



**SHORT
CUTS**

Trump sets plan to impose at-will rules

President Trump has resurrected a plan from the end of his first term in office which gives him the power to fire vast numbers of federal employees for any reason.

Starting March 9, a final rule initiated by Trump and issued by the Office of Personnel Management went into effect – the OPM basically acts as a human resources department for the federal government. The rule allows the president to remove job protections from federal employees and make them at-will employees subject to the whims of the presidency.

The rule, titled "Improving Performance, Accountability and Responsiveness in the Civil Service," allows for the president to move federal employees in "policy-influencing" roles into the new category of employees with fewer on-the-job protects. The OPM has estimated that some 50,000 positions could be reclassified.

The Trump Administration has argued that the change is a necessary step to make the bureaucracy more efficient and accountable, citing the widely held sentiment that "it's too hard for the government to fire poor performers, as well as reports of federal employees "slow walking" or otherwise obstructing Trump's directives."

"Under current law," says a related NPR report, "the civil service is meant to be apolitical, providing continuity for the government from one presidential administration to another. But over the past year, Trump has shown a willingness – and at times an eagerness – to fire those career federal employees whom he perceives as political opponents, such as rank-and-file Justice Department attorneys involved in Jan. 6 prosecutions."

Federal unions have filed lawsuits to stop the directive, which is separate from Trump's directive to cancel union rights for about 1 million government employees.

Federal workforce lowest since 1966

The federal workforce shrank by 10.3 percent in 2025, or a net of nearly 238,000 workers, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of recently published government data. The job losses were spurred in great part by efforts of the Trump Administration's Department of Government Efficiency.

The Pew report, issued March 13, said "the job losses affected a broad swath of federal workers," with a whopping total of 348,219 people quitting, retiring or laid off from federal employment last year – an 80.8 percent increase from 2024.

At the same time, the Pew report said 116,912 people started working for the federal government – a 55.6 percent decrease from the year before.

Historically, the 2.3 million people currently employed in the federal government as a percentage of the U.S. population is the lowest since 1966.

Quotable

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."
—Robert Kennedy (1925-1968)

A supercell that spawned four tornadoes in Southwest Michigan on March 6 left four people dead and another 12 injured.

The National Weather Service reported that an EF 3 tornado in Union City had winds as high as 160 mph, leaving a swath of downed trees, and damaged and collapsed buildings. In Three Rivers, which is about 30 miles southwest of Union City, an EF-2 tornado with a wind speed of at least 130 mph, touched down and damaged a number of residences and commercial structures.

The extensive destruction led Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to declare a state of emergency for Branch, Cass and St. Joseph counties. It also brought out the best from a group of 30 IBEW Local 131 members.

'We heard our neighbors needed help'
IBEW 131 electricians aid cleanup after tornadoes hit S.W. Michigan

By Alek Haak-Frost
Watershed Voice

It's said many hands make light work, and that's never more true than in the wake of a natural disaster. Tornado damage has left many Three Rivers properties in need of repairs and extensive cleanup, something members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 131 recognized and decided to do something about.

On Sunday, March 10, around 30 IBEW workers, including representatives of KEI electrical construction and Perkins Electric, gathered in Three Rivers to provide free, professional support to those in need.

"We heard our neighbors needed help cleaning up after the storm, so I decided to ask my union brothers and sisters to come lend a hand," IBEW 131 President Eddie Leboeuf said. "I expected a few people to show up, but when I arrived at the meet-up spot there were 20 company trucks loaded with equipment, and around 30 IBEW members ready to get to work. I was overwhelmed with gratitude when I saw how many of my brothers and sisters showed up."

The volunteers dispatched a mini excavator, two bobcats, around 20 trucks, a boom truck, and a few chainsaws to help residents clean up debris. Groups of four to five, mostly made up of journeymen electricians and a few apprentices, covered approximately six blocks of real estate over six hours that Sunday.

Leboeuf said in addition to cleaning up debris that day, workers repaired one fallen electrical service, and as of Tuesday, KEI service electrician John Bradfield of

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IBEW LOCAL 131 members pitched in on March 10 to help in the cleanup and restoration of power to affected residents in Three Rivers following the tornado. Many thanks to those who gave their time.



Building jobs decline; war begets new 'uncertainty'

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The U.S. construction industry, like the rest of the nation's jobs economy, experienced a dip in February employment, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data released March 6.

In both the narrower build-

ing industry and broader economy, it's probably too soon to start talking trends for the rest of this year. But the February numbers came in before the war with Iran started, and economists have for months been decrying the effects of tariffs on the economy and the resulting "uncertainty" wrought

Construction goods costs rise manageably – with a few exceptions

With some notable exceptions, U.S. construction material cost increases have been quite modest, rising 2.3 percent over the prior 12 months ending in January. That's close to the overall U.S. inflation rate of 2.4 percent.

But among some specific materials, the imposition of tariffs by the Trump Administration is start-

ing to bump up costs significantly, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index data released Feb. 27.

"The steep tariffs on imported metals and products are clearly enabling U.S. sellers to push up costs for construction materials and equipment," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist.

by product price swings and worker availability.

The U.S. construction industry dropped 11,000 jobs in February, which followed a solid 33,000 jobs gain in January. That matches an up-and-down monthly pattern for construction employment during the course of the last

half of 2025. The AGC said the jobs contraction mostly occurred in residential construction, which shed 7,100 jobs for the month. Nonresidential construction employment slipped by 3,800 jobs in February.

"Contractors may be more

(Continued on Page 3)

Trades, OpenAI partner to put union label on construction
We're 'built for moments like this'

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Nobody is quite sure what is going to happen with artificial intelligence and everything that goes with it.

How many human jobs will AI technology displace? What will it be used for, and will those uses be sustainable? How much infrastructure and energy will it require? Will all or parts of AI only be part of a technological bubble, bursting at some point in the future and bringing on a market collapse?

While it's difficult to predict how AI will affect society and the economy, North America's Building Trades Unions have announced a major collaboration to assure that the work required to build it will be performed by workers with union cards. On March 11, NABTU and OpenAI – one of the largest privately held companies in the world and

the developer of ChatGTP – announced they have entered into an "a new collaboration to help support and expand training pathways into the skilled construction trades," NABTU said.

"The infrastructure required to support advanced artificial intelligence – including computing facilities, electrical transmission, and energy generation – will drive substantial construction activity in the coming years," NABTU said. "Members of the building trades affiliates will play a critical role in building this infrastructure and in doing so supporting the continued growth of the American economy."

"Through this partnership, OpenAI and NABTU seek to foster constructive engagement around policy development, project entitlement, workforce development, labor standards, project safety and the responsible

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Construction joins decline in U.S. workplace fatalities

Workplaces in the U.S. recorded 5,070 worker fatalities in 2024, a 4 percent decline compared to the 5,283 on-the-job deaths in 2023.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' report released on Feb. 19 said the full-time equivalent (FTE) rate of 3.3 fatalities per 100,000 workers decreased for the second year in a row, down from 3.5 FTE in 2023. The BLS numbers are perennially released a year later to allow the agency time for the collection and verification of data.

"The labor movement mourns each of the 5,070 workers who lost their lives on the job in 2024," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "Every one of these deaths is not only an invaluable

life lost, but also brings immeasurable grief and hardship for families and communities. While it is a relief to see that number decrease in 2024, which took place during the Biden administration, let's be clear: The number of annual workplace deaths should be zero. And now, the current administration's billionaire-first agenda puts that progress in jeopardy."

The Trump Administration and the U.S. House of Representatives' fiscal year 2026 federal budget request proposes lowering OSHA's overall budget to about \$582.4 million, an 8 percent decrease from 2025.

Construction fatalities also declined, matching the rate for the rest of the U.S. workforce – dropping nearly 4 percent in 2024 to 1,034 deaths (down from 1,075 in 2023). Despite this decline, construction remains one of the most dangerous industries, with a fatality rate of 9.2 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. Falls, slips, and trips, as usual, were the primary cause, accounting for 370 of the 2024 fatalities.

U.S. workplaces have grown much safer over the past 50-plus years. In 1970, the year OSHA

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"Providing domestic producers with greater certainty about future demand should encourage greater production and, ultimately, lower prices."

The bellwether lumber and wood products category was among those moderating the index – the price of those goods rose only 0.4 percent for those 12 months (although those costs

rose 26.1 percent since pre-Covid, February 2020).

Other index costs of key building products also didn't move much during those 12 months. Brick products rose only 1.5 percent; concrete products were up 1.6 percent. Gypsum prices (+0.1 percent) barely nudged during that year.

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Elevator constructors' next-level efforts helps Vietnam veteran

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

Need a lift? Operating Engineers Local 324 retiree Thomas Francis sure needed one between the first and second floor of his home. A Vietnam War Army veteran, Francis sees a link to his ongoing, debilitating battle with Parkinson's Disease with his exposure to Agent Orange during his 1967-71 stint in the military.

Now 76, for 18 months he had been unable to climb the stairs in his two-story Clinton Township home to sleep in his own bedroom or to take a proper shower in his upstairs bathroom. That changed last fall, when a group of Elevator Constructors Local 36 members, working with a union-backed charity "A Lift For A Vet," installed a mechanical chair lift in his stairway at no cost.

"It's made a huge difference for me and my wife; it's just been a lifesaver for both of us," Francis said. His wife MaryAnn, who is dealing with bladder cancer, also uses the lift. "I had trouble getting up and down the stairs and had been sleeping in our family room. I'm so grateful for what they did. It has allowed us to stay in our home."

The chairlift was installed in a day by a group of Elevator Constructors

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ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS Local 36 members who volunteered to help install a stair chair lift for Vietnam veteran Thomas Francis, center, include (l-r) Dave Boyd, Jon Bujan, Rob Felts, Rob Akers and Jimmy O'Brien.

Viewpoints



Union path to clean energy

Today, we are at an inflection point. The impacts of the climate crisis are disrupting our security, health and freedom. From extreme temperatures impacting students' ability to safely attend school, to fiercer storms flooding our communities, to our aging infrastructure failing far more often, we must accelerate Michigan's path to an affordable, clean energy future.

But climate action must work for working people. That's why we launched Michigan Climate Jobs. We believe in a future that protects workers, communities and the planet.

Our coalition is union-led and focused on a worker-centered clean energy future. As leaders in the labor movement – Michigan AFL-CIO, Michigan Building and Construction Trade Council, IBEW Michigan, Michigan Pipe Trades Association, Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Michigan Laborers District Council, Michigan Operating Engineers 324, Michigan Education Association and AFT Michigan – we are working together to lead the clean energy transition in Michigan. We aim to address the climate crisis by building clean energy with good-paying union jobs that create real pathways to lifelong union careers for all Michiganders.

I'm a proud union member of West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades (UA) Local 174 and have been for 26 years. My dad was a member too. Growing up, I didn't plan on being a pipefitter. I thought I'd get a white-collar job, but while in college, I realized no job I'd get with a business degree would provide as good a life for my future family and me as my dad's union trade job did.

I've seen and experienced just how transformative a union career can be and I want everyone to have the same opportunity. We can create this vision of a worker-centered future by investing in clean energy infrastructure, the working people building this infrastructure, and in union apprenticeship programs that will train the future workforce we'll need. Clean energy built with strong labor standards will drive more reliable and affordable energy to the grid faster and create more energy security for working families while creating good union careers for Michiganders.

If we want to build a Michigan that works for future generations of working families, we need a climate jobs blueprint that is worker-led, education-focused and protects our communities from the impacts of the climate crisis. That's why we worked with The Climate Jobs Institute at Cornell University to create our Michigan Climate Jobs Blueprint for an Equitable Clean Energy Future. According to this comprehensive report, building more solar arrays, erecting more wind turbines and modernizing our public schools through increased energy efficiency will create thousands of jobs. This bold vision examines how Michigan can continue to tackle the dual crisis of climate change and energy affordability for working families.

We also have a plan to modernize our public schools with union labor – a plan based on two state-funded studies looking at school building infrastructure needs and the ways we can transform Michigan public schools into safe and healthy learning and working spaces for students, educators and school employees. By focusing on energy efficiency and other clean energy upgrades, we can help our public school districts avoid high energy costs in the long term.

We're also going to help the state meet its goal of 100% clean energy by 2040 by working to expedite the build-out of renewable energy projects so they can take advantage of federal solar and wind tax credits while they're still available, while also ensuring strong labor standards are in place to support a worker-centered clean energy future.

Michigan's future will be built by union workers in the state, and Michigan Climate Jobs came together to meet this moment. The working people of Michigan deserve a better world, and we're here to build it.

Ryan Bennett, chairman, Michigan Climate Jobs Business Manager, UA Local 174; President of Michigan Pipe Trades Assoc. (From The Detroit News Labor Voices, Feb. 24)

Elevator constructors' efforts helps vet

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Local 36 volunteers. They worked in conjunction with the A Lift For a Vet program, which was started several years ago by their fellow

union members at International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 5 (Philadelphia). The mechanical lift systems, which vary according to how they're used,

are donated. The labor to install is donated by local elevator union members.

"They had no difficulty with the install, this was a crew that knew what they were doing; they were very efficient, and they were great to do this for us," Francis said.

Francis worked long-range reconnaissance during the Vietnam War, and was present when Agent Orange was used to kill vegetation on wide swaths of land around bases where he was stationed. He said he had severe allergic reactions to the chemical, which caused him to break out in hives.

Today, he said he can still walk some and drive, but climbing stairs has become impossible.

The mobility plight of the couple caught the attention of Jimmy O'Brien, a Local 36 member married to MaryAnn's cousin. O'Brien knew of his union's connection to A Lift For a Vet – this isn't the first time Local 36 volunteers have volunteered to install a chair lift, and Business Manager Mike Waker said they plan to do more in the future.

"My dad (36-year Local 36 member Dan Waker) was a Vietnam veteran, and this program is something I feel very strongly about," he said.

A Lift for a Vet's mission, according to the group itself, "is to buy and install elevators, home lifts, stair lifts or wheelchair lifts in the residence of disabled U.S.

military service veterans from any era, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan or Iraq. Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan often require special modifications made to their homes so it is handicapped accessible."

The organization said it has helped hundreds of veterans go up and down the levels of their homes. "A wheelchair lift or elevator can be the ticket to getting someone back home and on the way to recovery. Many older vets, those from WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras, have lost independence in their daily routine because they find it difficult to navigate stairs. A Lift For a Vet can help those veterans continue to lead independent lives with the installation of a stair lift."

A disabled Air Force veteran hurt during his last year of service, Mike Walsh joined fellow IUEC Local 5 member Ed Loomis to launch A Lift for a Vet. Their experience in the elevator industry helped to provide a comprehensive understanding of what it would take for the program to provide meaningful assistance to our nation's veterans.

"Our mission has always been to help disabled veterans any way we can," said Walsh. "This is very personal. I know the name of nearly every veteran we've helped. This program has changed my life – it's impacted the lives of every union member who has volunteered his or her time to help these heroes stay in their homes."

"At the end of the day, we're helping these veterans maintain a sense of independence. Providing these lifts is our members' way of giving back – it's our way of expressing our appreciation for all these men and women have done for our nation."

"The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone."

—Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811 - 1896)

"If your head is wax, don't walk in the sun."

—Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

"Better shun the bait, than struggle in the snare."

—John Dryden (1631 - 1700)



USING THE NEWLY INSTALLED chair lift at his home is Operating Engineers Local 324 retiree Thomas Francis. The lift was installed by volunteers from Elevator Constructors Local 36.

Utility owners short-circuit decency

By Jim Hightower

To see how the game of "Rig the System" is played, consider

the shameful corporate gaming of the horror of California wildfires that have been devouring lives and entire communities.

Many of the worst fires have been ignited by the faulty wires, transformers, and other poorly functioning equipment of such profiteering electric utilities as Southern California Edison.

The safety failures of this multibillion-dollar giant have been so awful that state lawmakers and regulators have rushed out fire-protection laws – not for the people, but for the corporate owners!

A 2019 law literally protects utilities from paying for fire damages they cause, instead passing the costs to state taxpayers.

Wait, says Edison, if our annual safety record is poor, our top executives are punished with a cut in their annual bonuses.

Ouch! Well, not really – the reduction is capped at 5 percent.

Take last year's fire that destroyed nearly every home and building in the town of Altadena, killing 19 people. "It's just a trag-

edy," lamented Edison's CEO, though he admits it was sparked by an Edison transmission line.

Sure enough, the chief "suffered" a 5 percent bonus hickey. Hold your pity, though, for that means he still collected 95 percent of his 2025 performance bonus, plus pocketing his extravagant salary, stock options, and benefits.

In all, the man-in-charge of this corporate-made "tragedy" walked away with nearly \$14 million in personal pay.

Meanwhile, Edison went to the Public Utility Commission, demanding that its customers be forced to pay 10 percent more on their electric bills.



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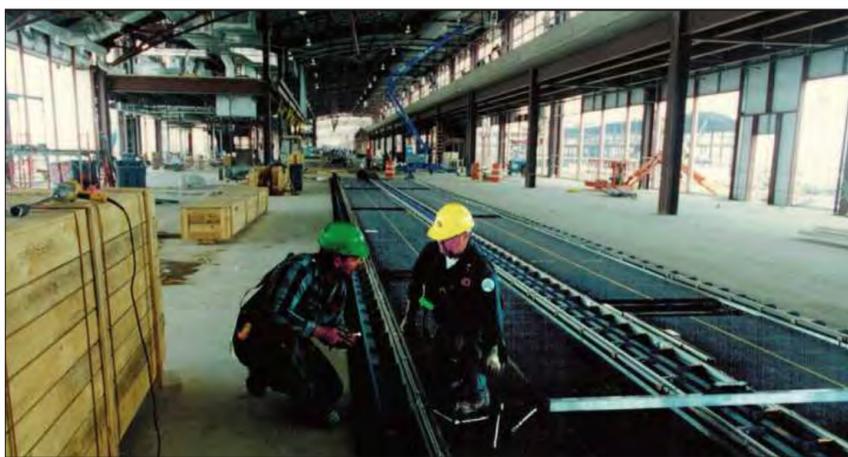
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BUILDING MICHIGAN! Airports HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



CONSTRUCTION OF A MOVING WALKWAY by Elevator Constructors Local 36 members is shown at the midfield McNamara Terminal under construction in 2000 at Metro Airport in Romulus. Erecting that mile-long terminal, plus the new North Terminal a few years later, helped transform Metro into one of the consistently top-ranked airports in the nation. Credit: Tradesman file

There are a number of good, convenient options to get in and out of Michigan via air travel. Among them: Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Romulus and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids. Both get consistently high marks by passengers for facilities of their size.

Both offer modern spaces with direct flights and easy connections to destinations around the globe.

Not unlike the rest of the nation, airports in Michigan grew up in the 1920s and 1930s in the decades the Wright Brothers' first sustained powered flight in December 1903. It took a while before the air travel industry got its wings, so to speak – as the novelty of powered flight wore off, plane builders and pilots sought to answer the question: what's next?

In Michigan the future began in July 1917, with the establishment of one of the first military air bases in the nation: Selfridge Field near Mount Clemens. Then in 1919 came another Michigan original: construction of the state's first commercial airport – in Roseville, a suburb northeast of Detroit. The Packard Motor Car Co. leased property at Frazho and Gratiot Avenue and designated it Packard Aviation Field.

According to *Macomb Now* magazine, the facility underwent several name changes over the ensuing decades, including Gratiot Airport, Detroit Gratiot Airport, Greater Detroit Airport and the Roseville Airport. It featured a 3,100-foot unpaved runway. Its last official name was Hartung Airport, and in 1954, with suburban populations encroaching, the property was turned over to a retail developer. Today, Eastgate Shopping Center sits atop the site.

The ties between the burgeoning automotive industry and air travel really took off in 1924, with Henry Ford (really, his son Edsel) undertaking construction of Ford Airport in Dearborn at Oakwood Boulevard near Rotunda Drive.

The 260-acre airfield was the site of many U.S. "firsts" in the aviation industry, including the first airport hotel (today it's still the Deaborn Inn, a Marriott property), the first concrete runways, the first U.S.



PACKARD AVIATION FIELD, which opened in 1919 in what was then Erin Township, was Michigan's first airport. The site, shown here in 1924, is now in Roseville, taken over by Eastgate Mall at Frazho and Gratiot. Automaker Packard used the airfield as a site to experiment on its aircraft engines. One of the planes tested at the airfield was the Stinson Detroiter, a new biplane that could carry a pilot and three passengers – along with the innovation of brakes(!) on the wheels.

scheduled passenger service, the first contracted mail service, the first radio control for a commercial flight, and the first U.S. passenger terminal.

The Ford-invented Tri-Motor aircraft was also flown from the airport, which could haul passengers or freight, and was the "largest civil aircraft in America when it first flew on August 2, 1926," says the National Air and Space Museum. It was the first widely adapted, metal aircraft that became trusted by the public.

"At this airport, built by Henry Ford in 1924, world and national aviation history was made," says the state historical marker at the site, "ushering in a new era of flight embracing the all-metal airliner, radio control devices, air mail, scheduled flights, and the airline service that the generation of the 1930's came to expect."

Airport construction across Michigan in subsequent decades was a slow-growth industry. After all, the state and the rest of the nation were still often dealing with lousy gravel and dirt roads – transforming them into concrete took precedence over building out plane runways and other air travel infrastructure.

In Michigan, airport construction took a tremendous leap forward with Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti Township. It was constructed in 1941 by the Ford Motor Co. at the behest of the federal government to support the production of B-24 Liberator bombers during World War II.

Nearby, what would become the state's largest airport, Detroit Metropolitan, began with its groundbreaking in 1929 and opening on Sept.

4, 1930. Then called "Wayne County Airport" it was located at the corner of Middlebelt and Wick roads. It didn't start to become a major hub of air transportation until 1940, when the control of the facility was assumed by the U.S. Army for use as a staging base for transport of military aircraft to Europe. The U.S. Army constructed new hangars, runways and other facilities and was renamed Romulus Army Air Field.

In 1947, the airport was renamed Detroit-Wayne Major Airport and expanded to four square miles, and it grew throughout the 1950s as air travel opened up throughout the country.

"Metro Airport" grew in the 1950s through the 1970s, but it wasn't until the 1990s and 2000s that "world class" started to be used in association with the facility.

For many of our readers, the airport is part of their personal history; they worked there. Construction of the last of Metro's six runways was completed in December 2001. A 12,003-foot long runway would allow for the departure of heavy, long-haul international flights.

Years of construction yielded the opening of the mile-long midfield McNamara Terminal on Feb. 4, 2002.

Then the trades' attention was turned to the new North (Evans) Terminal, which opened Sept. 17, 2008.

More than 15 million passengers moved through the airport's gates in 2025, ranking it No. 20 among the top airports in the nation. And it typically ranks in the top 10 for passenger satisfaction when such surveys are released.



MICHIGAN'S SECOND-BUSIEST airport is the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, which now serves more than 4 million passengers annually. Eight airlines fly out of the airport to 35 nonstop destinations. The airport, spread out over about five square miles, supports more than 40,000 jobs in the region and contributes more than \$7 billion to the local economy each year.

Groundbreaking for Kent County's first airport took place at the current site on Nov. 26, 1919. The first regularly scheduled airline service in the nation began on July 31, 1926, between Grand Rapids and Dearborn's Ford Airport.

The airport enjoyed tremendous growth over the decades. On Jan. 23, 1982, the airport's first Boeing 747 landed on a newly expanded 10,000-foot runway. In 1997, a new 8,500-foot north-south runway was added. A new 160,000-square-foot air cargo and trade center opened on the east side of the airport in 1999. That same year the Kent County International Airport was renamed the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in honor of the hometown 38th president of the United States.

In 2000, the airport completed a \$50 million major renovation of the passenger terminal building. It has received numerous renovations over the past two decades.

Credit: The Gerald R. Ford International Airport

Construction joins decline in U.S. workplace fatalities

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was signed into law, an estimated 14,000 U.S. workers died on the job at a time when there was a U.S. workforce of 83 million. By 2024 the U.S. workforce had doubled to 168 million, but the number of on-the-job fatalities declined to 5,070, a drop of 36 percent compared to 54 years prior.

A few notes of interest from the release of the BLS report:

- The leisure and hospitality industry was the primary sector where workplace deaths increased, with the fatality rate increasing from 2.3 to 2.4 per 100,000 workers.

- Young workers (16-17 years of age) and workers 65 and older were more impacted by workplace fatalities in 2024 than they had been in previous years. "Jobs are becoming more dangerous for younger workers as states attempt to loosen child labor laws," the AFL-CIO said. "At the same time, older workers who are staying in the workforce longer are facing more dangers."

The rate of young worker workplace deaths increased from 1.3 in 2022 to 1.9 in 2023 and then to 2.7 in 2024 – nearly doubling the rate from 2020.

- After years of increasing rates, workplace fatalities for Black and Latino workers finally

Construction goods costs rise manageably – with a few exceptions

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But looking at those aforementioned notable material cost increases:

- Copper wire and cable prices zoomed up 27.3 percent from January 2025 to January 2026 (and up 80.7 percent since February 2020).

- Steel mill products rose 20.7 percent during those 12 months (+68.5 percent since February 2020).

- Iron and steel products were up 15.5 percent for those 12 months (+58.5 percent since February 2020).

- Plumbing fixtures rose 8.3 percent during those 12 months (+30.7 percent since February 2020).

Associated Builders and Contractors Chief Economist Anirban Basu said by category, nonresidential construction input prices surged "at a blistering 7.1 percent annualized rate" from December to January.

"While this sharp monthly rise can be traced to significant increases in prices for tariff-affected products like copper wire and cable, iron and steel, and industrial controls equipment, aggregate input price escalation is not particularly concerning right now. Nonresidential materials prices are up just 2.9 percent over the past year and have been virtually flat over the past several months, rising just 0.2 percent since September despite some large monthly fluctuations."

Prices increased in two of three energy categories from December to January. Crude petroleum and unprocessed energy materials prices were up 1.8 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, while natural gas prices were down 2.9 percent.

But those petroleum costs, released by the BLS on Feb. 27, will be seen as the good old days when the next survey is released later this month, which will take into account the significant leap in gas prices as the war with Iran has progressed.

decreased in 2024. However, they continue to be higher compared to the rate of 3.3 per 100,000 for all workers. The fatality rate for Black workers dropped from 3.6 per 100,000 workers in 2023 to 3.4 in 2024. For Latino workers, the rate decreased from 4.4 per 100,000 workers in 2023 to 4.3 in 2024.

- The decrease in fatal injuries in 2024 was largely driven by a 16.2 percent drop in fatalities due to exposure to

harmful substances or environments (to 687 cases from 820). This decrease was in turn driven by a decline in drug or alcohol overdoses, dropping to 410 fatal injuries in 2024 from 512 fatalities in 2023.

- Workers in transportation and material moving occupations represented the occupational group with the most fatalities: 1,391 on-the-job fatalities in 2024, which was down 7 percent from 2023.

IBEW 131 electricians aid cleanup after tornadoes

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Centreville replaced eight more services free of charge. "We knew the community of Three Rivers needed our help, and we were happy to lend a hand anyway we could," Fletcher Leet of KEI said.

Alek Haak-Frost is the executive editor, publisher, and founder of Watershed Voice. <https://watershedvoice.com/>



IBEW LOCAL 131 members on March 10 helped to clear fallen trees in Three Rivers after the tornado.

Building jobs decline; war begets 'uncertainty'

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reluctant to add workers amid uncertainty about how much they will pay for construction materials and demand for certain types of construction projects," said Macrina Wilkins, the Associated General Contractors' director of market insights. "But even with the monthly drop, construction employment has grown at a faster rate during the past year than the broader economy."

But that's not saying much. Over the prior 12 months, the construction industry added 42,000 jobs, a modest gain of 0.5 percent. U.S. construction employment in January totaled 8,309,000, seasonally adjusted. The industry outpaced the even-more-modest 0.1 percent increase in total U.S. nonfarm payroll employment over the course of 2025.

In the entire U.S. economy, employment fell by 92,000 jobs in February, as the unemployment rate edged up a bit to 4.4 percent. The January jobs decline was unexpected by most economists – who expected an increase – and it was the largest of sixth monthly declines that have been recorded since the start of 2025.

Meanwhile, the Dodge Construction Network's "Momentum Index" declined 7.3 percent in February from the downwardly revised January reading of 269.8. Dodge reported March 6 that commercial planning fell 8.9 percent, and institutional planning momentum slowed by 4.0 percent during the month prior.

The index is a monthly measure based on the three-month moving value of nonresidential building projects going into planning, shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year to 18 months.

"Planning momentum continued to normalize in February after a surge in activity in the back half of 2025," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. "Elevated risks around costs, labor, and geopolitics will continue to constrain builder confidence in the near-term but the robust planning pipeline suggests an acceleration in construction spending in 2027."

"Nothing happens to any thing which that thing is not made by nature to bear."

– Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

"People will buy anything that is one to a customer."

–Sinclair Lewis (1885 - 1951)

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Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance. ****IMPORTANT**** At this meeting, there will be a **Special Order of Business** regarding **DIVISION OF MONEY.** All members are encouraged to attend. This meeting will also include a presentation by a Union EAP Rep., our new partner for Member Assistance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Union Hall.

RETIREES NOTICE: There is a change to the April Retiree Luncheon. The date has been changed to **4/16/26** at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice to catch up and stay 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.

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.

ANNUIITY 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: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance. UNION EAP. Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. Beyond wellness, they offer expert assistance with legal consultations and financial planning to ensure you have the support you need for every part of your life, all completely confidential.

Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915. A Union EAP rep will attend the 4/8/26 Membership Meeting to explain the services available through the program and answer any questions members may have.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. 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. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paid online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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. It is the members' responsibility to ensure all requested documentation is returned to the Fund office promptly. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

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

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member, contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390 (Dave)** or Quintin at 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class, and March 21, April 4, April 11, and April 25. These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

(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 April 9, 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 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 to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelscanireport.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 couple members off, if your employment status changes please let me know. Please keep up on your dues, they are always due prior to the first of the month and also let me know if there are any address or phone number changes. Thank you to all that came out to the Zone 2 union meeting/ wage disbursement. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in our area should be picking up soon. Dues are due the first of every month please make sure you are current. Please make sure you update your contact information with the Lansing office and Benesys if you moved or have a new phone number.

Meetings
Zone 3 meeting is May 13, at the Freeland hall
Zone 3 Wage Disbursement meeting – postcards will be mailed out with date and time

Retiree meeting is April 7th at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd

Our condolences to the family of retiree Mike Arnold, Mike passed away on February 28. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work in the area is still steady with new projects starting soon. SASMI applications for Zone 3 and 5 have been sent out and if you are eligible, they will need to be mailed in by April 1st. We are always looking for new apprentices so if anyone has someone interested in the trade, contact me. Please make sure you schedule your physicals and address and phone numbers are kept updated with Benesys and Lansing.

In Solidarity, John Amalfitano
ZONE 4 Info: Spring is almost here, the work has been a little slow in Zone 4, the work outlook should be a good spring and summer. Also it is our contract year please don't forget to get me your surveys. On a more somber note we have lost two retirees in the past few weeks, Terry Johnson and Larry Drury. They will be missed, so very sorry to the family and loved ones. **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 www.upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. Reminder: 2026 union meetings at the hall in Gwinn have been changed to Saturdays at 10:00 am.

The next retirees' breakfast will be at The Dry Dock in Harvey Wednesday April 8 at 10:00 am. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

Dues Department: *Online dues payment is now available* Dues from all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership, we accept Credit Card Payments in lieu of your monthly dues. If you would like to take advantage of the Credit Card Service, a finance charge will be applied – Please call the Lansing office during regular business hours at 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:
Samuel Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) **517-882-4064**

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) **517-242-3223**
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-569-9200**
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-299-3752**
Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) **989-225-0095**
John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) **231-590-1112**
Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) **810-836-3552**
Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**

Local 292 cont'd

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



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th 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 Tuesday, April 14, at 5 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 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: *Tad Burkey, Timothy Koester, John Hill, Samuel Kinsora, John Ruper, Matthew Ashby, Dale Colton, Tom Eckerle, Andrew Blair, Gerald Hoga, Thomas Wiedling, Patrick Turner, Alex Fabian, Richard Davidson, John McGow and Todd Lesiak.*

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to the family of Charles "Chuck" Cook. Chuck passed away on February 25, 2026.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com 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 **Uliance** at 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

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

SAVE THE DATE: Golf Outing – July 11; Picnic – Aug. 1

Training Center News

Apprenticeship Entrance Exam. The Entrance Exam for the next **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Building Trades Apprenticeship** class is scheduled for Wednesday July 22, 2026. The deadline to apply is July 17, 2026. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by October 5, 2026. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.

Upcoming Class: The Keith Klos Memorial Copper Class – Students enrolled in the Copper class will receive materials and instructions to build one copper project (copper lighthouse, hurricane lantern, birdhouse or rose). The class will meet on Wednesday evenings for eight weeks starting on Wednesday, April 1 from 5-8 P.M. Registration for Local 80 Members is open now. The deadline to register is Monday, March 30. The class is limited to ten people.

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.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">The Building Tradesman</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Steve Claywell Greg Herman Secretary-Treasurer President</p>		ISSN-007-3717 Editor/Photographer Marty Mulcahy E-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net	Advertising Director Joe Hoshaw E-mail: btads@ameritech.net (734) 558-6955	POSTMASTER send postage returns to: The Building Tradesman 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216 Phone: (313) 961-3800 Fax: (313) 961-2467 Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.
<p style="margin: 0;">The Building Tradesman is published bi-weekly (every other Friday) by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office. 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216 Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop</p>		<p style="margin: 0;">Subscription Rate \$15 annually (group rate for unions) Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.</p>		



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2
WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS:
SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, at 5:30pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

BRETT GIERAK ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, at 6:00pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

HOUGHTON MEETING: Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Daryl E. Hollenback** (Bricklayer & Stone Mason) who passed away on 3/22/2026. Brother Hollenback had been a member for 61 years, serving as a Business Agent and President for the BAC over 19 years.

2026 BAC LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 Michigan is proud to announce the 2026 BAC Local 2 Scholarship. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, state-wide, from all of the trades.

To be eligible, the following guidelines must be followed and information submitted to the **BAC Local 2 WARREN office** located at **21031 Ryan Road, Warren MI 48091**. Deadline for applicant submission is **12:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026:**

Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing ACTIVE member who has either:

Worked and received union contributions on or after September 2025 or Retired from actively working on or after January 2025

The member must be current, up to date, with their monthly union dues.

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

Applicant must be a **full-time student**, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the **Winter 2026 Semester.** A copy of the **Class Schedule** showing full-time status must be submitted. **NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will not be considered as a class schedule.**

A class schedule lists the number of credits, classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule. If the applicant is enrolled in a program that is less than 12 credit hours for the Winter 2026 Semester but considered full time due to an internship or clinical hours, a letter from their institution will be required indicating full time student status.

Applicants must submit an **Official Transcript**, showing their grades from the Fall 2025 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a **sealed envelope.** Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 27, 2026. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

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

telephone number, as well as the members branch of trade.

All information must be submitted by **12:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026** to the **BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.**

Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.

The winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2026 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL: We have moved the Apprentice Hours Portal to a new platform called WorkHands. You should have received an email or text message with an invitation to join the platform.

All monthly hours must now be submitted through the WorkHands app. After you submit your hours, they will be reviewed by your foreman or superintendent, who will complete an evaluation of your progress before forwarding them to the Training Center.

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month.

If you need assistance accessing the portal or help submitting your hours, resources are available online at: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>

You may also contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382 for additional support.

For more information about 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 com-

munications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI to 50607**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

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

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

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

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
 CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362
 Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550
 International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)
 Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954
 Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954
 Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000.

"Be not ashamed of thy virtues; honor's a good brooch to wear in a man's hat at all times."

– Ben Jonson (1572 - 1637)

"I'm convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance."

– Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)

"Our patience will achieve more than our force."

– Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting that day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations!
 April 2026
James Davis-25 Years
Christopher Richard-son-40 Years

Bro. Gregory Brisbois passed away on February 7, 2026. He was a 30-year member. Please keep the Brisbois family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTsafe.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 get in touch with the local at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to ajrouche@opcmiami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

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

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 OPCMA 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 benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

All members need 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 by phone when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of the Death Certificate for any deceased active or retired member.

Attention, all Apprentices: you will now 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 Members 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 negatively impacting our market share. This year's work forecast looks better than last year's. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fined. Let's work together to secure our future!!

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date; some plant jobs require the MUST modules. You can go online at www.mustonline.org or call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure we have all of your current contact information, address, and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated on your health care and pension, and whether you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please get in touch with the Local, and we will update your address with all fund offices.

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

Access and make changes to your account in two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com
 If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.

Enter your first name, last

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

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions to confirm it's really you.

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

Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

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

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

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

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

Plasterers and Cement Masons: It is your responsibility to complete reciprocity forms if you plan to work outside the local 514 area. This will ensure your hours are returned to your home fund. If you have any questions or need any forms, please get in touch with the Local.

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **Road Builders** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

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

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

For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION, Call 1-888-880-8222 (Toll Free) or (202) 638-1996.

Just joking

A collection of groaners...

What did Cinderella say when her photos weren't ready?
 "Someday my prints will come..."

What do you call a sleep-walking nun?
 A roamin' Catholic.

Why was E the only letter to get a gift from Santa?
 The other letters were naughty-E.

If I could change the color of just one of the seven dwarfs... I'd dye Happy.

What do you call a cow with no legs? Ground beef.

Why don't scientists trust atoms?
 Because they make up everything.

Did you hear about the driver who only sings when the car is in reverse?
 Turns out he's a backup singer.

Nine months from now you could either be hunting or changing a diaper.

Make good decisions this snowstorm.
 My wife said, "you haven't heard a word I said."
 I answered, "that's an odd way to start a conversation."

Trades, OpenAI partner to put union label on construction

(Continued from Page 1)
 expansion of infrastructure associated with artificial intelligence technologies."

The upshot of the agreement is that where and when OpenAI and its partners decide to build AI-related structures like data centers – and they're springing up in abundance across the nation – then building trades unions will have their members employed putting them up.

NABTU and OpenAI signed a \$1.5 million contract to train and provide workers for five years of AI data center construction nationally. *Research and Markets* estimates that annual U.S. data center construction will grow from the current \$84 billion per year to \$154 billion by 2031.

"This partnership commits to shared values and is a recognition that none of this work happens without America's best-in-class, highly skilled construction workforce," said NABTU President Sean McGarvey. "No workforce matches our skill, capacity, productivity, or safety. And no one is better positioned to deliver the scale of construction needed for the advanced AI facilities, modern transmission systems, and new energy generation driving America's economic growth. With our collectively bargained \$2.5 billion annual training investment, our nationwide pipeline is built to recruit, train, and deploy the highest-skilled craft professionals in every region and deliver massive, complex projects with unmatched safety, sustainability, and community benefit."

Data centers, as controversial as they are, are delivering thousands of hours of work to building trades workers nationwide. Michigan has about 70 data centers, with more to come, including a \$7 billion plant in Saline Township where construction has just started. OpenAI is involved in the project.

"Ensuring the benefits of AI reach everyone starts with the workers who will build the infrastructure that powers it," said Sam Altman, co-founder and CEO of OpenAI. "Across the country, highly skilled union construction workers are laying the foundation for the AI economy. Under the leadership of President Sean McGarvey and his affiliated unions, NABTU knows how to recruit and train that workforce at scale, and we're excited to work together to help ensure this infrastructure is built by the best-trained workforce in the country."

Said McGarvey: "Today's AI construction surge demands precision, speed, and expertise, and this is exactly what we do best. Our workforce development pipeline is built for moments like this, and we are ready to deliver."

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



Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT - *Membership of Plumbers Local 98:*

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who graduated from our apprenticeship program on March 6, and are now journeymen: Joshua Beisel, Bruce Bennett II, Jacob Burke, Phillip Calopisis, Erik Demmin, Erin Garavaglia, Brandon Hanley, Robert Jewell, Jeff Jozel, Jacob Klavinger, Douglas Lampe, Aaron Monacelli, Angelo Mondine, Frank Moore II, Jacob Murphy, Kenneth Rembisz, Nathaniel Toffolo, River Turek, Sean Wilke, Nicholas Zisi. We wish you a lifetime of success and we are very proud of you!

New Members: On Thursday, March 12 we initiated 32 apprentices who are in the spring 2026 apprenticeship class and 8 newly organized members. We are excited for a bright future and longevity with Local 98.

Journeyman License Renewal: Remember to renew your plumbing license by April 30 with the State of Michigan. The website is michigan.gov/lara and follow the steps to renew your license.

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

Membership Dues Reminder: Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues. If you have not paid your first quarter dues yet, please pay by March 31, 2026 to avoid suspension fees and interruption to your benefits. Local 98 will be offering members who pay in full for the 2026 calendar year, or sign up for automatic deductions, a complimentary gift, get yours while they last! Members may mail payment, pay online, come into the hall or call the hall to make a payment.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, April 2, 2026 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.

Marathon Health: Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) will be open soon. Stay tuned for details.

Retiree Dental: We are proud to announce we've been able to add dental coverage for our retirees. Watch your mail in the upcoming weeks for more information.

The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, April 8 at Noon**. Looking forward to seeing many of our retirees! Any questions, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

Corktown - St. Patrick's Day Parade: It was an honor for Local 98 to participate in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15. It was our first time participating in over 40 years. We received a very warm welcome down the parade route and the camaraderie between the many other locals was a day to remember. A special Thank You to IBEW Local 58 for inviting us to join them prior to the parade at their hall.

Adopt-A-Highway: Spring is just around the corner! Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is Saturday, April 11 (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, April 19). We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Construction Hike For Hope: Local 98 is joining in a group hike to help engage the construction industry on the importance of mental health on April 12 at Belle Isle State Park. Please call B.A Paul Smith for more details.

Larry Moskal's Spring Yard Clean Up: We will be cleaning up Larry's property on March 28 at 8am. Please call Jimmy Cools or Bruce Bennett for more details.

The Local 98 hockey team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario Tournament May 1-3. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon. Practice will begin soon.

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.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents

through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends, brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Steve Andrews, was a 28-year member and initiated on 6-23-1997; and Brother Randy Johnson, was a 19-year member and initiated on 10-09-2006. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Expelled Members: We currently have one expelled member as of March 1, 2026, Michael Shenkosky.

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 pm 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.**

We are looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working nonunion, have them call us.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98tc.org/apprenticeship. Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org, Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

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

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

Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org
Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org

Jeff Kavalor, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalor@ualocal98.org

Luke Garcia, Organizer (248) 763-2187 lgarcia@uanet.org

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

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435. www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 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 March 25, 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, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesdays April 22 and 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 (Continued next column)



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO - THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING will be on **Tuesday, April 14** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6PM. (note new time).

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 LUNCHMEETINGS 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.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, remarried, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change. **There also seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Justin Jagers and family on the birth of a son, Callum.

Local 98, con't

CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN FALL 2026. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only.

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

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

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

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

4 hour recert class Oct. 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 April 4. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.

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.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333

UA Local 333

LANSING - April's union meeting will be held April 15, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm. May's union meeting will be held May 20, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

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.

Weld classes are ongoing
Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm
Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Jackson Training Center, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm
Monday and Wednesday - we will schedule a class if we have sufficient sign-up

Battle Creek Weld Class (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Monday and Thursday 4-8pm

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 for classes on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION: WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFE CHANGE, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, BIRTH OF A CHILD, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE WITH THE UPDATED INFORMATION, REQUEST NEW BENEFICIARY PAPERWORK IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Todd Myer and his family on the loss of his father, Lansing member Jerry Myers who passed away Feb. 22, 2026. Jerry was initiated into the Local September of 1963 and retired 09/01/93. We are so sorry for your loss, and your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Deepest sympathy to Chris Panich on the passing of his mother Allison Bono on March 9, 2026. Allison was an administrative assistant for many years with Local 388 now Local 333. May you find strength and peace during this difficult time.

Our condolences to Lansing member Thomas Catey whose wife Shirley passed away March 7, 2026. Tom and his wife were married 63 wonderful years and live in the Gladwin area. The Local wishes to extend their heart-

(Continued next column)



Local 671

UA Local 671

MONROE - The next union meeting will be held on April 16, 2026, at 7pm. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **April 16th, 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.

Anniversary: Congratulations to UA Local 671 on its 89th anniversary. We were chartered on March 20, 1937. Raise a class and cheers to many more years.

Special Order of Business: There will be a Special Order of Business at our April 16th Union Meeting. This will be for the allocation of our raise beginning June 1, 2026.

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

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

Congratulations: To Brother John Loop on achieving Life Membership status on 50 years of dedicated membership in The United Association and Local 671. Your years of service have helped strengthen our organization and set an example for me and many others who worked with you over the years. We thank you for your contributions and dedicated service.

Health & Welfare: I am aware of some issues with our Health Insurance. Mostly being caused by the number of hours it requires to qualify for insurance each month. We made this change to help get our plan back healthy after some substantial claim's history. Please keep in mind if you plan on taking any time off, check into your hours bank and your MRA to make sure you keep your coverage current. We are working diligently to improve our process and reduce the hours for coverage.

In Closing: Do not let people damage our Local Union. Misinformation creates division, weakens trust between members, and distracts from the shared goal of standing together for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. A strong union depends on honesty, respect, and unity. When rumors and falsehoods spread, they undermine the solidarity that makes a union effective and can harm the reputation and strength of the entire membership. If you have questions or concerns about any information you may hear on the job or anywhere else, please don't hesitate to contact me or Kirk anytime.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com
Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com

Local 333, con't

felt condolences to their sons Tim and Jim Catey who are also members of Local 333. Services will be held at a later date.

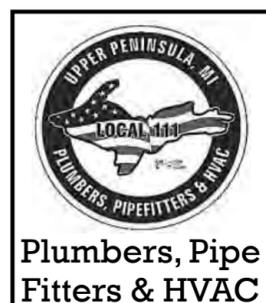
Our deepest condolences to Lansing member Gary Myers on the loss of his lovely wife Jaymee Marie Myers who passed away March 9, 2026. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this sorrowful time. A funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday March 21 at McGeehan Funeral Homes, Martin Chapel in Chesaning. Visitation will be held from 2-8 p.m. on Friday March 20.

"All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unheard."

-Sean O'Casey (1880 - 1964)

"Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast - you also miss the sense of where you are going and why."

-Eddie Cantor (1892 - 1964)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

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

CONGRATULATIONS: Local 111 proudly recognizes **Brandon Waldrop** for being named the **Upper Peninsula Construction Council's 2026 Apprentice of the Year.** We also commend all the outstanding apprentices who participated in this year's competition - your hard work and dedication continue to strengthen the building trades across the Upper Peninsula.

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.

NEW MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Beginning December 1, 2025, our Health & Welfare Plan will partner with Ulliance to offer the Life Advisor Member Assistance Program (MAP). This confidential, no-cost benefit is available to members and covered dependents and provides 24/7 support for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eldercare or childcare referrals, and financial or legal guidance. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, crisis intervention, and community resources. To access services, call 800-448-8326 or www.lifeadvisor.com.

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.

"The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well."

-Horace Walpole (1717 - 1797)



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

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

Seeking Volunteers for Operation United to Support West Michigan Veterans – The 2026 Operation United event will take place on **Wednesday, April 22**, and focuses on helping veterans, particularly seniors and those living with disabilities, by completing projects that improve the safety and accessibility of their homes. Volunteer projects typically include yard work, landscaping, and minor repairs designed to make homes safer and easier to maintain.

Last year, more than 50 volunteers from Local 174 participated in the event, and we hope to build on that support again this year. In addition to volunteers for projects, we are also seeking volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers to assist with picking up and delivering materials throughout the week. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Nate Phillips for additional information.

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.

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.

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows:

1st year \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30

\$10.80 over 3 years.

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

Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked.

The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Organizing Update: *I've been visiting job sites educating nonunion workers. Quite a few of them are amazed that we get annual raises, I sum it up by stating that we have a contract and they don't. Another concern is that they are paying for healthcare out of their weekly paycheck, again that's part of our benefit package above any beyond our hourly rate, again it's simply educating them.*

I've learned that building that relationship with the worker is so much important than cramming a bunch of information down their throat. If they're happy where they are at, it's ok, eventually they won't and that's when they'll be in contact.

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS). West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds 5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098 (855) 407-5862 Toll Free

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON-Medicare

Retirees
Aetna: (855) 878-4101
EAP: (888) 238-6232
Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Medicare Retirees:
Retiree First: (616) 345-0788

Current Health Insurance Premiums:
Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10

Medicare Single \$123.63
Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

Retiree Dues: If you are retiring, it is the member's responsibility to inform the Union Hall on the final day of work in order to request a reduction in window dues at the Retiree Rate. Additionally, it is the member's responsibility to call Ext. 17 to notify dispatch of your retirement, providing your name, phone number, contractor name, and the date of your last day worked.

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

Dispatch: We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: dispatch@ual174.org which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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

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

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

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month - unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm. The next classes will be held **Thursday, April 9th and Thursday, May 14th, 2026.**

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 Wednesday, April 8th, and the test to follow Thursday, April 9th at 5pm.

INDUSTRIAL RIGGING: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 23rd @ 5:00pm - 9:00pm. The class will run weekly for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays, March 23rd to Wednesday, May 13th @ 5-9 pm. Rigging practical exam will be held Saturday, May 16th beginning at 8:00am.

OPEN WELD: Welding lab is CLOSED for final upgrades until Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest: The Training Center will be closed April 22-24 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.



Local 370 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 14, 2026.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, April 6 at 9 am. (Notice not the day before meeting)

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:

Weld Test Saturday March 21st at 7:00am.

CPR March 18. 4:30pm – 8:30pm.

April Welding April 6th thru April 29th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

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

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

STAR HVACR Prep Class May 4th – 7th, 13th & 14th. (Test on May 14th) Submit application to training dept. by April 17th.

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, April 14th, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday April 14th, 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee – Tuesday, April 14th, 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 MUSTB-SAFE.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 8am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

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

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing. The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 that takes and passes any training, testing or certification that may be required to perform their work. This includes Rigging, Med-Gas, Back flow or any work-related training or certification expense. Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

Mobile App. Our mobile app. Is now available for download on your cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370**. Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues.

This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 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 and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card 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: 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.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon. Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes, (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.

The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



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

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING for the reading of our yearly financial report on Tuesday April 21, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075.

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

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, David Percy, Lloyd Tanner. January 1, 2026, Randolph Chabot, Tommy Eftoff, David Hancock, Earl Shields, Todd Valiquette.

Deceased Members – 35 Year Member James Polio March 1, 2026; Lifetime Member William J. Cullen Sr. Feb. 8, 2026; 30 Year Member Edward Nys Feb. 12, 2026; Lifetime Member George Baldrige Feb. 4, 2026; Lifetime Member Richard Charzynski February 1, 2026

Our Condolences to William Nelson on the passing of his wife Linda November 12, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to: Stephen Ashley, Rebecca Blair, Freddie Diepenhorst, Jeremel Ducharme, Michael Ferrante, Gregory Firth, Jason Howe, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Ian Martin, Jason McKim, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, Andrew Sarniak, Scott Smith, James Spurlock, David Stone.

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 provide support, and connect them to resources.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held April 16, 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, 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 no. 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 no. without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. 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 mustb-safe.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 Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.

Training Center News. Regular NIGHT WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified BRAZING CLASS: Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8.

ORBITAL TUBE WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with John Verran. Call Mike to sign up.

QUALIFIED BOLTING CLASS: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with Kurt Moran. Call Kim to sign up.

SUPERMARKET REFRIGERATION with Jason Blouin Starts Monday March 23, 2026

ASSE WATER QUALITY CONTROL with Jason Blouin Starts Thursday March 26, 2026

CSD with Kevin Burns Starts Monday April 13, 2026

BOILER TEARDOWN with Kevin Burns Starts Thursday April 16, 2026

**We will accept applications for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices on May 25, 2026 thru June 6, 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.pipefitters636t.org

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Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS (RATIFICATION/WAGE ALLOCATION SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING 4/4: a Special Called Meeting for the Michigan Gas Distribution members has been scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in the Ojibway Room 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. The purpose of this Special Called Union Meeting is for ratification/wage allocation effective May 1, 2026.

UNION HALL CLOSING: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 22 and all-day Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 26, emailed applications will NOT be accepted, please mail or return to the union hall. The UA scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution, this application must be postmarked no later than June 11 and mailed to the UA Office in Annapolis, MD.

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: 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 our Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn.

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: ANNUAL PHYSICALS 2026: Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org, go to documents, health care, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page) Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Monday’s and Wednesday’s at Local 190’s office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

ally (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 at our Fringe Benefit office 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 5:00pm. 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 – April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28. Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 Schedule - Mondays – April 27th, July 27th, and Oct. 5, 2026. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

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

Welding Lab: Welding lab is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run until May 22, 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 Thursday for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to

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



SETTING DRYWALL at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills are John Withrow and Randy Green of Carpenters Local 687. They’re employed by Barton Malow.

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: 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 Brazing Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. 2026 Schedule: First course starts March 10, 2026. 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

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.

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member John Bowdish passed away Feb. 26. John initiated Oct. 13, 1964, retired Feb. 1, 2004 and became a lifetime member Oct. 13, 2014. To all family members and friends we are truly sorry for your loss, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

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

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



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25, 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 25, 2026, at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. There will be 3 delegate spots and 3 alternate spots, the top Three (3) nominees with the most votes will serve as delegates with the remainder of the top Six (6) 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 six (6), and an agreement cannot be made between nominees to determine to positions, a runoff will be held that evening with voting members that are still in attendance until a winner is determined.

Nominees for delegate are as follows: (listed in the order that they were nominated): Butch Stewart, Scott Ryal, Eric Conkright, Adam Novak, Eric Reid, David Ryal, Chris Styla, Jeff Gray, Al McCreadie, Tanner Tringovski

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.

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

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

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

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

Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-540-2091 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

“Have patience awhile; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee.”
– Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804)

“The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You don’t blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the President. You realize that you control your own destiny.”



Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupat-dc1michigan.org

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or 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: Rigging/Signaling, March 28- 9am

OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP: Scaffold Awareness March 19- 5pm
Rigging/Signaling March 14- 9am

Contact Director Shawn O'Neill for more information or to sign up – (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdc1m.org

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

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

Search for “Painters and Allied Trades” download APP
Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED and participate in your local union!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, 48088 at 5pm. If you are a member in good standing, 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, the 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.

If you have an address and/or phone 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. (Continued next column)



District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

Local Union 1052

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

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovall
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland
Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Tony Parker
Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

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



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 who willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

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

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

Local 357 cont’d

tion and our local C.B.A.

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

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

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

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

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



INSULATING A DUCT at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Roy Martin of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25. He's employed by Rival Insulation.



Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED: Our next regular membership meeting will be **March 23, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. **This will be a special-called meeting, there was a motion made and seconded at the February membership meeting to have a picnic in 2026. The motion was tabled for discussion and vote until the March meeting according to Article XIV Section 2, 11. of Local 36 Constitution and Bylaws.** Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **March 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:
March 23rd – **Special Called** General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.

March 23rd - following General Membership meeting – Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting.

April 6th 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.

Local 36 website is up and running, this is still a work in progress, and we would appreciate any feedback to improve the site to work for our members and retirees. Visit www.iueclocal36detroit.org. Please be patient

as we continue to improve the site. If you have any questions, contact the hall.

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, but it's also violating 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 OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

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

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list. It's with a heavy heart I must announce the passing of brother Ralph McKian, please keep the McKian Family and the Darling Family in your thoughts and prayers. We would also like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoffs 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 Jan. 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 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.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671
Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

Toll Free (800) 323-8079
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

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

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)

Abatement Workers Regional Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207
TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for early Spring so be prepared for work. When you do return to work, in sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement.

Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials. Work in other areas of the region will be ramping up in Illinois and

OHIO as well as Kentucky. School work will be firing up very soon so be prepared with all your paperwork in order. With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. Remember to get other state License like Illinois and Kentucky are both at a minimum cost. There is always some considerable work in those areas a couple of times a year, so it pays to get ahead of the work and get your license early. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states, you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell.

If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them, call the office to get an application filled out and send them in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application forms on our website WWW.local207.ORG
Upcoming Training classes. CSI Refresher May 2nd Call and register

Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.
--- All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ **26453 Northline in Taylor.**
--- Classes begin promptly at **8AM** and end at **4PM**, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register.

Local 47 cont'd

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616-375-0538)

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 days from the end of the current work week."

"Nobody, as long as he moves about among the chaotic currents of life, is without trouble."

–Carl Jung (1875 - 1961)

"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure."

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033.

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

INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS: The J.A.T.C. is accepting applications for instructors. If you are interested in applying, please submit your resume to bob@heatfrostinsulators25.org. If you have any questions regarding the positions, please contact Apprentice Coordinator Martin Allen at marty@heatfrostinsulators25.org.

WEBSITE: Visit our updated website at www.heatfrostinsulators.org to access helpful links and additional member resources.

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

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25's Constitution & Bylaws Article III Section 5. Failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report a job start 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 that 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 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 activated. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes including 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 fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine.

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

BeneSys
45 years of providing full-service third-party administration
BeneSys.com 877-923-6379

BenefitDriven
Powered by BeneSys
Comprehensive software solutions for self-administered funds
BenefitDriven.com 217-801-8911

BeneSys Inc.
700 Tower Drive, Suite 300
Troy, MI 48098

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."

–Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

"It is by universal misunderstanding that all agree. For if, by ill luck, people understood each other, they would never agree."

–Charles Baudelaire (1821 - 1867)

"Innovation has nothing to do with how many R&D dollars you have. When Apple came up with the Mac, IBM was spending at least 100 times more on R&D. It's not about money. It's about the people you have, how you're led, and how much you get it."

–Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011),

"Innovation has nothing to do with how many R&D dollars you have. When Apple came up with the Mac, IBM was spending at least 100 times more on R&D. It's not about money. It's about the people you have, how you're led, and how much you get it."

–Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011),

"Reveal not every secret you have to a friend, for how can you tell but that friend may hereafter become an enemy. And bring not all mischief you are able to upon an enemy, for he may one day become your friend."

–Saadi (1184 - 1291)

"Ask about your neighbors, then buy the house."

–Jewish Proverb

"One ought never to turn one's back on a threatened danger and try to run away from it. If you do that, you will double the danger. But if you meet it promptly and without flinching, you will reduce the danger by half."

–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

"Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live."

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"I have enjoyed greatly the second blooming that comes when you finish the life of the emotions and of personal relations; and suddenly find - at the age of fifty, say - that a whole new life has opened before you, filled with things you can think about, study, or read about...It is as if a fresh sap of ideas and thoughts was rising in you."

–Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976)

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air."

–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

"I have found that everything wants to kill you. For some things, like fast food, or riding a bike, it just takes longer."

–Devin J. Monroe (1983 -)

"Local 36 website is up and running, this is still a work in progress, and we would appreciate any feedback to improve the site to work for our members and retirees. Visit www.iueclocal36detroit.org. Please be patient



IBEW 557
SAGINAW – UPCOMING UNION EVENTS - The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, at 6pm. At the Union Meeting ON May 5, Local 557 will be conducting the annual Wage Allocation under New Business.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS – occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting. The current committee is in the process of organizing several events in the coming months. They will be looking for volunteers to march in the Freeland Walleye Festival Parade on Friday, April 24. The parade starts at 6pm with report time at 5pm. The RENEW committee will also be operating a booth during the festival and is looking for more help with this as well.

35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION –The General Election date of May 5th will be here quickly. Labor Candidate Chedrick Greene and his team are looking for supporters to help canvas and get the word out to cast your vote. Volunteer opportunities are available for those that may want to help. Please consider taking some time to help in this important election.

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS BOND – In addition to the Special Senate Election, May 5 is also election day for the latest attempt from the Saginaw Twp. Schools to pass a Bond for the school's planned constructions/renovations. If you live in the township, please support this initiative. We will also need volunteers to go door to door for this cause as well. If you have time to spend on this, please get with Evan at the Hall to coordinate.

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 and Job Calls when they are available. Please note that if there are no current job calls, you will only see a message displaying basic instructions for how to take a call when they are available.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING- Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union and 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.

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 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and register on Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in-person. Many Locals throughout 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- Work has slowed on most projects for the time being, including Project Phoenix. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Positive news continues regarding the
 (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 948

FLINT - Meetings.
Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be April 13th, 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 resigns.

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 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 David Botbyl. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

IBEW 557, con't

Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. It is the hope to have members working on this in spring or early summer. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring or summer as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Twp. area. There is also a solar project in the works in the Fremont Twp. 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.bcbsm.com.

BLUE CROSS APP-Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for "BCBSM" on the Google Play app or Apple store. Benefits to utilizing the app include 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.

WEX APP- You will need to download the WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store.

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.

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855) 633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org
In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – First Aid/CPR/JIW training The First Aid/CPR will be on Sept. 14, 2026, after the Union Meeting.

IBEW 445 Golf Outing. Save the date for the IBEW 445 Golf Outing of July 25, 2026.

Local 445 Officer Nominations. Please plan on attending the May 11, 2026, Union Meeting. At this meeting, nominations for officers will be handled. Please consider putting your name in for Officer Elections! You have a voice in YOUR Local! Watch your mailboxes for additional information.

Wage Allocation Meeting. Please watch your mailboxes for the upcoming date for the Wage Allocation meeting. The meeting will be in May 2026, but the date has not been set.

Local 445 Election of Officers. Please add to your calendar the elections for Local 445 Officers will be on June 8, 2026. Watch your mailboxes for additional information. You will want to attend the June Union Meeting for the results of that day's Officer Elections.

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."

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

2025 dues structure The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago in 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of **Jan. 1, 2026**, the following due's structure:
JIW's:
 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.

2026 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**

"Flattery is like cologne water, to be smelt of, not swallowed."
 –Josh Billings (1818 - 1885)



IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch: Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131." You can create a log in on either the web page or the app and it will work for both platforms. The app allows members to bid available jobs, access the contract, by-laws, benefits information, licensing information, Ulliance services, our calendar of events and much more. Please keep in mind that we are working to integrate our systems with the app and webpage, so please be patient.

Ulliance is Local 131's Member Assistance Program that offers mental health counseling, financial planning, legal assistance, divorce support, substance use support, parental counseling, elder care advice, and much more. If you or a friend could benefit from support, please call 1-800-448-8326 to speak with a professionally trained advisor and counselor today.

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. DBRF assessments have begun appearing on monthly assessment. 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 April 6 @ 6PM.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Monday April 20th 5PM @ the hall.

Veteran's Committee Meeting: June 4th @ 5PM, American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

The Executive Board meeting will be held Monday, April 20.

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ's beginning at 3:30. 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

Hall Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM – Lunch hour between 12:30 and 1:30

Upcoming Events:
 Pension Self Direct – March 25th @ 6:30PM, Union Hall
 Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st (Official) Steward Training – June 11th
 Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22nd

Governing, Construction, and Mega Projects – April 30th (tentative)

Allocation Meeting – May 4 Retiree Quarterly Meetings – June 3 @ 3PM, Union Hall – meeting to discuss retiree issues Local 131 Picnic – Aug. 1

Local 131 110th Anniversary – Sept. 12 @ Gun Lake Casino. Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – Oct. 10.

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. As work slows down there, more members are taking calls at Palisades Nuclear Facility. The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady through spring.

Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026. They are clearing ground, but we don't expect manpower need on new construction until 2027. Palisades recommissioning work continues to require manpower with PCI Energy and Champion still placing manpower requests. That work is expected to continue until at least June.

Liberty Solar Project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak. It is an NMA Project, scheduled to begin in April of this year and run until April of 2027.

Retiree's Lunches at the following Locations:

April 15th @ 11AM, Nob Hill Bar & Grill, 4218 S. Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo
 May 20 @ 11AM, Yogi's (Continued next column)



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW 692
BAY CITY – Union meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 6th, 2026.
The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 20th, 2026.

Message from the Business Manager. Brothers and Sisters, I have been having conversations with Training Director Casey Stoike and his team circling around the opportunity of offering classes to our membership who have surpassed the apprenticeship school in their career. The upcoming opportunities approaching for continuing education in the electrical industry are Arc Flash Training and also a class on Medium Voltage Terminations.

The first class revolves around Arc Flash Safety. The Arc Flash course will teach proper personal protective equipment, safety boundaries, and various other safety related topics revolving around Arc Flash potential. Please Contact Training Director Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A date for this class will be determined once we have the number of members interested.

A medium voltage cable terminating class will also be held in the near future. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Training Director Casey Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A certificate of completion will be offered upon completion of course. A class date will be determined once the class has been filled.

The 2026 IBEW International annual golf tournament is being held in Akron, Ohio followed by Columbus Ohio in 2027. This year's 3-day tournament will be held Aug. 19-21. Included is 3 rounds of golf and a banquet on the last day with awards and prizes. Additionally, open bar daily with food and snacks, all for \$275.

Interested members can contact Terry Brandenburg (586-854-3447). **Registration deadline is Monday, June 1.**

The work report in our jurisdiction remains solid.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in early spring. Work being called off for weather conditions has recently been an issue on this site.

Bay Valley Electric will be starting a nice dorm project in Alpena later this month.

Clements Electric's work at the Mersen in Bay City and Midland's Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as work at the Bay County Health Department is wrapping up. Work on a mixed-use development in Downtown Bay City has started. Bay City Animal Control and Bay Co. Road Commission projects have been secured with work to start soon. Clements was also awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Conti Electric will have shutdown projects ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility, also some work at Michigan Sugar. Phase 3 of Little Trout Solar in Hawks has commenced and may require additional manpower.

Countyline Power has secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City. **Escon Group** has some work in Midland's I-Park and has also been recently awarded both McLaren's West campus (late spring) and Bangor Schools (summer). **John's Electric** continues work at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks.

J. Ranck Electric will be adding a battery storage facility on the Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush this spring. **Master Electric** continues work at Clare Co. Road Commission. Master has also picked up a couple small

IBEW 131, con't

Diner, 2070 VW Ave E, Vicksburg

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd., 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 S. 9th Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Arcs or More: Grant Beach, Jeffrey Berner, Eric Lockwood, Justin Prisk, Cory Werner-Hoskins.

Jonathan Current Business Manager

jobs out to CMU.
Nelson Electric is still on site at Bay City Powertrain and has access control and security work at the Amazon warehouse in Clare. **Northern Power** has secured summer work at Alpena Schools.

Northern Valley continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and has secured Alpena's Meijer remodel set to start in April.

S&G and Hardies Electric are keeping their crews busy through winter on various projects. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg. **Teds Electric** continues work at Clare Schools. **Van Ert Electric** continues work on their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected any time.

Consumers Energy has recently announced plans for future work in our jurisdiction. Essexville's Karn site plans to add a new battery storage facility and two new gas-fired turbines to replace units 3 & 4. Three large solar sites will start civil and dirt work this spring and require substantial manpower in 2027. Those sites are in Prescott, Spruce, and Harrisville.

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. 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.

Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 989.252.9225

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 Stephen Swan, Card No. D864306, who passed away on March 2, 2026. Brother Swan was born on Sept. 18, 1961 (64 years old). He was initiated on Oct. 4, 1993. Steve resided in Posen, MI. A private memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

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

Fringe Benefits. REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your beneficiaries have been updated accordingly. Beneficiary forms can be obtained from the hall.

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

Important links & numbers. Health Plan & Pension Fund. 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE www.michiganelectrical.org NEBF/NEAP: 301.556.4300 IO Pension: 202.833.7000

"Beware lest in your anxiety to avoid war you obtain a master."
 –Demosthenes (384 BC - 322 BC)

"Count not him among your friends who will retail your privacies to the world."
 –Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

"It's the same each time with progress. First they ignore you, then they say you're mad, then dangerous, then there's a pause and then you can't find anyone who disagrees with you."
 –Tony Benn

"What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly."
 –Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)

"A lie told often enough becomes the truth."
 Nikolai Lenin (1870 - 1924)

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd."
 –Voltaire (1694 - 1778)



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. We have solar calls coming weekly for both Hart and Freshwater solar as well as local contractors picking up jobs.

Building Corp Meeting: Please join us for the next Building Corp meeting before the union meeting on May 19th at 6pm. We will be discussing the 3 options that the body voted on at our prior meeting.

Allocation Meeting: Allocation for the final year of our current agreement will be held at the next union meeting on April 21st at 6pm. Location of the meeting has not yet been determined, and we will announce the location once it is set.

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.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came to join us for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Local 275 was well represented as usual!

The annual wild game dinner to support the united way is also underway and will be held April 2nd at 6pm. If you have any wild game to donate, please let Geoff at the hall know. The body approved 28 tickets this year and are done first come first serve with a maximum of 2 per member. Please remember that if you take a ticket to show up and bring cash for auctions!

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. If you have any interest in helping re-launch the Local 275 Renew committee, please reach out to Mark at the union hall.

Veterans' 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.wmjeatc.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. wmjatec@gmail.com

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

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

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

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: Jamie Butcher, Ruben Cortez, Henri Creed, Ruban Cortez, Ronnie Dunmore, Nate Dyer, and Chris Hanson.

Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

"Bear in mind that you should conduct yourself in life as at a feast."

—Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)



THANKS TO THE IBEW Local 275 members who participated in the Grand Rapids' St. Patrick's Day parade and festivities on Saturday, March 14.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR IBEW LOCAL UNION 252:

The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall located at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to 252electionjudge@gmail.com that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, that they will accept the nomination.

No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. Nominations will proceed in order of office as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

Nominations will be taken to fill the following offices: President/ Delegate to International Convention, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary/ Business Manager/ Delegate to International Convention, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected). Additionally, nominations will be held for 5 delegates to the International Convention in the manner described in Article VIII, Section 2 of the local union by-laws. The President and the Business Manager shall be candidates for delegate positions contingent with their offices as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws.

This leaves 3 delegate positions open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for offices of Business Manager or President may be nominated for the at-large delegate positions if they are delegates by virtue of their offices. In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues, and has been current for two years preceding the nominations. No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union unless they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so that they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect. 14). Pat Ulanowicz was appointed Election Judge on Feb. 8, 2026 (IBEW Constitution, Art. 16, Sect. 11, Amendment 30).

The IBEW Local 252 President will appoint Tellers as required. None of these may be a candidate for any office. All Tellers will be vetted for a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252 by the Local 252 Financial Secretary (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11). In order to vote you must have a dues receipt not more than 3 months in arrears (paid through March 2026). The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Union Hall located at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.

The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media, or other appropriate place by the

close of business on the day following the election. In the event a runoff election is required, same shall be held a special called meeting on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Union Hall at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI.

The same rules shall apply to the runoff election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the runoff. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, or emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the Post Office after 1:00 p.m. on June 6, 2026 will not be counted.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Wednesday, July 8, 2026. Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the Post Office. The candidate themselves may be the observer. Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge as soon as possible before the election is certified. Once the election is certified, any protests of the election are to be filed in writing with the International Vice-President of the District within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice-President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice-President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2026 IBEW Local 252 election can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, emailed to 252electionjudge@gmail.com, or consult by phone (517) 918-8948.

TRAINING CLASSES 2025: All classes start at 5 p.m.

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

Masters Prep- 6 Classes beginning March 2, 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- June 2 & 9, Sept. 1 & 15, Dec. 1 & 8.

Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.

JATC INSTRUCTORS NEEDED: The JATC is looking to hire additional full-time instructor (Continued next column)



SETTING UP A DATA STUB in the filled-in, former swimming pool at Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Ben Baumgartner of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Advantage Electric.



IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW 58

DETROIT –The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

UPDATE – Sub Pay has been resumed for Inside & Limited Energy. **If you have questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledworth 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. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. Please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Look at your Dues Receipt – if your paid-through date shows 09-30-25, you are not current, owe a \$30 reinstatement fee, and will lapse membership on 04-1-26 if they are not paid by then.

If your paid through date shows 12-31-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30.00 if they are not paid by 04-1-26. It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. Dues statements have been mailed for the second quarter dues for 2026.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: The March luncheon is taking place at Mama Mia's-Livonia, 27770 Plymouth Road, Livonia on Wednesday, March 25. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person, send your checks and reservations to the address below. We appreciate all of you who reserve your space in advance of the luncheons. Questions, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

All retirees who will be receiving 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75-year pins at our Annual Pin Party on Saturday, April 25 at the local union hall, will be receiving an invitation in March. Save

IBEW 252, con't

tors. If you're interested, please submit your resume and cover letter no later than April 30, 2026, by email to cparks@aejatec.org, or in person/mail to AAEJATC, 13400 Luick Drive, Chelsea MI, 48118, Attn: C. Parks

EASTER EGG HUNT: Renew's 7th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 28 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Union Hall. Activities include an easter egg coloring contest, easter egg hunt with prizes for kids under 10, games for all ages, and visits from the Easter Bunny. If possible, rsvp to Dan Beck (810) 858-0033

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.

RETIREE'S BREAK-FAST: 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.

n for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone number: (517) 306-0144.

WINTER GATHERING RECAP: This year's winter (Continued on Page 12)

If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest (with rsvp), all others will need reservations, the cost is \$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, 313 408-5885. 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 March 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 happening Thursday, 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, 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 distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

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

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund will have their next meeting on Tuesday, April 7.

Events coming up are the Walleye Tournament on Saturday, May 2 and the Gaudi Open golf outing on Friday, June 5.

The 17th Annual Walleye Tournament will be Saturday, May 2. It is \$40 entry per person with up to 4 people per boat. There is also an optional "Battle of the Trades" contest that is \$10 per boat for bragging rights and your name on the plaque at the Union Hall. All fishing must be done on the Detroit River. Lines in the water at 3 pm then back to the Union Hall for weigh in at 3:30 pm. We will have a fish fry with food and refreshments, as well as raffles and awards. It is a great day of Brotherhood and all are welcome. Even if you don't want to fish, you can still come down and enjoy some fish and festivities.

The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 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, April 20 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

The fourth coin in the series for our challenge coin fundraiser is now available for sale. Our IBEW car flags are also in.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 13, 2026, 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, March 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087). Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

Political Action Committee meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm.

The RENEW Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 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. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

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

In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 4.99% APR.

The 2026 Wiremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 306, Akron, OH Aug. 18-21, with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday Aug. 18. The golf courses being utilized for the tournament this year are Brookledge Golf Club (Cuyahoga Falls, OH), Ridge Top Golf Course (Medina, OH), Pine Valley Golf Club (Wadsworth, OH), and J.E. Good Park Golf Course (Optional Scramble Course, Akron, OH). The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Double Tree by Hilton in Akron/Fairlawn, OH (330)867-5000 with the overflow hotel at the Holiday Inn Express (330)869-9000.

Entry fees for this year are \$275 per man for the Tournament and an additional \$75 per man for the optional scramble. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR MONEY IN TO EITHER RON KRAJENKE OR BRAD GARRITY BY APRIL 24 YOUR WILL NOT BE ENTERED IN TO THE TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR.**

If you are mailing your payment please mail to: Ron Krajenke, 20244 Edinberg Drive, Macomb, MI 48044. Any WGA member who is planning on participating in the 2026 Tournament or anyone looking for information or to join the WGA this year can feel free to reach out with any questions to Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

UPCOMING EVENT: The CHOOCH Foundation is partnering with IBEW Local 58 to bring the upcoming A Mind in Motion: Mental Health Maintenance Fair

(Continued on Page 12)

BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON Real Estate Training Inc. 901 Tower Drive, Suite 120 Troy, MI 48068 www.middletontraining.com 248-885-8311



CLEANING UP FLOOR SPACE at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project are laborers Ashley Cottongim (Local 499) and Alex Angel (Local 1191) They're employed by Barton Malow.



Laborers Local 1191

(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

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

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org 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 April General Membership meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for May will be held on the 1st of May, 2026.**

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The March Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for the 27th of March, 2026. The Retiree Council Meeting for April 2026 is scheduled for April 24, 2026.**

Union Dues For 2025: Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! 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 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 (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. ***Example:** If your name is on the list in April and/or May and you don't re-register by June 5th your name will be removed from the list.

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at www.mltai.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.mustsafe.com to see how many modules you have.

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare fund documents. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable if/when no beneficiary has been designated. **Each of the above individual benefits needs to have a designated beneficiary.**

Death Certificates: Please always submit to the Local Union a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired members.

FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.

Available Scholarships: LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical training. (Continued next column)



(Continued from Page 11)

gathering, although small in numbers, was a fun time had by all. The stories from the past are always a treat to hear. This year's attendees included: Jim and Judy Augustine, Gary and Mary Wencel, John and Tammy Salyer, Ed and Ellen Allen, Randy Wencel, Frank White, Alan Hale, and Tom Johnston. Special thanks to Ellen Allen for organizing everything, Tom Johnston for giving the blessing for our lost members over the last year and grace for our meal, Ryan Husse for taking the time to write a letter to the group keeping us informed of current conditions back home. (Ryan, I don't think we have any takers on going back to work but Ellen has not given up hope.)

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Terry Phillips, who passed away on March 12, 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: March 31, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 1st Quarter Dues

Local 1191, con't

ings through Union Plus. Learn more information about Union Plus scholarships at www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships.

IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension)

Telephone: (877) 645-2267
Fax: (517) 689-6016
Website: www.michiganlaborers.org

Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)
Telephone: (248) 641-4942
Fax: (248) 813-9898

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)

Telephone: (800) 228 0048
Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' Vacation Fund
TIC Midwest LLC
Telephone: (877) 645-2267

Michigan Laborers' Vacation Fund

WPAS
Telephone: (833) 389-0025
EXT. 3359

"When you meet your antagonist, do everything in a mild and agreeable manner. Let your courage be as keen, but at the same time as polished, as your sword."

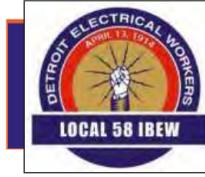
-Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751 - 1816)

"If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"

- Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)



PULLING 12-2 CABLE in a hallway at the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills is Ron Presnell of IBEW Local 58. He's employed by Advantage Electric.



IBEW LOCAL 58



(Continued from Page 11)

to the Local 58 Union Hall in Detroit. The event will bring together trades families and community members for a day focused on mental wellness, connection, and practical support. Founded in honor of Justin Shilling, the organization was created with a clear mission: break the stigma surrounding mental health and provide real, accessible tools that help individuals and families thrive.

A Mind in Motion: A Community Event with Purpose. The fair brings together local licensed professionals, wellness practitioners, and community resource organizations to introduce families to a wide range of wellness resources in one place. Event Details: June 6, IBEW Local 58 - 1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226, 10 AM - 4 PM visit: www.thechooch.org.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Melvin Gathers.

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. **Doris Brubaker**, Wife to the late Pension member Edwin Brubaker; **Laurie Bruce**, Wife to the late Pension member Thomas Bruce; **Robert "Bobby" Butler**, Pension member, 40 year IBEW membership; Son to the late Pension member and Former IBEW Local 58 Business Manager Tom Butler; Father to Shea Butler, Estimator; Brother to Gregory Butler, JIW; Uncle to JIWs Thomas Butler, Brandon Butler and Evan Butler; Cousin to Thomas Shea, Pension member, 39 year IBEW membership and Nathan Nunnold, Technician 1; Brother-in-Law to Jason Doyen, JIW; **Michael "Mike" Clauw**, Pension member, 27 year IBEW

membership; **Steven Herrmann**, Technician 1; **Robert Jennett**, Pension member, 27 year IBEW membership; **Christine Kurlapski**, Wife to Jim Kurlapski, Pension member, 47 year IBEW membership; **Dorothy Lowe**, Widow to the late Pension member James Lowe; ***David Stovel**, Pension member, 51 year IBEW membership; Son to the late Pension

member Sam Stovel; Nephew to the Late Pension member Ken Stovel; **Dennis Sumarra**, Pension member, 65 year IBEW membership; **Ronald Vollbrecht**, Pension member, 69 year IBEW membership; Father to the late Pension member Ronald Chelmicki.

Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters.

"The holy passion of Friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money."

-Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind."

-Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

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

-Hesiod (~800 BC)

"Do not bite at the bait of pleasure till you know there is no hook beneath it."

-Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

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17TH ANNUAL WALLEYE TOURNAMENT

\$40 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON

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\$10 entry fee for Battle of the Trades Contest (optional)

3 PRIZES AWARDED PLUS

BIG FISH & BATTLE OF THE TRADES CONTEST

7:00AM LINES IN WATER

3:00PM LINES OUT

SHORE FISHING ALLOWED

3:30PM - 4:30PM WEIGH IN 3:00PM FISH FRY AVAILABLE

FRIENDS, FAMILIES & ALL TRADES WELCOME!

Questions? Contact Mike Bellhorn 586.612.5964

ki/opelu42af1-c1o



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership will take place on **April 10, 2026, at 8:00pm** at the United Trades Building. The address is 119 South Front St., Marquette, MI. 49855



MICHAEL CARD Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of 55.85 for 2026.

Dinner Dance information: May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel in Mount Pleasant. 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. Vut off date for the rooms is April 23. 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.

We will be mailing ballots out next week for election of delegates to the 35th consolidated convention.

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

Any member interested in 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 the White Rhino Sports Bar, at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on March 18 at the 702 Bar. The address is 702 Jefferson Avenue, Midland, MI. 48640 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 Rd. 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller \$55 for 2XL, \$60 for 3XL and \$70 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.com or on our Facebook page.

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

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

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



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – **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 twenty-four (24) months preceding the date of nomination to be eligible.

There will be no March Union meeting.

The April Union Meeting is Monday April 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm and will be in-person only. All Union Halls will be open for in-person only. Please join your fellow brothers & sisters for camaraderie and solidarity! As always, we will have pizza on hand.

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 Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday March 26, 2026 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday April 15 at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday April 27, at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday April 30 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 March 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 April 1 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!

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

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 2026 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool 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 no. is 866-635-2826.** Or pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the open-enrollment period (April 1-30).

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

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

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

Check 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' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday April 7, at 8 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, April 21 at 10 am. All are welcome.

DEADLINE NEAR: Local 25 Retirees' Club 2026 Scholarship: Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026. Questions: please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.**

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, April 7 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will April 16 at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

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 Robert Boorsma #824748 of Florida passed away Feb. 19, 2026 at the age of 84. He was a 56-year member. He is survived by his wife Annette. Lifetime IW Jack McGregor #796666 passed away Jan. 5, 2026 at the age of 87. He was a 57-year member. Lifetime IW Don Milosevich #710681 passed away March 11, 2026 at the age of 86 in Las Vegas NV. He was a 61-year member and survived by his son Brent Milosevich. **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 (March 16, 2026 9:00 AM E.S.T.).

"Go often to the house of thy friend; for weeds soon choke up the unused path." –Scandinavian Proverb



Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofer

Roofers 149

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216. At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.10 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tues., Apr. 14, 2026 at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420. At this meeting, we will officially take proposals from the membership on how to allocate the \$2.90 per hour. If you have a specific distribution in mind, please come prepared to present your suggestion.

I Paid My Dues T-shirts. Good things come to those who wait! For those of you who qualified for a free T-shirt by paying your yearly dues in full, we haven't forgotten you.

The shirts are currently running

late from the printer, but we are working hard to get them into your hands as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for a distribution announcement in the paper soon. We appreciate your patience and, more importantly, your membership!

Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and we will contact the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. 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 no. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

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

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

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

The publication above is as 3/16/2026, 11:30am

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



SETTING STEEL on the second level of the Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Health Sciences and Nursing Building project in Farmington Hills are Nicholas Marshall and Dylan Eichler. The Iron Workers Local 25 members are employed by Commercial Contracting Corp.

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Outdoors



Michigan moose: capture-and-collar

By Andy Henion
Michigan DNR

It's an unusually warm February day in the western Upper Peninsula as a collaborative team of wildlife experts works to fit a radio collar around the neck of an immobilized moose and collect blood and fecal samples from the animal.

Speed and skill are crucial. Too much stress or time under anesthesia puts the 700-pound bull at risk.

A separate helicopter crew from Texas-based Heliwild had flushed the moose from the Iron County woods and shot it with a tranquilizer dart, a necessary but taxing procedure for the majestic creature.

The 45-degree temperature produces another risk factor for an animal whose thick, heavy coat was designed for freezing cold.

The ground team finishes its work, injects the moose with a drug that reverses sedation and backs away. After a few anxious minutes, the massive animal awakens, rises unsteadily and ambles into the thick woods. The entire process takes less than 45 minutes.

"Great job everyone," says Kristie Sitar, a veteran wildlife biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, as the crew exchanges high-fives.

This procedure was repeated several dozen times in mid-February as some 40 people from the DNR, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Northern Michigan University and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians participated in an ongoing research project investigating moose survival in the Upper Peninsula.

Over four days, the collaborative group accomplished its goal of collaring 41 moose and recollaring two moose from a smaller effort last year. In all, 56 collared moose in the western U.P. are now providing researchers with valuable information on their health and movements.



THIS TEAM OF U.P. WILDLIFE EXPERTS fitted a bull moose with a GPS collar, took biological samples and got it out of sedation and back into the wild in about 45 minutes.

MDNR photo

"This was a successful capture event, and the entire team worked together incredibly well to reach our goal," said Tyler Petroelje, northern Michigan wildlife research specialist for the DNR. "These moose, and the biological samples and collar data they provide, will be invaluable in helping us better understand survival and factors that are limiting population growth in the core moose herd."

Minimizing risk. On the first morning, Feb. 14, fog delayed the start of captures by several hours. Air crews spent the afternoon searching for moose wallowing in the deep, heavy snow of the Marquette County forests.

Crews were able to capture, collar and release four moose that first day. Unfortunately, two other moose died in the recovery process after being administered the sedation-reversing drugs.

Both moose – a mature cow and a young bull – appeared

healthy and had normal vital signs throughout their respective procedures.

A team that included Petroelje and Dr. Scott Larsen, veterinarian for the DNR's Wildlife Division, conducted field necropsies by floodlight on both moose late on Feb. 14. The animals' tissues and organs were also later examined at the DNR's Wildlife Disease Laboratory in Lansing.

Larsen said initial evaluation of the bull showed no signs of underlying disease, but the female moose had significant disease in her lungs and liver that likely complicated her immobilization and led to her death.

The capture team reviewed its protocols and found no significant issues. Still, to minimize risk, they took measures to further shorten the time each moose would be under anesthesia.

Over all four days, Feb. 14-17, the team would capture, collar

and release 41 moose successfully. During the 2025 effort, all 20 moose captured were collared and released successfully.

"The work we do involves risks associated with wildlife capture, and we take great precautions to ensure those risks are minimized," Petroelje said. "When we consider collaring any wildlife, we do so because the value of information gained is greater than those associated risks."

Expanding research capacity. Data from the captures is providing insights into why the moose population in the core range of Baraga, Iron and Marquette counties has stagnated at about 300 animals, according to the DNR's 2025 aerial survey.

Is it disease? Predation? Vehicle collisions? Warming temperatures? Changing habitat? Or a combination of these and possibly other factors?

Getting enough moose

collared in 2025 and 2026 was an important step in the long-term research project. Now, researchers from the DNR, KBIC and NMU are working together to interpret tracking data from the collars, along with corresponding drone surveys, to come up with evidence-based reasons for the stagnant moose population.

In less than three weeks, researchers have already collected 22,000 GPS locations from the newly collared moose. That's in addition to the more than 200,000 GPS locations collected from the moose collared in 2025.

Project funding comes mostly from federal grants, tribal partnerships and university resources, with only about 1 percent coming from state hunting and fishing license fees.

Providing additional financial and land-access support are conservation groups, including the Nature Conservancy and Safari Club International Michigan Involvement Committee, federal land managers and commercial forest landowners.

The KBIC recently secured a \$684,112 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to support the project and KBIC staff salaries for two more years, expanding research capacity through 2028.

Erin Johnston, KBIC's wildlife and habitat manager, played a key role in securing the grant and in the capture operation, assisting on two moose captures as part of an aerial team.

"Similar to last year, staff from DNR, KBIC and NMU seamlessly integrated into aerial and ground teams for another successful moose capture-and-collar event," Johnston said. "Ground teams had more opportunity to handle moose this year. Although the warm temperatures caused delays in the aircraft flying in the morning, the sunshine was a welcome sight and sensation while we waited in anticipation to hear news from handling teams of successful capture, collar and release."

Kyle Seppanen, wildlife coordinator for the KBIC, served on a snowmobile-riding ground team nicknamed "Hemlock Nibbler" along with Jeff Lukowski of the DNR and Eric Clark of the Sault Tribe. That team assisted Sitar and fellow DNR wildlife biologist

Clay Buchanan with successfully collaring the 700-pound bull in Iron County.

"It will be exciting to see what additional information we can gather now that we have 56 collared moose on the landscape," said Seppanen, who assisted on seven captures. "Where are the moose going? What habitats are they using and when? As one of two drone operators on the project, I am looking forward to confirming births this spring and tracking calf survival throughout the remainder of the year."

Nerve center. The project nerve center was a base operation run out of Van Riper State Park near Champion by Erin Largent, a DNR wildlife research technician and master's degree student at NMU.

Largent was instrumental in just about every aspect of the initiative – from contacting landowners across the study area to securing permissions to access moose on private lands, to ordering all capture equipment and programming the GPS collars, to organizing snowmobiles, spotter planes and the helicopter moose-darting team.

At Van Riper, the base operations team – Largent, DNR wildlife technician Rachel Leggett and NMU master's degree student Anthony Clyne – coordinated all airplane, helicopter and ground crews using real-time location data and sophisticated mapping software.

Another NMU student and DNR student assistant, Jackie Westra, served on a snowmobile ground crew and helped prepare blood, fecal, hair and tick samples for analysis.

"This large-scale moose research and conservation initiative is providing exceptional hands-on learning opportunities for NMU students," said Diana Lafferty, associate professor of wildlife ecology at NMU and member of the capture team. "In short, our undergraduate and graduate students are not just learning and applying their academic and professional skills, they are also important members of our team and contribute in many meaningful ways to the success of this project."

Find out more about moose in Michigan at Michigan.gov/Moose.

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