of **July 1, 2025**, the following due's structure:

JIWs:
Monthly \$61.00
Quarterly \$183.00

Apprentices:
Monthly \$50.00
Quarterly \$150.00

IBEW Local 445 App/Website The new app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

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

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com. Make sure you check out **the Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

2025 Personal information. Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Secrest
Recording Secretary

"Not everything made you stronger. It was possible to survive, yet still be crippled for your trouble. Sometimes it was okay to run away, to skip the test, to chicken out. Or at least to get some help."

–Scott Westerfeld

"Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning."

–Bill Gates (1955 -)



IBEW Local 557
SAGINAW – **REMINDER:** Local 557 Monthly Union Meetings are now starting at 6pm due to a large number of members working overtime.

GREAT LAKES LOONS UNION NIGHT- Local 557 has purchased a block of 100 tickets for the upcoming Union Night at Dow Diamond on Friday, Aug. 8. Tickets will be available soon for members to take part in what has become a recent tradition each year at the Loons games.

LOCAL UNION OFFICERS– On July 1, Local Union Officers for the next 3 year term were sworn in. Thanks to all members who participated in the election this year. In the near future, member's due receipts will be updated and reflect each member's status who voted in this year's election.

GOLF LEAGUE 2025 - at Twin Oaks Golf Course continues. Tee times begin shortly before 6pm each Thursday night until the end of golf season. If you are a returning golfer or a first timer – all are welcome!

JOBSITE SAFETY - Jobsite safety is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work.

EARNED SICK TIME ACT- Michigan's new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA), is now in effect. By now, every member working for an IBEW contractor currently, should have seen a written notice of some sort regarding this matter. Local 557's CBA does not contain any language related to ESTA, therefore, this law will apply to our membership. If your employer is NOT complying with this law you are strongly encouraged to file a complaint with the State of Michigan. The complaint process can be found on the Local's website homepage with the complete process instructions listed. You can also find these details on the State of Michigan's website.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- With work being the best it has been in Local 557 (and throughout the State), organizing is as important as ever. Local contractors are continuing to do the traditional work in the area on top of the mega-projects. These projects are extremely important to the Local and we need to do everything we can to keep manning that work. Whether work in the Hemlock area continues for a prolonged period or not, it is vitally important to keep all other work of the IBEW in mind. Moving forward, Local 557 will be focusing hard on keeping these projects successful. The future of the Local depends on this work.

Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task in the IBEW and in the trades in general. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work on the Mega Project remains steady. As of this writing, there are currently over 625 IBEW members referred to the project. Most calls have all gone to Book 2 and the Local has essentially been a walk-thru for calls. Stay current on monitoring work in Local 557 by looking on the Job Line website or calling the dispatch telephone option. This is updated throughout the day to provide the latest information regarding calls when they are being filled. If you are on Book 2, please reach out to the Local through the jobline@ibew557.org email address and you will receive a reply as soon as possible. Through the jobline email address, you can receive updates as to your spot on the out of work list.

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING is Aug. 5 and will start at **6 pm. Please note the change to a 6 pm start time** due to overtime being worked in the area.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.** Please make a note (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Meetings.

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be July 14th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree next meeting - will be Aug. 5 at 9 am.

Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

Dues Reminder - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.

Seeking New Membership – As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski.

New Store Stock – To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

New Membership – Welcome to our latest members, James Alband, Declan Burk & Kyle Belanger. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees – Congratulations to Daniel Martin on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Larry Braidwood. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

Local 557, con't
of this as this change has recently gone into effect to better serve the members due to the surge in manpower running through the Local.

BOOK SIGNING - If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 referral, you must 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-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or renee@ibew557.org.

WORK OUTLOOK- Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by contacting their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Project Phoenix continues to hire and members have been able to walk in and receive calls at will. Breckenridge Solar for J. Ranck will continue to hire. These calls have been hard to fill and we will need all the help we can get on this project. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Help will be needed throughout the summer on a number of projects in the area.

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.** Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone.

STAY CURRENT ON DUES –Please check to see if you are current. The Hall can accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service.

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org

In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on August 4, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on July 23, at RJ's at 5 p.m.

The Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, at 5 p.m.

The EWMC meeting will be held on July 23, at R.J.'s at 5 p.m.

The Veterans Group will be meeting on Sept. 4, at 5:00 p.m.

Annual Picnic is scheduled for July 26, 2025, at River Oaks Park in Galesburg.

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at RJ's from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. 8118 Portage Rd. Portage. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

With a heavy heart, I am sad to report Sister Ruth Bloink, a 37-year member, passed away on June 29, 2025, at the age of 74. Ruth was a smart, hard-working journeyman. Ruth loved art projects and being with her grandkids. Ruth's celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Retirees' Lunches at the following locations:

July 16, Lunch at McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 East Main St. Kalamazoo 49048@ 11 a.m.

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage, @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

IBEW Local 131– 2025 Reflections. *"Thank you for the work. Thank you for the friendship. And thank you for the future."* 2025 has been a remarkably busy year – and it's only halfway through.

Thanks to strong partnerships with **Moore Electric, Hi-Tech Electric, and KEI**, our Local has seen full employment for the past **three years**. We now boast **over 550 members**, including **80+ apprentices** – a powerful sign of our growth and future. When you meet someone new on the jobsite, remember: welcome them. They are part of what comes next. Palisades Nuclear Plant will continue to support the members and the community for many years. Solar projects are coming our way, several are being planned for 2026 and yes, we're ready.

A Hall Rebuilt – Together. Over the last three years, we've worked to improve every aspect of the union hall. We focused on communication, transparency, and accountability. We:

Made the hall more user-friendly. Kept members informed with emails, articles, and job site visits. We delivered a lot of donuts to several jobsites.

Negotiated a strong contract with a 15.5% increase in wages and benefits, one that will only get stronger next negotiations.

Grateful for the Journey. I've had the privilege of working alongside some of the best in the Brotherhood.

Thank you to: Mike Leda (Local 153), Jonas Talbott (275), Ryan Charney (692), and all of Michigan State Conference members. 6th District Vice President Mike Clemons, John Bzdawka, Joe Davis, and Tim Hutchins. Your support and guidance have meant the world to me.

Reflections on Friendship. In my 42 years, I've worked with many great people, some who became lifelong friends.

Christine – My rock in the office for 15 years. "Whatever happens, we can fix it." She's not just a great teammate – she's a dear friend.

Jon – Smart, kind, and dependable. A natural leader, and the future of this Local.

Ryan – A rising star. Our organizer, our comic relief, and one of our next great leaders.

My mentor and dear friend **Dick Redford**. Who for 43 years has advised and supported me. Dick once told me: *"As a wireman, you'll have many acquaintances, but only a few friends."*

Leroy – 40 years of brotherhood and dear friend. The kindest, smartest journeyman I've known. Thank you.

Thank You. This is my final report in the Building Tradesman. (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 906
UPPER PENINSULA – MEETINGS

MARQUETTE UNIT – First Tuesday 7:00 pm EST

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT – Second Tuesday 7:00 pm CST

ESCANABA UNIT – Second Wednesday 7:00 pm EST

Brothers and Sisters, happy July! We hope everybody had a great 4th. For the month of July there will be regular unit union meetings. New short and long sleeve shirts are at the hall, along with new baseball caps. Merchandise is available for pick up at the hall or delivered to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the app/website.

Work outlook is looking very strong for the summer of 2025 with renegade solar in Rock, MI needing 60 journey workers, along with other various projects across the Upper Peninsula. Currently we have a one-man call for Code Electric in the Marquette Area, a five-man call for The State Group in Wakefield, a three-man call for MJ Electric in Rock, a one-man call for Pieper Power in Marquette, a one-man call for Pieper in Escanaba, a one-man call for Northern Valley Electric in Pickford, and a one-man call for Soucy Electric in the Marquette area.

Reminder that there is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

For those of you who have not heard yet, we have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at ibew906.org and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

There is a RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers) zoom meeting held the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm est. To get the zoom link please reference the calendar section of the app or website.

The IBEW Local 906 picnic will be August 23rd at Pioneer Trail Park in Escanaba, MI. We hope you to see everybody there!

New officers training will take place on July 21st, if you are a newly or re-elected officer of the local the hall will be sending you a letter with the time and location of the training.

A friendly reminder that there will be a monthly dues increase of \$1.00 effective July 1, 2025 bringing the monthly dues total to \$49.00 per month.

"Peace of mind is that mental condition in which you have accepted the worst."

– Lin Yutang

"Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none."

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

"Depend not on fortune, but on conduct."

–Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

"Next to trying and winning, the best thing is trying and failing."

–L. M. Montgomery (1874 - 1942)

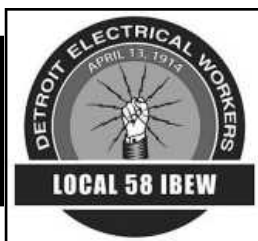
"Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience."

–Hyman Rickover (1900 - 1986)

IBEW 131, con't
I'm incredibly grateful to Local **the members** of this Local. My incredible team: **Christine, Jon, and Ryan**. And most of all, my wife **Karen** – for your constant support at home

Together, we've built something strong. The next chapter is in good hands.

In Solidarity,
Morris A. Applebey
Former Business Manager



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

Great News! Every Wednesday from 12-4 pm you can sign for Sub Pay in Port Huron. You will need to go to the Port Huron Labor Temple at 2441 W. Water St, Port Huron, MI 48060. If you have any questions, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100.00 Donation per Brick.

NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Please look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid-through date shows 12-31-2024, you have lapsed membership and need to call the hall to set up an appointment for the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt paid through date is 03-31-2025 you owe the \$30.00 reinstatement fee, plus dues and will lapse at the end of the 3rd quarter if your dues are not paid. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Members: This year the 2025 Wiremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 139, Elmira, NY on July 29 - Aug. 1. If you are mailing your payment please mail to: Ron Krajenke, 20244 Edinberg Drive, Macomb, MI 48044. Any WGA member who is planning on participating in the 2025 Tournament or anyone looking for information or to join the WGA this year can feel free to reach out with any questions to Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

Local 58 Senior Golf: The Senior golf outings are scheduled as follows:

July 17, 2025 – Rouge Park Golf Course – Detroit. Begins at 9 am

**Sept. 18* – Rackham Golf Course – Huntington Woods, MI- Begins at 9:00 am -This is rescheduled from Sept. 11, 2025.

Oct. 2, 2025 – Dunham Hills Golf Club – Hartland, MI - Begins at 9:00 am

Jeff Gregory will be running these golf outings from now on. They are open to all Local 58 members and guests. Anyone who would like to participate, please text or call Jeff at 248-240-7449 for reservations. It is important to get a head count for the golf course.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 5. Next event will be Brad Ballard Memorial Golf Outing on Friday, Sept. 26 at Pine Valley Golf Course. Details to follow.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 5:30p.m. 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 8a.m. 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 about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Aug. 12 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m. The IBEW Local 58 Annual Summer Picnic will be on Aug. 2 at Camp Dearborn. The mailer is in the process of being sent out...and don't forget to bring your door prize slip to the picnic.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone nor and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the Hall.

Our Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 25 at the Rouge Park Golf Course. Flyers are available at the Hall. Foursomes are filling up fast. We need everyone on board to promote and get sponsorships to make this event a success. There is space for everyone to help out and contribute.

We are moving forward with our challenge coin fundraiser. The first coin in the series is in and we will be selling at the upcoming union meeting and the Local 58 Family Picnic. Flyers will be available soon.

Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee - will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 pm.

Local 58's Women's Committee - The next meeting will be Thursday, July 24 at 5:30p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

The 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. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The July luncheon is Wednesday, July 23. **THE WEST SIDE VENUE HAS CHANGED**, we will be holding the luncheon at **Mama Mia's Livonia, 27770 Plymouth Rd.** The restaurant is on the north side of Plymouth Road just west of Inkster Road. The banquet room is on the west side of the building, parking is across the side street (Cardwell) also on the west side of the building. Doors open at 11 lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person, send your checks (payable to the retirees Association) to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756. For reservations or questions please call Elaine Crawford, at 313 408-5885. This is a new venue, come on out and join us on our first luncheon at this new restaurant. Mama Mia's is a family-owned business that was established in 1959. We look forward to a great meal, and time to visit with friends old and new, Come along and join us!

The September Bus Trip is heading to Washington DC this fall. The trip takes place Friday Sept. 12-16 Total cost for the trip per person, \$710, based on double occupancy. A tour of the IBEW International Museum and/or a trip to a Washington Nationals Baseball Game (ticket purchase extra) are included in this trip. It's not too late to get a seat on the bus, Call Dave Riley with questions or for the address to send your deposit, 586 206-8075.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates! New auto as low as 5.25%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>.

(Continued next column)



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The August monthly membership meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Aug. 4, 2025.**

Executive Board Meeting. The July meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, July 21, 2025.**

Message from the Business Manager. I hope you all had a tremendous and safe Fourth of July Holiday spent with family. As temperatures begin to climb through the dog days of summer, please be sure to look after your fellow Brothers and Sisters. This hot weather can really take a toll on our bodies. Please be sure to consume extra water and take proper breaks to get through the day. Be safe Brothers and Sisters!

Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction continues to be very, very strong. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include:

Thiel Electric is working on a remodel of the K wing at Delta College.

Motor City Electric continues to work on the new line at Bay City's GM Powertrain site. They will continue to hire for this project.

J. Ranck Electric is continuing work at SK Siltron semiconductor chip manufacturing facility through October at this point. Ranck is also nearing completion on their 250MW Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush.

Master Electric has work on phase 2 at Bangor Schools.

Countyline Power has ongoing work at the Bay City and Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facilities and Harrisville Pumpstations. Countyline Power has also a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Clements Electric has new work at Mersen USA, where they have also recently been awarded a maintenance contract at Mersen. Work on the Midland Center for the Arts, and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues. Summer work includes a small raceway project in Michigan Sugar and a fire alarm project at Bangor Schools, as well as work at Bay County Health Facility about to kick off.

Conti Electric has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility.

Escon Group is wrapping up work at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end and is slowing down some within the I-Park.

Ted's Electric has work in Mt. Pleasant Schools.

Bay Valley Electric has work this summer at Bullock Creek schools.

Zone 2 contractors have been bidding and securing a fair amount of work, doing a great job of keeping their crews busy. ACC's dorm project is likely to go fair as union shops submitted the two lowest bids. **John's Electric** has secured a considerable amount of work in Alpena Schools and a nice project at Bay View Park. John's work at CMU Tower was stalled following the storms but will pick back up soon along with new hangers at Alpena

Local 58, con't

State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Joseph Brogowski III, Ernest Cedroni, Brent Gross, James Krauss, Michael Seefried, David Vokes and Raymond Williamson.

Members that have passed away: Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

Theresa Fortier, Widow to the late Pension member Patrick Fortier, 65 year IBEW membership; and Mother to Raymond Fortier, Pension member, 47 year IBEW membership; **Richard C. Davis**, Pension member, 74 year IBEW membership; **Patricia Mullett**, Wife to the late Pension member Noel Mullett, 52 year IBEW membership; **Gyula Porcs**, Pension member, 63 year IBEW membership; and **Eleanor Schmitz**, Widow to the late Pension member Kenneth Schmitz, 65 year IBEW membership.

Airport later this summer.

Hardie's Electric has completed the sawmill in Tower and has ongoing work in Cheboygan.

S & G Electric has hired another Journeyman for multiple projects across the northern jurisdiction. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda's Air Base. **Pierce Powerline** has secured work in the Oscoda Schools and a commercial remodel in Mio.

A larger Solar Project at Consumers Energy's Karn site in Essexville will be starting late this month or early August. Multiple Prevailing Wage projects in Bay City have been bid or will be bid soon. Another Solar Project will begin later this summer in the Gladwin area.

We do need some wiremen to man our work or market share will be lost. Open calls continue to be available on a weekly basis. We saw this scenario play out in our past brothers and sisters, let's not repeat our mistakes. If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use extension #1.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizer's Report. New Organizer Kevin Klapish has been hired and is learning the ropes. Please feel free to reach out to him as he settles in. Both organizers recently hosted a group of 15 7th and 8th graders at Bay Arenac ISD's Skilled Trades Summer Camp to build a lamp and device-charging station.

A similar summer camp is scheduled this month in Black Lake, where campers will assist in wiring a room. These events are important to reach out to and engage with young people interested in our trade. Organizers are always looking for volunteers to lend a hand at these events.

As we continue to bring in new members each month, it is important to note that many new members begin their IBEW careers by accepting calls left open by existing members. Experienced members should do their best to welcome these new members when they meet them at union meetings or on the job site and educate or mentor them when possible.

Although all new members do attend an orientation session prior to swearing in, the amount of information can sometimes be overwhelming when coupled with the stress of transitioning to a career with the IBEW. Many of the worries associated with newly organized members (new members breaking down conditions, not being familiar with tool lists, not attending meetings or being familiar with the agreement, etc.) can be best remedied by experienced members doing their part to answer questions and reinforce expectations.

Apprenticeship applications can now be submitted online via our website. For information about the program, please contact the JATC. [Brendon Baranek bbaranek@ibew692.org](mailto:Brendon.Baranek@ibew692.org) 989.327.4131 [Kevin Klapish kklapish@ibew692.org](mailto:Kevin.Klapish@ibew692.org) 989-252-9225

Union Dues

Effective July 1, 2025, dues increased to \$49.20 per month. This increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

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.*

Retirees Lunch: The July retiree lunch is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Thursday, July 17 at 702 Bar, 702 Jefferson Avenue in Midland. **Fringe Benefits:** REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

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

Important links & numbers

Health Plan & Pension Fund 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org

NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

July 11, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

11



IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board-The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, July 14, 2025, @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting—The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, July 14, 2025.

Property Company Meeting – The annual Property Company Meeting will be held directly in front of the August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting. From last year, a work bee was discussed for at the hall. We should power wash the building and paint the block wall below the vinyl siding. Not a difficult or expensive task, but one that should be done.

Cherry Festival – A special thank you to Nick Harris and family for all of the work on the Cherry Festival Float this year.

First Aid/CPR- Classes are scheduled for September 11th and the 18th. There will be 2 classes each day. One at 1:00 PM and or in the evening at 5:00 PM. Please contact the JATC to get signed up for the class.

TCJATC- There are still a few Code Update Change Books available at the hall for \$10 each made payable to the TCJATC.

Sticker Ideas – We are looking for a new design for a local hard hat sticker. If you have any ideas, please submit them to Dylan at his email address at dodwyer498@gmail.com.

PICNIC – At the Feb 10, 2025 meeting a motion was made and passed to have the annual summer picnic this year. It will be held at Timber Ridge Resort & Campground on **Aug 16, 2025**. Please watch your mail for a postcard to RSVP this week. For those not familiar with Timber Ridge it is a campground that also has cabins for rent. There are a lot of kid's activities and they will have access to use all of them. You can access more information at their website at www.timber-ridgeresort.net.

Resale Items – The new order of Tee shirts is in, as well as Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing. There are new Local 498 BBQ Tee shirts for resale. Available sizes include; Youth size \$21 and adult sizes \$25.

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

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.grcf.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.

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 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-855-633-4584

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 275

IBEW Local 275

COOPERSVILLE – **Work Outlook:** Work in the jurisdiction remains steady with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work on Local 275.

As open calls continue, we would like to encourage any 275 hands working on the road to entertain the idea of coming home to man the work here.

Election Results: Congratulations to the newly elected officers of Local 275!! New officers will be sworn in at July's meeting, so please attend if you can. Thank you to all the outgoing officers for your years of service and dedication to the Local!!

Annual Picnic: The Local 275 annual picnic will be held Saturday, Aug. 9th from 12-4 pm. Please RSVP as soon as you can so we can get an accurate head count. If you have not registered by August 1st, we cannot guarantee that you will get a prize.

Volunteer Info: Planning for the annual picnic is under way! If you would like to volunteer for the picnic in any way, please reach out to Geoff at the Hall.

West Michigan RENEW/ EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app.

Veteran's Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm at Muskegon Community College Tech Center in downtown Muskegon. (388 W Clay Ave.) Room 125.

Training: Code update will only be available online only going forward. Please go to the JATC website at www.wmejatc.org and click the Code Update Course link to sign up. The cost for members is \$40.

The JATC is now offering Master's Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmejatc@gmail.com

Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

General Info: If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.

For any members still using the 1-800 number to call the Union Hall Offices, please note that we removed that line several months ago. If you are having trouble reaching the office, please double check that you aren't using that number.

We have a list of roughly 30 members who have vacation fund money that has yet to be deposited because of lack of account info. If you have not set up your account info for vacation fund deposits, please call Nicole to get that taken care of. Reminder that May is the last month for vacation fund contributions and July will be the last vacation fund deposit.

As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

Monthly dues will be increasing by \$1 in July of 2025. Please adjust any automatic payments to reflect the new monthly dues amount of \$50.90.

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Noah Baker, Grant Cook, Brandon DeYoung, Scott Erb, Andrew Holmes, Landon Heykoop, Damien Keglowitz, Jeremy Rinehart, and Jeffrey VandeWater. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

Local 498, con't

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES

Jan 1, 2025 – Dues increase to \$161.10/Quarter.

July 1, 2025 – Dues increase to \$164.10/Quarter.

CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL
Aluminum • Copper • Brass
Nickel • Alloys • Carbide
Radiators • Lead • Batteries

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

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



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – **HALL REMODEL:** Beginning July 7, the Local 252 suite at the Union Hall will be under remodel. If you have in-person business at the Union Hall, staff will be working out of a suite on the South side of the building.
BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office **AND** at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.
TRAINING CLASSES 2025: All classes start at 5 p.m.
CPR- (Tuesday’s) Sept. 2 & 9, Dec. 2 & 9
BICSI TECH- May 7-Sept. 3, 2025. BICSI ITSIMM book is required (\$240 or \$290 digital). Exam certification fee is \$400. BICSI Workbook fee \$115. You must have 3 years of verifiable field ICT experience to sit for the exam. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.
BICSI INSTALLER 1- June 2-Aug 25. BICSI ITSIMM book is required (\$240 or \$290 digital). Optional certification fee \$400. BICSI Workbook fee \$115. Worth 35 CECs for those who have a current BICSI credential.
All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.
If there’s interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there’s enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.
LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: If you are interested in serving on the Labor Management Committee, please contact Mike Cox at the Union Hall (734) 424-0978.
2025 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2025 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA’s 2025 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2025! Prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after April 15. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.
IBEW 252 APP FOR ANDROID: If you use an android phone, you must redownload the IBEW 252 app, which is available in the app store.
RETIREEES CARD GAME: The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m.
THE RETIREEES BREAKFAST will take place the second Wednesday of each month at **9 a.m. (new time)** at Leo’s Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.
GEORGE PERROS MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING: This year’s golf outing will be on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S Main St, Chelsea, MI 48118. 8 am shotgun start. Retirees and first year apprentices are free. Call the hall to sign up.
EWMC KICKBALL TOURNAMENT: Join us for a hostile game of apprentice vs journeyman kickball 10 a.m. Aug. 2 at Grass Lake Sports and Trail Park, 955 Willis Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240. Surprise trophy for winning team. BYOB. Families are welcome. Kids activities provided. 1st year apprentices are free. Sign up with your name at ewmc252@gmail.com, 734-678-1912, or 517-745-9287.
ANN ARBOR PRIDE BOOTH: Check out Local 252’s booth downtown Ann Arbor (Main St. and Liberty St.) during the Ann Arbor Pride event August 2nd 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
SUMMER PICNIC: The picnic will be held at 12 p.m. on Aug.

16 at the Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Orban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240. All food and beverages will be provided. Join us for fun and games for the whole family.
UNION 4 LIFE CHARITY GOLF OUTING: The 2025 Outing will be on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118. Registration at 7:30 a.m., tee off at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds benefit the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center’s Breast Cancer Research Fund. This outing is open to the public. Registration is \$125.00/ player, \$500/ team and includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, and two drink tickets. The tournament will be played in scramble with 4-person teams. To register, visit www.union4lifecharity.com or contact Hope Salyer at (734) 475-1180.
RETIREE’S NIGHT: will be celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 10. Please make every effort to attend. This meeting is in honor of our retired members who have worked so hard to make the Local what it is today. Members receiving their 50 year pins are: Dean Alexander, Ed Allen, John Babbitt, George Brown, Jerry Hearn, Thomas Johnston, Kenneth Kalmbach, Melvin Knox, John Kreger, Larry Lestyany, Thomas Mayne, David Molton, Gary Ruggles, John Sherburne, and Michael Wilbur. Members receiving their 55 year pins are: Earl Coffey, Edward Colone, Frederick Coontz, Robert Cummings, Russell Hough, Richard Jabkiewicz, Paul Ketola, George Kildau, Ronald Page, Thomas Pahl, David Sisk, John Strieter, and Robert G. Vedder. Members receiving their 60 year pins are: John Campbell, Harold Hite, and David Wheeler. Gerald Swartout will receive his 65 year pin. Members receiving their 70 year pins are: Gerald Hopkins, Orville Koepp, and Richard Straith.
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for several issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.
RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.
CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Wilson Little, who passed away on June 27, 2025. The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Dale Nowak, who passed away on June 27, 2025. Dale was the brother of Jerry Nowak and Jim Nowak, uncle of Keith Nowak, and great uncle of Austin Nowak. The Local sends our sincere condolences to James Johnson Jr. and his family for the recent passing of his mother.
DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 06/2025, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for “A” members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card for third quarter 2025. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card for third quarter for 2025. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your third quarter dues (July through September) are due now. **Payments for third quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025.**
UPCOMING EVENTS (more information to follow):
SEPTEMBER 10: RETIREE’S NIGHT
OCTOBER 29: TRUNK OR TREAT
DECEMBER 13: HOLIDAY PARTY



Laborers Local 1191
DETROIT – **LABORERS RISING:** Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.
Labor Day 2025 Celebration: Laborers’ Local 1191 will have its Annual Labor Day Family Celebration on Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Local Union parking lot, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. This event is limited to Laborers’ Local 1191 Membership only.
Due to limited selection of food and beverages, Members are permitted to only bring immediate family members. Additional parking will be available, but locations are currently to be determined. Please reference our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the “Laborers’ Local 1191” Facebook page for important updates regarding the 2025 Labor Day Family Celebration. **PLEASE NOTE: There will not be any alcoholic beverages provided or permitted to be consumed during this event.**
Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the “Laborers’ Local 1191” Facebook page for important information about your Union.
Member Personal Information Updates: Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.
Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/ or a venue change. **The next**

General Membership Meeting will be held on the 11th of July, 2025 in observance of the July 4th holiday. The August General Membership Meeting will be held on 1st of August, 2025.
Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The next monthly Retiree Council Meeting will be held on the 25th of July, 2025. The Aug. Monthly Retiree Council Meeting will be held on Aug. 29, 2025.**
Union Dues For 2025: Regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 for Active Members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.00.** Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! To make online dues payments, click the “Pay Dues” tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.
Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to 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 will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**
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. FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!
New Projects: Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS

BOILERMAKERS

ELECTRICIANS

INSULATORS

PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

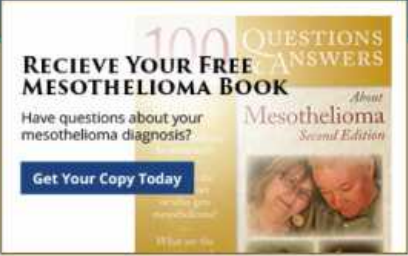
Contact us today:

800-799-2234

www.gpwlaw-mi.com

CONTACT GPW TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF 100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MESOTHELIOMA!

For nearly 20 years GPW has offered this FREE resource and guide to mesothelioma victims. Call 800-799-2234 or visit www.gpwlaw-mi.com to request a FREE copy today!



Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

Detroit – The August membership meeting is canceled due to the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council 53rd Convention.

Membership cards-Congratulations!
July 2025

Norman Davis-25 Years
Manuel Guzman-25 Years
Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opciami.org

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: abest@opciami.org. Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustsafe.com to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to members email address.

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbm.com/register and select register now.

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all 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.

Attention All Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplastertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice"

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 the website for updated information.

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

Members working for non-

(Continued next column)



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN – UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, July 21, 2025 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855



BRETT GIERAK

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: July's Chapter Meeting for Traverse City has been CANCELED.

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

LANSING RETIREE LUNCHEON: WHEN: Monday, July 21, 2025: 12 PM WHERE: Lucky's Restaurant, 3554 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. WHO: Retired members ONLY. QUESTIONS: Contact the Lansing office, (517) 886-9781

MEMBERSHIP GOLF

OUTING: Come out on Sept. 6, 2025, to golf with your fellow brothers and sisters at our 12th Annual Membership Golf Outing. It will be held once again at Hawk Meadows Golf Course in Howell, MI with check-in at 7 am.

Sign up is based on first come, first served with a PAID registration. Your spot cannot be guaranteed without pre-payment prior to the outing. This event has sold out in the past, so register early to secure a spot for you and your foursome. To participate, one person on each team MUST be a good standing BAC Local 2 member with their dues paid up to date. Registration forms can be found on our Facebook page, emailed directly to you or call the Warren office to sign up & pay with a credit card.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Douglas Pena** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 5/8/2025. Brother Pena had been a member for over 21 years.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

Local 514 cont'd

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

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

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

Please make sure that we have all of your current contact information, address and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated.

TEXTING PROGRAM:

Local 2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI** to **50607**. You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member no. (IU#) Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

CRAFT WORKERS NEEDED: We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY: is wished to all those who have been sick or injured. Let's keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of 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 2025 online training classes.

APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS: 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 ASSISTANCE: The IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday – Friday 8 am – 7 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."

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION. BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000

CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org) Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954 Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000



A COLLABORATION between Bay College in Escanaba, the Michigan Department of Labor, building trades unions and other organizations will provide registered apprenticeships and journey people a faster path to a college degree.

U.P. college link bolsters value of apprenticeships

(Continued from Page 1)

credit for apprenticeship programs," said Susan Corbin, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity director. "Union apprenticeship training delivers top-tier education, and our apprentices put in tremendous effort to complete these rigorous programs. It's only right that their hard work and learning are recognized through college credit."

Corbin said this effort will help more people access good-paying careers – especially in the union building trades – while also giving employers the skilled talent they need to succeed. "With 45,000 openings projected in the professional trades by 2030, expanding access to both training and college credit is the right move for Michigan's future," Corbin added.

Marty Fittante, CEO of Invest UP, noted the long-term economic impact of the agreement. "This is a smart investment in the UP's future," Fittante said. "It strengthens our talent pipeline, gives working adults new tools to advance their careers, and supports the kind of innovation and collaboration that keeps our region competitive."

Fittante also highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships in making the agreement possible. "It's a testament to what



UPPER PENINSULA Construction Council Executive Director Mike Smith called the agreement "a win for our whole region."

we can accomplish when educators, unions, and policymakers work together," Fittante said. "I hope this becomes a model for the rest of the state."

Mike Smith, UPCC executive director, underscored the role of the skilled trades in shaping the U.P.'s future. "This agreement puts in writing what we've long known on the jobsite – union apprenticeship is rigorous, high-level training," Smith said. "Our members earn while they learn, and now they'll earn college credit, too. That's a win for workers, for employers, and for our whole region."

Other speakers included MBCTC President Steve Clay-



MICHIGAN BUILDING AND Construction Trades Council President Steve Claywell said the pact with Bay College gives "formal recognition" to union apprenticeship training.

well, who said the agreement "finally gives formal recognition to the kind of high-level training our members go through every day. It's not just job training – it's education, and now it's being treated that way."

The UP Articulation Agreement reflects a growing movement to formally integrate industry-driven training programs into the state's higher education framework, providing skilled tradespeople with new opportunities to earn degrees, advance their careers, and continue their education without duplication of effort or cost.

You and your health . . .



The Problem With "Doing Your Own Research"

Doing your own research on vaccines is not like the research you'd do before buying a shop vac or washing machine.

"I HAVE TO DO MY OWN research on that," said my good friend.

We'd been discussing a recent news story that said people vaccinated against COVID-19 have fewer instances of severe kidney problems that can occur during a COVID illness. In fact, according to the data studied, unvaccinated patients who were stricken with kidney problems when they came down with COVID, were more than twice as likely than vaccinated ones to die in the hospital, or to continue dialysis started in the hospital after going home.

But it wasn't "in fact" to my friend. He couldn't accept the study, which appeared in the peer-reviewed journal, *Kidney Medicine*, which is written for medical professionals. Instead, "doing my own research" was his way of saying he didn't trust the medical establishment. He wanted to find information more to his liking, specifically, information that would confirm his bias against vaccines.

And confirm his bias he did. After doing his own research – which means a Google search – he found medical research from trusted sources such as the NIH and medical journals. But the information he found didn't address the question of vaccinated vs. unvaccinated people and severity of kidney disease. He found evidence that the COVID vaccine could *cause* kidney disease – at least that was his telling of it.

What Did His Research Find?

What he found were scientific studies that showed a tiny sample of vaccinated patients suffered kidney disease shortly after getting the shot. The medical terminology and accompanying charts were complicated, so he mostly skipped that stuff. But every example in the study indicated that the patients recovered within months of treatment. The study concluded that it could not confirm the vaccine caused the kidney attack, but that medical professionals should be attentive to the problem, especially in patients with renal disease.

Did "doing your own research" help in this situation? The answer

depends on the question. His research didn't address the severity of kidney illness among vaccinated and unvaccinated people. That question, somehow, didn't matter as much to my friend as the facts he uncovered about the vaccine "causing" kidney problems.

And did he find evidence to prove his point? No. He found scientific evidence that a tiny fraction of vaccinated people suffered through kidney problems that were resolved with treatment, which were not confirmed to be caused by the vaccine. But somehow, my friend came away from "doing my own research" vindicated in his distrust of the medical establishment and picking and choosing his facts to suit his beliefs.

What's Wrong?

"Doing your own research" is a fine and laudable thing. It's what we all should do. But doing your own research on something as complex as vaccines is not like the research you'd do before buying a shop vac or washing machine. The level of scientific expertise, understanding the methodologies, statistics, and the checks and balances of rigorous research, are specialized skills requiring years of training. Instead, my friend let his point of view become his True North. He wasn't going to trust science unless it confirmed his point of view.

"Doing your own research" that confirms one's point of view – even if using scientific resources – isn't really research. In a strange way, this approach does the opposite of the supposed intent. It often becomes a gateway to sources that may intentionally provide misinformation to promote a point of view. In one study appearing in the journal *Nature*, more people rated a false article as true after they did an internet search about it than people who didn't do a follow-up search online.

This problem stems from the

massive proliferation of low-quality news sources that peddle every theory under the sun – and are getting more and more professional looking to boot. Search algorithms are designed to produce popular information, which means stories that get lots of clicks, regardless of whether they are accurate or not. Sadly, people who start out genuinely wanting to search for a broad spectrum of information can end up getting sucked into misinformation.

It's About Trust

The central principle driving much of our behavior: Trust. Who do we choose to trust and why?

In the mid-1950s a contaminated batch of polio vaccine was distributed that resulted in over 200 cases of paralysis and the deaths of 10 children. It was a horrible accident that shook many parents' belief in that vaccine.

But parents did come back to vaccinate their children after this incident because they were convinced that its safety was improved and there was a more rigorous quality control system in place. People generally trusted in the scientists and the government at that point in time.

What do you think such an incident would unleash today? We haven't even factored in the incredible challenges that artificial intelligence (AI) presents in our information age.

It can be hard to know what is fact or fiction. In the end, it's who we trust that we gravitate toward. The problem is, trust isn't always about true or false – it's how we feel about a person, organization or situation.

Go ahead and do your own research. No source covers 100% of an issue. Use a healthy amount of skepticism to evaluate information and resources. If you don't trust government, or scientists or any other category, step back and be just as critical of whatever sources you do choose to trust.

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources issued its annual Deer Harvest Survey for the 2024 season on June 12.

The report was heavy on graphs, and short on text. But one thing was clear, there may be a new hunting trend: hunters in Michigan killed more deer in 2024 than in 2023, with the harvest up 7.6 percent. That represents a reversal of lower harvest trends that have been evident since the 1990s.

“It suggests we may be reaching more leveling,” said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Brian Frawley. “So we may not encounter that 1.3 percent average decline going forward.”

According to the state DNR, the number of total deer hunters has dropped 31 percent since 1995, which averages out to 1.3 percent decline annually.

Last year was the second straight year that Michigan has seen its deer hunter numbers rise. An increase in hunter numbers in 2025 would be the first time since 1995 the state would see an increase for three straight years.

According to the survey, there were 373,300 deer harvested in Michigan in 2024 in all seasons, up 7.6 percent from 2023. That number was driven by a large increase in the antlerless harvest, up 18 percent year-over-year. Buck harvest increased 1 percent, the DNR report said.

Deer harvests in the Upper Peninsula (+21 percent) and the Northern Lower Peninsula (+15 percent) saw significant jumps in 2024. The Southern Lower Peninsula, where more than 200,000 deer were killed, was flat compared to 2023.

But the hunter response rate this year to the deer survey was the lowest in the quarter century that Frawley has seen. When he started the survey, participation in the deer survey was 75 percent. This year, it fell to 27 percent.

As a result of the decline in participation, the DNR is ending the survey, and is now mandating

THE BUCK HARVEST in 2024 was up only 1 percent from the year before, but the antlerless deer harvest jumped 18 percent, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Photo credit: David Kenyon/MDNR

that people report their deer kills. Frawley told the state Natural Resources Commission that in 2024 there were changes in regulations that he attributed to more doe being taken. “We think a combination of all those changes, extended season, new seasons, different hunting devices, all of that created an opportunity that led to more antlerless deer taken,” he said.

Some other revelations of the report:

- The DNR said 523,926 people hunted deer in 2024, which was 1 percent greater than 2023. Hunter numbers were similar in all regions of the state.

- A deer license was purchased by 604,088 people, a 1.6 percent increase vs. 2023.

- There were 74,070 Michigan youth hunters in 2024, a 19 percent decline since 1995.

- The muzzleloader season saw a 63 percent increase in harvest from 2023 to 2024, while late antlerless season saw a decline of 24 percent.

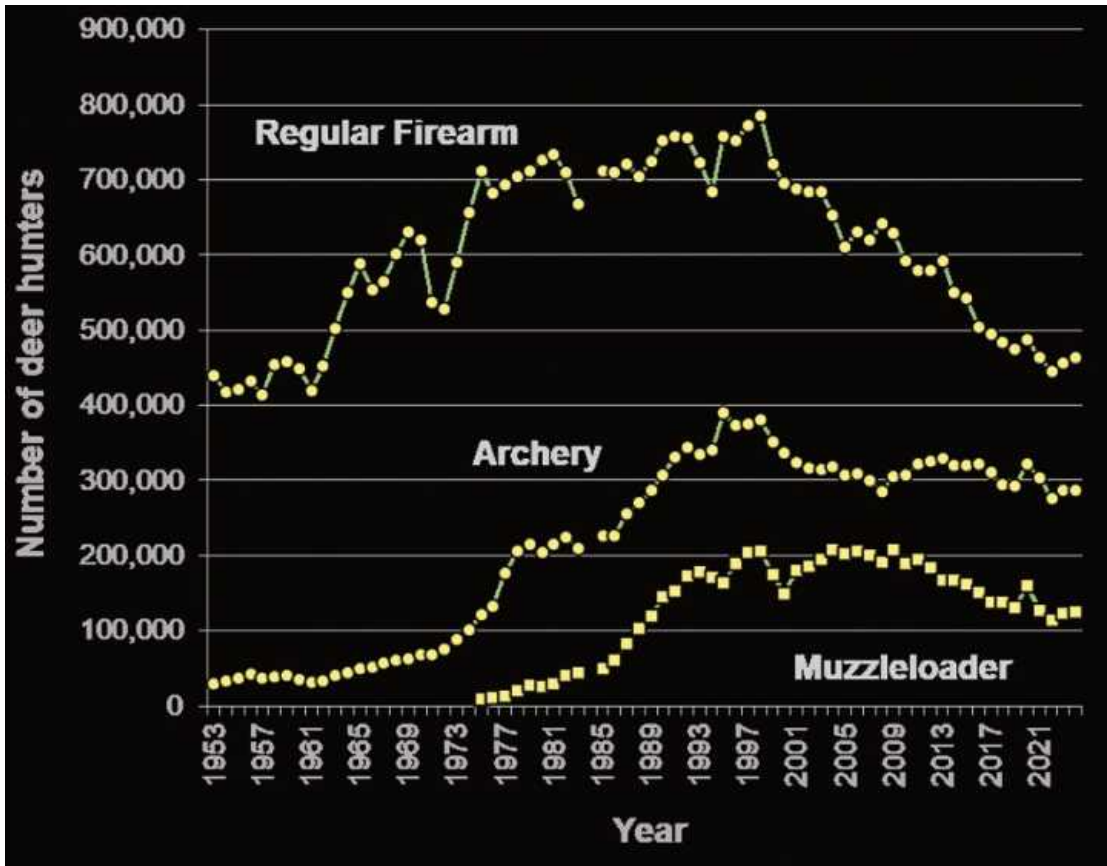
- The survey found that 58 percent of hunters knew they could donate their deer. Another 35 percent were aware they could donate the cost of butchering a deer. Forty percent were unaware of either option. The survey found 21 percent of hunters donated their deer for use in food banks.

Outdoors

Is deer hunting turning a corner?



Long-term Michigan deer hunting trends



Source: Michigan DNR

Buy a license to help wildlife in Michigan

Every species has a story. Thanks to the Michigan Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund, several Michigan species are adding encouraging chapters on restoration and stabilization to theirs. In fact, the fund has helped recover the Kirtland’s Warbler, trumpeter swan and osprey, and continues to fund conservation for pollinators, bats, amphibians and reptiles.

“When the fund was created in 1983, it had three main goals: to restore populations of endangered and threatened species through management and protection, to maintain present populations of animals and plants, and to promote appreciation and awareness of these species through education and first-hand opportunities to experience wildlife,” said DNR wildlife communications representative Rachel Lincoln.

One way to promote the fund and build more buzz about the plight of threatened and endangered species was the introduction, in 2006, of the wildlife habitat license plate. For the first time, Michigan residents could choose a plate (then featuring the common loon) that would both send a portion of their plate registration fee to the fund and allow them to publicly display, on their vehicles, support for wildlife conservation.

The Michigan Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund was vital in bringing back trumpeter swans from near extinction, with habitat restoration and reintroductions between the late 1980s and early 2000s that helped the population recover to the point that the swans were removed from Michigan’s Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2022.

It also supports ongoing critical conservation work for the northern long-eared bat, a species threatened by white-nose syndrome and habitat loss. This includes protective measures such as gating sensitive hibernation sites, surveying bats and developing a regional bat habitat.

Since 2006, the wildlife habitat license plate has raised more than \$4.8 million for the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. After the loon, the plate also has featured the elk and, currently, the Kirtland’s Warbler.

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