



SHORT CUTS

Higher wages help the tax man, too

In 1990, worker wages in Michigan were 9.5 percent above the national average – the sixth highest level in the nation. In 2026, adjusted for inflation and the cost of living, Michigan's worker wages have dropped to 4.2 percent below the national average.

"Over the past three decades, Michigan's real wages have deteriorated sharply compared with the United States," said University of Michigan Economist Gabriel Ehrlich during a presentation at the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference in Lansing on Jan. 16. The news service MIRS was present and did reporting on it.

According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, the conference is held at least twice a year, in January and May. The January CREC, the department said, "starts the annual budget process for the State of Michigan. As prescribed by the Management and Budget Act, the revenue forecast adopted in the January conference is the starting point for the governor's executive budget."

What do worker wages have to do with the state budget? Easily forgotten among complaints by conservative lawmakers about state laws that spur higher wage levels brought about by the presence of minimum wage and prevailing wage laws are the improved bottom lines in state and federal tax revenues from the collection of payroll taxes. "Wages are a key driver of tax revenue," Erlich told the conference.

In losing its lofty wage standing, Erlich pointed to two main drivers. In 1990, he said the average wage for blue-collar workers in Michigan was \$11,500 higher than that of similar workers nationwide. Since then, that differential has been reduced by more than two-thirds to \$3,000 as of 2024.

So Michigan still enjoys a blue-collar wage advantage, even though it's diminishing, and Erlich said it's something to be "very proud" of. "We basically invented the middle class here in Michigan," he said.

Conversely, in the white-collar job market, Erlich and MIRS said the small pay advantage enjoyed by Michigan vs. the rest of the nation in 1990 has flipped, with our state's average white-collar wage trailing the national average by \$11,000 per year in 2024.

Erlch said in order to get its white-collar wage mojo back, Michigan needs to "increase employment, and especially wages, in these higher education, higher wage industries." That means helping more young people get bachelor's degrees, and keeping them in-state post-graduation.

U.S. inflation rate tamed a bit in '25

The annual inflation rate in the U.S. was 2.7 percent for the 12 months ending December, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released Jan. 13. The rate dropped a bit from the 2.9 percent inflation level in 2024.

Meanwhile, overall construction input material prices finished the year 2.8 percent higher than 12 months prior. Outliers included natural gas prices, up 34.8 percent for the year, and tariffs pushed copper wire and cable prices up 22.8 percent.

Quotable

"Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only for wallowing in."

—Katherine Mansfield (1888 - 1923)



THE TURBINE FLOOR at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant last year. The Westinghouse turbine has been disassembled, inspected, and repaired where needed, and will be a key piece of infrastructure when the restored plant starts to create electricity this year.

Photo credit: Michigan Public/NPR

No surprise: Palisades re-start delayed

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

COVERT TWP. – As the calendar flipped from December to January, Holtec, the owner of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, announced that the plant would not reopen until early 2026.

"We are planning for a Palisades restart in early 2026, following completion of ongoing project activities," said Holtec spokesperson Nick Culp. The company had predicted earlier last year that the plant would reopen in October 2025.

The delay in reopening came as no surprise to the hundreds of building trades union workers who have been on site at the plant on the Lake Michigan shore, improving and upgrading the facility so that it can start producing power again. It would be the first nuclear plant in U.S. history to be shuttered, and then reopened.

Holtec did not offer specifics for what is causing the delay of the plant's reopening, but there's speculation aplenty in nuclear-related publications, which are watching this project with keen interest.

Michigan Public Radio reported that repairs need to be made

to about 1,400 cracked cooling tubes. The Engineering News Record reported that steam generator upgrades "are a critical area of work." Work is also focusing, ENR said, on "reassembly of the main turbine generator," which "is

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WORK IS SHOWN last year on a turbine section at the Palisades plant.

Photo credit: American Nuclear Society

U.S. workers see major long-term injury/illness rate decline

Private industry employers reported 2.5 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2024, down 3.1 percent from 2023, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Jan. 22.

"This is the lowest number of employer-reported injuries and illnesses for this data series going back to 2003," BLS said. "The decrease in 2024 was driven by a 26-percent drop in illness cases to 148,000."

The BLS statistical releases are always about a year behind, but this series was released an additional two months later because of the government shutdown in October and November.

A major driver in the lower "illness case" category: a 46.1-percent decrease in worker respiratory illness. Cases in that category dropped to 54,000, the lowest number reported since 2019. The BLS did not offer a

Anything but artificial: Data center construction to power Hardhat jobs

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – If you're vaguely familiar with artificial intelligence (AI) only from the perspective that it pops up on your phone or computer when you perform a Google search – or when you see a Tik Tok or Facebook video and wonder if it's real – you're not alone.

But those fleeting on-screen appearances are only the start of what sure looks like a lifelong, impactful, and for many people, life-changing relationship with artificial intelligence, cloud computing and computers. And the hardware that makes all that happen – data centers – will likely be intensive, not always popular and bring tremendous employment to the building trades.

"Michigan is increasingly attractive to data center construction for several reasons," said Cameron Sholty, director of government relations for the Heartland Institute, a free-market national think-tank. "A cooler climate that reduces cooling costs. Available industrial land. Proxim-

ity to population centers and fiber networks. And historically stable electricity prices. From an economic development standpoint, this can look like a win. But it could also mean Michigan could see very large electricity loads arrive quickly, in a system that has not planned for sustained growth."

The construction of data centers in Michigan was the focus of a state House Oversight Subcommittee on Corporate Subsidies and State Investments Committee meeting on Jan. 28. State Rep. Steve Carra (R-Three Rivers) chaired the meeting, and said testimony like Sholty's would focus on data centers in general, and in particular, the massive Stargate project in Saline Township.

"Studies have shown... that data centers are among the fastest growing sources of electricity demand in the United States," Sholty said. "Nationally, projections estimate that data centers could amount to 6-9 percent of total U.S. electricity consumption by the end of this decade."

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Judges reinstate wind projects canceled by Trump

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Federal court rulings last month green-lighted the re-start of the construction of union-built offshore wind projects blocked by the Trump Administration, but that might not be the end of the story.

Three different federal judges, including one appointed by Trump, ruled that the five multi-billion, union-constructed wind projects on the Atlantic Seaboard could proceed. In December, Trump's Interior Department paused the leases to construct the wind turbines based on the premise that they somehow affect the nation's national security. Trump has also expressed disdain for the appearance of wind turbines.

"We applaud this week's federal court rulings restarting U.S. offshore wind projects," said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey on Jan. 16. "These decisions mean many NABTU members can finally return to job sites and continue building critical domestic energy infrastructure."

"Today's ruling in the Eastern District of Virginia on Dominion's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project, along with recent decisions in the District of Columbia on Ørsted's Revolution Wind and Equinor's Empire Wind projects, clears the way for construction to resume on essential domestic power generation development."

NABTU said the shutdown order issued by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Dec. 22 "stalled every East Coast offshore wind project, freezing massive builds in place and sidelining our members, local communities, and urgently needed domestic energy supply. NABTU filed amicus briefs supporting all three cases to

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Mixed signals flash at year-end 2025

Michigan sees 4th quarter dip in building trades jobs

Michigan has consistently been one of the stronger states for construction employment since the pandemic ended. But the last quarter of 2025 saw building trades job numbers taking a dip here – and it's a trend in other states, too.

"Although a majority of states added construction employees over the year, employment has stalled in the latest month," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist. "Too many projects have been postponed or canceled due to lack of funding, financing costs, or policy uncertainty about tariffs and immigration enforcement."

Two months of federal employment numbers have been released since the government shut down for 43 days on Oct. 1, revealing an ongoing negative pattern in Michigan. Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers reveal that Michigan lost 3,800 construction jobs

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Year ends with healthy 5.4% rise in U.S. construction starts

Total U.S. construction starts rose 2.6 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.24 trillion, according to Dodge Construction Network. The group reported on Jan. 23 that during the course of 2025, total U.S. construction starts were up 5.4 percent

"Nonbuilding construction (usually infrastructure), alongside data centers, was the primary engine of growth in 2025, supporting a 5.4 percent expansion in the total dollar-value of starts," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network.

Broken down by category, in 2025 nonresidential starts were up 4.5 percent, residential starts were down 4.8 percent and nonbuilding starts were 18.7 percent higher when compared to 2024.

But from November to December, Dodge reported that nonresidential building starts fell by 6.6 percent, residential starts increased 1.0 percent and nonbuilding starts grew 16.3 percent. Regionally, total construction were slowest by far in the Midwest (-19 percent).

Trades again step up to assist Care House

MOUNT CLEMENS – The stack of \$50 Meijer gift cards handed to Care House was taller than ever this year – representing a contribution of \$13,875 to the facility that supports women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

It was a record contribution from Macomb County building trades union business representatives, an ever-evolving group which has made it an annual tradition to collect money and donate to the house every year since 2000.

"It takes a little effort to get this done, but at the end of the day it's for a good cause," said Jeremy Haviland, business representative

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BUILDING TRADES union business representatives who contributed to the good works of Care House in Mount Clemens include (l-r) Jimmy Horvath (Iron Workers 25); Christian Speight (Glaziers and Glassworkers 357); Robert Gonzalez (Michigan Painters District Council 1M); Jeremy Haviland (Painters 2352); Trevor Grace (Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 2); Tony Parker (Painters 2353); David Angelo (Sheet Metal Workers Local 80); Kevin Zimmerman (Operating Engineers 324); Nicole King (Care House executive director); Shawn Bogart (Carpenters Local 687); Jeff Kavalor (Plumbers Local 98) and Don Stepp (Local 357).



Viewpoints



Why we’re union? A reminder

There is an undeniable correlation between higher levels of unionization and stronger economic, community, and democratic outcomes. States with a larger share of workers represented by a union enjoy higher incomes, greater access to health insurance, and fewer voting restrictions.

When workers join together in a union and collectively bargain with their employer, they can improve their pay, benefits, and working conditions. Union contracts provide workers with:

- **Higher wages:** Workers covered by a union contract earn, on average, 12.8% more in wages than those of nonunionized peers with comparable characteristics. When union density is high, nonunionized workers benefit too, because nonunion employers must raise wages to retain and attract workers they need.
- **Reduced racial wage gaps:** Black workers represented by a union are paid 12.6% more than their nonunionized Black peers, and Hispanic workers represented by a union are paid 16.4 percent more than their nonunionized Hispanic peers.
- **Higher wages for women:** Wages for women represented by a union are, on average, 9.8% higher than those of nonunionized women with comparable characteristics.
- **Reduced income inequality:** By directly raising wages for union members and indirectly lifting pay for nonunionized workers, unions play a crucial role in raising wages for working people and narrowing income inequality.
- **Healthier and safer workplaces:** Union workers are more likely to have access to employer-sponsored health care and paid sick leave compared with their nonunion counterparts. Further, unions foster safer workplaces by empowering workers to bring up unsafe working conditions without fear of retaliation.
- **Secure retirement:** Unionized workers are more likely to have access to employer-sponsored retirement plans (94% compared with 72% of nonunion workers). Further, union employers are more likely to contribute toward retirement plans compared to nonunion employers.

Unions do more than give workers a voice at work – high union density also shapes the strength and the health of our communities. For example, states with high union density experience:

- **Higher minimum wages:** The average minimum wage of high-union-density states is \$13.70, compared with an average minimum wage of \$9.30 in low-union-density states.
- **Higher incomes:** Median household incomes in high-union-density states are more than \$12,000 higher, on average, than median incomes in low-union-density states.
- **Greater access to retirement security:** States with smaller declines in union density experienced smaller reductions in employer-provided retirement plans.
- **Greater access to health insurance:** The share of people without any form of health insurance was 5.7% in states with higher union densities, compared with 9% in states with lower union densities.
- **Greater access to unemployment insurance:** Unemployed workers are twice as likely to receive unemployment benefits in high-union-density states than in low-union-density states.

The evidence is clear: When unions are strong, workers have more power and communities thrive. Building union density is not just a worker or workplace issue, but it is also a mechanism to uplift families and communities.

Margaret Poydock and Celine McNicholas
Economic Policy Institute
Washington, D.C.

Trades assist Care House

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Michigan Painters District Council Local 2352, who is tasked with organizing the effort. Maybe we make the lives of the people who are helped by this place a little easier.”

The gift cards are used by Care House during the course of the year or handed out to their clients to meet all manner of needs, including gas for transportation, food, clothing, and toiletries.

“We really appreciate these gift cards,” Care House Executive Director Nicole King told the business representatives on Jan 16. “They are so useful in allowing us to distribute them and for our own use in purchasing food and supplies. We’re very grateful.”

Care House, a nonprofit group, last year said it provided more than 5,800 instances of critical services to suspected child victims of sexual and/or physical abuse and their non-offending caregivers, including forensic interviews, crisis counseling, therapy, and family resource services.



Piping professionals

WE ASKED THIS TRIO of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 members to pause what they were doing to have their photo taken. They were working on a three-inch hot water pipe on the first floor of the Michigan State University Plant and Environmental Science Building. They include (l-r) Jerry Hall, Lucas Mauntler and Anthony Sailer. They’re employed by John E. Green.

Swearing an oath at the Supreme Court

By Jim Hightower

Interesting fact: While all federal officials take an oath that they will support the US Constitution, Supreme Court justices must also take a second (and very profound) oath of office.

As New York Times judicial columnist Adam Liptak reports, each of the nine “supremes” must swear that they will “do equal right to the poor and the rich.” Yes, class fairness is not only a core element of justice, but it’s supposed out to be a formal measure of Supreme



Court behavior.

Every justice is aware of this consequential, ethical requirement, since each one took the oath. How damning, then, that the Court’s right-wing ideologues feel no twinge of conscience about flagrantly and frequently violating their own word of honor!

Call the roll: Roberts, Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett. In case after case that pits corporate power against workers, consumers, small business, voters, communities, our environment, farm families – i.e., you and me – this plutocratic cabal rules for the rich.

Last month, an independent study of decisions by the Roberts Court revealed that two-thirds of its rulings favor wealthy powers

State sees 4th quarter dip

(Continued from Page 1)

in November and December 2025, after losing 1,100 between October and November, and another 1,900 between July and August.

From November to December, industry employment increased in 20 states and declined in 26 states, and was unchanged in four others. Michigan’s loss of jobs in December was among the worst in the nation, amounting to 1.8 percent of its construction workforce.

Despite the dip at the end, 2025 was overall a good year for U.S. construction employment. Michigan gained 10,400 jobs over the course of the year, ranking us No. 8 among the states.

The AGC said “one reason employment has stagnated or declined in a majority of states is a pullback in funding for highway projects.” They urged policy makers in Washington to make sure the next federal-aid surface transportation program gets enacted by Sept. 30, when the current authorization expires.

Just joking

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents.

After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The father invites the fiancé to his study for a drink.

“So what are your career plans?” the father asks.

“I am a scholar,” he replies.

“Oh! A scholar! Hmmm,” the father says. “OK, but what will you do to provide a nice home for my daughter?”

“I will study hard,” the young man replies, “and God will provide for us.”

“Ahh. And I didn’t see an engagement ring, I assume you will be getting her one?” asks the father.

“Eventually, yes. First, I will concentrate on my studies,” the young man replies.

“God will provide for us.”

“And children?” asks the father. “How will you support children who come along?”

“Don’t worry, sir. God will provide,” he replies.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later that evening the mother asks the dad, “How did it go, honey?”

The father answers, “He has no job and no plans, but for what it’s worth, I guess he thinks I’m God.”



ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

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

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

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

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

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

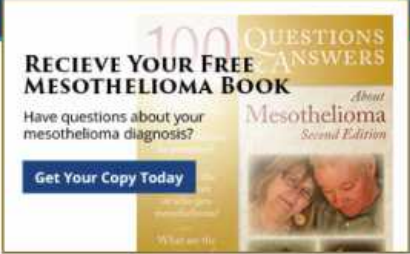
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BUILDING MICHIGAN!

The Soo's ('magnificent!') rail bridge(s)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



IN THE MOST PROMINENT spot to see the Sault Ste. Marie International Railroad Bridge at the Soo Locks, the rust-colored span(s) are overshadowed by the gleaming ivory of the International (vehicular) Bridge between the cities of the same name in Michigan and Ontario. From an historical standpoint, the rail bridge is far more interesting. We see the lowered double-leaf bascule span (1913) on the left and the 175-foot-tall lift bridge (raised position, 1959) on the right, which allow freighters to traverse the locks. But as the bridge extends north into Canada, there are an additional seven different types of connected bridge styles. In addition to these two styles, the nine “Camelback” trusses down the line make this “the only bridge in the United States known to include these three types of spans in a single structure,” says the *Historic American Engineering Record*.

If you’re going to visit Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, or its sister city of the same name across the St. Mary’s River in Ontario, of course you’ll want to check out the world-famous locks and experience the ups and downs of a Soo Locks boat tour.

Look down, and you can watch the locks raise or lower your boat by 21 feet, which also allows the passage of 1,000-foot freighters from Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes.

Look up, and you see a lot of old structural steel. Most prominent is the elegant green and ivory-colored International Bridge, a 2.8-mile truss arch which has carried vehicular traffic between the U.S. and Canada since 1962.

But while you’re looking up you will also see another prominent bridge structure that has an industrial elegance all its own. More than a mile in length, the rust-colored, multi-dimensional, ungainly Sault Ste. Marie International Railroad Bridge is unlike any span in North America. And it has been providing faithful service since the first locomotive crossed it in 1887.

“The International Railroad Bridge is a magnificent landmark bridge whose significant size comes from a large number of smaller spans, rather than a single large bridge,” says *Historic Bridges*. “Indeed, the bridge is unparalleled in its variety of span types. It is one of the few bridges in North America to have more than one type of movable span. Indeed, within this bridge each of the three most common movable bridge types is represented. When all these sections are combined, the result is a bridge that is unrivaled in variety, size, beauty, and history.”

A map of North America shows how critical it was for 19th Century railroad companies to avoid bottlenecks created by ferries, and build bridges or tunnels to get their trains past the imposing, watery mass of the Great Lakes. Underwater rail tunnels were the conduit of choice between Port Huron and Sarnia (completed in 1891) and between Detroit and Windsor (completed in 1910).

But in the Soo, the presence of a series of locks taming the rapids of the St. Mary’s River since 1855, plus all manner of geological and logistical challenges, negated any chance of a rail tunnel connecting the two countries. The easiest solution was a rail bridge over the entire locks. And the design called for a wide variety of span types to take advantage of the existing and man-made islands at the lock site, and to make sure that the big boats had enough clearance when they passed the locks. “The bridge itself is utterly magnificent and is composed of an impressive nine spans!” says



Photo credit: Wikipedia Commons

Photo credit: State of Michigan

A CENTER-PIER swing span was added to the Soo’s International Rail Bridge in 1895. It is on the Canadian side.

the enthusiastic *Historic Bridges* website, which maintains a voluminous index of the nation’s bridges. “The bridge is significant for its early construction date of 1887. The bridge was built by the Dominion Bridge Co. of Lachine, Quebec.”

According to *The Upper Peninsula of Michigan – An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*, the International Railroad Bridge was a cooperative venture involving four railroads: the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic; the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie; the Grand Trunk Western, and the Canadian Pacific.

“The substructure,” the book said, “was built by a well-known bridge contractor, J. Reid, while the contract for the superstructure went to Dominion Bridge Co. This company was able to outbid all of the American companies because it was able to import cheap, duty-free Scottish steel and then fabricate the structural members in Canada. The rest of the bridge, crossing the American Navigation Canal, was built by Detroit Bridge and Iron Works.”

Most bridges can be defined as a single type – a suspension, a truss, or cable-stayed, to name a few. But the rail bridge at the Soo, more than a mile long, is a variety pack.

The bridge consists, from south to north, of a small plate girder bridge overpass spanning West Pier Drive; a 369-foot-long lift bridge (built in 1959); a 336-foot-long double-leaf bascule bridge (1913), a nine-span series of fixed pin-connected Camelback through-trusses (1887 originals); a center pier symmetrical swing bridge (1895); then a series of fixed-deck plate-girder spans, each 238 feet.

The Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railway by John Gaertner said the bridge was approved, designed, assembled and completed at breakneck speed. The \$1.9 million contract to build it was awarded on April 4, 1887. The bridge’s location was established that year on May 10, with masonry work starting immediately.

The first iron arrived from Montreal at the end of August. The swing bridge began to be assembled on Nov. 12. “Engineers received instructions to have the bridge ready for train movement by January 2 ‘by all hazards,’” the book said. “The

last rail on the great connecting link was laid December 31, 1887,” and a waiting train made the first crossing that day.

“The span opened the only rail connection between the U.S. and Canada for some 1,400 miles between the Red River of the north and Port Huron, Michigan,” the book said.

Gaertner’s book continued: “Sault Ste. Marie brimmed with optimism. *The Detroit Evening News* prophesied, ‘A wonderful change will the new year bring to the Soo. A year ago it was a frost-bound, snow-buried hamlet, and in a month or so will be a city, situated upon one of the greatest trunk lines of the country, a flourishing railroad center, past whose doors will thunder through trains bounds from the plains of Dakota to see the Seaboard.’”

That was a lofty prediction, and the Soo did grow for a while, but ultimately its fame became intertwined with its locks. As the Soo Locks were enlarged to accommodate larger ships, some of the thru-truss spans were removed and replaced by the lift, bascular and swing bridges. A swing span was replaced by the now prominent vertical lift bridge. It is 21 feet wide, 369 feet long, with steel towers 175 feet in height, equipped with 70-ton counterweights.

All that steel supports a single track over the length of the bridge. Today the bridge is owned by the Canadian National Railway. Trains crossing the span primarily haul general freight, as well as materials like iron ore and coal to the Algoma steel works near the bridge in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The bridge is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, but is not yet listed. According to the Library of Congress: “The Sault Ste. Marie International Railroad Bridge has nine camelback truss spans crossing the St. Marys River with bascule and vertical lift bridge components crossing the American Locks at the St. Marys Falls Canal. It is the only bridge in the United States known to include these three types of spans in a single structure to use an interlocking mechanism to connect the leaves of the double-leaf bascule span. It is Michigan’s most significant railroad bridge from an engineering history standpoint.”



A SERIES OF NINE “Camelback” steel trusses, built in 1887, comprise an original section of the Sault Ste. Marie International Railroad Bridge. Here is a 1914 postcard, showing the camelback through-trusses, each 239 feet long, resting on finished ashlar piers (squared building stones) anchored in the bedrock of the river. One of these trusses was removed to enable construction of the bascule bridge section. Various other elements of the bridge have been replaced over the years.

Photo credit: Balthazar Korab/Society of Architectural Historians

Anything but artificial: Data center construction to power Hardhat jobs

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Michigan currently has about 70 data centers, a number that’s well behind nearby states like Illinois (115) and Ohio (101), much less national leaders Virginia (663) and Texas (405). Reports indicate Michigan has about 16 additional data centers currently in the works.

Various national publications have pointed to data centers as a primary driver of U.S. construction activity in 2026.

Data centers come in various sizes that house computing equipment able to facilitate the support of burgeoning artificial intelligence and cloud computing systems. In Michigan, an estimate by the Union of Concerned Scientists says that data centers

will account for up to 57 percent of electrical demand growth by 2030.

By far, the largest data center that’s coming to Michigan is a \$7 billion facility proposed by Oracle and Related Digital for Saline Township. The 1.4-gigawatt Star-gate center, said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s office, would create more than 2,500 union construction jobs and be the “largest one-time investment in state history.” The project seems on course after approvals by the local township board and the Michigan Public Service Commission. DTE Energy has said that the data center costs would not be passed on to ratepayers.

Data centers have their detractors – in Saline Township and elsewhere. Often where they’re proposed community residents invoke a NIMBY point of view (Not In My Back Yard), as well as concerns over water usage (some systems draw water for system cooling), cost increases to ratepayers and stresses to the power grid. And while they do provide some jobs after they’re built, oftentimes relatively few permanent jobs are created by data centers. The building trades are easily the major beneficiaries from the projects with the construction jobs that are created.

Sholty said in Michigan and the rest of the country, utilities, ratepayers and state and local governments are unprepared for the demands of data centers and the greater electrical demand environment created by AI. He said U.S. electrical demand flattened after the early 2000s, reflecting energy efficiency, slow population growth and de-industrialization, and utilities and grid planners adjusted accordingly.

“Michigan mirrors this national story almost perfectly,” Sholty said. “The result is that

Michigan’s utilities have spent the last 15 years planning around flat or declining load, not rapid growth. This is not a criticism, this is a rational response to data at the time. But it does mean that Michigan’s electrical system was not built with sudden large scale growth in mind.”

Sholty said that data centers are unusual in “three key ways.”

“First, they consumer enormous amounts of power,” he said. “A single large data center can consume hundreds of megawatts, comparable to the load of a mid-sized city. Second, they operate at very high-load factors. Their demand does not fluctuate up or down very much. Third, they are often geographically concentrated, creating localized stress on transmission and distribution systems.”

Rep. Carra said at the end of the hearing that future testimony would be heard on the environmental impacts of data centers.

Donald Kendall, director of emerging issues for the Heartland Institute, told the committee that “the idea of these massive data centers that require all of this energy is a relatively new concept.” He said the concept for today’s data center design came into being only about five years ago.

Kendall said in an interview two years ago, Meta/Facebook Chairman and CEO Mark Zuckerberg only talked about data centers of 50 to 100 megawatts. Today, Kendall said, “there are already plans to build data centers around the country that are upward of 5 gigawatts.”

And down the road, he said, “there will be a desire to retrofit data centers with new technologies, and this could raise the amount of electricity needed by the data centers in the coming years.”

U.S. workers see major long-term injury/illness rate decline

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cases. Prior to 2020, respiratory illnesses totaled less than 15,000 per year. The rise and fall of respiratory illnesses is the result of COVID-19 related cases.”

Another measure of health in the workplace is “total recordable cases”: in 2024, the incidence rate of in private industry was 2.3 cases per 100 full-time equivalent workers, down from 2.4 cases in 2023. It was a small decrease, but the new rate represents the lowest TRC rate for this data since 2003. Including the TRC, the BLS tracks five private sector occupational injury and illness incidence rate categories, and four of them declined in 2024.

No surprise: Palisades re-start delayed

(Continued from Page 1)

“is progressing after more than a year of inspection, testing and maintenance work.”

The Palisades plant started operation in 1971, with a single-unit 800-megawatt pressurized water reactor that stayed in service until May 2022. Then-owner Entergy transferred the license for the plant to Holtec, a company that had the intention of decommissioning the plant. Holtec then announced it would apply for federal loan guarantees to restart the plant. It received \$1.5 billion from the federal government and \$150 million from the State of Michigan.

In October, the plant achieved a major milestone by receiving 68 fuel assemblies that are now in secure storage, awaiting being loaded into the reactor core.

And as Holtec and its building trades union workforce continues to prepare the Palisades plant to split atoms again, the company announced that the site would host the construction of two small modular reactors, each about 340 megawatts. They would be the first units of their type erected in the U.S., and are scheduled to go online in the early 2030s.

“Not only is the universe stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine.”

–Sir Arthur Eddington (1882 - 1944)

“He who undervalues himself is justly undervalued by others.”

–William Hazlitt (1778 - 1830)

“Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics.”

–Fletcher Knebel

“Why shouldn’t things be largely absurd, futile, and transitory? They are so, and we are so, and they and we go very well together.”

–George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

“People ask for criticism, but they only want praise.”

–W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

“Self-respect is the cornerstone of all virtue.”

–John Herschel (1792 - 1871)

“The only thing worse than a man you can’t control is a man you can.”

–Margo Kaufman (1953-)

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FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

2026 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

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

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

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(248) 281-4247

CONSTRUCTION WORKER'S DAILY LOGBOOK
2026



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Local 190

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – THE NEXT MEETING is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 5 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.* Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: Members can now pay your union dues online. <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security no., temporary password is the last four digits of your social security no. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

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

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

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

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: ANNUAL PHYSICALS 2026: 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

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card,

review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. **Down-load: BCBSM**

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 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment. (Please Note: Bernadette’s office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked “Bernadette Maus – Benefits Manager”) Please use this entrance door for Bernadette

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus, 1-888-390-7473.

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4:00pm. We will be 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. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MD-HHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**

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, 2026.** Each class will start at 5:00 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, 2026.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

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

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

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 8**. Courses run on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**

for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **Feb 10**. The second course starts **May 5**. The third course starts **Oct 13**. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification: This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** First course starts **March 10**. The second course starts **Sept. 1**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

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.

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

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

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

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

NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE BUILDING TRADESMAN PAPER: Please contact Karen Spearin at the union hall, (734) 424-0962 Ext #210, if you



Plumbers, Pipe
Fitters & HVAC
Service
Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – **UNION MEETING:** The next Union Meeting will be held in **Marquette on Thursday, February 26th** at 7:30 PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

CONDOLENCES: It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of several members of our union family. We mourn the loss of Gary Carlson, Mike Alphonse, and John Berglund, Life Member, and we honor the years of dedication and brotherhood they gave to our trade.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to those who have recently lost loved ones. Our thoughts are with Brother John Taylor on the passing of his wife, Cathy, on January 27, 2026, and with Brother Jeremy Koster on the passing of his father, John, on January 27, 2026.

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

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

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

MEMBER RECORDS: Please keep your records current by contacting April or Rose with any changes to your address, phone number, email, or family status.

LAYOFF REMINDER: Report layoffs immediately; the day you call is the date you are placed on the Out-of-Work List.

APPRENTICES: You are required to attend four union meetings each year.

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

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

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

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

now we’re back on. But what is the message that is sent to Ørsted? What is the message that is sent to any of these companies about the reliability of working on a project in the United States? I worry about that.”

Thousands of union jobs have been at stake. McGarvey said: “With energy demand surging and prices spiking, the last thing our government should



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** at St. George Romanian Cultural Center.

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANTISE STORE IS LIVE! Sign into the members section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 636 will be participating in the St. Patrick’s Day parade on March 15, 2026. Give Business Agent Jeff Lewis a call for more details.

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!**

December 1, 2025: Lloyd Tanner. **January 1, 2026;** Todd Valiquette.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member James D Allen Sr. December 24, 2025; 32-Year Member Michael Vojnov January 10, 2026; Lifetime Member Emmet Regan January 6, 2026; 35 Year Member Roland Bessette December 26, 2025; Lifetime Member Charles B Wolin January 4, 2026; 26 Year Member David R Long January 3, 2026.

Our Condolences to Brother Steven Schwalb on the passing of his mother Irene A. Schwalb January 19, 2026; Brother David Percy on the passing of his wife Linda K Percy January 4, 2026.

Get Well Wishes to: Rebecca Blair, Ian Campbell, Matthew Carden II, Jason Howe, James Juracek, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Ian Martin, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, James Spurlock, David Stone, Eric Swinburnson, Michael Trybuski.

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 February 19, 2026

The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. **The Retirees will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.**

SUBPAY - NEWS. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local’s Website, while logged in as a member Just click on the “Defined Contribution login here tab” and it will take you to the website www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the “My Dashboard” page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement?

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

Are you “Work Ready”?

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

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

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

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8. CWI class begins Sat Feb 28th at 7AM-3PM, call Kim to sign up.

Starting in March, Intro to supermarket with Jason

Starting in March, ASSE Water Quality Program with Jason

Starting in March, A2L class with Kevin

Local 636 JATC will begin accepting applications for a new welding instructor, call Kim to sign up for an interview.

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SETTING A STORM DRAIN at the Michigan State University's Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing is Gavin Hinds of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. He's employed by John E. Green.



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, 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.

The Election of delegates for UA Convention will take place on Wednesday March 11, 2026 at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12 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 Sect. 160 of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

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

Per the Constitution of the United Association, Sect. 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, Sect. 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.



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 at the Feb. 18, 2026 union meeting, elections will be March 18, 2026 at our union meeting. All members who 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.13. Sign up online.

Orbital Welding: Signup online, and you will be contacted.

Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will be scheduled once we have enough members signed up.

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

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. It is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current. **Please sign up on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517-323.0333.**

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

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

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

DO NOT opt out of health care coverage on your auto insurance (Continued next column)



Local 357

**Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service**

UA Local 357

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

APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS: Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:

Be at least 18 Years Old and Graduated or Graduating in 2026
Be willing to serve an apprenticeship

Have a desire to work in various conditions and weather

Be able to pass a drug test

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

Be willing to attend some mandatory night classes

Qualified applicants must provide the following documents: A copy of your high school diploma (If your Graduation Date is NOT on your

High Schools transcripts) or GED equivalent

A copy of your high school transcript of classes and grades

A copy of your birth certificate

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

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

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

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. Phone no. for the location: (269) 337-9800.

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.**

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Nicholas Kuchel and family on the birth of a son, Easton.

Local 333, con't

ance. If you are injured in an auto accident our health care coverage will not cover you.

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

Sincere condolences to Mrs. Fielding on the loss of her husband, Jackson member John Fielding, who passed away Jan. 26, 2026. John was initiated into the Local, May 16, 1963, retired as a Building Trades Pipefitter, and has been with the Local for over 60 years. We are so very sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayer are with you and your family.

February 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5



Local 85

Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Road at 7:00 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, 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. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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: Congratulations to our newest Journeymen Marshall Miller, David LaBar & Jacob Bugeia!

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 Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

THE NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 1200 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

CONDOLENCES. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Earl Liddell who passed away on January 16, 2026.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Robert Dutcher who passed away on Jan. 11, 2026.

Faternally, Justin M. Pomerville

Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local Union 85

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

www.ssdfighter.com



UA Local 671
MONROE – The next union meeting will be held on Feb. 19, 2026, at 7pm. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on Feb. 19, 2026, at 5pm. If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

The next Retiree Luncheon will be Thursday Feb. 26 at noon at the Union Hall. All luncheons are the last Thursday of the month. I hope to see you there.

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

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

Condolences: I am saddened to report that Dorothy Sieb, wife to past Life Member Doug Sieb, passed away earlier this month. Please keep the Sieb family in mind during this difficult time.

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

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We continue to hold classes to prepare members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details.

In Closing: Data Centers have been a hot topic lately in the news and in local politics. I want to clear up a few things and hopefully shed some light on some information that may not be correct.

Most public fears are based on old Data Centers. For communities, data centers bring significant private investment, strong tax revenue, and high-quality jobs while placing minimal strain on local services. They typically generate more tax revenue per acre than warehouses or subdivisions, helping fund schools, first responders, and public services and potentially easing the property tax burden on homeowners.

Construction creates hundreds of skilled, family-supporting jobs, along with long-term positions in operations, maintenance, and security, and increased business for local contractors. Modern data centers are highly efficient, paying higher electric rates as large industrial customers, investing in grid upgrades, and using advanced technology to reduce energy and water use.

Today's closed-loop cooling systems require very little water after an initial one-time fill, and modern facilities are designed to be visually appealing, adaptable, and upgradable, making them long-term assets that support both economic development and future technological needs.

Data centers are essential infrastructure supporting nearly every part of modern life, from email, cloud storage, streaming, banking, healthcare, emergency services, GPS, and e-commerce to artificial intelligence, medical research, and national security. Digital demand has grown exponentially, with Americans interacting with data centers hundreds of times a day, often without realizing it.

Data centers also play a critical role in cybersecurity, data sovereignty, and the global technology race by keeping sensitive data stored and protected within the U.S. Illinois already hosts hundreds of data centers operating safely and reliably, demonstrating that these facilities are proven, established infrastructure. Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com



UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th, 2026.

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 5 pm. 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, February 9th at 9:00 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. To find out more, 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.

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

Evacuation/ Recovery March 11 @ 5:00pm

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

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

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. 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday February 10th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 at 5:00pm

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

Finance Committee -Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 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. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is \$150.

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages (Continued next column)



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174
COOPERSVILLE – **THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall, 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The Retiree Breakfast will be held Thursdays, March 5 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Wild Game Dinner: Brothers and Sisters, it is once again time for the Wild Game Dinner on April 2 at Sherman Bowling Lanes from 6-10pm. We are looking for meat/food donations and people to volunteer. If you want to donate, volunteer, or interested in tickets contact Jason Finch.

Condolences: It is with sadness that brothers Elijah Beasley (1/26/26) and Robert Jennings (1/28/26) passed away. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

The 2026-2028 UA Membership Cards are now available in the front office. If you have paid your window dues through January 2026 or beyond and have not yet received your updated UA card, please contact Therese or visit the front office to collect yours.

41ST UA GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATES NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE. United Association Local 174. This constitutes your official notice of the nominations and election for Delegates to the 41st UA General Convention in August 2026 pursuant to Section 15 of the UA Constitution.

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

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

RUN-OFF ELECTION.

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

A Run-Off Election will not be necessary if, for example, three candidates tie for the second highest number of votes because there is no chance that Local 174 will have less than 4 Delegates to the Convention based on the formula set forth in Section 12 of the UA Constitution.

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

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

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

Language changes:

Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foremen pay.

Section 10.2 - Health care

Local 370, con't

will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

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

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ualocal370.org

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test can contact the Training Center for application and testing dates. T.I.C. fringe administrators' number is 1-888-797-5862.

will be on hours paid not hours worked. *The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Organizing Update: I can't say this enough, thank you everyone for continuing to communicate with the unrepresentative worker, I've got a couple different meetings this week with workers because of you, again thank you. As I've stated many times, our best organizing effort is our members!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next classes will be held Thursday, February 12th and Thursday, March 12th, 2026.

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

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, Feb. 10, and the test to follow Thursday, February 12th at 5pm.

OPEN WELD: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; evenings beginning at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATION: Local 174 Training Center will be accepting applications for the apprenticeship program for two weeks beginning Friday, February 20th, 2026, through Friday, March 6th, 2026; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8am - 5pm; Wednesday 8am - 7pm. Closed from 12-1pm for lunch.

Applicants must apply in person at the Training Center during these dates and times listed. To be considered for entry into the apprenticeship, an applicant must bring with them his or her high school diploma or GED, his or her valid driver's license and complete a basic math assessment and Journey assessment. The assessments will be given at a time to be scheduled after the application process.

Medical Gas Installer: Recertification class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 2nd @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. The class will be three evenings: Mon 3/2, Wed 3/4 and Thurs 3/5 @ 5:00pm-9:00pm. Deadline to register for class is Thurs 3/12!

2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: The Training Center will be closed April 22,23 and 24th as the staff will be in Ann Arbor for the Contest. We will be available via email or cell phone during this time.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your welder certification status cards are now being emailed instead of sent via USPS mail.

If you have turned in your continuity but have NOT received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

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



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98
DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local 98.*

New UAMembership 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 6:00pm. 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.

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

Save the Dates: St. Patrick's Day Parade Downtown Detroit, Sunday, March 15. 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!

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

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

Membership Dues Reminder: Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues. Local 98 will be offering members who pay in full for the 2026 calendar year, or sign up for automatic deductions, a complimentary gift. Members may mail payment, pay online, come into the hall or call the hall the to make a payment.

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

Expelled Members: We currently have one expelled member as of Feb. 1, 2026: Tyler Jester.

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.

Benefits. *We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall. In order for them to best track all issues **PLEASE CALL BENESYS at (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.**

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

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

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dixon98@ualocal98.org

Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 ramilton98@ualocal98.org

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

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

Jeff Kavalal, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalal@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

Thank you to everyone that came out to be involved in our first Local 98 welding competition. The Apprentice Council with Connor Socrates, Chris Woods, Austin Kolb, and Mark Smiles were a big help with holding the event. Also, a big thank you to Holly Construction, MCA Detroit, and Milwaukee Tool for supporting the event!

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10th, 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 the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any 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 May 5, 2026, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday April 22, and Wednesday April 29. *Call* the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2026.

All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. All classes are offered in Spring and Fall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hydronic Heating and Cooling: \$100

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100

CAD/BIM: \$100

****2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be March 7.

****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.**

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

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



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 with Morgan Stanley 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 **Wednesday, February 25, 2026** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held 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 johnhancock.com/myplan and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25. Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer, Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed. **Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer:** Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

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

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

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

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

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

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; 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.

TRUEARING: This benefit of premium hearing aids is available to active eligible participants, dependents and pre-Medicare retirees. Contact TruHearing, 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. If you haven't already done so, you must create an account to access your information. 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 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 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.

UNION HALL HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four or
(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 June 4th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 March 10th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 April 4th 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 2026. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

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

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area has slowed recently but looking to pick up in the spring. 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. If you become unemployed please be sure to reach out to me and apprentice's also let Tanner know as well. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and let me know as well if your address or phone number changes. A couple of dates to keep in mind for 2026 are the Local 7 Picnic, July 18, and the Golf Outing, Sept. 12. **Work Safe and Thank you, 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. Next Retiree meeting is April 7 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. SASMI applications for Zone 3 and 5 have been sent out if you are eligible. If anyone has any questions or has someone interested in the trade contact me. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work across Local 7, Zone 4 has been slower than usual, but there are positive signs ahead as we move closer to spring. Activity is expected to pick up in the coming months, and things are shaping up well for a stronger season. Members are reminded to turn in their surveys for the upcoming contract as soon as possible. These surveys play a key role in representing everyone's interests, and full participation helps strengthen our position moving forward. For anyone interested in upgrade classes or additional training, please contact Kurt at the training center for more information and scheduling details. Stay warm out there, brothers. It's been a long winter, and your hard work and dedication are appreciated. **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:

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

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

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

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

Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) 989-229-0095

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 continued

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., February 7, February 21, and February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21. These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone who signs up for a class must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

Call the Apprentice School at 248-589-3237, Dave's cell 313-623-9390 or Quintin's cell 248-495-6764 to reserve a spot. Remember we must have the deposit before you will be scheduled for the class.



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th 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 Wednesday, February 11th at 5:00 pm. Executive

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

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 SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: *Garrett Mitchell, Matthew Stevenson, Michael Stolber, William Ryan, Dale Dunlap, Matthew Barile, James King, Daniel Schemanske, Victor Nieves, Gary Lulelk, Kenneth Megge, Leon Roach, Michael Bono, James Colling, Matthew Theisen, Jake Stonier, Timothy Przytulski, Robert Carlson, Darwin Brotherton, Michael Bono, Dennis Nelson, Jason Lemke, Tanner Markus, Timothy Moore, Jason Lonsbury, Ethan McCoy, Doug Cole, Shawn Talaski, Matthew Mielnicki, Javen Borgula, Donald Downie, Ronald Handley, Brian Guerrero, Larry Danforth, David Clay, Lloyd Sherman, Brendan Ferguson, Michael Mandarino, Kenneth Behrens, Caleb Gamble, Joseph McVety, Harold Ingalls, Gary Line, Keith Tate, James Gillette, Tyler Lindsay, Stephen Gardiner, Steve Frohling, Cayman Eller, Christopher Aggas, Erik Norscia, Robert Jablonski, Shannon Nelson, William Brozik, Richard Morga, John Pagano, Ed Rowley, Eric Seasword, Mikel Ogden, Robert Hall, Christopher Dobek, Clarke Weiland, Chris Connolly, Chris Connolly Jr., Bradford Terrace, William Marsh, Robert Rinna, John Peraino, Ronald Stark, Tyler Boyd, Jalen Mitchell, Roger Clark, Jeremy Jondro, Ron Jones, Anton Dushaj, Douglas Hayman, Daryl Glenday, Jason Nacsa, Jon Davis III, Shaun Allen, Paul Parpart, Michael Poole*

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to the families of Jesse Collar and Shannon Mann. Jesse passed away on 1/3/2026 at the age of 53 and Shannon passed away on 12/27/2025 at the age of 56.

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

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

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

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall, which includes the tradesman paper. You will also need to call BeneSys at 800-400-7710 to update for insurance and pension documents.

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

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

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

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

SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements:
Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff to avoid forfeiting benefits.

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

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

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

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

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply: Complete the SUB application at the hall. Provide a pay stub for the week. The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.


MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you're facing challenges in your family, relationships, or dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, grief, or substance use, please reach out to our Assistance Program Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

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

930 W Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
Cell: (734) 664-9090
Office: (734) 459-6222
Email: louwasik@remerica.com
Website: hometownmoves.com

Lou Wasik
Realtor

Longtime member of Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25



Local 514
Cement Masons
& Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

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

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations! February 2026:

Mario Jimenez-25 Years
Andrew Dupont-30 Years

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTbsafe.com to update your MUST username and password.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you are a Military Veteran, please contact the Local so we can update our records. Please call (248) 548-0800.

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.

Please refer to the website for updated information.

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

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

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

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

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



LOCAL 2
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2
WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS

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.

HOUGH-BRETT TON MEETING-GIERAK

ING: 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

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130. Be sure to attend. Allocations for the 2026-2027 wage increase will be discussed.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother John Conklin (Bricklayer) who passed away on 8/14/2025. Brother Conklin had been a member for over 59 years.

APPRENTICE HOURS

PORTAL: Turning in hours monthly on the Engage Portal is a requirement of your apprenticeship 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 (IU#). Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

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

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

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-assis-

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LiUNA!
Feel the Power
Local 1191

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

DETROIT – LABORERS RISING:

Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

Member Personal Information Updates: Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. The March General membership meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for March will be held April 3, 2026.

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. The February Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2026. The Retiree Council Meeting for March 2026 is scheduled for March 27, 2026.

Union Dues For 2026: Regular monthly dues are \$35 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!!

New Projects: Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name

(Continued next column)

Local 2 continued

tance-program-map and are also available via telephone at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday – Friday 8 am – 7 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

FACEBOOK: "Like" Local



MUDDING DRYWALL in an electrical room at the MSU Plant and Science Building in East Lansing is Tayler Wilkins of the Michigan Painters District Council Local 845. He's employed by Integrity Interiors.



District Council 1M MICHIGAN

Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

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

FTI of the GREAT LAKES / UPGRADE CLASSES
WARREN FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Saturday, Feb. 14th - Confined Space -9AM
Wednesday, Feb. 11th - Confined Space Part #1 -5PM
Wednesday, Feb. 18th - Confined Space Part #2 -5PM

OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:
Saturday, Feb. 21st - Confined Space -9AM
Thursday, Feb. 12th - Confined Space Part #1 -5PM
Thursday, Feb. 19th - Confined Space Part #2 -5PM

Contact Director Shawn Oneill 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 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.

Local 1191 cont'd

on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. *FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!*

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following months: March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list.

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

Michigan Painters District Council



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.



District Council 1M MICHIGAN

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 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

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



District Council 357 MICHIGAN

Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 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** in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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

Local 591
Sign, Pictorial & Display

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

"Never suffer youth to be an excuse for inadequacy, nor age and fame to be an excuse for indolence."

—Benjamin Haydon (1786-1846)

"Holding on to anger, resentment and hurt only gives you tense muscles, a headache and a sore jaw from clenching your teeth. Forgiveness gives you back the laughter and the lightness in your life."

—Joan Lunden (1950-)

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HEAT AND FROST INSULATOR Brad Schmitzer of Local 47 cuts a piece of insulation while working at the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing. He's employed by Mechanical and Industrial Insulation.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – The February Union Meeting is Monday, Feb. 23, 2026 at 7 pm and will be in person only, and all out state Union Halls will be open. This union meeting will be the second Reading of the proposed by-laws. The third and final Reading will be during March's general order of business meeting on Monday March 9, 2026; where we will also be reviewing all wage allocations.

Any proposals for wage allocations must be submitted to the Novi Union Hall by 4 pm est no later than March 2, 2026. Please drop off the wage allocations proposals at the Novi Union Hall in person or email to Union@ironworkers25.org. Voting for By-Laws and Wage Allocations will take place Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 12 noon-7 pm. All Union Halls will be Open for voting.

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 March Union Meeting will be Monday March 30, 2026 at 7 pm and will be in person & zoom; all Union Halls will be open.

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

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday Feb. 18 at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Feb. 23 at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday Feb. 26 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday Feb. 25 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 March 4, 2026 from 8 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!

Please keep BA Doug Washburn & his wife Lauri in your prayers as she is in hospice care.

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.

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

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

–George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

"Be very circumspect in the choice of thy company. In the society of thine equals thou shalt enjoy more pleasure; in the society of thy superiors thou shalt find more profit. To be the best in the company is the way to grow worse."

–Francis Quarles (1592 - 1644)

book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN

The 2026 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available on the member only section of our website and APP; or you can call Mary at the Novi Union Hall to request one 248-344-9494. All requests must be made by Friday March 6 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 applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

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

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

Check your 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 years.

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club:

The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 10 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday March 3 at 8 am. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club 2026 Scholarship available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Retiree must have a *minimum* of

five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their *annual* club dues to be eligible and apply.

Full rules & application please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.** All requests must be made by Tuesday March 17. Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday March 3 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, MI 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 pm. All are Welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9 am April 17 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, 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>

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.

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: Lifetime IW Calvin Brown #709933 of Stockbridge Michigan, passed away Jan. 12, 2026 at the age of 81. He was a 61-year member of Local 25. ***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 (Feb. 2, 2026 10:00 AM E.S.T.).



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

The General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 3, 2026, at 7 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 3, 2026, at 6 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 Brother Albert Adkins, 85 years old and a 57-year member. Brother Adkins passed on 2/1/2026. Rest in Peace Brother, thank you for your years of service.

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

Detroit Training Center Information. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

Apprentice 2 & Single Ply 1- Monday, Jan. 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.

The publication above is as 2/3/2026, 8:30am

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



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators 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.

PATRICK WELCH

*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.

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 (800) 323-8079

Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

(Continued next column)



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 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: A 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.

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

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

Local 47 cont'd

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."

"Be bold and mighty powers will come to your aid."

–Basil King (1859-1928)



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IBEW Local 58
DETROIT The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project. Your patience is appreciated!

UPDATE – Sub Pay has been resumed for Inside & Limited Energy. If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130. If you have any questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100 Donation per Brick. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Look at your Dues Receipt – if you paid through date shows 09-30-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30.00. If you are paid through 6-30-2025, you have lapsed your membership and will have to see the Executive Board. Dues statements for the 2nd quarter of 2026 will be going out this month. Please call the union hall to make the appointment. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The meeting starts are 10 a.m. in the main conference room at the local union hall. All are welcome. The February luncheon is at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Rd., Warren 48092, on Wednesday, Feb. 25, doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885. We appreciate all of you who reserve your space in advance of the luncheons. All retirees are welcome!

The Florida Luncheon happens on Wednesday, Feb. 18. The luncheon is happening at The Harborside Restaurant, 2435 7th St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880. For questions and reservations contact Syl Ludwic (sludwic@gmail.com or 352-250-1178).

All retirees who will be receiving 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70-year pins at our Annual Pin Party on Saturday, April 25 at the local union hall, will be receiving an invitation in March. Mark your calendars now, to save the date. If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest, all others will need reservations, the cost is \$25 per person. More details will be found in future columns and newsletters.

Dues expired on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). A renewal form is in the February Newsletter, send your dues (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to the address above, Attn. Retirees. Thanks to all of our members for your prompt dues renewals.

Details are set for our annual September Bus Trip to New York City. The trip is Sept. 10-16. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$1050. Send in your \$75 per person deposit (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to hold your space, send it to 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores, 48080. Balance of trip is due July 3. Questions, call Dave Riley at 586 206-8075.

Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Fund Office at 586-575-9200. They also dis-

tribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center - Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please contact the Training Center at 586-751-6600 for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): will have their next meeting on Tuesday, March 3. Our next event will be the 23rd Annual Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday Feb. 8, 2026 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. The amount awarded is \$2000 for 2nd year or higher Apprentices. Please contact Mike Bellhorn at 313-963-2130 ext 3042 or Kelly Lynch at 313-963-2130 ext 3023. Deadline is March 15, 2026.

Members of the Community Service Committee: will meet 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).

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 10, 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. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

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 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 at 5:30 PM.

The IBEW Veterans Committee serves all those who have served, building community and strengthening veteran voices within the IBEW and throughout the entire electrical industry. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm at the hall with an option to attend via Zoom. At our next meeting we plan on reviewing the Veterans Committee field manual that has been put together by the I/O.

In recognition of service to country and union, all IBEW members who have served in the military can claim their free challenge coin by visiting the website: https://ibew.org/about-ibew/affinity-groups/veterans-committees/ Local 58's Women's Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 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 registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee: The meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 24 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.

Electrical Workers Credit Union. Our website is http://WWW.EWCU.NET (313) 963-6060.

NEWSYSTEMUPGRADE! You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers- Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system 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: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone number, address, email and beneficiaries. If your marital status has changed, please be sure to update any beneficiary forms for the Local 58 Pension and the IBEW.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Gerald King Jr and Lori LeBlanc.

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

Annie Diedonis, Wife to the late Pension member Leo Diedonis; Scott Jantz, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Richard Kaufman, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; Brother to Harold Kaufman, Pension member, 59 year IBEW membership;

James R. Miller, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Father to Apprentice Cristina Grazia; Nephew to the late Pension member Gerlad Zelenak and Cousin to Letter Foreman Ted Zelenak; John Niewoit, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; Brother to Dan Niewoit, Pension member, 65 year IBEW membership and the late Pension member Leon Niewoit; Uncle to Leon Niewoit, Pension member, 46 year IBEW membership and JIWs Joe & Chris Niewoit;

Mary Rawsky, Widow to the late Pension member Michael Rawsky; Patrick Reardon, Pension member, 53 year IBEW membership; Anna Rutkofske, Widow to the late Pension member Richard Rutkofske; Sheila Smith-Rogers, Wife of James "Jim" Rogers Jr, Pension member, 52 year IBEW membership; Robert Sossi, Pension member, 49 year IBEW membership; Son to the late Pension member John A. Sossi; Brother to John E. Sossi, Pension member, 55 year IBEW membership; Brother to Michael A. Sossi, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership and Uncle to Michael L. Sossi, JIW;

Edward "Ted" Ulisse, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; and Kelly VanOss, Wife of Pension member and former IBEW Local 58 Business Manager Paul VanOss; Mother to Ryan VanOss, IBEW Local 58 Maintenance; and Mother-in-Law to Tim Witz, JIW.

"Beware of the young doctor and the old barber."
—Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

"In politics, absurdity is not a handicap."
—Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)

"Red meat is NOT bad for you. Now blue-green meat, THAT'S bad for you!"
—Tommy Smothers (1937- 2023)

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind."
—William James (1842 - 1910)



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – DBRF Assessment: In 2025, 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, 2025. \$3 will be assessed for retirees and decedents prior to April 25. DBRF assessments will begin appearing on dues payments in Jan. 16. 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 March 2nd @ 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.

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 25th @ 730PM

Steward Training – June 11 Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st

Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22

Allocation Meeting – May 4 Local 131 Picnic – Aug. 1st 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 Township 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. Liberty Solar has a pre-job meeting on Feb. 18. That project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak. It is scheduled to begin in April of this year and run until April of 2027.

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's lunches:


Feb. 18 @ 11AM, Lunch at Our Table Family Restaurant, 108 E Allegan St., Otsego

March 18 11AM, McGo-nigle'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 Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Areams or More: Jeff Berner, Jacob Borys, Adam Hofacre, Robert Dalecki, Jacob McPherson, Matthew Pellicano, Justin Prisk, Jacob Rhoda, Jason Streit, Herbert Sykes, Noah Valerio, Cory Werner-Hoskins, Joseph Zirkelbach. Jonathan Current Business Manager



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

For the month of February there will be normal unit meetings. There will also be an informational meeting held at Applebee's in Sault Ste Marie, MI on Feb. 18 at 7:00pm.

Work Outlook- 2026 is off to a slow start but will be ramping up come spring time. Upcoming projects include Groveland Solar, Amazon warehouse in Escanaba, Harden Hall 1st floor remodel, Crystal Falls Compressor Station, Tilden Mine Tray Replacement. We currently have a 2 man call for Mackinac Island. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email cfleuryibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

Union Hall Hours of Operation- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

Merchandise- To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app.

Retiree Lunch- There is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

Website/App- We have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at ibew906.org and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you are in arrears, you will not be able to pay on the app or website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

There is a 2026 Negotiations Survey under the Announcements tab on the Website and App, we encourage everybody to submit what they would like to see in these upcoming negotiations.

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

Union Dues- 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.

Fringe Benefits- Please make sure to make sure your beneficiaries are updated, especially if you've recently been married, divorced, had children etc. Beneficiary forms can be obtained at the union hall.

New Journeyman- Congratulations to local 906's newest Journeyman, Ben Chaloner!

"If you think you can win, you can win. Faith is necessary to victory."
—William Hazlitt (1778 - 1830)



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

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

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

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

2026 dues structure The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of January 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 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.

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

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

Executive Board E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary

"Under all speech that is good for anything there lies a silence that is better. Silence is deep as Eternity; speech is shallow as Time."

—Thomas Carlyle (1795 - 1881)

"One never knows what each day is going to bring. The important thing is to be open and ready for it."

—Henry Moore (1898 - 1986)

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

—Frank Tibolt

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IBEW Local 692

IBEW Local 692

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission.

Ted's Electric has work in Clare Schools.

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

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

We do need some wiremen to man our local work or market share will be lost. Open calls continue to be available on a weekly basis. We saw this scenario play out in our past, let us not repeat our mistakes. Rest assured, your organizers will be working diligently to fill all open calls with qualified hands by any means necessary. If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use extension #1.

In Solidarity,
Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Organizers' Report. New Member Orientation will be scheduled later this winter. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course. A newsletter, *New Member Minute*, has been created to inform wiremen and apprentices about topics such as benefits, contracts, dues, referral procedures, etc. All members are welcome to request being added to the list to receive these informative newsletters by emailing organizers. PAL and COMET training sessions will continue, all members are welcome to attend. Dates and times will be shared in future Building Tradesman articles. Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions
(Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meetings.

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be February 9th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees will be off the next couple months, next meeting will be April 7th, 2026 at 9:00am.

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

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

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

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

New Store Stock - To all members interested, we have merchandise at our hall. Stock 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.

Local 692, con't

regarding organizing or work reports around the state. Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klaphis 252.9225

Union Dues. There is no dues rate increase for the 2026 calendar year. Monthly dues will remain at \$49.20. **To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.**

Death Benefits. We regret to inform you of the death of retired Brother Edmund "Jay" Baranek Jr., Card Number C89894, who passed away on January 14th, 2026. Brother Baranek was born on December 15th, 1936 (89 years old). He was initiated on July 30th, 1957. Jay resided in Bay City.

A Memorial Liturgy will take place on Friday, February 13th, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Corpus Christi Parish. Visitation will take place at the church on Friday, February 13th, 2026 beginning at 10:00 AM until the time of Mass. In lieu of flowers, or those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider donating to Americans Hospice Care, 2575 North McCloud- Drive, Suite C, Saginaw, MI 48604 or Corpus Christi Parish. *Corpus Christi Parish 1000 S. Wenona St. Bay City, MI 48706*

#354. Local death fund assessment **\$10.00 each** (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 692, 1300 W. Thomas Bay City, MI 48706

Retirees Lunch. The February retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 19th at Krysiak's House Restaurant, located at 1605 Michigan Avenue in Bay City.

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

Important links & numbers

Health Plan & Pension Fund
855.633.4584 – ASK FOR AC-COUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000



IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW Local 557

UNION NEWS – The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:00pm. New Member Orientation class is February 24th, at 6:00pm.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION – Thanks to all who voted in the special election for our Labor candidate, Chedrick Greene. Chedrick and his team ran a great campaign. At the time of this writing, the results are unknown and we will see what lies ahead now that the primary is over and the General Election is next on May 5th.

LOCAL 557 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION – Each February, the Local brings in all new members who have joined from the last year for a **mandatory class**. If you have been a member that has come into Local 557 since last February, please arrange your schedule to attend this year's course to be held on **February 24th, at 6pm at the Hall**. All members that may want to participate in the class are welcome as well.

LOCAL 557 PALS CLASS – Thanks to all of the members who took time to attend the class on January 13th. Some of the takeaways from this class revolve around Locals being active in the community, boosting their presence in the community and constantly paying attention to all things politics. Whether you enjoy following local politics or not, they can not be ignored. This is why labor locals continue to stay involved. Otherwise, opposing special interest groups will continue to chip away at policies that are extremely impactful to the labor movement in the area.

POKER NIGHT RETURNS – Back by popular demand for 2026! The next scheduled Poker night of the year will be **Thursday, February 19th. 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 Halls and it allowed the apprentices to get to know the daily functions at the Hall and also forge more relationships with the office staff. It is important to have the entire program back together again under one roof.

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES – Local 557 has again sponsored the Saginaw Spirit through the Labor-Management Committee. Season tickets will continue to be given away at Union meetings for the remainder of the season. The Local has 2 more dates reserved with a large quantity of tickets that will be made available as we get closer to those games. Upcoming games with blocks of tickets and the Eagle's Nest are on February 22nd, and March 14th. If you picked up some of the tickets for games through the Hall, please make the plans to use them or drop them back off at the Hall for others to use if your plans have changed. The Local also has new Saginaw Spirit themed gear available for purchase the Hall.

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

be as diligent as possible when it comes to making sure work is completed in a safe manner.

EARNED SICK TIME ACT- Michigan's new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA) is in full effect. All members working in the State of Michigan have rights to utilize this law. Members should look to utilize this benefit as intended. If you are experiencing any issues regarding this matter, please visit the Local's website and follow the link to the State of Michigan's site to file a complaint or contact the Union Hall for help.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work on the Mega Project has slowed. Members on the project currently should have a good chance of remaining there for a good portion of this winter and into the spring.

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 or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and sign Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or renee@ibew557.org

WORK OUTLOOK- 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 regarding the Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. It is the hope to have members working on this come spring. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Township area.

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

BLUE CROSSAPP- Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include the following: instant access to EOB's, a virtual ID card on your phone, information on deductibles, explanations of coverage and other helpful tips related to your Health Care coverage. EOB's can be downloaded to smart phones or computers and used to substantiate WEX receipt request.

WEXAPP- You will need to download the WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.** Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like, please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone. ***In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager***

February 6, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office **AND** at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**.

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

Transformers/Grounding & Bonding- February 9, 16 & 23
EPRI Part B- February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17. (Ten classes total from Jan 13-Mar 17)

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

Masters Prep- 6 Classes beginning March 2 and ending April 6.
BICSI Installer 1- Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

OSHA 30- April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14
BICSI Fiber/ Tech- Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

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

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

CPR- March 3 & 10, June 2 & 9, Sept. 1 & 15, December 1 & 8. Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 P.M.

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

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

SUPER BOWL PARTY: The 5th Annual Super Bowl Party presented by EVMC will be at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, February 8th. Bring friends and family. There will be games for kids, 50/50 raffle, and a TV raffle. Food and refreshments will be provided.

EVMC CHEF'S CHOICE COOK OFF: Join us February 21, 2026 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, please contact Yohance Jennings (313) 283-3294 or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

RENEW BENEVOLENT EUCHRE & CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT: Join us February 21, 2026 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 EVMC 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: The 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.

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

ERTS: Please make sure that you are signed up 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.

AT&T DISCOUNT: Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT with discount code 4924966.

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.

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

GET WELL: The Local sends get well wishes to Thomas Pahl who is in recovery from a quadruple bypass surgery.

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to Craig Loy for the passing of his grandmother, Shirley Loy on January 25, 2026.

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:

February 8, 2026: Super Bowl Party

February 21, 2026: EVMC Chef's Cook-Off & Cribbage/Euchre Tournament

\$\$\$ Top Prices Paid \$\$\$

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IBEW
Local 665

IBEW 665
LANSING – **IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary:** IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June 2026. Please save the date June 6, 2026 to celebrate with us at the Lansing Center. **Please be looking in your mail, email and on facebook because invitations will be mailed out at the end of February 2026. Please make sure to RSVP as soon as possible.**
WORK OUTLOOK: Projected to be busy throughout 2026. There are many projects going currently in IBEW Local 665 jurisdiction. The 26-story tower in downtown. LG battery plant is still going strong with more work to come. MSU plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four to five years and a possible 24MW data center downtown. Not to mention all the schoolwork this summer.
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have 852 members in the Local. Of which 200 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman’s job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.
EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical, we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejatec.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.
HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to LEJATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatec.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.
APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665’s apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatec.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.
DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on doing any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall. Remember that we have a wage allocation this year and nominations are in Mays meeting for Business Manager, E-board, Recording Secretary and Delegates for the IBEW International Convention.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.
DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #359. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.
BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries.
IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2026, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2026, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2026, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon “Bill” Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25, Raul Torres 10/19/24, Ronald Oberlin 12/16/24, Dale Battle 11/14/24, Stephen Bair 09/16/24, Jackie “Jack” Heart 04/21/24, Stanley McLellan 04/17/24, Arthur “Dave” Benzinger 03/28/24, James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23.



IBEW
Local 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 that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last.
Veteran’s Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.
Training: Code update will only be available online only going forward. Please go to the JATC website at www.wmejatc.org and click the Code Update Course link to sign up. The cost for members is \$40.
The JATC is now offering Master’s Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjatc@gmail.com
Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.
General Info: Before our February union meeting on the 17th, we will be having a Building Corp meeting to discuss future renovations of the building. Once the Building Corp meeting is done, we will immediately start the union meeting.
If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.
For any members still using the 1-800 number to call the Union Hall Offices, please note that we removed that line several months ago. If you are having trouble reaching the office, please double check that you aren’t using that number.
As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.
Monthly dues are still \$50.90 per month, and as of this writing we have not heard of an increase. If you pay for 1 years dues at once, there is a challenge coin that can be picked up at the hall.
Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Henri Creed, Damien Kegllovitz, Andrew Kruithoff, Jeremy Rinehart - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

“Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.”
–Victor Hugo (1802 - 1885)
“It is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.”
– Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)
“Chance is always powerful. Let your hook be always cast; in the pool where you least expect it, there will be a fish.”
–Ovid (43 BC - 17 AD)
“True luck consists not in holding the best of the cards at the table; luckiest is he who knows just when to rise and go home.”
–John Hay (1838 - 1905),
“Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth our powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.”
–Daniel Webster (1782 - 1852),
“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.”
–G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)
“The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball - the further I am rolled, the more I gain.”
– Susan B. Anthony (1820 - 1906)
“He who wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.”
–Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)



IBEW
Local 498
“Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949”

IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY – **Meetings.**
Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Feb 9, 2026, @ 5:30pm.
Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, Feb 9, 2026.
Office Closings – The hall will be closed March 16-19, 2026. If you need anything during this time, please call Dylan O’Dwyer at 231-649-9157
Resale Items –We still have Tee shirts for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.
Retiree breakfast- Several of the retirees meet at Sparky’s Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am. So, if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives’ tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky’s.
Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship ‘Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment’ for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gtcrf.org/scholarships/ . Local 498 Union members’ children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.
Service Pins – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!
Email Addresses - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!
Important numbers for you to write in your address book:
MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org
MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-855-633-4584 (New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425 NEBF 1-301-556-4300 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#

“A smile is the shortest distance between two people.”
–Victor Borge (1909 - 2000)



SETTING UP a conduit section in a room at the MSU Plant and Environmental Science Building in East Lansing is Brett Janzen of IBEW Local 665. He’s employed by Superior Electric of Lansing.



Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT– **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED:** Our next regular membership meeting will be **February 23, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **February 16, 2026, at 5pm** at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.
This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions. Attention All Members, Upcoming meetings:
February 16th following the Executive Board meeting – Resolution Committee Meeting
February 23rd following General Membership meeting
– Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting
March 2nd at 5 pm – Probationary Meeting
The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.
End of year statements were mailed out last week, you don’t have to wait till the end of the quarter to send in your W-2. If you didn’t receive it contact the hall.
If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. Mail a copy to the fund office and one to the hall.
If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness

for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800)523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one (1) week waiting period.
The IUEC would like all active members and Probationary Apprentices to sign up for Safety alerts. The only thing you will receive are safety alerts, nothing political, just safety alerts. **Text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.**
If you are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, predrilled holes on machines/beams, door equipment already installed, or any other violation, take pictures and send them to the hall via email or text with the address of the job.
If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.
When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic’s phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours. This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.
Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanic’s that passed the Mechanic’s Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting January 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.
Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the

continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.
I just want to remind all members that when it comes to jumpers, we follow company safety policies, City and State code. Never use a home-made jumper, never leave a jumper on critical safety devices or leave devices defeated. Not only is this against your company’s safety policy, its also violates ASME A17.1-2016/CSA B44:16 8.6.1.6.1 Making Safety Devices Inoperative or Ineffective, 8.6.1.6.3 Controller and Wiring (c) & (e).
Attention All Apprentices, If you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic’s exam, you must fill out your OJT’s till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJT’s, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!**
Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic’s Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month **at the Union meeting.** If you can’t make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall **NEXT MORNING.**
If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, **your personal tools MUST be taken off the job, out of your vehicle and notify the hall.**
Attention All Retirees, if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.
If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.
We wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.



CUTTING DRYWALL at the MSU Plant and Environmental Sciences building in East Lansing is Mario Alberto Zayas of Michigan Regional Carpenters Council Local 525. He’s employed by Integrity Interiors.



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Local 169
Boilermakers

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

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate 55.85 for 2026.
Dinner
Dance information: May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel. The cost for a room is \$279 make sure you use boilermaker code **BM051526**. There are a limited number of rooms, so please book soon.

If you plan on attending, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$50 to the union hall with the number of attendees for you. We need you to send checks to confirm your attendance as it gives us an accurate number of people eating. We will return your check to you when you arrive. If you use a money order and show up, we can put it towards your monthly dues.

Nominations for delegates 35th Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular union meeting March 13 at 8 pm 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 Feb. 9. Area 4 will be Feb. 9 at 5 pm 804 Clark Dr. Gladstone. Areas 2 and 3 Feb. 10 at 5 pm 525 Canal Rd. Lansing, MI. Area 1 Feb. 11 at 5 pm 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 am at White Rhino Sports Bar located at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI 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 Feb. 18, 2026, at The Other-side Bar and Grill, 8301 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623 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

(Continued next column)

Snapshots at Michigan State University

Plant and Environmental Science Building



TIDYING UP THE BASEMENT floor of the MSU Plant and Environmental Sciences building is Davion Ruiz of Laborers Local 499. He's employed by Davenport Masonry.



AT WORK AT THE Michigan State University Plant and Environmental Science building in East Lansing are (l-r) Chris Pethick and Chase Brecht of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. They're employed by Allied Mechanical Services.



CONTROLLING THE UPS AND DOWNS of the buckhoist at the MSU Plant and Science Building is Terry Pace of Operating Engineers Local 324. He's employed by Granger.

Local 169, continued

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.

Apprentice Michael Corpuz passed away Jan. 19, 2026, after a long battle with cancer. Please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

"Yesterday is not ours to recover; but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose."

—Lyndon B. Johnson (1908 - 1973)

"There is no security on this earth, there is only opportunity."

—General Douglas MacArthur (1880 - 1964)

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Outdoors

Going to bat for Michigan's bats



By Aileen Kemme
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Jutting out into Lake Superior is the Keweenaw Peninsula, home to Michigan's Copper Country.

This is where the earliest known metalworking in North America originated, with objects crafted by Indigenous peoples from Keweenaw copper becoming so prized that they have been discovered in archaeological sites throughout North America.

European settlers also established mining operations in the same region and made Michigan into the world's leading copper producer by the early 20th Century.

While virtually all the mining operations in the area have shuttered since then, the mines are not empty. The Keweenaw region is home to seven of Michigan's nine bat species, with many of the bats calling the abandoned mines home.

Three of the Keweenaw's bat species migrate south for the winter, with some, like the hoary bat, traveling as far as Central America before returning to their spring and summertime breeding grounds in North America.

The remaining four species spend their winters hibernating deep within caves and abandoned mine shafts throughout the region. Approximately 90 percent of Michigan's hibernating bats overwinter in the Upper Peninsula, with these hibernation sites – called hibernacula – housing anywhere from a few individuals to tens of thousands.

While their erratic flight patterns and nocturnal behavior cause some people to fear them, bats play a vital role in Michigan's ecosystem and economy.

A single bat can consume thousands of insects in one night, including disease-carrying mosquitoes and crop-damaging pests. By naturally controlling insect populations, bats reduce the need for pesticides, with some studies estimating they save U.S. farmers more than \$3 billion per year.

But Michigan's ecologically



THE SILVER-HAIRED BAT, one shown here being held by a biologist, is one of four bat species that hibernate in caves and abandoned mine shafts throughout Michigan's Keweenaw region.

(Photo courtesy of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

and economically important bat populations are facing serious challenges, including habitat loss and becoming infected with white-nose syndrome.

White-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease, has eliminated roughly 90 percent of the state's bats. Primarily affecting them while hibernating, the disease causes infected bats to awaken prematurely and rapidly deplete their fat reserves before they ultimately starve to death.

Entire colonies can be lost within a few years because the fungus spreads from cave to cave and from bat to bat through social grooming and close contact.

In response to the rapid decline of Michigan's bat population, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community organized a collaborative research effort known as the Bat Blitz in 2024.

Made possible through federal funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the goal of the Bat Blitz was simple: to build skills for bat conservation entities by training together and sharing expertise across state, federal and

tribal agencies.

Over the course of three nights, biologists from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community's Natural Resource Department were joined by partners from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Together, the team used mist nets – fine mesh nets resembling volleyball nets – to safely capture bats as they flew low over creeks

and along backcountry roads in search of prey.

The biologists closely monitored the nets throughout the night, and once captured, the bats were carefully removed, examined and documented before being released unharmed.

Because Michigan is home to over 500 vertebrate wildlife species, this type of cross-agency training is crucial.

While it is common for environmental agencies in Michigan to have someone on staff who specializes in wildlife, it is rare to have someone with extensive



BAT CAVE: An abandoned mine shaft in Ontonagon County. Located at the base of the Keweenaw Peninsula, the mine serves as habitat for little brown bats.

MDNR photo

experience with bats. And with experts estimating that 52 percent of bat species in North America are at risk of severe population declines in the next 15 years, time is important.

"It's always great when you get together with an open mind and share techniques and knowledge," said DNR biologist and 2025 Bat Blitz attendee John DePue, who specializes in bats. "While all our biologists are experienced with wildlife, some are just starting in the bat world and don't have a lot of hands-on experience. Those of us who do are happy to teach. We're passionate about bats, and we enjoy sharing our tools and techniques with others."

Joining DePue at the Blitz was Kyle Seppanen, a wildlife researcher with the KBIC's Natural Resource Department, who helped host the event.

"It takes a lot of knowledge and skill to handle a bat safely without injuring it," Seppanen said. "You need repetition to become proficient, so having experienced handlers on-site helps keep both people and bats safe."

Three bat species were captured during the most recent Bat Blitz, including a little brown bat that was fitted with a small tracking transmitter before release.

These tiny radio transmitters are temporarily attached using a safe adhesive, allowing researchers to track the bats' movements. Scientists use antennas like the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to detect the signals for short periods of time, as the transmitters are designed to fall off after a few weeks. This data helps researchers better understand habitat threats and identify migration and roosting areas.

The data collected through the Blitz will also support field-based training for dog detection teams and advance efforts to locate and protect bat roosts on lands managed by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Emmet County.

A bat roost is any place a bat uses for shelter and protection from predators. Common roosting sites include caves, hollow trees and human-made structures such as attics or mines.

Bats often have multiple habitats for hibernation and breeding. Protecting maternity roosts is especially critical for the survival of Michigan's bat populations,

and knowing their location helps conservation efforts.

"Even though bats are sometimes referred to as 'mice with wings,' they are very different from mice," said Jenny Wong of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who also attended the Bat Blitz. "Rodents can produce dozens of litters a year, resulting in hundreds of offspring. Most of Michigan's bat species give birth to just one pup annually. Even though some species can live 30 to 40 years, their low reproductive rate means every individual matters when it comes to rebuilding populations."

Anyone can help protect Michigan's bats. Simple actions include reducing pesticide use, installing bat houses and planting night-blooming flowers that attract moths, which serve as a food source for many bat species. You can also assist the DNR and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory at Michigan State University by reporting bat roosts through the Roost Survey Form on the MNFI website.

"The public's perspective on bats has changed," Seppanen said. "People want to help bats now instead of immediately wanting to kill them because they understand how important bats are to our ecosystem and economy."

Working with bats is not without risks, and handling them is not recommended due to the risk of rabies. Only about 1-5 percent of bats carry the disease, which is a significantly lower rate than raccoons, which test positive at roughly 20 percent.

To combat the risk of disease, the biologists involved with the Bat Blitz emphasize handling every bat with care during their collaborative training sessions.

"We wear personal protective equipment to protect ourselves while handling bats," DePue said. "But we handle every bat like it's the last of its kind on the planet."

Another cross-agency Bat Blitz is scheduled for later this year. "I'm hoping we can expand tribal participation and further strengthen these partnerships this year," Wong said. "These efforts help us identify where surviving bat populations remain and focus conservation efforts where they are needed most."

Learn more about Michigan's bats and bat conservation at Michigan.gov/Bats.

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