



## SHORT CUTS

### Workers' share of U.S. output drops

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A set of obscure federal workplace statistics adds another data point to the decades-long trend of workers' pay falling behind while corporations get richer.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Jan. 8 release of its "National Income and Product Accounts" measures the portion of U.S. economic output that goes to workers in the form of wages and salaries. And workers are continuing to see lighter wallets, relatively speaking: the measure known as "labor share" fell to 53.8 percent in the third quarter of 2025, down nearly a point from the previous quarter and from the average of 55.6 in the 2020s.

The trend has zigged and zagged over the decades since labor share of U.S. economic output was 66 percent in 1950 – just about at the historic height of union penetration in the nation's workplace. In the ensuing years, the percentage never dropped below 60 percent until the Great Recession, when it dropped four points in 2009 to 59 percent. There was a brief spike up during the pandemic, but the labor share has mostly dropped since then, with a precipitous drop during 2025 to 53.8 percent.

The loss of worker share in the U.S. economy isn't due to declining productivity: the BLS said labor productivity, or output per hour, is historically high, with a 2 percent increase in the third quarter of 2025. That was higher than the 1.5 percent rate calculated from the last "business cycle" measured by the BLS, from 2007-2019.

Corporate boards of directors do not have such worries about losing ground: companies that make up the Standard and Poor 500 for the third quarter of 2025 reported net profits of 13.1 percent, the highest quarterly mark since at least 2009.

**Aging workforce creates opportunities**

Like everyone everywhere, we in Michigan are getting older, but we're getting older at a rate faster than our neighbors. And there aren't enough young people around to make up the difference.

That's a problem for an overtaxed Medicare budget, for alleviating the difficulty in finding adequate senior care facilities, for maintaining state tax income and for families taking care of their elders. But it's also an opportunity for young people looking for work.

Nearly 20 percent of Michigan is 65 or older. In 23 of Michigan's 83 counties, the median age of residents is 50 or older, higher than any other state with at least 20 counties, according to *Bridge Michigan*.

And Michigan has had some of the most anemic growth in the country, it's 49th in population growth from 1990 to 2020. In 2024, there were roughly 2,800 more deaths than births in Michigan.

"We haven't been growing – that means those of us that are here are aging in place," said Eric Lupher, president of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, a nonpartisan research organization focused on policy. "We don't have the workforce of the future."

For those considering a future in the construction industry, take note, because the state's building trades population isn't getting any younger, either.

**Quotable**

"Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right."

—Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S \$200 million Plant and Environmental Science Building under construction at Farm Lane and Wilson Road in East Lansing will provide the most advanced facility yet on campus that's devoted to plants and agricultural science and education. Clark Construction is managing the project.

## MSU goes green, of course, with \$200M plant building

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

EAST LANSING – Michigan State University was founded in 1855 as the Agricultural College of the State of Michigan – the first institution of higher learning in the nation dedicated to education in the science of growing stuff and improving knowledge down on the farm.

That agricultural tradition keeps growing in 2026, with the ongoing construction of the university's \$200 million Plant and Environmental Science Building (PESB) at Farm Lane and Wilson Road.

Led by Clark Construction, the project will, according to the university, "provide critical laboratory space for approximately 40 principal investigators and their teams, advancing MSU's leadership in food security and climate adaptation." Packed with an array of building components, work stations, mechanical features and common areas specific to their area of study, the new 205,000-square-foot building is expected to "provide new capacity, align modern building infrastructure and space functionality and support the consolidation of top ranked researchers and students, thereby enabling new synergies and enhancing potential for discovery," MSU added.

Clark Construction Senior Project Manager Nick Henne and Project Manager Shane Jepperson last month said about 150 tradespeople were on site, which put the project at about peak employment.

"We've had a very good group of tradespeople here, the coordination has been fantastic and we're meeting the schedule," Jepperson said. "We're better than the schedule in some places." The building is being erected on what had es-

entially been greenfield space, located in what MSU calls the "Plant Sciences" neighborhood on campus. Henne said they are constantly cognizant that they "are taking up a lot of real estate at one of the busier intersections on campus," with the added complexity of utility and road work improvements going on nearby.

Construction of the PESB gives MSU an opportunity to build modern, state-of-the-art space for its research and education efforts. And that means

(Continued on Page 2)



ROLLING ON coat of white paint on a basement wall at the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building is Mark Brown of Michigan Painters District Council Local 1803. He's employed by Murray Painting.



CUTTING DUCT INSULATION on the first floor of the Plant and Environmental Science Building on the MSU campus is Jacob McCormick of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47. He's employed by Mechanical and Industrial Insulation.

## 'Dampened expectations' for 2026

### List of unknowns tempers U.S. construction outlook

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

U.S. construction contractors foresee some softening in the U.S. construction marketplace this year – aside from surging demand for data centers and power facilities – amid broader worries about

the direction of the nation's economy.

That industry outlook is outlined in the Jan. 8 release of the annual prognostication by the Associated General Contractors and Sage (a business management software

Each December and January, numerous organizations and publications pitch in with their own predictions for the coming year. Here is a sampling for 2026:

**Dodge Data and Analytics:** predicted the total dollar value of overall construction starts vs. will drop 0.4 percent during 2026. "Megaprojects, led by data centers, will keep construction activity afloat" in 2026, "but

company) of what's to come in the building industry, based on contractors' input. This year's report is titled: *Dampened Expectations: The 2026 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook*.



persistent downside risks will limit the overall outlook," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge.

**Engineering News Record:** their headline and lede: "2026 forecast – Megaprojects, data centers spur growth amid shifting policies. Following a year of uncertainty in the economy, experts expect much of the same for the construction industry heading into 2026."

increasingly worried about the broader economy, the possibility of a recession, and the outlook for materials costs amid ongoing uncertainty around tariffs and trade policy," the report said. "At the same time, many firms remain concerned about

**FMI Consulting:** The specialized consulting and investment banking firm focused on construction is forecasting that spending for total construction put-in-place (which differs from Dodge's calculation) will decline 1.4 percent when the final numbers come in for 2025, before re-bounding at a rate of 0.7 percent in 2026.

"There is this sort of general unease" when looking at the next

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## 'This is national surrender' White House's fixation on canceling all things Biden costs U.S. \$236B in jobs

*Editor's note: The IBEW and North America's Building Trades Unions compiled an ignominious list under the title, "States Losing The Most" showing the total value of energy and infrastructure projects that have been canceled, postponed or threatened through November of 2025. Leading the list: Michigan, which in July watched as the Sandisk Corp. withdrew its proposed \$63 billion next-generation flash memory plant from Mundy Twp. in Genesee Co. The company cited "massive uncertainty" in the federal government.*

(From the IBEW)

Green energy never did much for Weirton, W.Va., until 2022. It seemed like solar and wind construction blossomed everywhere but here. In the northern sliver of West Virginia between Ohio and Pennsylvania, nothing stepped up when first the coal mines shuttered and then the powerhouses followed.

Weirton Steel once employed more than 10,000 workers, but the final forge went cold in 2024. In

2022, finally, the promise of clean energy found Weirton.

That last steel mill was to reopen to make transformers for



green generation stations, three of which were being built in the jurisdiction of Steubenville, Ohio, Local 246, which includes Weirton.

"There was a huge production. Then-governor Republican Jim Justice was there with his dog," said IBEW Local 246 Business Manager Kevan Brown. "We were finally getting in on a high-demand industry."

The \$150 million project was made possible by incentives in 2022's Inflation Reduction Act, which provided tax credits for the domestic manufacture of critical clean energy technology. "I expected 200 to 250 construction jobs for at least five years," Brown said, boom times for his

(Continued on Page 3)

## One year later, Trump's labor union beat-down is unprecedented

By Lawrence S. Wittner

Although President Donald Trump has claimed that "every policy" of his administration was "designed to lift up the American worker," he has acted consistently, since returning to office in January 2025, to undermine workers' chosen representatives, America's labor unions.

The most flagrant Trump action along these lines occurred in March 2025, when he issued an executive order that terminated collective bargaining rights for more than 1 million federal government employees. This measure, the largest single union-busting action in American history, ended union representation and protections for 1 out of 14 unionized workers in the United States.

Trump's anti-union campaign dovetailed with his efforts to terminate the employment of hundreds of thousands of federal workers, many of them union members. Federal workers, Trump claimed, are "destroying this country," and are "crooked" and "dishonest." "Many of them," he said, "don't work at all."

To supervise his massive purge of public employees, Trump chose Elon Musk – the world's wealthiest individual and largest donor to his presidential campaign – to direct a mysterious Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Delighted with the job, Musk

**'This has been the most hostile administration to workers in our lifetimes'**

–Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO president

declared, without any evidence, that there were "people on the government payroll who are dead" and others "who are not real people." Addressing a conference of conservatives, the flamboyant multimillionaire charged that "waste is pretty much everywhere" and brandished a chain saw against what he called "bureaucracy."

As Musk's minions ram-paged through federal agencies, planning large-scale firings, DOGE informed workers that, if they voluntarily resigned, they would be paid without working during the remainder of the fiscal year. Confronted with the difficult choice of possible termination or resignation with some financial compensation, 154,000 employees signed up in the first six months for the new voluntary resignation program.

"Nobody really knew if your job was safe," recalled a former Social Security Administration employee. "I thought, better just to take it voluntarily, rather than being forced out."

Labor unions, of course, (Continued on Page 13)

## Construction material costs see highest jump in 3 years; effects may be minimal

Overall construction input prices in January are 3.4 percent higher in November than they were 12 months prior – the biggest jump in material costs since January 2023.

"Input costs for construction are rising faster than for producers or consumers in general, partly because the industry is faced with steep tariffs on many materials," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist. "Although many contractors are accelerating purchases and attempting to pass along cost increases, their bid prices have not kept up, rising

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Viewpoints



Year One

President Trump returned to the White House with a signature promise: to be a “champion for the American worker” and launch a “golden age” for domestic manufacturing. By the end of year one of his second term, Trump’s rhetoric hasn’t matched economic reality. As working-class families increasingly struggle to make ends meet, it has become clear that a year of tariffs, union-busting and weakening the federal government has made it harder for Americans to deal with the rising costs of electricity, food and housing.

While the administration touts job creation figures, the manufacturers have been steadily cutting jobs. In April 2025, Trump announced “Liberation Day” with his sweeping tariffs that he claimed would bring jobs and factories “roaring back into our country.” Instead, from April to December, the United States lost 72,000 net manufacturing jobs. American manufacturers are struggling to meet rising costs, while workers compete with one another for fewer decent jobs.

Meantime, real wage growth for the working class has slowed significantly. From January through September 2025, wage growth fell by 0.5 percentage points for those with a high school education or less, and for those with associate degrees, it dropped by 0.7 percentage points.

Workers who feel they are running faster to stay in the same place have Trump’s tariffs to blame. According to the Yale Budget Lab, the administration’s tariffs are expected to cost the average household \$1,700 annually. Between March and December 2025, prices for meat rose 4.7 percent, household appliances 5 percent, and fruit 6.5 percent above their pre-tariff trends.

Energy costs are rising too: Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows household electricity costs hit 9 percent higher in August than at the start of 2025.

At a time like this, workers need strong unions, labor protections and a government invested in enforcing the rules, but instead, the Trump administration is setting workers up for failure by busting unions and dismantling the legal guardrails that protect workers.

In what one labor historian called the “largest single action of union-busting in American history,” the president eliminated collective bargaining rights for more than 1 million federal workers. The Trump administration has also taken aim at minimum-wage standards. By executive order, Trump lowered the minimum wage for federal contractors by \$9,256 annually, and proposed rules that will strip minimum wage protections from up to 3.7 million domestic workers.

Even as it weakens minimum-wage standards, the Administration has also reduced the government’s ability to enforce wage and safety laws. It replaced critical pro-worker leaders at federal agencies – including at the National Labor Relations Board, Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – with former management-side lawyers and appointees with an anti-union history. It also reduced penalties for workplace safety violations.

Trump’s appointments of judges with an anti-worker history of fighting local minimum-wage increases, defending so-called “right to work” laws, and representing corporations in cases against unions offers little cause for optimism that workers will get their day in court.

The “Trump effect” is not a surge of prosperity for the working class. Instead, it represents a systematic weakening of families’ pocketbooks and workers’ rights.

Lower employment, slowing wage growth and higher prices for working-class people are nothing to celebrate, and the American worker is entering 2026 with little hope for reprieve.

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MSU erects \$200M plant building

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means creating efficient spaces not only for human work, study and interaction, but also installing highly specialized mechanical systems and fixtures and creating simulated environments that cater to the examination, experimentation and care of plant growth.

The building’s rooftop, for example, will support a 2,400-square-foot “phytotron” greenhouse, one of only a handful in the nation. The structure will have 12 modular chambers, each able to precisely regulate temperature, humidity, light and carbon dioxide levels while simulating precise climate conditions.

Plumbers are also installing a self-explanatory “fertilized water system” in the building. Seed storage facilities will safeguard long-term plant biodiversity.

Laboratory and office space is split on floors two, three and four of the building. And in the basement will be the “Center for Advanced Microscopy,” which supports high-resolution plant visualizations and analysis. The system of highly functioning microscopes will be built atop their own vibration-controlling concrete slabs along with electromagnetic shields.

MSU says the PESB’s “programmatic vision” will center on “research at the interface of plants and the environment with a focus on agriculture and eco-



**PERFORMING LAYOUT for the installation of chilled beam hangers at the Michigan State University’s Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing are (l-r) Doug Rustin and Jenna McFarland of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They’re employed by John E.Green.**

logical resilience; fundamental mechanisms of plant growth, photosynthesis, and evolution and resistance to stress/change. Planning for the building will consider the programmatic needs of research in photosynthesis and plant resilience, regenerative agriculture, and environmental science and ecology.”

Construction of the PESB began in October 2024 and is expected to be substantially complete in May 2027.

“This investment in research excellence advances MSU’s 2030

Strategic Plan and will help position MSU for its next 150 years of leadership in agriculture and plant sciences,” said Thomas D. Jeitschko, MSU senior vice provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

“This building is really going to be an asset to Michigan State, and will help them to further their research abilities,” Henne said. He added that the importance of the role of the PESB was put into perspective during its groundbreaking, when one of the speakers, who will be working in the

building, “said her sole purpose was to put plants on Mars.”

“That kind of statement shows that what we’re building here transcends East Lansing or mid-Michigan,” Jepperson said. “We’re looking forward to making this building become a premier facility that will help scientists push research forward around the country and the world.”

Planned building features include:

- A rooftop phytotron (a greenhouse) that regulates temperature, humidity, light and carbon dioxide levels, simulating precise climate conditions;
- The Center for Advanced Microscopy, which supports high resolution plant visualizations and analysis;
- Seed storage facilities to safeguard long-term plant biodiversity.

Let’s get workers to the table

**By Jim Hightower**

As we head into a momentous election year, with state and national legislative seats up for grabs, even let-them-eat-cake Republicans are scrambling to sound sympathetic to today’s hard-hit working-class families.

Of course, tongue-clucking concern doesn’t mean actually doing anything to help this majority of Americans – and most legislatures are doing exactly that: Nothing.

In fact, you’d think the ones hurting in America are bil-

lionaires, for those same tongue-clucking lawmakers have been laser-focused this year on delivering monopoly protections, multibillion-dollar government subsidies, exclusive tax breaks, and even top government positions to the richest and greediest corporate profiteers. This is personally disgraceful and socially destructive... yet it has become business as usual.

Why? What’s causing America’s so-called “representatives” to disregard the needs of a majority of their own constituents? The corrupting power of corporate money, of course, but a more fundamental cause is this: The class make-up of practically every legislative body. Millionaires-and-up now dominate. But most-telling, is who you don’t

see: Working stiff.

While more than half of Americans are wage workers who overwhelmingly support progressive reforms to advance economic fairness and social justice, the elitist legislative structure shuts them out. Consider America’s 7,300 state legislative seats – only 1 percent of Republican members and two percent of Democrats are working class! Ten states have zero working class members!

As an old adage notes: If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. Labor laws, health care, campaign finance, AI regulation... again and again, workers are put on the corporate menu, because the lawmaking system is rigged to keep them from being at the table to represent themselves.

CannonDesign, the architect/engineer of the PESB, said the building was designed to enhance the daily experience of its users.

“The PESB will house cutting-edge wet bench laboratories and growth chambers that can simulate growing conditions anywhere in the world and even the effects of climate change. The research labs are configured in two neighborhoods, each providing space for approximately six research teams, and located adjacent to adaptable spaces that allow researchers to align the physical environment with the research activities that need to take place.”

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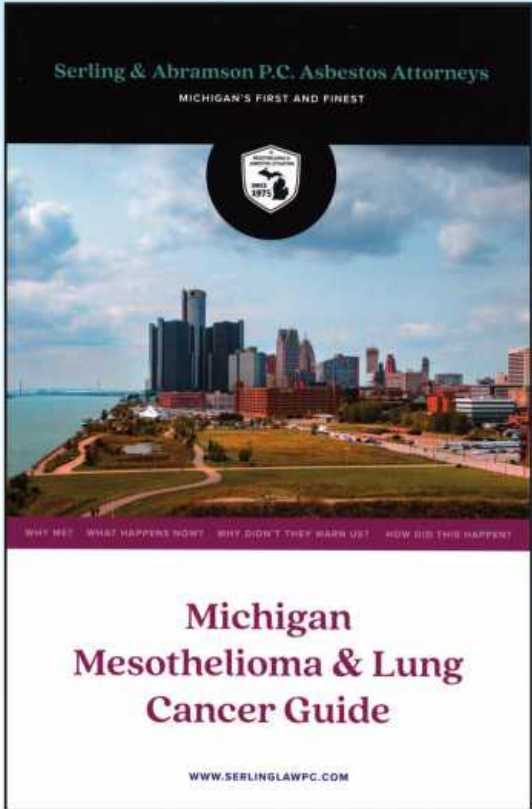
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# BUILDING MICHIGAN!

## A mitten-shaped natural gas sponge HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

CONSUMERS ENERGY’S Ray Compressor Station in northern Macomb County, sitting atop 41.2 billion cubic feet of underground natural gas storage capacity, saw construction of a new plant in 2011-12. Led by Walbridge, construction required installation of 1.5 miles of large piping, nearly 10 miles of small-bore piping, 2,100 foundations, 500 steel pipe supports, 300 pieces of equipment, eight 6,000-gallon storage tanks, two air compressors, one small thermal oxidizer, a hot water boiler and an emergency gas generator. The utility’s five state-of-the-art compressors are among the cleanest and most efficient in the industry. Ray Compressor is Consumers Energy’s largest underground natural gas storage and compressor facility.

Photo credit: Walbridge

Michigan’s got gas – we’re about No. 17 among states in the nation when it comes to natural gas production, not really a major player compared to the top three producers, Texas, Pennsylvania and Louisiana.

But when it comes to storing the stuff underground, the Lower Peninsula has all the right air gaps amid the rock and mineral formations to make our state the nation’s leader in natural gas storage. And all the pipelines, pumps and related infrastructure to safely move that gas in and out of storage has been a major source of work for the building trades since the 1930s.

Various gaps in Michigan’s vast underground formations of former oil fields, salt deposits and porous rock have made the Great Lakes State a natural subterranean closet for natural gas. Michigan has been building the infrastructure to store natural gas underground since 1936, when the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. started pumping natural gas here from wells in the Southwest. Today, Michigan pumps a significant amount of “new” natural gas from its own wells, but the vast majority of what is stored and used here comes from pipelines that cross its borders.

“Michigan has 44 natural gas storage fields with almost 1.1 trillion cubic feet of underground storage capacity, which is the most capacity of any state and almost one-eighth of the nation’s total natural gas storage capacity,” says the U.S. Energy Information Administration. As of August 2025, the administration said Michigan had a little room underground to store gas, but not much, with 929,263 billion cubic feet of gas taking up the space.

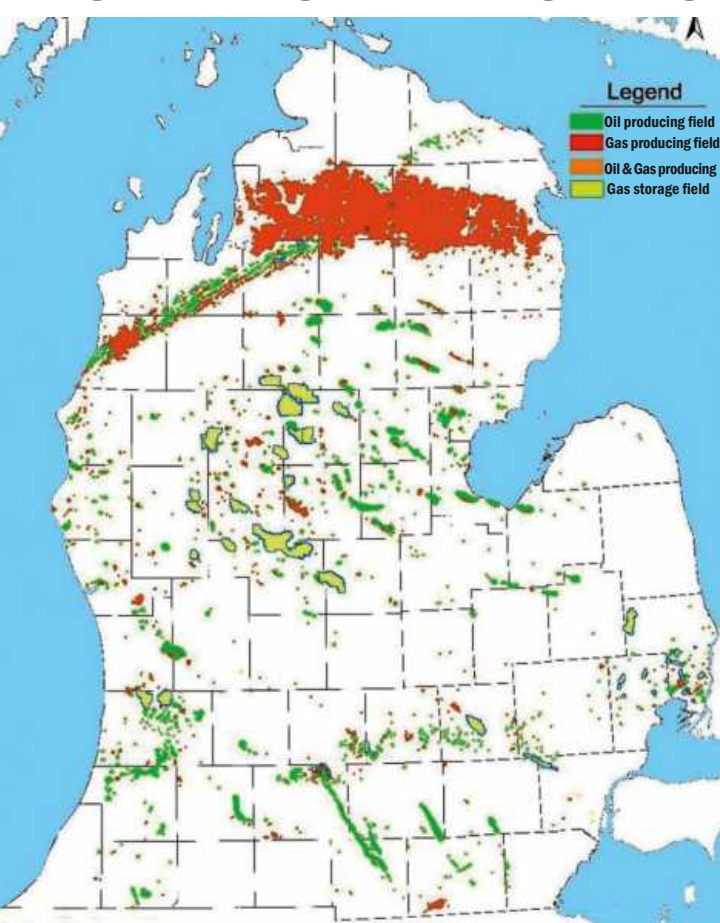
And Michigan also burns what it stores. With coal-fired plants quickly being shuttered, natural gas-fired plants powered 45 percent of Michigan’s total electrical generation in 2024 – an amount four times greater than it was a decade earlier.

“Natural gas consumed in Michigan,” says a 2019 report by the state Public Service Commission, “comes from gas and oil fields located primarily in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, the Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle, on- and offshore Louisiana, and Alberta, Canada. Gas producers use the knowledge gained in the United States over the past 150 years to explore for natural gas fields. They develop fields by drilling wells into them that are then connected to gathering pipelines that, after processing, connect to large pipelines for delivery to places like Michigan. Most gas fields are in geological formations that developed 150 to 200 million years ago.”

The commission said all but two of the state’s 55 current underground storage fields were once tapped to produce natural gas. All current storage fields are located throughout Michigan’s Lower Peninsula – the U.P. has much different geology. The first of those storage fields, Austin Field in Mecosta Co., was converted by the American Natural Resources Co. (the parent company of Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.) in 1941 to store excess product produced in the summer to produce gas for winter use in the Muskegon area.

Nearby, “Six Lakes Field” eventually became a cornerstone of Michigan’s emerging as the nation’s largest natural gas storehouse, boasting the most natural gas storage capacity of any state in the union,” says a report prepared by Central Michigan University’s

### Michigan’s natural gas/oil fields & gas storage



THE WIDELY SCATTERED yellow blotches shown in the Lower Peninsula collectively sit atop the largest natural gas storage capacity in the nation. Michigan’s unique and porous subterranean geography, plus the presence of a number of tapped-out gas well fields, make it possible for the state’s wells to contain nearly 1.1 trillion billion cubic feet of natural gas. Gas leakage from underground storage is more likely to take place from the hardware pumping and extracting gas, rather than via natural geography.

Image credit: Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy

Clarke Historical Library. “In 1941 the played-out site found new lease in life as a 13 billion cubic-feet capacity gas storage field. American Natural Resources was among the vanguard in Louisiana Gulf Coast offshore drilling. The firm built a huge natural gas pipeline to deliver gas from the Gulf Coast directly to the Six Lakes Field.”

What type of geology makes Michigan a good place to store natural gas?

The RPS Group, a company of scientists and engineers who identify gas storage sites, said not surprisingly, “the most common types of natural gas storage are in depleted gas reservoirs,” which contained gas in the first place. Other good containment formations include salt caverns and, to a lesser extent, aquifers. “Depleted gas reservoirs have advantages over other types of gas storage as any unproduced gas can be used as cushion gas,” RPS said, “and the fields may also have very large working gas capacity.”

“Depleted reservoirs are also likely to be linked to existing gas infrastructure, which reduces initial investment costs.”

Michigan’s unique geology not only has those depleted gas reservoirs, but also contains a plethora of sponge-like rock formations within the Michigan Basin (a large, bowl-shaped geological depression centered under the Lower Peninsula, filled with thousands of feet of sedimentary rock layers like shale, limestone, salt, sandstone), which are sealed by impermeable salt deposits.

Over the years, the process of injecting and extracting natural gas underground has been big business for the state’s utilities, and the building trades.

“Michigan’s unique geology makes it possible for us to purchase natural gas in bulk when prices are lower and store it underground,” says Consumers Energy. “Our rocks are extremely porous, offering lots of nooks and crannies perfect for gas storage. We’re able to physically push the gas into the ground where it remains until we need to extract it back out, filter it, dehydrate it and push it out to customers.”

“Few other states have this geology. Most are contending with hard rocks or clay under their surfaces, but we’re very

lucky that Michigan is more of a mitten-shaped sponge capable of keeping gas available year-round.” Depending on the geological formations, gas can be stored at depths of up to about 11,500 feet, with shallower sites storing gas at 2,800 feet.

Compressor stations are a vital part of the utilities’ gas-moving process, as they boost pressure to push supplies to the transmission network as well as underground storage fields

Consumers Energy operates about 30,000 miles of natural gas pipeline in the state, which work in concert with their 15 gas storage fields and nearly 1,000 wells – in total they provides the utility with about 309 billion cubic feet of working gas storage capacity. The utility says it purchases natural gas in the warmer months, when costs are generally lower, and then stores it for use during the heating season. This approach, Consumers says, “will save our full-service customers about \$223 million this heating season.” Consumers said 85 percent of the gas it pumps to customers is stored natural gas, capable of heating about 1.7 million homes for an entire year.

DTE Energy maintains four natural gas storage sites in Michigan, with capacity totaling 140 billion cubic feet. DTE’s gas distribution system includes 2,118 miles of transmission pipeline and 19,127 miles of distribution main. The utility serves 1.3 million gas customers in Michigan.

Overall there are 11 gas distribution utilities in Michigan.

“All but two of Michigan’s 55 storage fields were once producing fields,” says the Michigan Public Service Commission. “They are located throughout Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. They were converted to storage by drilling more wells and building pipeline facilities and compressor stations.

Unlike producing fields, gas storage fields are designed such that their entire production can be cycled in and out of the field each year. The geologic structures that make up storage fields in Michigan have a high porosity, which makes them among the best in North America.”

# White House’s fixation on undoing all things Biden costs U.S. \$236B in jobs

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350-member local. And then all those hopes died. The signs announcing the project faded. The gate stayed chained.

In May, the materials giant Cleveland-Cliffs killed the Weirton project. It was one of five nationwide. The tax incentives in the IRA were all gutted, and there was economic pandemonium from the blanket imposition of tariffs.

Since the start of the Trump Administration, at least 300 energy and transportation construction projects, worth \$236 billion, have been canceled, postponed or seriously threatened. Of that, \$131 billion in projects are outright canceled. The cancellations represent at least 255,000 lost construction jobs, according to research conducted by the IBEW and North America’s Building Trades Unions.

These numbers only cover project cancellations or setbacks due to tariffs, tax credit revocations or economic uncertainty caused by the president’s policies in the first 10 months of his term.

Most of the damage is a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, a \$1.1 trillion tax giveaway to corporations and the top 1 percent of earners, who take home more than \$1 million annually. Those cuts come at the expense of tax incentives and grant programs in the Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and CHIPS and Science Act that spurred hundreds of billions of dollars of private investment during the Biden Administration.

Almost 55 percent of the cancellation announcements did not include estimated job losses. The actual number of lost construction jobs is most likely much higher. “I hear about the uncertainty constantly from anybody planning any project. They are hesitant to invest, are slowing everything to a snail’s pace or just stopping altogether,” said IBEW Construction and Maintenance Director Matt Paules. “We had so much going for us, and in 10 months he’s cut the knees out from under us.”

**A personal cost.** The Cleveland-Cliffs project was one of 53 manufacturing construction plans worth \$134 billion that have been canceled.

Brown acknowledged that the tsunami of cancellations could have come at a worse time. There are open calls in parts of the country – at least 60 Local 246 members are traveling now. But for the first time in too long, all of his members were going to get what their parents had: a steady job in their hometown.

The Cleveland-Cliffs transformer facility would have carried this member through to the retirement he earned without sacrificing the health care he needed.

Not anymore. To add insult to injury, the solar projects haven’t moved forward in months. “It’s devastating,” Brown said. Instead of heading out to a local job, the veteran member took early retirement and left thousands of dollars on the table. All he needed was a few years more for a full pension.

The cancellations come at a terrible time for the power grid. For the first time in decades, power demand is growing in North America, but in 2025, imports will account for about 80 percent of transformer supply and 50 percent of the distribution transformer supply, according to an analysis by Wood Mackenzie. And while tariffs were sold as a way to make domestic manufacturing more competitive, the blanket policy is crippling domestic expansion and increasing the cost of imported components for U.S. manufacturers.

**A wasted opportunity.**

Manufacturing was the hardest-hit sector by total dollar value, but energy generation represents the greatest number of projects canceled and threatened. At least 190 projects in 35 states worth almost \$68 billion were canceled or postponed in the first 10 months of the Trump Administration.

Because the IBEW was so successful in building labor protections into the Biden-era laws – requiring prevailing wage and registered apprenticeship participation, for example – most, if not all, of these jobs would have been the IBEW’s work.

In addition to the canceled construction projects, the Trump Administration and the Republican Congress killed 25 federal investment programs, affecting more than 1,400 projects worth in excess of \$1.1 billion. “We fought for decades to get our country reinvesting in infrastructure, in domestic manufacturing, and giving union workers a fair shot at the work,” said IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper. “Trump and the Republican Congress just killed all that for nothing.”

One of the largest projects to die was in Rockford, Ill. Rockford is as solid a union town as you will find, said Local 364 Business Manager Alan Golden. “We have 94 percent market share. Our largest nonunion shop has five guys,” he said.

There’s work for his 1,000 members, including Walmart’s largest cold-storage facility and a data center in DeKalb. But it was still hard on the local when Stellantis shut down its facility in Belvidere in 2023. So it was a good day when Stellantis announced that not only would it reopen the shuttered production line, but it would also invest \$3.2 billion to build an entirely new EV battery facility. Golden said he expected 200 jobs from the expansion, and several dozen permanent maintenance jobs on site.

Then, in June, Trump canceled a \$335 million award from a Department of Energy initiative supporting EV manufacturing and Stellantis killed the Belvi-

dere battery plant. About 1,300 expected jobs evaporated. “This is a huge loss,” Golden said. “This plant means the world to Belvidere.”

**A betrayal.** In total, nearly \$16 billion in battery manufacturing projects were killed in the first 10 months of the Trump Administration. Belvidere was just the largest.

Meanwhile, Chinese factories built 12.4 million electric vehicles last year. U.S. factories built only 1.1 million. China exported more electric vehicles – 1.2 million – than the U.S. made in total.

Nearly 100 solar, wind and battery storage generation projects were canceled, totaling nearly \$25 billion. Last year, China installed 198 gigawatts of new solar in the first five months of 2025, far exceeding the total installed solar capacity of the U.S., 177 GW.

“This is national surrender. Killing all this work not only punishes working people, it fails the country,” Cooper said. The IBEW was extraordinarily successful in the legislative fights over the IRA, IJIA, and CHIPS and Science acts. For the first time, labor standards were built into tax credit and infrastructure laws that gave union workers an equal shot.

Developers were rewarded with smaller tax bills when they paid prevailing wages and used registered apprentices.

It’s possible, Paules said, that the midterms return the House and Senate to politicians who want to invest in America’s future and end this war on new generation and manufacturing. But he worries that it may take until the end of Trump’s presidency in 2029. Paules said he wonders what will be lost.

“Maybe it all comes back; we’re just stalled for a while. But I doubt it. We fought for decades to build labor standards into the clean energy transition and finally got it done. We had a fair shot, even an edge, against the low-bidders and bottom feeders,” he said. “I worry we won’t be able to get it back.”

# Construction material costs see highest jump in 3 years

(Continued from Page 1)

only 2.7 percent in the past 12 months.”

The federal numbers were released Jan. 14, and showed the economy’s overall Consumer Price Index rose 2.7 percent during 2025. By sector, nonresidential construction input prices rose 3.8 percent for the month.

The AGC said the November price data combined with their contractor survey results released this month “together show that tariffs are driving up construction costs,” and urged the Trump Administration to “quickly conclude trade agreements and other adjustments to bring material costs back down.”

“The frequent increases and announcements about prospective tariffs have pushed up the cost of construction and made owners hesitant to commit to projects,” said AGC CEO Jeffrey Shoaf. “Contractors and owners alike need more certainty and fewer price shocks from tariffs to assure a healthy construction market in 2026.”

The Associated Builders and Contractors also keeps a consistent watch on material prices. “Construction input prices surged in November and are now up 3.4 percent on a year-over-year basis,” said ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu. “While that’s a relatively modest annual increase, it’s also the largest since January 2023 and the trend offers plenty of cause for concern. Many tariff-affected materials, like derivative metal products and switchgear equipment, have experienced considerable price escalation in 2025.

“Unfortunately, it is impossible to know exactly how the cost of tariffs will be distributed throughout the supply chain, and that makes it exceptionally difficult to know how construction input prices will behave in 2026,” Basu continued. “Despite this uncertainty, contractors are on net optimistic that their profit margins will expand during the first half of the year, according to ABC’s Construction Confidence Index, albeit slightly less optimistic than they were at the same time last year.”

“Ask your child what he wants for dinner only if he’s buying.”  
–Fran Lebowitz (1950 - )

“If you don’t know to the second when a drunk’s gonna vomit on you, you don’t survive as a strip club bouncer.”  
–Veronica Pare and Ferrett Steinmetz

“The height of cleverness is to be able to conceal it.”  
–Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)





WE ASKED THE TEAM from Davenport Masonry working at the MSU Plant and Sciences Building to gather for a photo in from of a block wall they were laying. From (l-r) are Laborers Local 499 members Mitchell Fedewa and Davion Ruiz, and then Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 masons Mike Yates, Zach Lewis, Ryley Turk, Ryan Hazlett, Jason Chrysler and John Fry.



## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

### BAC LOCAL 2 WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS.

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 10:00AM, BAC Local 2 Union Hall, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

**ALL FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED – EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER AND HOUGHTON MEETINGS – DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2026.**

**HOUGHTON MEETING:** Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:00PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, February 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Carmelo Giummi** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 12/24/2025. Brother Giummi had been a member for over 64 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Barry Lerchenfeldt** (Tile Layer) who passed away 11/3/2025. Brother Lerchenfeldt had been a member for over 8 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother David Schroeder** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 12/20/2025. Brother Schroeder had been a member for over 7 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Ricardo Zanetti** (Tile Layer) who passed away on 12/27/2025. Brother Zanetti had been a member for over 71 years.

**APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL:** Turning in hours monthly on the Engage Portal is a requirement of your appren-

ticeship in order to keep up with your raises. This is all completed online must be filled out with details of what you have done for the month. If you need assistance getting access to the portal or need help on how to turn in time there are resources available online or please contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>. For more information on the Training Centers please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**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 Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 training classes.

**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.**

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

**CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED:** We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or

know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

**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.

**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](http://bacbenefits.org))  
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954  
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954  
Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000

## ‘Downside risks,’ ‘uncertainty,’ ‘general unease,’ – opportunity, too

(Continued from Page 1)

one to two years, said Jay Bowman, partner at FMI Consulting. “I understand that to a degree but at the same time, (contractors are) expressing all this concern, yet their backlogs in many cases are the best they’ve ever been. There’s a little bit of a disconnect.”

**Construction Dive:** “Contractors will need to depend on a familiar formula in 2026. Over the past 12 months, construction activity leaned heavily on a narrow group of winning sectors.

Tech giants pledged billions to expand the buildouts of their data center footprints. Public infrastructure construction, such as highways



### Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

**DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, February 17, at 7:00 pm. There will also be an executive board meeting on the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.**

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations!

**January 2026**  
**Ruben Salinas-25 Years**  
**Henry Williams-25 Years**  
**Bro. Quirno Longo** passed away in December. He was a 66-year member. Please keep the Longo family in your thoughts and prayers.

Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: [mmartinez@opcmiami.org](mailto:mmartinez@opcmiami.org)

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: [abest@opcmiami.org](mailto:abest@opcmiami.org) Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.Mustb-safe.com](http://www.Mustb-safe.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 [bcbsm.com/register](http://bcbsm.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

## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

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.micementplasterertraining.com](http://www.micementplasterertraining.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](http://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.**

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](http://www.mustonline.org) Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

**Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons:** You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, [www.Principal.com](http://www.Principal.com) or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)  
**If you are a first-time user, go to [Principal.com/Welcome](http://Principal.com/Welcome) Select Get Started.**

Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identity), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don’t provide your mobile phone number, you’ll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it’s really you.

Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address.

Select and answer three security questions to use if you

need to call us.

You now have access to your online account, and you’ll get a confirmation email within a few minutes.

The first time you log in, you’ll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online access.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 5600 New King Dr. Ste 330 Troy, MI 48098 48025-4524 The Fund Office’s business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Plasterers and Cement Masons:** It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

**Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

**Plasters and Commercial Cement Masons** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357.

**All Plasterers and Cement Masons** can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

**For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222.

## Just joking

A lost dog wanders into the jungle. A lion sees him and says, “hmm, never saw one of those before. But it looks tasty.”

So he charges at the dog, and the dog, freaking out but thinking quickly, sees a pile of bones nearby and announces, “that sure was some tasty lion meat!”

The lion slams on the brakes. He thinks, “Wait, this little dude eats lions? Nahh, I’m out of here.”

Observing what happened from his perch on a nearby tree branch, a monkey later bounds over to the lion, looking to get in his good graces, and tells him that the dog made a fool out of him.

The lion responds with a growl, and tells the monkey, “OK follow me. We’ll get him together!”

He storms back to the dog. The dog sees him coming, and in a panic, yells out, “where the hell is that monkey? I told him to bring me a lion an hour ago!”



SETTING A BLOCK WALL in the basement of the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing is John Fry of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. He’s employed by Davenport Masonry.

## The Building Tradesman

is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
Steve Claywell  
Secretary-Treasurer

Greg Herman  
President

ISSN-007-3717

*The Building Tradesman* is published bi-weekly (every other Friday) by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office. 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216 Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop



**Editor/Photographer**  
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E-mail: [buildingtradesman@ameritech.net](mailto:buildingtradesman@ameritech.net)

Subscription Rate \$15 annually (group rate for unions)  
*Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.*

**Advertising Director**  
Joe Hoshaw  
E-mail: [btads@ameritech.net](mailto:btads@ameritech.net)  
(734) 558-6955

**POSTMASTER**  
send postage returns to:  
**The Building Tradesman**  
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216  
Phone: (313) 961-3800  
Fax: (313) 961-2467  
*Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.*



Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members,  
DC1M WEBSITE: [www.iupat-dc1michigan.org](http://www.iupat-dc1michigan.org)

DC 1M UNION CARDS\*  
Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

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

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/UPGRADE CLASSES

WARREN FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Wednesday, Jan. 21- Lead Worker Part #1 -5PM

Wednesday, Jan. 28- Lead Worker Part #2 -5PM

Saturday, Feb. 14- Confined Space -9AM

Wednesday, Feb. 11- Confined Space Part #1 -5PM

Wednesday, Feb. 18- Confined Space Part #2 -5PM

OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Saturday, Jan. 24, Lead Worker- 9AM

Thursday Jan. 29, Lead Worker Part #2- 5PM

Saturday, Feb. 21 - Confined Space -9AM

Thursday, Feb. 12- Confined Space Part #1 -5PM

Thursday, Feb. 19- Confined Space Part #2 -5PM

Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up.

(517)304-4425 or email [dot@iupatdc1m.org](mailto:dot@iupatdc1m.org)

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP.

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

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

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id#

Password: painters

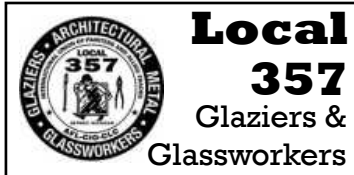
With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

Get involved and participate in your local 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.



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren Mi, 48088 at 5pm. If you are a member in good standing, please feel welcome to attend.

Please make it a priority to attend.

We still have several Local 357 members currently laid off. Please make every effort to make sure your certifications are up to date. This will help get you back to work.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. [Iupatpension.org](http://Iupatpension.org)

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

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

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

(Continued next column)



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

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

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: [www.iupat-local514.org](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes

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

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

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

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

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland

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

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker

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

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



Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00p.m. trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Local 357 cont'd

in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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

– Business Rep. Don Stepp



SPRAYING A BASEMENT WALL at the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building is Clayton Sadler of Michigan Painters District Council Local 845. He's employed by Murray Painting.



Local 149  
Roofers &  
Waterproofer

Roofers Local 149

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

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 3, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The Mid-Michigan meeting is scheduled for Tues., April 14, 2026, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at 810 Tacoma Ct., Clio, MI 48420. During this meeting, we will accept proposals regarding the allocation of contract funds. All submitted proposals will be brought forward for a vote in May.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother. Brother Richard Yaworski was 75 years old and a 32 year member. Brother Yaworski passed on 1/4/2026. Brother Richard "Rich" Yaworski held multiple titles in our great union, his last title was Union President. Which he held for two terms. Rest in Peace Brother, thank you for your years of service.

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone who's dues are paid up to 12/31/2026 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2026 dues in full by January 31, 2026. To receive your 2026 "I paid my Dues" t-shirt, please contact the Union Hall (313.961.6093 ext. 0).

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 we will contact the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

Detroit Training Center Information

The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:  
Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, January 19, 2026  
Apprentice 1 & Single Ply 2- Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1- Wednesday January 21, 2026  
BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2- Thursday, January 22, 2026  
Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026. All classes begin at 6:30pm

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

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

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

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

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

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

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.

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 and the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

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

The publication above is as 1/19/2026, 9:00am

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



Local 36  
Elevator  
Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be January 26, 2026, 5:30pm at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on February 16, 2026, at 5pm at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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 meetings:

January 26th at 5:30pm –

General Membership Meeting

January 26th following meeting – Veteran's Assistance Program Committee Meeting

February 2nd at 5:00 pm –

Probationary Meeting

February 16th at 5:00 pm –

Executive Board Meeting

February 16th following the meeting – Resolution Committee Meeting

February 23rd at 5:30 pm -

General Membership Meeting

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is [vap@iuec.org](mailto: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](mailto:sanosire1973@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved or have questions.

2026 wage rates, zone sheets and dues card increases were mailed out a few weeks ago. If you didn't receive them, contact the hall and we will get you copies.

The latest changes (inserts) to the Local Constitution and Bylaws are available at the hall.

End of year statements will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks, you don't have to wait till the end of the quarter to send in your W-2.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. Mail a copy to the fund office and one to the hall.

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 are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, predrilled holes on machines/beams, door equipment already installed, or any other violation, take pictures and send them to the hall via email or text with the address of the job.

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](mailto: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 Mechanic's that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting Jan. 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. If you passed the mechanic's exam in 2025 you are not required to complete it till 2026 but we encourage you to complete it so you can get in the habit of doing it.

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, 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 and injured list.



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**Local 85**  
**Plumbers & Steam Fitters**

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 70 p.m.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge located at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org  
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteale@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 have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin, (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 at (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 Rd., 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.

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

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

**Website Address:** Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 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.

**Fraternaly,**  
**Justin M. Pomerville**  
**Business Manager/Fin. Secretary**  
**Local 85**



**Local 370**  
**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service**

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026.**

**Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 4 pm** we will be hosting our second **Retirement Education Seminar** at Local 370. 2151 W Thompson Rd. We will have professionals from the pension department and the healthcare department. Our 401k financial planner will also be in attendance. If you are retiring in the near future or already have retired, please join and bring your questions. Spouses welcome.

**Building Trades Instructor Position** If you are interested, please contact Ashley in the training department. Interviews for this position will be Tuesday, Feb. 24.

**Saturday, Feb. 7 Local 370 will host our annual Service Award banquet and Holiday celebration.** The location will be at our hall/ training center at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI. Cocktail hour will begin at 5pm. The service award ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner following. Please call Karla or Kyara at the hall to reserve your spot.

**Retiree Breakfast** will be on Monday, Feb. 9 at 9 am.

**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 on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. Go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

**Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**CPR** March 18. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

**Feb. Welding** Feb. 2-25. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

**Weld Test** Saturday, Jan. 31 at 7:00 am

**Backflow** March 9 thru April 12. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

**Evacuation/ Recovery** March 11 @ 5:00pm

**EPA608** Feb. 3-5, 5-7 pm.

**Med Gas** Jan. 5 thru March 5. Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

**A2L (Safe Handling of Mildly Flammable Refrigerants)** March 24 thru March 26.

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. Cost is \$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, Feb. 10, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday Feb. 10, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026 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. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

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

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

**Attendance award** drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award.

(Continued next column)



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

**Local 190**

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – **UNION MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

**GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING:** Will begin Monday, Jan. 5 and run for 2 ½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.* Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

**PAY UNION DUES ONLINE:** Members can now 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.

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

**MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN:** If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at out Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

**Local 370, con’t**  
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.

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org)

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

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test can contact the Training Center for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

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

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

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

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

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** **ANNUAL PHYSICALS 2026:** Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus [bmaus@ua190.org](mailto:bmaus@ua190.org). This form is on our Local 190 website [UA190.org](http://UA190.org) and also the Benefits website [UA190benefits.org](http://UA190benefits.org), go to documents, health care, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page)

**2025 HEALTH COSTS:** Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2025 health costs personally, you must submit information to the Union Hall 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to the attention of Bernadette by Feb. 15, 2026. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bernadette at 734-424-0962 EXT 3

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

**APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY:** Applications will be available for the Plumber/Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program for Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC. Applicants may apply online, starting Jan. 2, 2026, until Jan. 31, 2026, at <https://www.ua190.org/apprentice-application.aspx> the link will be in the upper right of the page listed and on the UA 190 home web page. Online applications will only be accepted. Applicants must submit all required documents and testing fees before Feb. 1, 2026, to be considered.

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 4pm. Closed for lunch from noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on [UA190.org](http://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](mailto:kristyn@190jtc.com) or **mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103**

**Available Journeyman classes:**

**Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**2026 Schedule - Mondays – Feb. 16, April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28.** Classes start at 5 pm.

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org) 2026 **Schedule – Mondays – Feb. 23, April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

**Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs):** This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the basic 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.**

**Welding Lab:** Welding lab is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run **Jan. 5** until **May 22, 2026**, closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come, first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

**ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.** Courses run on **Tuesdays** 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](http://ua190.org) *Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.*

**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). **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **Feb 10.** The second course starts **May 5.** The third course starts **Oct 13.** 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](http://ua190.org) *Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.*

**Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification:** This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **March 10.** The second course starts **Sept. 1.** 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](http://ua190.org)

**Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs):** This is a two-day course. **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **April 28.** Second course starts **Oct. 6.** 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](http://ua190.org)

**ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs):** This is a four-day course. **2026 schedule:** course to be announced later.

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2026.** Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

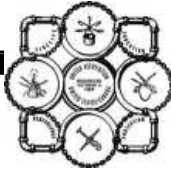
**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs):** This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **March 16, 2026, later course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**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 core and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Feb. 5 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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

*“We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.”*  
–Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)



**Local 357**  
**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service**

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 10** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

**K-WINGS HOCKEY NIGHT:** Local 357 will be participating in a “night out” K-Wings Hockey Game on **Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 pm.** Tickets will be at the K-Wings WILL CALL window. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at [lhathfield@ualocal357.com](mailto:lhathfield@ualocal357.com) on or before **Monday, Feb. 2**, to reserve your tickets.

**APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS:**

Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:

Be at least 18 Years Old and Graduated or Graduating in 2026

Be willing to serve an apprenticeship

Have a desire to work in various conditions and weather

Be able to pass a drug test

Be willing to submit to a background search and have no felony convictions

Be willing to attend some mandatory night classes

Qualified applicants must provide the following documents:

A copy of your high school diploma (If your Graduation Date is NOT on your

High Schools transcripts) or GED equivalent

A copy of your high school transcript of classes and grades

A copy of your birth certificate

**Absolutely no copies will be made for you!** Interested persons may pick up an application by showing a driver's license, beginning **Feb. 2, 2026**, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (**closed from Noon to 1:00 pm**) at the Union Hall, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087. Note that NO EARLY APPLICATIONS are given out.

*All applications must be picked up by the person who is applying! NO EXCEPTIONS!*

Applications along with the three documents from above must be returned to the Schoolcraft location by 4:30 pm on **Feb. 27, 2026.** Only complete applications with all documents will be considered. Absolutely no mailed, faxed, or e-mailed information will be accepted. All applications and documents must be hand delivered by the applicant to the Union Hall.

**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](http://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.

**RETIREES:** Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. for the location: (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).

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Nathan Weber and family on the birth of a son, Noah

*“A short saying oft contains much wisdom.”*  
–Sophocles (496 BC - 406

*“Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.”*  
–Herbert Henry Asquith





## Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

**DETROIT - Membership of Plumbers Local 98.**

**New UA Membership Cards:** New cards have arrived. All members who are current on their membership dues for 2026 may stop in the hall to pick up their new cards.

**Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 at 6 pm.** Before the official start of business Marathon Health will present and answer any questions on our upcoming health clinics.

**The next board meeting is Thursday, Feb. 5 at 4:30pm** prior to the regular monthly meeting. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

**Congratulations** to Local 98 journeyman Cody Greenwell and his wife Kelsey on the birth of their first child, a son, Rhett on 1/6/26. Becoming parents is a life-changing milestone, and we couldn't be happier for your growing family. Wishing you both plenty of health, happiness, and a little sleep along the way. Welcome to the world, Rhett – Local 98's future just got stronger.

**Beginning Jan. 5, 2026 and ending Jan. 23, 2026,** we will be accepting resumes for our full-time organizer position. If you're ready to stand up for workers, help grow our membership, and fight for fair wages, benefits, and safety on the job, we want to hear from you. This is a hands-on-role – organizing drives, outreach, membership recruitment and representing skilled tradespeople. Deliver your resumé along with a brief cover letter outlining your labor-organizing passion and experience to Business Manager Gary Glaser. Join us — and help build a stronger, united workforce.

**Annual Chili Cook Off:** 98's entertainment committee will be hosting a chili cook off before our Feb. 12 membership meeting from 4-5:30pm. It's free to enter and we will have prizes for first through third place. Call BA Jimmy Cools for any further information.

**Save the Dates: St. Patrick's Day Parade Downtown Detroit, Sunday, March 15.** For the first time ever, Local 98 will be participating in the 68<sup>th</sup> Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in Corktown. Please join us in marching down the parade route on Michigan Avenue representing our local. Members, their family and friends are welcome. **Annual Summer Picnic** will be Saturday, June 20 at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Boardwalk Picnic Shelter. Watch our website and social media pages for more information in the weeks to come!

**The Ulliance Member Assistance Program** is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to [lifeadvisor.com](mailto:lifeadvisor.com) or call 800-448-8326. A Ulliance Representative will lead off our Jan. 8 membership meeting to present and answer any questions.

**Ready to Work Program:** Visit our website and select the *Ready to Work* link under Resources to complete your application and upload the required documentation for payment consideration. All materials must be submitted by close of business on Jan. 31, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute – deadlines don't negotiate. If you have questions, contact a Business Agent and they'll point you in the right direction.

**Retiree Luncheon** has been postponed until March 2026. The retirees have decided to forego the monthly lunch meetings for January and February 2026 meetings. The monthly luncheons will resume for the spring in March 2026. Please watch the Tradesman article, check the Local 98 website and Facebook page. Any question, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

**Apprentice Clothing Drive:** Join us in helping our apprentices get the work clothes they need to succeed! Drop your donations off at the hall during business hours. The clothing drive commences at our next monthly meeting in February. Apprentices can pick up what they need at our next meeting.

**Membership Dues Reminder:** Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues. Local 98 will be

offering members who pay in full for the 2026 calendar year, or sign up for automatic deductions, a complimentary gift. Members may mail payment, pay online, come into the hall or call the hall the to make a payment.

**Snowbirds:** If you would like to temporarily change your address for correspondence from Local 98, and BeneSys, please call the hall to avoid delays in receiving your mail.

**Expelled Members:** We currently have four (4) expelled members as of January 1, 2026: Bren Kubik, Matthew Scott, Nicholas Slating and Douglas Voakes.

**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 us.

**In Memoriam:** Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Paul Milner, a 52-year member, he was initiated on 5-24-1973.

**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.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at [www.ualocal98.org](http://www.ualocal98.org).

Additional information can be found at [www.ualocal98.org](http://www.ualocal98.org), Facebook and Instagram.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 [gglaser98@ualocal98.org](mailto:gglaser98@ualocal98.org)

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 [dnixon98@ualocal98.org](mailto:dnixon98@ualocal98.org)  
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 [rhamilton98@ualocal98.org](mailto:rhamilton98@ualocal98.org)

Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 [jcools@ualocal98.org](mailto:jcools@ualocal98.org)

Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 [psmith@ualocal98.org](mailto:psmith@ualocal98.org)

Jeff Kavalair, Business Agent (313)938-1554 [jkavalair@ualocal98.org](mailto:jkavalair@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.** [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. 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 questions.

**Monthly Code Class** – Next class is Feb. 18, 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 Feb. 3, 2026, we have an available evening to come in and practice for it, Wednesday, Jan. 28. **Call** the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will

(Continued next column)



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

**COOPERSVILLE – THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 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.

**The retiree breakfast** will still be held Thursday, Feb. 5, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Condolences:** It is with sadness that brother Claude Christiansen passed away on 1/11/26. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

**41ST UA GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATES NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE.** United Association Local 174.

This constitutes your official notice of the nominations and election for Delegates to the 41st UA General Convention in August 2026 pursuant to Section 15 of the UA Constitution.

**NOMINATION MEETING.** Nominations for delegates to the UA Convention will be held at the date, time, and place indicated below. The number of Delegates to which Local 174 will

### Local 98, con't

be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2026.** All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. All classes are offered in Spring and Fall.

All Spring classes will begin the week of March 2, with a deadline to register by Feb. 13.

**All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 14, with a deadline to register by Aug. 28.**

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

**4 hour recert class** April 21 & 22 Deadline is March 20

**4 hour recert class** July 21 & 22 Deadline is June 19

**4 hour recert class** October 20 & 21 Deadline is Sept. 25

**ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):** \$200

**ASSE Repairer: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification** \$100

**ICRA and Water Quality: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30 - \$200**

**Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):** \$200

**Hydronic Heating and Cooling:** \$100

**Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber:** \$100

**CAD/BIM:** \$100

**\*\*2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Feb. 7, 2026. **\*\*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.

**OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings.** 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.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10,** available as an online class for \$59 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://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](http://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.

*"They can do all because they think they can."*  
–Virgil (70 BC - 19 BC)

be entitled will be determined by applying the formula set forth in Section 12 of the UA Constitution based on Local 174's March 2026 Cash Sheet. Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be elected in order of votes received.

**Nominations for Delegates will be held as follows:**

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: 1008 O'Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404

Self-nominations and nominations of another member may also be made in writing, provided they are received by Office Manager Lisa Johnson no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026. Written nominations should include the current address, phone number and Book Number of both the nominator and the nominee and should be signed by the nominator. Self-nominations, by definition, do not need to be signed by a separate nominator—only the self-nominator.

Candidates for delegate positions may accept nominations in person at the Feb. 3 Nominations Meeting or they may submit a signed written acceptance, before the meeting, which should include their current address, phone number and Book Number. If a member submits a signed written acceptance indicating that they will accept a nomination for Delegate and no member nominates them for Delegate at the Nominations Meeting, the written acceptance will be treated as a self-nomination.

Eligibility to Nominate. Persons nominating candidates must be a journeyman member in good standing or an apprentice member in good standing who has successfully completed his or her third apprenticeship year at the time of nominations. As provided in Section 160(a) of the UA Constitution, any member who has entered business legitimately for himself/herself, or who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry, shall not have the right to participate in Local 174 affairs, and thus may not nominate candidates, unless six months have passed since his/her business or financial interest in such business has terminated.

**Eligibility to Be Nominated.** No member shall be eligible to be nominated for Delegate unless he or she shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the UA and Local 174 in good standing for at least a period of two years immediately prior to the date of the election, Tuesday March 3, 2026. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two years immediately prior to Tuesday March 3, 2026, shall not be eligible to be nominated for the position of Delegate. Under Section 160(c) of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

Note that those who are elected to serve as Delegates must remain in continuous good standing through the Convention in order to serve. If a member elected to serve as a Delegate loses good standing between being elected and the Convention, the highest vote-getter from the unsuccessful candidates will serve as an Alternate Delegate in his/her place.

**ELECTION.** The election for the position of Delegate will be conducted by secret ballot on the date and at the time and location set forth below:

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: 1008 O'Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404

**RUN-OFF ELECTION.** If two or more candidates for Delegate receive the exact same number of votes and the Election Committee determines that, based on Local 174's likely allotment of Delegates under Section 12 of the UA Constitution and the ranking of the candidates, it is possible that one of the candidates may ultimately serve as a Delegate while the other candidate may ultimately serve as an Alternate Delegate, a Run-Off Election shall be held on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at the Local 174 Hall, 1008 O'Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404, unless all candidates agree to determine their respective rankings based on a coin-flip or drawing of straws.

A Run-Off Election will not be necessary if, for example, three candidates tie for the second

highest number of votes because there is no chance that Local 174 will have less than 4 Delegates to the Convention based on the formula set forth in Section 12 of the UA Constitution.

A meeting of candidates for Delegate will be held immediately after the Nominations Meeting. Candidates should make every effort to attend this meeting.

All inquiries regarding the election should be directed to Office Manager Lisa Johnson.

**Union Strong Phone App:** If you have not downloaded our app and would like to, reach out to the front office for the link or QR code.

**Organizing Update:** Recently when walking a split job site, nonunion and union, one of our members asked how to approach the nonunion worker. I asked the question if he'd ever grown anything; he said yes, and I asked if the plant grew overnight? That's the best way to approach the unrepresented workers, plant that seed and work on relationship building. Relationships for the most part is the key. If you think about it, that's how their employer has brainwashed them about unions, it's because of the time spent with them, building their trust and relationships. Plant that seed, educate them slowly, and before you know it, they'll want more information.

All workers deserve opportunity! "We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages, benefits and opportunity!"

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.

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

**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:

**Training News:**

**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm. The next class will be held Thursday, Feb. 12.

**ORBITAL WELDING:** Previously scheduled to begin in December, postponed due to lack of interest. Will reschedule with enough interest to fill a class.

**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. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, February 10th, and the test to follow Thursday, Feb. 12 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.

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.

*"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage; half shut afterward."*

–Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)



UA Local 671

**MONROE – The next Union meeting will be held on February 19th, 2026, at 7pm.** The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **February 19th, 2026, 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.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

**Retiree Health Care:** Attention to all retirees, please be advised that the self-pay amounts have increased effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. For information on what your new self-pay amount is, please contact Carly at the Union Hall.

Please be advised that our Retiree Health Care has changed from United Health Care to Humana. You should have received your new insurance card in the mail. If you have not received your Humana insurance card, please contact Retiree First at 734-234-6496.

**Health Insurance:** You should have received your MRA/Wex card in the mail by now. You can use this card to pay for medical bills or Dental and Vision. If you use it for Dental or Vision, make sure you inform Carly at the Union Hall. It is important that you retain and keep track of all receipts when using your MRA card. If you need assistance with your card, you can call TIC at 517-321-7502. Make sure you only use your card for qualified purchases or payments related to medical care.

**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 Mike 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.

The next weld test will be scheduled at a later date. You must sign up ahead of time for the test. Please contact Justin.

**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.

**In Closing:** As we move into the heart of winter, let's continue to make safety a priority both on and off the job. Snow and ice create added hazards, so keep sidewalks, walkways, and work areas clear whenever possible. Take care of your health by dressing for the cold and recognizing your limits.

Winter travel requires extra caution-allow more time when commuting to and from work, slow down, and stay alert in poor conditions. Most importantly, look out for your brothers and sisters and speak up about unsafe situations. By staying aware and prepared, we can all get through the winter safely.

Stay safe wand warm.

Mike Jewell: email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)

Kirk Lavoy: email: [kirk@ualocal671.com](mailto:kirk@ualocal671.com)

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com)

*"Speak when you are angry-and you will make the best speech you'll ever regret."*  
–Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)





Sprinkler Fitters Local 704  
SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 4, 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.

There will be a family movie night for members on Jan. 30 6:30 P.M. Showtime popcorn and beverages for kids will be provided bring a blanket and or pillow, bean bag etc. and enjoy our kids movie night at Local 704.

A special election will be held for delegates to the UA Convention. Nominations will be held at the February meeting which will be on February 4th, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. at the Local Union Hall located at: 23475 Northwestern Highway, Southfield MI, 48075.

The Election of delegates for UA Convention will take place on Friday, March 11, 2026 at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. There will be 4 delegate spots and 3 alternate spots, the top four nominees with the most votes will serve as delegates with the remainder of the top seven nominees with the most votes will serve as alternates. In case of two or more candidates for delegates tied for a position in the top seven, a runoff will be held that evening with voting members that are still in attendance until a winner is determined.

**Eligibility to be Nominated.** No member shall be eligible to be nominated for Delegate unless he or she shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the UA and Local 2 in good standing for at least a period of two years immediately prior to the date of election, Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two years immediately prior to March 11,2026 shall not be eligible to be nominated for the position of Delegate. Under Section 160 © of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

Note that those who are elected to serve as Delegates must remain in continuous good standing through the Convention in order to serve. If a member elected to serve as a Delegate loses good standing between being elected and Convention, the highest vote-getter from the unsuccessful candidates will serve as an Alternate Delegate in his/her place.

**Per the Constitution of the United Association, Section 124 (a)** “No member shall nominate candidates for or vote in any election of any description unless he has been a member in good standing in the Local Union where the vote is being taken for a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election. Any member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of one year immediately prior to the date of election shall not be eligible to nominate candidates for or vote in any Local Union election...” Self-nominations are allowed

**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.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.



UA Local 333  
LANSING – February’s union meeting will be held Feb. 18, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.  
March’s union meeting will be held March 18, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

The 2026 UA General Convention will be held in 2026. Nominations of delegates will be held Feb. 18, 2026 union meeting, elections will be March 18, 2026 at our union meeting. All members that are eligible to be nominated and vote will receive a letter in the mail. Please check the mail for your letter with the date and time for the election.

UA Sec 15: All delegates to the convention shall be elected by secret ballot. Nominations of delegates shall be held by a Local Union at least 25 days prior to the election. At least 10 days prior to the nomination meeting, notice shall be mailed to the last known address of all members in good standing of the Local Union setting forth (1) the date and place of the nomination meeting, and stating that the delegates to a convention will be nominated at the meeting: (2) the notice shall also state the date, time, and place of secret ballot election of delegates to the convention; and (3) The notice should state also that in the event of a tie and a runoff election is necessary, then the date, time, and place of the runoff shall be so stated.

Protests of an election of delegates to the United Association Convention shall be processed under the provisions of Section 125 of this Constitution.

UA Sec 16: The candidate or candidates receiving the highest numbers of votes in the delegate election shall be declared the elected delegate or delegates. The candidates receiving the next highest votes shall be alternates, by descending numerical order, and shall act in case of the inability of any regular delegate to attend the convention.

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

UA Sec 18: The duties of weekly salaried elected officers of Local Unions shall also include serving a delegate to the United Association convention for his Local Union.

**Note:** The interpretation of this section shall not mean that all weekly salaried elected officers are automatically delegated to the United Association Convention if the number of weekly salaried elected officers in a given Local Union exceed the number of Delegates the Local Union is entitled to. As defined in Section 12.

UA Sec 19: The Recording Secretary of each Local Union shall, after the election of a delegate or delegates, immediately forward the to General Secretary-Treasurer upon the official credential form and names, card numbers , and addresses of the members elected, and the General Secretary-Treasurer shall submit same to the Credentials Committee of the United Association.

New membership card will be arriving soon. You must pay into 2026 before receiving your new membership card.

Please remember to sign up before attending classes We have limited space, and only those who sign up will be allowed to attend welding class.

**Winter 2026 classes.**  
Weld Classes begin on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks  
**Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.**

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm  
Weld classes begin on Jackson Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks  
**Jackson Training Center. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201**  
Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm  
Weld Classes begin Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> 10 weeks  
(KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

The following classes will be held the Lansing Training Center. Please sign up online or call the Training Center if you are interested.  
Monday and Thursday 4:30-8pm  
Med-Gas Lansing Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 7-8 Weeks  
Monday and Wednesday 4:30-8:30pm  
Backflow Lansing Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 7-8 Weeks  
Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30pm  
Tube Bending Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 4-5 weeks  
Monday and Wednesday 5-8pm  
Trimble Basic TBD  
Sign up online  
Advanced Blueprint Class Jan.13<sup>th</sup>  
Sign up online

Orbital Welding: Signup online, and you will be contacted.  
Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will be scheduled once we have enough members signed up.

Pipefitter Math, Advanced Pipefitting, CPR/First Aid, Backflow and Med-Gas will be scheduled when we have 6 or more signed up. You will be called when the class is scheduled.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 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 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. 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 Retiree’s 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 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*

**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..**

We would like to remind everyone that if you have a has a life change: address, phone number, marriage, divorce etc., please contact your regional office with updates or request new beneficiary paperwork.

Congratulations to Troy Johnson and his wife Samantha on the birth of their twin son Karston and Kashton who were born on January 11, 2026.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all our members who have recently become married or have had a baby.

Best wishes to the following members who retired January 1, 2026, Shane Miller, Todd West, and Eric Hurst. Congratulations to all of you; now you have the time to do all the things you want to do.

*“Freedom is a possession of inestimable value.”*  
–Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)



UA Local 636  
DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday Feb. 17, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.

**PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANTISE STORE IS LIVE!** Sign into the members’ section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.  
The second Annual Scholarship Contest is upon us again. Deadline to apply is April 21, 2026 applications will be accepted starting March 17, 2026. Applications are open to sons, daughters and grandchildren of members of Pipefitters Local 636 in good standing. Applicants must be a high school senior and be accepted to an accredited college, community college or trade school not in direct competition with the Pipefitters Industry Training Center or currently enrolled in such school. Please contact the Union Hall for more details.

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

Dec. 1, 2025; Lloyd Tanner.  
Jan. 1, 2026; Todd Valiquette.  
**Deceased Members –** Lifetime Member James D Allen Sr. Dec. 24, 2025 father of James D Allen Jr.; 32-Year Member Michael Vojnov Jan. 10, 2026; Lifetime Member Emmet Regan Jan. 6, 2026; 35-Year Member Roland Bessette Dec. 26, 2025; Lifetime Member Charles B Wolin Jan. 4, 2026; 26-Year Member David R Long Jan. 3, 2026; Lifetime Member Matthew Carden Sr. Nov. 19, 2025; Lifetime Member Garrett Smith Dec. 5, 2025; 38-Year Member Curtis Ruppel Dec. 8, 2025 brother of Keith Ruppel.  
Our condolences to Brother David Percy on the passing of his wife Linda K Percy Jan. 4, 2026; Brother Richard Kizer on the passing of his wife Ruth Dec. 14, 2025; Brother Adam Dueweke on the passing of his mother Denise J Dueweke Dec. 8, 2025; Brother John Abdo on the passing of his father William Abdo Nov. 17, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to: Robert Abfalter, Rebecca Blair, Ian Campbell, Matthew Carden II, Gregory Firth, David Fox, David Hatch, Jason Howe, James Juracek, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, Clifford Liptak II, John Lilly, Charles Lozon, Ian Martin, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, James A Robinson, Fred Stiehr, David Stone, Eric Swinburnson, Michael Trybuski, Andrew Wisneski.

**DUES –** 1st Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

The Ulliance Member Assistance 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. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

**988 crisis help line.** 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.

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** The next meeting will be held Feb. 19, 2026  
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.

## Local 636

### Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

**SUBPAY - NEWS**  
•Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.  
•For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

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.** The number for the Voice response unit is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local’s Website, while logged in as a member Just click on the “Defined Contribution login here tab” and it will take you to the website www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy).

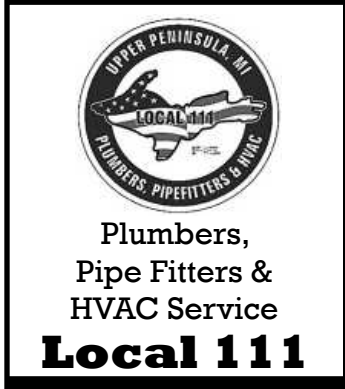
Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork.

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.

**Training Center News.** Regular night welding runs through the Winter Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service  
**Local 111**  
UA Local 111  
UPPER PENINSULA -  
**UNION MEETING:** The next Union Meeting will be held in **Escanaba** on Thursday, **Jan. 29** at 7:30 PM. It will be a special called meeting to vote on referral rule changes. All members are encouraged to attend.

**WORK OPPORTUNITIES:** Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line – Ext. 7; Job Line – Ext. 8.

**MRA FUND:** The IRS requires substantiation for all MRA debit card transactions. Many members have received request letters from Zenith American Solutions. It is YOUR responsibility to submit the requested documentation promptly. Failure to respond will result in suspension of your card until documentation is received. You can review transactions and upload documentation through the Zenith Portal or App. For assistance, call 1-866-823-4730, ext. 1.

**988 CRISIS HELPLINE:** If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 anytime to connect with trained counselors for mental health or suicide prevention support.

**WELDERS AND CERTIFICATIONS:** UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the Hall. Certifications expire every six months, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure forms are turned in on time. Please also update all Non-UA Certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA, etc.) by sending a copy to the Union Hall.

**DUES REMINDER:** Check your dues records regularly; a \$50 reinstatement fee applies once you are three months behind. Members are automatically expelled after six months of nonpayment.

**SAFETY TRAINING – LOCAL 111 WEBSITE:** Visit lu111.com and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

**MSHA TRAINING:** Registration and cancellations are handled online at upconstruction.org under the MSHA Calendar.

## 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 maintains offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.



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

www.ssdfighter.com





## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance. \*\*Before this meeting, at 5:30 pm, Tim Brice will attend to discuss and answer any questions regarding your Annuity contribution and investments.

Member meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 27, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

**RETIREE NOTICE:** The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 4/2/26 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 get in touch with the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

**HEALTHCARE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY AUDIT:** The Health & Welfare Fund has contracted with Part D Advisors, Inc. (PDA) to handle the details of this dependent eligibility audit. PDA will be mailing you a dependent eligibility verification form. You will need to complete and return that form along with legal documents to verify that your dependents meet the Plan's definition of an eligible dependent. The mailing will include a list of the required documents. You also have the option to submit the documents electronically. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPENDENT AUDIT IS MANDATORY.** Please call the Hall if you have not received a notification.

**LOCAL 292 ANNUITY/WAGE DEFERRAL:** Beginning 1/1/26 the Annuity Fund will offer both pre-tax 403 (B) and Roth 403 (B) contribution options. Check your mail for flyers from Local 292 & John Hancock explaining the new option.

**ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS:** You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit [johnhancock.com/myplan](http://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.

**Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25**

Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer, Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed. **Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer:** Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

**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](http://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.

**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.

**SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** Applications are being accepted for the

Sheet Metal Scholarship program, beginning Sept 1, 2025. Applications must be received by Feb 15, 2026. Eligibility requires that an applicant be an active member, a covered employee, or a dependent spouse or child under the age of 25 of a member or covered employee. The applicant must also be a full-time student or be accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college or university. Obtain an "Application Request Form" by visiting <https://smart-union.org/why-join-smart/scholarships/sheet-metal-scholarship-programs/> click on the "Sheet Metal Scholarships" tab to download the form or call 202-662-0858 to request the application form by mail.

**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](http://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](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the "links" tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://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 must 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 paid online ([sheetmetal292.com](http://sheetmetal292.com)).

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

**CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL:** The **new** Constitution and Ritual of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://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.

(Continued next column)



## 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 Feb. 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

\*Zone 1 March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 2 March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 3 March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)

\*Zone 3 February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

\*Zone 4 March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 5 February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 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](http://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.labelitscanireport.com](http://www.labelitscanireport.com) and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

**ZONE 1 Info.** Work in the Zone 1 area continues to be busy. 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).

**Monthly Retiree meeting:** 2nd Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm located at Sarah's Place 1100 Page Ave, Jackson MI 49203. **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 remains the same with just a few members on the out of work list. Please keep me informed if you do become unemployed and apprentices also let Tanner know. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and keep me informed of any phone number or address changes. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** Work in our area is slow, when work becomes available in other areas I will let members on the out of work list know. Our next Zone 3 meeting in Freeland is March 11th.

If your contact information has changed please contact the Lansing office (517)882-4064

Please make sure your dues are current. The next Retiree meeting is April 7th at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd .

**In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City)** Our next meeting will be February 5 at 6 pm. Work is still slow with only a few projects starting up. The new SASMI boot program, along with our own insurance program, requires a physical each year so please schedule it soon. Anyone planning to retire soon should let Joe or I know at least three months in advance so we can get all the paperwork in order. SASMI applications for Zone 3 and 5 have been sent out if you are eligible. Work safe and keep an eye on the person next to you! **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

**ZONE 4 Info:** Remember if you are laid off please call me so I have your name on the list. We are a little slow at the moment in Zone 4. I will let anyone know if there are any calls on the travel bank. **Thanks your brother Scott Brotherton**

**ZONE 5 Info:** Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at [upconstruction.org](http://upconstruction.org) If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. **- 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.

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

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

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

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

**Local 7 Officers:**

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

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

**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**

## Local 292 cont'd

**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 members interested in a Saturday welding class on. January 24, January 31, February 7, February 21, and February 28. 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 for the class.



## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

**REMINDER: Keep up on wellness visits/annual check-ups.** Many ailments that plague us as we age can be prevented if treated in time.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield.

**TRUSTEE ELECTION: OFFICIAL NOTICE:** The Trust Fund election will be held at the January 27, 2026 membership meeting. You will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2026 through January 2029.

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

**RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE:** 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday February 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> (annual party) & December 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 - Thursday from 9-4pm. To schedule an appointment, please 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** *Dennis Scherret, Thomas Seibert, William Borkowski, Jason Kaczmarek, Francis Renda, Benjamin Engelhardt, Joey Messenger, Charles Lewis, Robert Davis, James Dandurand, Matthew Kelly, Larry Brown, Kevin Driscoll, Devin Casey, Bradley Stephens, James Walker, Kevin Halterman, Lewis Porter, Timothy Weir, Derik Carlson, Earl May, Richard Gerjekian, Nathaniel Hawk, Adam Freiman, Daniel Kojack, Jeffrey Waldrop, Marshael Nations, Eric Ketelhut, John Latella, Daniel Stoyka, Scott Maitland, Aric Dunn, Robert Lipke, John Schumaker, Keith Root, Mark Kapala, Richard Basile, Steve Flora, Benjamin Rudisill, Raymond Summers, Edward Sizemore, Chester Klos, Sean Muldoon, Joseph Czarnecki, Michael Sobczak, Hayden Harper, Joseph Sarrach, Todd Haller, Rodney Fisher, Brandon Donnelly, Patrick Semetkowski, Christopher Santowski, Jamie Gartrelle, William Lane, David Germain, Michael Rushlow, Andrew Bennett, Mathew Bennett, John Foley, John Roland, Brian Proctor*

**CONDOLENCES:** Gary M. Miller, member of 50+ years, passed on 11/29/25. He was preceded in death by his wife, Suzanne, and is survived by his son Garret and daughters Suzette (William Bowling, Local 80 member), and Yvette (Alex Garza). Also grandchildren Madison, Julia, Alexandria, and Luke Garza (Local 80 member). Members Mike Miller (nephew) and Logan Weddington (great nephew).

**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 member's responsibility to do this, not the contractor's! 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 will also need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 to update for insurance and pension documents.

**ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION:** Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500.00. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

**WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS:** must be reported by the steward by 3pm on Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to staff@smw80.org

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off. You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. or SASMI benefits. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue a termination slip in accordance with our contract.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

**SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements:**

**Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff** to avoid forfeiting benefits.

**Layoff slips** must accompany your application to qualify for SUB benefits.

**Send proof of UIA benefit payments** within 21 days of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to [smw80subfund@gmail.com](mailto: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.LifeAdvisor-EAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisor-EAP.com). Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

**NOTARY:** We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge.

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# IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58  
DETROIT – **The next General Membership meeting:** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026. 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!  
**UPDATE – Sub Pay is currently paused for Inside ONLY. Limited Energy Sub Pay has resumed. If you have questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have questions regarding the Port Huron office, 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 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.  
**Local 58 Dues Department** – Happy New Year! The Dues department will be closed on 01-19-26. Look at your dues receipt: if your paid-through date shows 09-30-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30. If you are paid through 6-30-2025, you have lapsed your membership and will have to see the Executive Board. Please call the union hall to make the appointment. 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 no.  
**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** The January Board meeting is at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 in the main conference room at the Local Union Hall.  
Our January Luncheon is happening on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Mama Mia’s Livonia, 27770 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885. All retirees are welcome!  
Syl Ludwic is working on the Florida Luncheon that happens in February 2026. He would appreciate input from you Florida folks, with attendance low this past February, he is considering a venue change, his two possible places are Melanie’s Seafood Co., 120 E. Park Ave., Lake Wales, FL 33853 or Harborside, 2435 7th St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Please check out their menus, Send Syl Suggestions, (sludwic@gmail.com or 352-250-1178). He would appreciate thoughts about whether to continue the luncheon, and these potential venues.  
Dues expire on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). A renewal form is in the November Newsletter (will also be in the December and January Newsletters) and send your dues (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to the address above, Attn: Retirees.  
Thanks to all of our members for your prompt dues renewals. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, luncheons alternating from the west side of town to the east side. We also host a Spring Pic Party, our annual August Picingin, and our Christmas Party in early December. For the travelers among us, we also have an annual September Bus Trip, New York City is the destination of the 2026 trip. Details are being worked out. Come join us, we always have a great time.  
**Electrical Workers’ Joint Boards of Trustees** – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Fund Office at 586-575-9200. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.  
**Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center**– Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please contact the

Training Center at 586-751-6600 for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.  
**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** will have their next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Our next event will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Local 58 Union Hall. Raffle tickets are \$20 per ticket and entrance fee is \$20 at the door. The doors will open at 4pm. Grand Prize is a 75-inch tv and theatre recliner as well as numerous other prizes.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual John Mayernik scholarship is now available. Please contact Mike Bellhorn at 313-963-2130 ext 3042 or Kelly Lynch at 313-963-2130 ext 3023.  
If in the market for any appliances or electronics, please contact Ryan Heinrich at ABC Warehouse. Ryan is very supportive of the Benevolent Fund and Local 58. His number is 734-981-7780.  
**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 10 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 8 a.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). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering.  
**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.  
**EWMC of Southeastern MI** – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 16 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.  
We are moving forward with our challenge coin fundraiser. The third coin in the series is now available for sale. Our IBEW car flags are also in. We will be selling them at any upcoming union events and Membership meetings.  
The EWMC “What Up Doe?” jackets have been ordered. Thanks to all who participated in both of our EWMC International Day of Service projects.  
It’s time to get prepared for the 2026 Annual EWMC Leadership Conference. Our chapter always makes a positive impact on the Conference, and we will continue the tradition. Please be on the look out for any emails from Kelly Lynch with Conference information and respond accordingly.  
**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM.  
**The Veterans Committee** - will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm.  
**Local 58’s Women’s Committee** – The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email: 58womencommittee@ibewlocal58.org  
**The Political Action Committee:** PAC 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.  
**The RENEW Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6 pm. All trades welcome.  
**Electrical Workers Credit Union.** Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060.  
NEW SYSTEM UPGRADE! You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers-Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system  
(Continued next column)



# IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445  
**BATTLE CREEK – Paying dues late.** If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed a \$10 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.  
**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 dues 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”**.  
**The Retiree monthly breakfast** is 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 approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.  
As of **Jan. 1, 2026**, 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 on the second Monday of each month and starts at 5 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.  
**The Executive Board** E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. *Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary*

## Local 58, con’t

tem upgrade. Checks-Your MICR line will change to a 14-digit format (currently 8) You can continue to use your current checks. New checks will have the updated MICR. Online Banking- Starting 11/4/25 members will be required to re-enroll in our new online banking. Visit our website at ewcu.net and click on the Online Banking button.  
In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 4.99% APR.  
State of Michigan Escheat 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 withdrawal (any amount). Close account.  
**Members who 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.  
*Michael “Mike” Bellow,* Journeyman Inside Wireman; *Marie Warda,* Widow of the late Pension member Richard Warda; *Marian Plisko,* Widow of the late Pension member Thomas Plisko Jr; *Thomas Sheehan,* Pension member, 74 year IBEW membership; *Edward Stoner,* Pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; and *Ronald Womack,* Pension member, 35 year IBEW membership.



# IBEW Local 948

IBEW Local 948  
FLINT – Meetings.  
**Membership Meeting** - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be Feb. 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM.  
**Retiree Meetings** - Retirees will be off the next couple months, next meeting will be April 7th, 2026 at 9:00am.  
**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 Eric Crites.  
**New Store Stock** - To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock

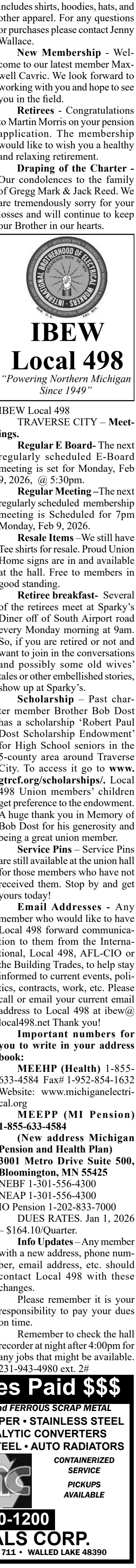
Union Halls and it allowed the apprentices to get to know the daily functions at the Hall and also forge more relationships with the office staff. It is important to have the entire program back together again under one roof.  
**SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES** – Local 557 has again sponsored the Saginaw Spirit through the Labor-Management Committee. Season tickets will continue to be given away at Union meetings for the remainder of the season. The Local has 3 more dates reserved with a large quantity of tickets that will be made available as we get closer to those games. Upcoming games with blocks of tickets and the Eagle’s Nest are on Feb. 22, and March 14. If you picked up some of the tickets for games through the Hall, please make the plans to use them or drop them back off at the Hall for others to use if your plans have changed.  
**EARNED SICK TIME ACT-** Michigan’s new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA) is in full effect. If you are experiencing any issues regarding this matter, please visit the Local’s website and follow the link to the State of Michigan’s site to file a complaint or contact the Union Hall for help.  
**LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING-** Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. 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.  
**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday **7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.**  
**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](mailto:jobline@ibew557.org) or [renee@ibew557.org](mailto:renee@ibew557.org)  
**WORK OUTLOOK-** Other than Project Phoenix, work has slowed for the winter. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Positive news continues to flow regarding the Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. It is the hope to have members working on this come spring. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Twp. area.  
**HEALTH CARE-** Don’t forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor.  
*In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager*

**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BUILDING**–Due to the fire at the apprenticeship building in September, classes are now being held at the old Baker College campus in Flint. Apprentices should have received this update to their class schedule through the apprenticeship office. Before switching to the new location, classes were held at the two

# IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW Local 557  
SAGINAW – **UNION NEWS-** The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 6 pm. This is also the same day as the Michigan Senate Seat Primary Election. Please arrange your schedule to be able to vote and make the union meeting as well. Our endorsed candidate, Chedrick Greene needs everyone’s support who can vote for him in the district.  
**35<sup>th</sup> SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION** – There is only one active election going on throughout the State. It is for the 35<sup>th</sup> Senate District. This seat was previously occupied by Kristen McDonald-Rivet. She has now moved on to help the Labor Movement in Congress in Washington. Her team has been a fantastic help Labor Unions and Local 557, in particular. Local 557 and the Building Trades and also the Labor Council have all endorsed candidate **Chedrick Greene** for this race. Mr. Greene is currently a City of Saginaw Fire Fighter and a retired Marine, where he held a high rank before stepping away. Mr. Greene was also part of the McDonald-Rivet staff as well. We have no doubt he will do an excellent job representing our interests in Lansing. But to have the opportunity to get there, he needs to make it past the primary election on Feb. 3.  
PLEASE strongly consider casting a vote for Chedrick Greene in this special election. Not everyone in the Local will have the opportunity to vote in this election, but his district area does cover a large part of the Saginaw/Midland/Bay City area. Please check if you are eligible to vote in this election and if so, vote for Chedrick!  
**LOCAL 557 OFFICERS PALs CLASS** – Thanks to all of the members who took time to attend the class on Jan. 13. It was a very informative evening for all, it has gotten some of our newer members to think about politics and how it impacts the Local. Politics are connected to everything and especially our causes that we fight for everyday through the Labor Movement. There are many ways to stay involved and it is encouraged to keep the Local strong. Please reach out if you’d like more opportunities to be involved.  
**POKER NIGHT RETURNS** – Back by popular demand for 2026! The next scheduled Poker night of the year will be **Thursday, Feb. 19. Start time is 6pm.** Please come out for some friendly games between Brothers.  
**LOCAL 557 RE-VAMPED WEBSITE & PAYING DUES ONLINE** – The feature to pay dues online is now fully active. The credit card fee for using this feature is also less than the normal of providing your card information to the Hall either over the phone or in-person. To pay dues online, you will need to initially set up the new service by entering your card number as the username and the temporary password is your last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN. Upon completing this, you will then be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing. If you haven’t checked this out yet, please do as it is very convenient. Logging into this member portal also allows members to check positions on the Out of Work List.

**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BUILDING**–Due to the fire at the apprenticeship building in September, classes are now being held at the old Baker College campus in Flint. Apprentices should have received this update to their class schedule through the apprenticeship office. Before switching to the new location, classes were held at the two



# 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, Feb 9, 2026, @ 5:30pm.  
**Regular Meeting** –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, Feb 9, 2026.  
**Resale Items** – We still have Tee shirts for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.  
**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.gtcrf.org/scholarships/](http://www.gtcrf.org/scholarships/). Local 498 Union members’ children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.  
**Service Pins** – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!  
**Email Addresses** - Any member who 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](mailto: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](http://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  
NEAP 1-301-556-4300  
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000  
DUES RATES. Jan 1, 2026 – \$164.10/Quarter.  
**Info Updates** – Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.  
Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.  
Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#

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# IBEW

## Local 131

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**IBEW Local 131**

KALAMAZOO – By-Laws – A By-Law proposal to reduce working assessment from 4% to 3% was submitted and read by the Recording Secretary at January’s meeting. It will be voted on by secret ballot at the Feb. 2 General Meeting. If passed, it will be submitted to the International President for approval, in accordance with the IBEW Constitution.

**DBRF Assessment:** Earlier this year, a new bylaw was approved to increase the Death Benefit Retirement Fund to \$10 per member for each retiree/decedent with 10 years continuous good standing prior to retirement/death. This benefit is to be assessed once per year at the end of the year. This means each member will be assessed \$10 for every Local 131 member who retired or died as an active member after April 25. \$3 will be assessed for retirees and decedents prior to April 25. DBRF assessments will begin appearing on dues payments in January 16th. The anticipated assessment will be \$70. This assessment will appear on your next monthly dues payment.

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Feb. 9 @ 6PM.

The next Renew & EWMC meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 5PM @ the hall

Veteran’s Committee Meeting: March 5 @ 5PM, Barrio Tacos + Tequila, 248 Broadway St, South Haven

The Executive Board meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 16. Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ’s beginning at 3:30. 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local’s FB page.

Hall Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM

**Upcoming Events:**

Retiree Quarterly Meetings – March 10, 1PM, @ the hall – meeting to discuss retiree issues with healthcare benefits and other business matter.

Pension Self Direct – March 25 @ 730PM

Steward Training – TBD – first week of June

Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21

Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22

Allocation Meeting – May 4

Local 131 Picnic – Aug. 1

Local 131 110th Anniversary – TBD (Fall 2026)

Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – Oct. 10


We will release a full 2026 calendar later this month – keep an eye out for it in your email!

**Work Outlook:** Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to work into spring of 2026, paying \$57.78/hr. The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady until spring. Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026.

The Solar Farm in Fabius Twp. is planned to begin in late ’27, according to the project manager. We do anticipate it to be an IBEW project, but details need to be hammered out. Contractors have reported a steady work outlook elsewhere in the jurisdiction. Solar Fields, Data Centers, and infrastructure: There are many projects in our area being cancelled or rejected due to local opposition, usually based on bad information and reactionary politics. To help secure work and build prosperity for our Local and our community, please speak up and participate in local meetings and board hearings.

Retiree lunches at the following locations:

- Feb. 18 @ 11AM, Lunch at Our Table Family Restaurant, 108 E Allegan St., Otsego
- March 18 @ 11AM, McGonigle’s Irish Pub, 3512 W. Main St., Kalamazoo
- April 15 @ 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo
- 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 Jae’s Cekola’s (Continued next column)



# IBEW

## Local 252

Since 1916

**IBEW Local 252**

ANN ARBOR – MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: *Happy New Year! As we roll into 2026, I want to thank everyone for all you do every day! 2026 promises to be a very busy year for Local 252. The work outlook is very robust. The Saline Data Center will provide over 5 million labor hours for us in the next 2 years! Although “The Barn” is the talk of the town right now, we must never forget how important it is to maintain our relationships with current customers. To keep our strong market share we can never forget about our loyal customer base that has provided labor hours for us for decades.*

*Please look after each other on the jobsite and check in on those that are going through tough times. Work safe and have a great 2026!*

**Ryan Husse**  
Business Manager

**IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR EARNED SICK TIME ACT (ESTA):** We need official complaints filed with the State of Michigan if you are being denied earned sick time from your employer. NECA has dropped their appeal but is still refusing to acknowledge the ESTA in our jurisdiction. We need as many complaints to the state as possible. To file a complaint please use one of the following options:

- Online (fastest method): [www.michigan.gov/wageclaim](http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim)
- Fax: 517-763-0110
- Mail: Wage & Hour Division, P.O. Box 30476, Lansing, MI 48909-7976
- In Person-- Lansing or Detroit BY APPT ONLY 530 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48933 (Mon through Friday; 8am- 4pm) 3026 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 2-750, Detroit, MI 48202 (Mon and Wed only; 8:30am- 4pm)

Please reach out to the hall if assistance is needed.

**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 2026: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM**

Transformers/Grounding & Bonding- Feb. 9, 16 & 23

EPRI Part B- Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17. (Ten classes total from Jan 13-Mar 17)

Conduit Bending- Every other Thursday beginning on Feb. 12 and ending April 2. (6 classes)

Masters Prep- 6 Classes beginning March 2 and ending April 6.

BICSI Installer 1- Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

OSHA 30- April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14

BICSI Fiber/ Tech- Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

Fire Alarm- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21.

NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information

CPR- March 3 & 10, June 2 & 9, Sept. 1 & 15, Dec. 1 & 8.

Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. 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.

**TRUSTEE NEEDED:** If you are interested in being a Trustee for the Health & Welfare and Retirement Funds, please contact the hall.

**NEW BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF:** Please welcome new business agent Jeff Burdick, new organizer Dan Beck, and new office assistant Emma Wheeler to the Business Office staff.

**IBEW 252 APP FOR ANDROID:** If you use an android phone, you must redownload the IBEW 252 app, which is now available in the app store.

**EWMC CHEF’S CHOICE COOK OFF:** Join us Feb. 21, from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. Cook and bring your favorite and best recipe(s). The best savory and sweet dishes will be voted on with a reward for the winners. Please have an ingredient list for allergy purposes. This event will be on the same day as the RENEW Euchre/Cribbage Tournament. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, contact Yohance Jennings (313) 283-3294 or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

**RENEW BENEVOLENT EUCHRE & CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT:** Join us Feb. 21 from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. Stop in and play some card games. Tournament winners will receive gifts. If you’re willing to help with set up, run games, clean up, or to make a donation please contact Dan Beck (810) 858-0033. This is the same day as the EWMC Cook Off.

**RETIREE’S 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. Please join the fun.

**RETIREE’S BREAKFAST:** will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at **9 a.m. (new time)** at Leo’s Conney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

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

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

**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](http://www.my-life-resource.com) and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

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

**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 effective 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.

**DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2025, 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 per quarter for 2026. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Feb. 8, 2026: Super Bowl Party
- Feb. 21, 2026: EWMC Chef’s Cook-Off & Cribbage/ Euchre Tournament
- March 31, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Dues

## IBEW LOCAL 252

**IBEW Local 252**

ANN ARBOR – MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: *Happy New Year! As we roll into 2026, I want to thank everyone for all you do every day! 2026 promises to be a very busy year for Local 252. The work outlook is very robust. The Saline Data Center will provide over 5 million labor hours for us in the next 2 years! Although “The Barn” is the talk of the town right now, we must never forget how important it is to maintain our relationships with current customers. To keep our strong market share we can never forget about our loyal customer base that has provided labor hours for us for decades.*

*Please look after each other on the jobsite and check in on those that are going through tough times. Work safe and have a great 2026!*

**Ryan Husse**  
Business Manager

**IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR EARNED SICK TIME ACT (ESTA):** We need official complaints filed with the State of Michigan if you are being denied earned sick time from your employer. NECA has dropped their appeal but is still refusing to acknowledge the ESTA in our jurisdiction. We need as many complaints to the state as possible. To file a complaint please use one of the following options:

- Online (fastest method): [www.michigan.gov/wageclaim](http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim)
- Fax: 517-763-0110
- Mail: Wage & Hour Division, P.O. Box 30476, Lansing, MI 48909-7976
- In Person-- Lansing or Detroit BY APPT ONLY 530 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48933 (Mon through Friday; 8am- 4pm) 3026 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 2-750, Detroit, MI 48202 (Mon and Wed only; 8:30am- 4pm)

Please reach out to the hall if assistance is needed.

**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 2026: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM**

Transformers/Grounding & Bonding- Feb. 9, 16 & 23

EPRI Part B- Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17. (Ten classes total from Jan 13-Mar 17)

Conduit Bending- Every other Thursday beginning on Feb. 12 and ending April 2. (6 classes)

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WE ASKED THESE IBEW Local 665 members to pause for a photo while working at the MSU Plant and Environmental Services project in East Lansing. They are (l-r) journeymen John Hopkins, Roger Cole, Jordan Chapko and apprentice Adam Garrett. They are employed by Superior Electric of Lansing.



# IBEW

## LOCAL 906

**IBEW Local 906**

UPPER PENINSULA— MEETINGS

There will be normal unit meetings in February:

First Tuesday- 7:00pm 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI EST

Second Tuesday- 7:00pm 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI CST

Second Wednesday- 7:00pm 1219 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S Escanaba, MI EST

Happy New Year brothers and sisters,

For the month of February there will be normal unit meetings.

Thank you to all of you who attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Party, it was an enjoyable evening.

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 is currently slowing down for the winter season. We have no job calls currently.

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

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](http://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 2026 Negotiations Survey under the Announcements tab on the Website and App, we encourage everybody to submit what they would like to see in these upcoming negotiations.

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

A friendly reminder that dues are \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026.

If you have a change in information please make sure to let the hall know so we have your information up to date.

Congratulations to local 906’s newest Journeyman, Ben Chaloner!

*“Here’s something to think about: How come you never see a headline like ‘Psychic Wins Lottery’?”*

– Jay Leno (1950 - )

*“You must lose a fly to catch a trout.”*

—George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

## IBEW Local 275’s column – See Page 12



# IBEW

## LOCAL 692

**IBEW Local 692**

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.**

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

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

**Motor City Electric** is finishing up work on the new line at Bay City’s GM Powertrain site. **Nelson Electric and Superior Electric** also have ongoing projects at Powertrain. **Nelson** has completed the Delta College S-Wing lighting upgrade.

**AZCO** continues work at Consumers Energy’s Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in early Spring.

**Van Ert Electric** has begun work at their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected late February.

**Countyline Power** has secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

**Clements Electric’s** work on the Midland Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as does work at Mersen USA and Bay County Health Department. Contracts for Oddfellows Hall in Midland, a housing development in Downtown Bay City, Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission have all been signed with work to start soon. Another housing complex in Auburn is also underway. Work also continues at Mersen for Clements along with being awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

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

**Escon Group** is ramping up work within the I-Park and Consumers Energy service centers.

**Master Electric** continues work at Clare County Road Commission.

**Ted’s Electric** has work in Clare Schools.

**Bay Valley Electric** is finishing up work at Bay Valley Resort while working at St. Bart’s in Kawkawlin, looking forward to an Alpena Community College dorm project come Spring.

**John’s Electric** has work through the winter at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda’s Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls.

We do need some wiremen to man our local 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, let us not repeat our mistakes. Rest assured, your orga-

nizers will be working diligently to fill all open calls with qualified hands by any means necessary. If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use ext. #1.

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

**Organizers’ Report.** New Member Orientation will be scheduled later this winter. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course. A newsletter, *New Member Minute*, has been created to inform wiremen and apprentices about topics such as benefits, contracts, dues, referral procedures, etc. All members are welcome to request being added to the list to receive these informative newsletters by emailing organizers.

PAL and COMET training sessions will continue, all members are welcome to attend. Dates and times will be shared in future Building Tradesman articles.

If you need help renewing your State Electrical License, please call the hall. Licenses must be renewed before January 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a \$50 late fee.

Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions regarding organizing or work reports around the state.

Brandon Baranek 989.327.4131  
Kevin Klapish 252.9225

**Registrar’s Report.** Please make sure you vote in the upcoming primary for the 35<sup>th</sup> District State Senate special election on (or before) Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

May local unions including Local 692, the IBEW Michigan State Conference, and U.S. Representative Kristen McDonald Rivet have all endorsed Chedrick Greene for this open seat. Chedrick is a Marine combat veteran and firefighter with lifetime of service. He is a 31-year union member who will fight to make Michigan more affordable.

**Union Dues.** There is no dues rate increase for the 2026 calendar year. Monthly dues will remain at \$49.20.

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

**Fringe Benefits.** REMINDER: If you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiary has 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](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300  
IO Pension: 202.833.7000





## Local 169 Boilermakers

**Boilermakers Local 169**  
ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **February 13, 2026 at 8:00pm** at IBEW Local 275 Union Hall. The address is 140 64th Ave N, Coopersville, MI 49404.



MICHAEL  
CARD

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate \$55.85 for 2026. We will have a special called meeting on Feb. 2 2026 at 7:00pm for nominations of Local Lodge officers. Nominations for delegate to the Thirty-Fifth Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular scheduled Union meeting March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Union Hall.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) for more information.

Apprentice advancements will be the week of February 9<sup>th</sup>. Area 4 will be February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm 804 Clark Dr. Gladstone. Areas 2 and 3 February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm 525 Canal Rd. Lansing, MI. Area 1 February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Union Hall.

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880. 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 at 11AM. The next lunch will be on January 22, 2026, at The Beaverton Tavern. The address is 102 W. Brown Street, Beaverton, Michigan 48612. As always, everyone from all areas is 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 \$50.00 XL and smaller \$5.00 for 2XL, 60.00 for 3XL and 70.00 for 4XL.

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.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) 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.



## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – **The January Union Meeting is Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:00pm** 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](http://www.ironworkers25.org)).

The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday January 26, 2026 at 6:00pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday January 29, 2026 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

**A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday January 28, 2026 from 8am to 12 noon;** to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

**A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday February 4, 2026 from 8:00 am to 12 noon.** If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also! *If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.*

**BY-LAW(S) Proposals will be due in the Novi Union Hall ON OR BEFORE 4:00 pm January 26, 2026. This meeting will be the first Reading of any proposed by law(s) and Union Meeting starting at 7pm. If you plan to mail in a proposal, please make sure it arrives several days earlier than Monday 1/26/2026. We’ve noticed mail has been slow in Michigan, so please be aware! February’s Union meeting will be Monday February 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

This union meeting will be the second Reading of any proposed by law(s). The third Reading will be during March’s informational meeting Monday March 9, 2026, with the Vote date of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Nominations for Local Union Election of Officers and Delegates to Conventions will take place in person only at the Novi Union Hall on Monday March 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm. One must have been in continuous good standing for 24 months preceding the date of nomination to be eligible.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a variety of training requirements, offering over 100 online courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: <https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/>

The username is the member’s book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN

**The 2026 Dennis O’Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available on the member only section of our website and APP; or you can call Mary at the Novi Union Hall to request one 248-344-9494. All requests must be made by Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> and all Completed applications are due by March 13, 2026.** These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

**Apprentices:** located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “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](http://ironworkers25.org)); to view the 2025 or 2026 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 applica-

tions year-round! Visit our website ([ironworkers25.org](http://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](http://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 open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the 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](http://my.wexhealthcard.com) (where you can create a login)

Check you online benefit information: [ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/](http://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’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday February 3, 2026 at 8:00 am. The Retirees’ meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday February 17, 2026 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the Bay City Chapter will April 16, 2026; 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 to be held 9:00 am April 17, 2026 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

**THE IRONWORKER Magazine** To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan:** [www.bcbstm.com/behavioral-mental-health/](http://www.bcbstm.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.

**When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis.** Call or text 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

(Continued next column)



WELDING A STAIRWAY BRACE at Michigan State University’s Plant and Environmental Sciences Building in East Lansing is Scott Rumble of Iron Workers Local 25. He’s employed by Douglas Steel.



## IBEW Local 275

### IBEW 275

#### COOPERSVILLE – Work

**Outlook:** Work in the jurisdiction remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275. Hart Solar is just starting to have calls regularly, and Freshwater solar will begin manning up soon. Please consider helping man these calls if you can.

**Volunteer Info:** With the new year please keep in mind volunteer reward points have reset. We will keep updating any opportunities for volunteer events as we get them.

**West Michigan RENEW/EWMC:** Meetings will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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. The EWMC have a challenge coin

*“You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you do not trust enough.”*

–Frank Crane

*“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go but where they ought to be.”*

–Rosalynn Carter (1927 - 2023)

## Local 25 cont’d

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

**In Memory:** Patricia Fogg, mother of IW Danny Fogg #1289902, passed away December 28, 2025. She will be missed by many family & friends. IW Larry Koons #1082380 passed away December 17, 2025 at the age of 77. He was a member for 43 years survived by his wife, Pamela. IW Harold Hardy Jr. #755382 passed away January 9, 2026 at the age of 85. He was a member 59 years and is survived by his wife, Doris. *Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your dear loved one(s).*

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Jan. 23, 2026 10:00 AM E.S.T.).

that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last.

**Veteran’s Committee:** Meeting will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

**Training:** Code update will only be available online only going forward. Please go to the JATC website at [www.wmejatc.org](http://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. [wmjatc@gmail.com](mailto:wmjatc@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:** For those who are not aware Walter has decided to go back to the field to work with the tools. We would like to thank him for his many years as

*“Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.”*

–Carol Burnett (1936 - )

*“Many a man who falls in love with a dimple make the mistake of marrying the whole girl.”*

–Evan Esar (1899 - 1995),

*“Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.”*

–Thomas H. Huxley (1825 - 1895)

*“If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”*

– Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

an organizer and agent and wish him success.

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.

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 are still \$50.90 per month, and as of this writing we have not heard of an increase. If you pay for 1 years dues at once, there is a challenge coin that can be picked up at the hall.

**Delinquent Members:** At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Henri Creed, Damien Keglovitz, Andrew Kruithoff, Jeremy Rinehart - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

*“Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure.”*

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

*“He makes people pleased with him by making them first pleased with themselves.”*

– Lord Chesterfield (1694 - 1773)

*“Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell ‘em, ‘Certainly I can!’ Then get busy and find out how to do it.”*

–Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)

*“To see what is in front of one’s nose needs a constant struggle.”*

–George Orwell (1903 - 1950)

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# 2026 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

**Aiello Law Group** has just released our 2026 Construction Worker’s Daily Logbook. We have been providing logbooks to Michigan’s building trades for more than 30 years.

You can pick one up at our office, your union hall, the Building Trades office at 1640 Porter in Detroit, or it can be mailed to you directly by giving us a call at **313-964-4900** or **248-281-4247**.







## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25  
**SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING:** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

We will be having a \$5.00 per ticket 50/50 raffle with the proceeds going to the Breath of Life Foundation to help with the research of Mesothelioma, lung cancer and other asbestos related diseases.

**S.U.B. FUND:** An important communication regarding a decision made by the S.U.B. Fund Trustees at our January meeting is being mailed out. Please be on the lookout for this mailing.

**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.

**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.

**EMPLOYMENTCHANGES:** All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within 48 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 fifty dollar fine.

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

# One year later, Trump's union beat-down is unprecedented

(Continued from Page 1)  
appalled by the situation and turned to the federal courts for redress. But, although some lower court decisions bolstered their efforts to maintain union rights and job security for federal workers, courts at a higher level, including the Republican-dominated U.S. Supreme Court, granted Trump most of the expanded powers that he claimed.

Thus far, the mass termination of federal workers has wreaked havoc on their lives – ending careers, undermining financial security, and creating severe mental distress. And it has also produced a weaker labor movement. Estimates are that 300,000 federal workers had lost or left their jobs by the end of 2025.

Meanwhile, the embattled labor movement turned to Congress. Here it worked to secure passage of the Protect America's Workforce Act, which would repeal Trump's executive order abolishing union rights. In the House of Representatives, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) refused to allow a vote on the legislation, promoted by the AFL-CIO and by Democrats. On Nov. 17, however, the sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME), finally secured the necessary 218 signatures (from 213 Democrats and five renegade Republicans) on a discharge petition to force House action, which presumably will occur soon.

Golden predicted that "Congress will not stand idly by while President Trump nullifies federal workers' collective bargaining agreements and rolls back gen-



## Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

\*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.

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.



PATRICK  
WELCH

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.

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

**DENTAL BENEFIT CHANGE NOTIFICATION:** Starting January 1, 2026 all Active and Retired Participants will now have Delta Dental as your Dental Provider. You will be receiving a welcome packet along with your card in the mail shortly if you have not already. Your dental information will no longer be attached to your health insurance card.

The card you are being provided will not be necessary when using Delta Dental services, providing your Social Security number/card to a participating provider will be sufficient. Any Annual or lifetime benefits that were already utilized with Blue Dental will be carried over to the new coverage. If you have any further questions please call our Pension/Welfare Trustee Joshua Kroell, (989) 385-2671.

### 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 Number: (800) 323-8079  
Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502  
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

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

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: [www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org](http://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, or go online to [insulators47.com](http://insulators47.com) to fill out an Application.

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."

erations of labor law." Even so, as the repeal legislation has only one declared Republican backer in the GOP-controlled U.S. Senate, its passage by that body seems unlikely.

Another major target of Trump's anti-union campaign is the venerable National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). A product of landmark New Deal legislation in 1935, the NLRB is the sole recourse for private-sector workers seeking to assert their rights under labor law. This includes the right to join with co-workers to improve their working conditions, as well as the right to choose union representation. By supervising workplace elections to determine if workers want such representation, the NLRB plays a vital role in facilitating the establishment of unions.

It's no accident, then, that Trump moved rapidly to cripple the NLRB. On Jan. 27, 2025, he fired Gwynne Wilcox, the acting NLRB board chair – action unprecedented in the 90-year history of the agency. As half of her term remained, it was also illegal. Furthermore, the firing left the agency without the quorum necessary to function, thus shutting it down. In addition, on that same day, Trump fired the NLRB's general counsel, Jennifer Abruzzo, replacing her with a Republican loyalist. During Abruzzo's tenure, she had issued memos prohibiting common anti-labor practices by corporations. Her Republican successor quickly reversed the memos.

By August 2025, the NLRB was in sorry shape. Elon Musk,

who scorned "the idea of unions, had been angered by the NLRB's investigation of the anti-labor practices of his SpaceX corporation. Consequently, he brought suit against the federal agency, charging that – despite a Supreme Court ruling in 1937 that declared the NLRB constitutional – the federal agency was actually unconstitutional. In August 2025, the right-wing Fifth Circuit Court ruled in Musk's favor. Since then, the NLRB has been on life support – a status reinforced by the fact that, as of late November, only one of its five board positions has been filled, leaving it without a quorum and, therefore, unable to function.

Trump has also limited the activities of another agency that could assist unions: the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Established in 1947, the agency has helped to resolve difficult labor disputes, such as those leading to strikes. As unions have been on the defensive for decades against increasingly aggressive corporate tactics, it is often to their advantage to settle their grievances through mediation rather than strike action. Therefore, it's revealing that, in March 2025, Trump directed the agency to eliminate "non-statutory components" and to reduce its statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum required by law.

Against this backdrop, Liz Shuler, president of the AFL-CIO, concluded: "This has been the most hostile administration to workers in our lifetimes."

(The writer is a professor of history emeritus at SUNY/Albany).



WITHADUCT THEY'RE READY to set at the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing are (l-r) Claude Harris, Rob Crozier and Jason McClurkin. The Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 members are employed by Allied Mechanical.

Laborers' International Union of North America

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Laborers Local 1191  
(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

**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.

**Regular Membership Updates:** Please check out our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org) and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local 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 Mem-**

**bership 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 February General membership meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for March will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2026.**

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The Retiree Council Meetings resume beginning in January 2026, on January 30, 2026. The February Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2026.**

**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](http://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.**

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Outdoors

Another sighting of elusive cougars



(From the Michigan DNR)

Nine months after two cougar kittens were documented in the Upper Peninsula, a new trail camera photo indicates the elusive animals are still alive and living with their mother.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources verified the Dec. 6 photo of an adult cougar being followed by two kittens down a snowy trail in central Ontonagon County. The last time the kittens were documented – in early March – they were only about two months old and their mother was nowhere in sight, raising concerns about the kittens’ survival.

But the newly verified photo shows an adult cougar with two juvenile cougars that appear to be about a year old, according to Brian Roell, the DNR’s large carnivore specialist.

Michigan is home to very few cougars and genetic testing has confirmed the existence of only adult males. The new photo suggests one of the first instances of cougar reproduction to take place outside the cougars’ core area in the Western states.

“This is a historic confirmation for Michigan since it is the first time in over 100 years that verified cougar reproduction has occurred east of the Mississippi River and possible even east of the Missouri River,” Roell said.

A private landowner sent the trail camera photo of the cougars to the DNR on Sunday, Dec. 14. Roell verified the site of the photo Monday and the DNR’s cougar team confirmed the photo Tuesday by enhancing the nighttime image to verify the existence of the three cougars. The sex of the kittens is unknown.

Cougar kittens, or cubs, generally stay with their mother for about two years before venturing out on their own.

“The kittens’ chances of survival are actually pretty high because just like bears, cougars invest a lot of their energy into their young,” Roell said. “So these kittens will stay with their



AN ADULT COUGAR walks down a trail in the Upper Peninsula followed by two cougar cubs on Dec. 6, 2025. The DNR verified this photo from a private trail camera by enhancing the image to verify the existence of the three cougars, including a cub bringing up the rear.

(Photo courtesy of private landowner)

mom through this winter and possibly even into next winter. They already have a leg up, seeing as how they’ve been with her for a year now.”

Roell is surprised the cougar kittens weren’t documented from any public or private trail cameras since March. The DNR operates more than 1,300 trail cameras in the U.P. to survey wildlife abundance.

“The interesting thing is, where were they for nine months?” Roell says. “That’s a mystery.”

Native to Michigan, cougars were essentially hunted out of the state by the early 1900s. Since 2008, the DNR has confirmed about 168 cougar sightings, all in the U.P., although most of those sightings are of the same animal being reported by multiple sources, Roell said.

Cougar sightings have increased each year since 2019, Roell added, but the number of trail cameras has also increased. Cougar sightings on DNR-operated cameras accounted for more than 25 percent of the verified cougar sightings in 2024. In addition to the cougar kittens in Michigan, there have been more cougars reported in other areas, including Nebraska. However, cougars need vast territories because they are solitary ambush predators that rely on deer and other large prey, which leads to low population densities. Even states with the largest cougar populations generally have just a few thousand of the animals.

“This isn’t an animal that is ever going to become very numerous,” Roell said. “They’re going to remain rare on the landscape regardless of whatever happens with them here in Michigan.”

Cougars are on the list of endangered mammals in Michigan, meaning it’s illegal to hunt or harass them, which includes trying to locate their den on public or private property.

“Too much human pressure can also trigger the female cougar to abandon her cubs,” Roell said. “As with all wild animals, we’re asking the public to respect their habitat and allow them to live naturally in their home.”

A 2019 TRAIL CAMERA photo shows a cougar in the U.P.’s Ontonagon County.



THE MICHIGAN DNR stocked seven fish species this fall: Atlantic salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, muskellunge, and this walleye.

Get ready, anglers after ‘exceptional’ fish stocking

(From the Michigan DNR)

This past fall, the Department of Natural Resources worked hard to stock fish in waters across Michigan – fish that will provide angling opportunities in seasons to come. The fall 2025 effort saw DNR crews stock seven different species at 76 locations throughout the state: 648,557 fish, weighing in at a total of 8.6 tons.

“This was another exceptional fall fish stocking season, enhancing fishing opportunities throughout Michigan,” said DNR fish production manager Aaron Switzer. “Combined with successful spring and summer stocking efforts, the 2025 total reached nearly 19.5 million fish stocked in Michigan’s waters.”

The number and type of fish stocked vary by hatchery, as each facility’s ability to rear fish differs due to water supply and temperature.

In Michigan, there are six state and three cooperative fish hatcheries that work together to produce the species, strains and sizes of fish needed by fisheries managers. These fish must then be delivered at specific times and locations for stocking to ensure that they thrive.

In general, fish are reared in Michigan’s state fish hatcheries anywhere from one month to 1.5 years before they are stocked. Most fish in Michigan are stocked in the spring, but some fish are stocked in the fall because they require less time and fewer resources to rear in hatcheries. Fall-stocked fish also may adjust better to new environments as they are younger and more adaptable to change.

- Marquette State Fish Hatchery (near Marquette) stocked 27,915 fall fingerling and 250 adult brook trout that weighed a combined 3,022 pounds. These fish were stocked at a total of 27 locations in the Upper Peninsula.
- Oden State Fish Hatchery (near Petoskey) stocked 140,366 fall fingerling rainbow trout that combined weighed 7,508 pounds and were stocked at four locations in the Upper and Lower peninsulas.
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery (near Manistique) stocked 3,008 Great Lakes strain muskellunge that weighed 304 pounds in Lake Hudson and Thornapple Lake. Thompson also stocked 329,085 fall fingerling steelhead weighing 2,413 total pounds in six locations.
- Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (west of Kalamazoo) stocked 64,532 fall fingerling steelhead weighing a combined 917 pounds in Crystal Lake.
- Harrietta State Fish Hatchery (near Cadillac) stocked 17,548 fall fingerling brown trout and 24,520 fall fingerling rainbow trout. These fish were stocked in four locations with a combined weight of 1,573 pounds.

DNR fisheries management units also stocked fall fingerling walleye this year.

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

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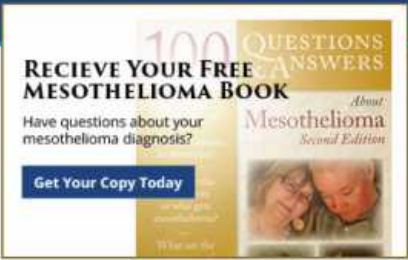
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