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Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council



VOL. 75, NO. 2

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January 23, 2026

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 Luper, 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-

sentially 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 Expec-*



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."

tations: The 2026 Construction Hiring and Business Outlook.

"One reason for their lowered expectations is that contractors are 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

(Continued on Page 4)

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

(Continued on Page 4)

'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

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

'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 multibillionaire charged that "waste is pretty much everywhere" and brandished a chain saw against what he called "bureaucracy."

As Musk's minions rampaged 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

(Continued on Page 3)

Expect to see downside risks, uncertainty, general unease, opportunity, too

Quotable

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

—Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)

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.

Aurelia Glass

Center for American Progress

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MSU erects \$200M plant building

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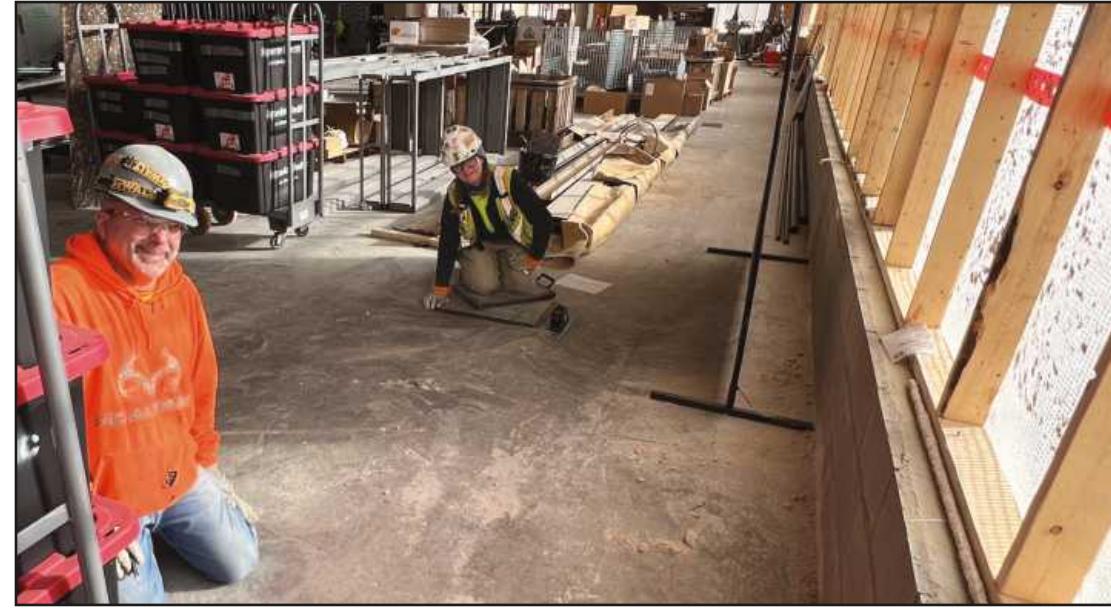
means creating efficient spaces not only for human work, study and interaction, but also installing highly specialized mechanical systems and fixtures and creating simulated environments that cater to the examination, experimentation and care of plant growth.

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 ground-breaking, 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.

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."

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-hitting 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 stiffs.

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.

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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.

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.

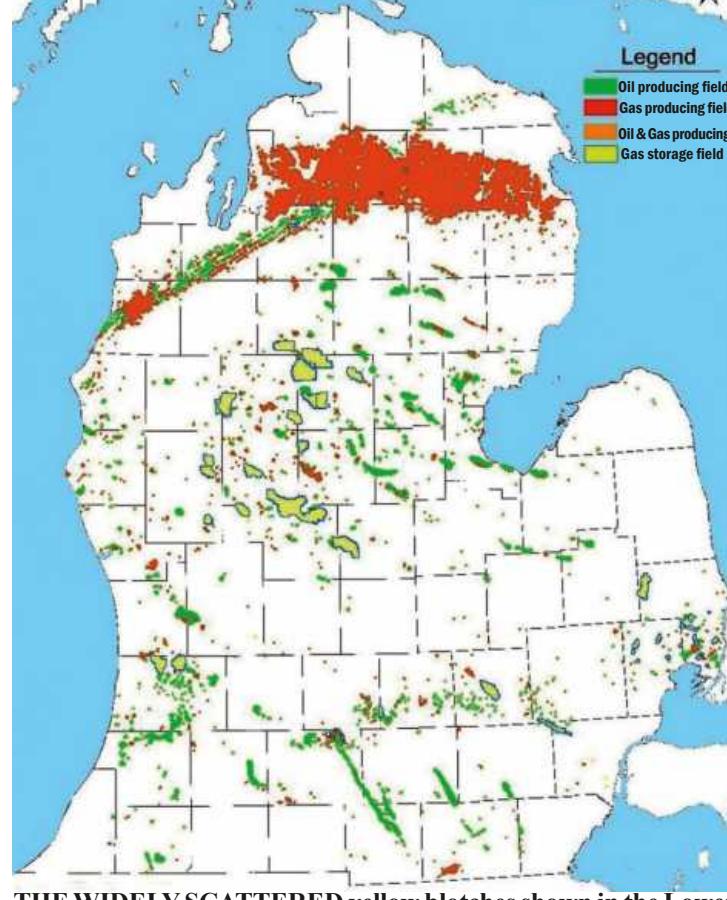
And Michigan also burns what it stores. With coal-fired plants quickly being shuttered, natural gas-fired plants powered 45 percent of Michigan's total electrical generation in 2024 – an amount four times greater than it was a decade earlier.

"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 wintertime 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

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

(Continued from Page 1)

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.

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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 Belvidere project. "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-ballers 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

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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)

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WE ASKED THE TEAM from Davenport Masonry working at the MSU Plant and Sciences Building to gather for a photo in front 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.



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-

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

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/resources>. 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 (IUP#).

Respond with your six-digit IUP 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)

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000

and water works, hummed along despite overarching funding pressures.

"Without these megaprojects, however, expect construction activity as a whole to slow, as it did in November. Still, demand in those areas remains strong despite common headwinds around labor and building costs."

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

'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 backlog in many cases are the best they've ever been. There's a little bit of a disconnect."

Construction Connect: "The construction industry is in a bit of a challenging spot right now.

While growth remains slow in

some major sectors, experts say

there will be some innovative opportunities for builders in 2026,"

especially in data center construction, the industry website said.

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Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M

WARREN—Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: 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

ROBERT
GONZALEZ
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 O'Neill for more information or to sign up.

(517)304-4425 or email 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.

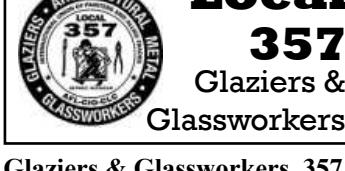
Get involved and participate in your local union!

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

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.

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 Local 591

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

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

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal.

You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in.

You can find your member ID printed on your quarterly union card.

Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it 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)

— 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 & Waterproofers

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 savings 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 & Waterproofers Local No.149

January 23, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



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 an official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be



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 csteele@ualocal85.org

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org

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

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

The new website is up and running. Please check out [www.ualocal85.org](http://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](http://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.

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

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

Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 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.

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

(Continued next column)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Local 190

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

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION - E-Mail address:

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

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!**

For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

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. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website 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 1:45 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 members only section under training to register for classes online.

Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email: kristyn@190jtc.com or mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: 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

2026 Schedule - Mondays – Feb. 23, April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5. Each class will start at 5 pm.

Welding Fundamentals (4 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.

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

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

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.

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



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 résumé 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 4:30pm. 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 68th 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 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 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.plumbers98tc.org/apprenticeship.

Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org, Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser@ualocal98.org

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org

Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313) 542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org

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

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

Jeff Kaval, Business Agent (313) 938-1554 jkaval@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

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

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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 voter-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.



Local 333

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

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. 5th 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. 5th 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. 5th 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. 7th 7-8 Weeks

Monday and Wednesday 4:30-8:30pm

Backflow Lansing Jan. 13th 7-8 Weeks

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30pm

Tube Bending Jan 19th 4-5 weeks

Monday and Wednesday 5-8pm

Trimble Basic TBD

Sign up online

Advanced Blueprint Class Jan. 13th

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 Cafe. 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 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)



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

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 MERCHANDISE 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 Retirees 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.

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 888-648-8920.

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 888-648-8920 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 FIRSTAID, from January 1 - December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.



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 2nd 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, 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 johnancock.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.

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

SMOOTH 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; 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.

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues 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).

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

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The new Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall now has hard copies if anyone is interested in having one.

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

(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 12th at 6:00 p.m.
*Zone 2 March 17th at 6:00 p.m.
*Zone 3 March 11th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
*Zone 3 February 5th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
*Zone 4 March 10th at 6:00 p.m.
*Zone 5 February 7th 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 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.

SAM FULLER **SMART Union Labels:** Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART

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

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

Samuel 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.

January 23, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9



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 17th at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

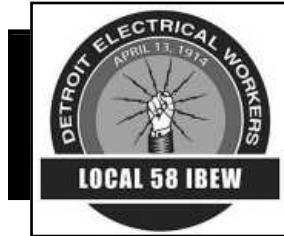
TRUSTEE ELECTION: OFFICIAL NOTICE: The Trust Fund election will be held at the January 27, 2026 membership meeting. You will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2026 through January 2029.

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: **2026 Retiree Meetings:** Monday February 16th, April 20th, June 15th, August 17th, October 19th (annual party) & December 21st. 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 SMWA 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 call 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



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58
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 23rd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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: 58womenscommittee@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 registrars@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 sys-

(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 Cafe 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.

LocalWebsite - 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 Secret

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 withdraw (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 Gwarda, Widow of the late Pension member Richard Gwarda;

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

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

includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

New Membership - Welcome to our latest member Maxwell Cavric. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

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

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Gregg Mark & Jack Reed. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.



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 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.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION – There is only one active election going on throughout the State. It is for the 35th 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

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 or rene@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 Ingerson Twp. area.

HEALTH CARE - Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor.

In Solidarity, Evan Allardycie, Business Manager

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

MEPP (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#

IBEW Local 498

IBEW Local 498



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

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

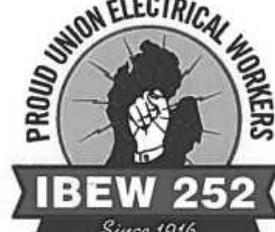
April 15 @ 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo

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 Jac's Cekola's

(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

Since 1916

fice 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 Coney 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 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 1st Quarter Dues

January 23, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11



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 1st 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 3rd 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 an-

nouncements and updates within

the local. The website can be

found at ibew906.org and the

app can be found under IBEW

906. Dues payments can also be

made through the app and web-

site. If you have any questions or

or 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)

January 23, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting

The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, February 2nd, 2026.**

Executive Board Meeting

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



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.

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 13th at the Union Hall.

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

Apprentice advancements will be the week of February 9th. Area 4 will be February 9th at 5:00pm 804 Clark Dr. Gladstone. Areas 2 and 3 February 10th at 5:00pm 525 Canal Rd. Lansing, MI. Area 1 February 11th 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 \$55.00 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 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).

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 11th, 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 6th 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); 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) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:

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

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE:

Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the 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 (where you can create a login)

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

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

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club: The Retirees' 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 & Cafe, 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.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

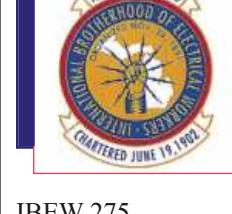
When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call or text 988 if you or someone 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 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. 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.).

"Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me."

–Carol Burnett (1936 - 2023)

"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)

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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.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: 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.



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.

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:

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 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."

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-

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.)

January 23, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 13



WITH A DUCT 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.

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Laborers Local 1191
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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.laborslocal1191.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-

monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborslocal1191.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.

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

(Photo courtesy of private landowner)

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.

MDNR photo



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

MDNR photo

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 Manistee) 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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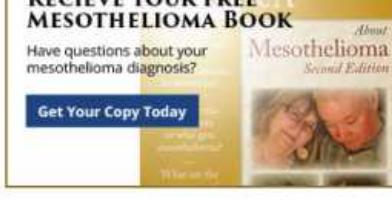
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