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SHORT CUTS



Consumers Energy starts to go solar

MOORLAND TWP. – Consumers Energy has begun construction on its first large, utility-scale solar project, a 250-megawatt solar farm on the grounds of the Muskegon County Re-source Recovery Center.

The \$350 million project will use about 9,000 acres of land on the site of the wastewater treatment facility. Consumers Energy will own and operate the project while leasing the property beneath it, generating a significant source of ongoing revenue for the Re-source Recovery Center, Moorland Township, and Muskegon County.

“Consumers Energy has some of the most aggressive clean energy goals in the nation, and projects like this are a critical part of achieving those goals,” said David Hicks, Consumers Energy vice president of clean energy development. “Partnering with an organization like the Muskegon County Resource Recovery Center, with its long history of service to the county, combined with the benefits of solar energy and the revenues this agreement can provide, is truly a win-win for all parties.”

Construction of the Muskegon Solar Energy Center will proceed under the management of Burns & McDonnell, and the firm’s union self-perform construction arm, AZCO, which will use the latest Series 7 modules from First Solar, and trackers and inverters from other sources.

“We are excited to work with local trades and union halls across Michigan to build out solar within the state,” said Drew Powers, construction project manager at Burns & McDonnell. “This project not only helps Consumers Energy advance in renewable energy but also supports the local economy.”

A photo of the site can be found on Page 2.

U.S. hiring report comes in strong

The nation’s employers added 272,000 jobs in May, an acceleration from April, and providing evidence that higher interest rates aren’t dissuading hiring.

The monthly jobs report issued June 7 by the Labor Department had some signs of a potential slowdown. The nation’s unemployment rate ticked up from 3.9 percent to 4.0 percent, ending a 27-month streak of unemployment below 4 percent. It was the longest such streak since the late 1960s.

“The jobs report comes in strong this morning with payroll employment increasing by 272,000 in May,” said Economic Policy Institute economist Elise Gould. “Some notable weakness in the household survey, but most measures tell a consistent story of a strong but not hot labor market. Here, we see consistently strong job growth continuing.”

The U.S. construction industry showed little change in hiring from April to May. Employment continued. But the hiring trend was up in several industries, led by health care, government, leisure and hospitality, professional and technical services.

Overall private payrolls rose by 14 cents for the month, and by 4.1 percent over the previous 12 months.

Quotable

“You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don’t try to forget the mistakes, but you don’t dwell on it. You don’t let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space.”

—Johnny Cash (1932-2003)



UNION IRON WORKERS from the Detroit and Windsor side of the Gordie Howe Bridge meet in the middle of the span on June 14, marking the span’s final connection with the traditional fir tree and topping out ceremony.

Photo credits: Bridging North America

Hardhats on Gordie’s bridge finally meet in the middle

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – The 5,525-mile-long border between the U.S. and Canada is the world’s longest, and thankfully, among the friendliest.

That friendship was on display this month, with the long-awaited connection of the Gordie Howe Bridge over the middle of the Detroit River.

Working to connect the cable-stayed bridge deck extending from the span’s towers in Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, union crews working for Bridging North America have, from a distance, seemed tantalizingly close to making the “mid-span closure” for the past several months.

On May 24, Bridging North America announced that the gap between the bridge decks was 85 feet. Three weeks later, the gap was closed, and work crews from the U.S. and Canada were shaking hands in the middle.

‘Monumental’ project makes U.S., Canadian connection

“Achieving the bridge deck connection is monumental in the progress on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project,” said Charl van Niekerk, CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA). “This new bridge is the physical representation of the

international cooperation that exists between the neighboring communities in Windsor and Detroit, throughout Ontario and Michigan, and across North America. After years of planning and construction, we

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A FINAL STEP in the Gordie Howe Bridge’s construction over the Detroit River was the placement of a temporary connection using temporary steel braces. Congratulations on a safe, well-done job to the entire Bridging North America workforce.



TWIN 722-FOOT-TALL towers support the .53-mile main span of the Gordie Howe Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, making it the longest main span of any cable-stayed bridge in North America. The total length of the bridge is 1.5 miles. This photo was taken last month, when the gap between the bridge decks was about 85 feet.

(From the Laborers International Union)

At the Laborers’ Health & Safety Fund of North America (LHSFNA), the fight for workers’ rights and better safety and health protections on the job never stops. Fortunately, the last several months have shown plenty of progress in that ongoing effort.

First, the Environmental Protection Agency banned the last form of asbestos allowed in the U.S., a historic action that

will help reduce both on-the-job and off-the-job exposure to this cancer-causing hazard.

Next, federal OSHA updated its worker walkaround rule to clarify who workers can designate to represent them during safety and health inspections. The effect will be a stronger voice for workers on the job and increased communication between workers, management and OSHA’s safety and health officers about working conditions

Political labors paying off for union workers’ safety, health, job opportunities

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

For better or worse, Michigan is speeding toward a clean energy future, with a state-mandated requirement that utility providers transition to 100 percent carbon-free sources by 2040.

On one hand, it is one of the

nation’s most ambitious clean-energy mandates, with numerous polluting, coal-burning power plants in the state being retired or scheduled for a shutdown. Not only has that led to a loss of jobs in the building trades, there is legitimate concern over how that power production will be

replaced.

On the other hand, Michigan now leads the nation in the number of clean energy projects announced since August 2022. That’s when President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law, which unleashed significant tax credits for green energy

Case in point: DTE Energy announces plans for big, big battery in Trenton

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

TRENTON – DTE Energy’s planned Trenton Channel Energy Center will literally be saving energy for rainy days.

The utility announced June 10 that it would use a portion of its retired Trenton Channel coal power plant to house a 220-megawatt battery energy storage center. When it’s complete in 2026, the facility is expected to be the

largest standalone battery energy storage project in the Great Lakes region.

“Today, roughly one-third of all electricity generated by DTE comes from carbon-free resources,” said Jerry Norcia, the utility’s chairman and chief executive officer. “Our world-class solar, wind, and nuclear generation facilities are delivering reliable and clean electricity to our customers, and the Trenton Channel Energy

Center is a significant milestone in accelerating our clean energy journey.”

The energy center addresses a fundamental problem with green energy sources like solar and wind: on some summer days, the sun isn’t shining to energize solar cells and the wind isn’t blowing to turn windmills, but it’s 90 degrees out and people are cranking up their thermostats.

(Continued on Page 2)

State jobless agency issues next steps for pandemic claimants

LANSING – Workers who believe they were wrongly asked to repay pandemic-era unemployment benefits to the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) can now go online for information about joining a class action lawsuit settlement.

The state website was announced June 11. The website allows workers to file a claim to be reimbursed for money paid back to the UIA before protests and appeals were resolved, or opt out of the settlement.

The new process available to workers extends from the April settlement of a class action lawsuit brought two years ago from workers who said they faced a collection process from the state without due process.

The settlement in *Saunders v*

Unemployment Ins. Agency et al. marks “a milestone” the agency said, in its efforts to address “issues” over workers applying for jobless benefits during the Covid-19 pandemic who were wrongly accused of fraud.

The major issue was that the UIA at-tempted to claw back \$55 million paid to some state jobless claimants. During the onslaught of claims during the pandemic, Michigan mistakenly overpaid jobless workers, who claimed benefits that were not approved by the federal government.

“I’m proud of the hard work by staff at the UIA to bring this case close to a resolution that benefits claimants and provides them the money they deserve,” said UIA Director Julia Dale.

(Continued on Page 3)

Federal agency faulted for probes that ignore nation’s union-busters

By Celine McNicholas
and Bob Funk

Economic Policy Institute

A report issued May 3 by the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Labor found that the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS) – which oversees and enforces the union-buster (the government term is “persuader”) reporting requirements – “did not effectively enforce persuader activity requirements” in order to “protect workers’ rights to unionize.”

While the report rightfully explains that while more work must be done, there are many reasons the current OLMS should be commended for taking meaningful steps toward meeting its responsibility, and the report should be viewed as a roadmap for the agency moving forward.

OLMS is a tiny agency of fewer than 200 employees charged with enforcing the many provisions of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA), which include persuader reporting, union financial reporting, ensuring fair union elections, certifying compliance with labor standards as a condition of federal transit funding, and more.

and how to improve them.

These continued victories for worker safety and health have been a hallmark of the Biden-Harris administration. It’s one reason why the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its affiliates across the U.S. wholeheartedly support a second term for President Biden and Vice President Harris. From generational funding for infrastructure projects to a stronger

(Continued on Page 3)

However, since its inception, OLMS has overwhelmingly prioritized enforcing the LMRDA’s union compliance provisions while failing to apply the same level of scrutiny required under the law to employers and union-busters.

The Inspector General report makes clear that OLMS must begin allocating its resources more equitably to fulfill its obligation to protect the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining, mutual aid, and union representation.

(Continued on Page 3)

Employers routinely ignore workers’ rights during union drives. Here’s how the deck is stacked...

•U.S. employers are charged with violating federal law in 41.5 percent of all union election campaigns.

•One out of five union election campaigns involves a charge that a worker was illegally fired for union activity.

•Companies spent more than \$400 million in 2023 hiring professional union-busters to campaign against and defeat union organizing drives. However, only a fraction of this spending is publicly reported because of loopholes and other weaknesses in the law and its enforcement.

•The report is timely, given the UAW’s 2,642-2,045 loss in a union representation vote last month at a Mercedes-Benz plant in Vance, Ala. The UAW has alleged company interference in the union drive, with captive audience meetings, and worker firings and job threats.

construction projects. Michigan has seen 30 such projects announced for construction within its borders, tops in the nation. And the cumulative price tag of \$11.6 billion for those projects ranks us No. 4 among the states.

Keeping track of the clean energy projects state-by-state is

E2, which describes itself as “a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors and others who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment.”

“Despite rising market uncertainty amid growing threats

(Continued on Page 2)



ON THE SITE of the soon-to-be demolished Trenton Channel power plant, DTE Energy is planning the construction of a 220-megawatt energy storage center – the largest in the Great Lakes Region. This is a DTE Energy rendering of the project.

Viewpoints



Unfair anti-union governors

Following the UAW’s election victory at Volkswagen in Chattanooga, Tenn., and its defeat at Mercedes near Tuscaloosa, Ala., the union has shifted the focus of its organizing efforts to the Hyundai plant in Montgomery, Ala. After Hyundai, the union will continue its \$40 million drive to organize nonunion auto plants across the south, including those owned and operated by Tesla, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, BMW, Subaru, Mazda, and Volvo.

As it does so, the UAW can expect to encounter opposition not only from many of these auto manufacturers but also from elected officials across the southern states. Elected officials are, of course, entitled to express their views on unionization. But employees are also entitled to vote in union elections that ensure a free and fair choice. Threats from public officeholders implying that unionization will lead auto plants to close or relocate interfere with that free choice. The NLRB should thus consider such interventions by elected officials to be objectionable conduct that, when part of a broader anti-union campaign run by the employer, can deprive workers of their right to a free and fair election.

Past is most likely prologue here. In the run-up to the Volkswagen and Mercedes elections, six governors, including Kay Ivey of Alabama and Bill Lee of Tennessee (along with the governors of Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas) penned a joint letter “opposing UAW’s unionization campaign.” This letter would absolutely be an unfair labor practice and the grounds for setting aside an election if it had come from any of the auto manufacturers. The letter starts by expressing “concern about the unionization campaign” and declaring that “(a)s Governors, we have a responsibility to . . . speak up when we see special interests looking to come into our state and threaten our jobs.”

The governors then explain that “companies have choices when it comes to where to invest and bring jobs” and that “(u)nionization would certainly put our states’ jobs in jeopardy.” Following the textbook anti-union playbook, the governors assert that every time the UAW organizes a “foreign automaker” the plant goes out of business and they then conclude that “putting businesses in our states in that position is the last thing we want to do.”

Union elections are designed to offer employees a choice on the question of whether to form a union and bargain collectively with their employer. But, as the NLRB put it recently, an election “can serve its true purpose only if the surrounding conditions enable employees to register a free and untrammelled choice for or against a bargaining representative.” To ensure that employees in fact have a “free and untrammelled” choice on the union question, the Board sets rules for conduct in the pre-election campaign period, and it prohibits, among other acts, threats that unionization will lead to job loss. Such threats are not only among the most common form of objectionable conduct, they are among the most powerful tool for undermining support for unionization.

Typically, when objectionable anti-union conduct occurs it is carried out by employers. But anti-union conduct carried out by third parties can also interfere with employees’ ability to make a free and untrammelled choice about unionization and the Board has thus held repeatedly that third-party conduct can be the basis of election objections. If sufficiently severe, moreover, if in the NLRB’s words the conduct “is so aggravated that it creates a general atmosphere of fear and reprisal rendering a free election impossible,” such third-party conduct can by itself require setting aside the results of an election.

In fact, in Richlands Textile, a case with striking similarities to the present context, the Board found an unfair labor practice (and thus by definition objectionable conduct) based on a letter sent by a North Carolina state representative one week prior to a union election. The letter read:

“It is my understanding that when the vote by the employees of Richlands Textile, Inc., is taken on Jan. 17, if they choose the Labor Union as their directors rather than the Richlands Textile, Inc., I am informed that the officials of this industry will begin to close down the operation. This to me would be a tremendous setback to our community and hundreds of people that are now employed would lose their jobs. I feel it my responsibility to point out this situation to you so that in casting your vote you will know what the end results will be. I will appreciate your giving this your serious consideration.”

Because the employer did not disavow the elected official’s letter, the Administrative Law Judge – in a decision affirmed by the NLRB – held that the letter violated the Act. The assertion by a prominent public official that unionization would lead to job loss, coupled with the employer’s failure to disavow that assertion, would reasonably create fear among the employees that a ‘yes’ vote could jeopardize their jobs. And this fear interferes with free choice.

The words of the Richlands Textile letter may differ slightly from those used in the governors’ letter opposing the UAW campaign, but the essence is the same: unionization will lead to lost jobs. And neither Mercedes, nor Hyundai, nor any of the other automakers have disavowed the governors’ letter or its implications about the impact of union organizing on jobs. As in Richlands Textile, the governors’ letter coupled with the automakers’ failure to disavow it reasonably could contribute to a fear of job loss that interferes with employee free choice.

It is also relevant, in the current context, that several of the signatory governors have taken concrete – and likely unlawful – actions to defeat the UAW organizing drive in conjunction with their anti-union statements. The governors of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama have all signed legislation – since the inception of the UAW organizing drive – that denies state economic development incentives to any employer that voluntarily recognizes a union.

And while the legislation does not directly impose job losses on automakers that unionize, it may have that effect: if an automaker recognizes the UAW voluntarily, the loss of development incentives may well have serious employment effects. Moreover, given the rules of NLRA preemption, the legislation is most likely invalid. As such, the enactment of this legislation sends the message to autoworkers that the governors are prepared to back up the anti-union positions expressed in the letter with the force of state law – even if that means running afoul of federal labor protections.

I do not claim that the governors’ letter, standing alone, is grounds for setting aside election results. For that to be true, the NLRB would need to determine that the letter “is so aggravated that it creates a general atmosphere of fear and reprisal rendering a free election impossible.”

But the letter – and similar statements that likely will come from elected officials as the organizing drive continues – is inconsistent with untrammelled employee decision making. Such statements from public officials should thus be part of the Board’s analysis when it weighs whether an election lives up to its standards for free and fair choice.

Benjamin Sachs
Kestnbaum Professor of Labor and Industry
Harvard Law School
via the OnLabor Blog

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“Insanity in individuals is something rare – but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule.”
–Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

DTE Energy plans for big, big battery in Trenton

(Continued from Page 1)

“The facility will store electricity during times of excess generation and distribute the power to customers when they need it,” DTE says. “This will reduce strain on the grid, decrease the need to start and stop generation as demand fluctuates, and augment DTE’s growing fleet of renewable generation.”

The cost of the Trenton Channel site’s transformation is significantly offset by \$140 million in tax incentives through the 2022 federal Inflation Reduction Act and its infrastructure investment provisions.

The lithium ion battery center will have the capacity to store 220 megawatts (or 880 megawatt hours) of electricity, enough to power nearly 40,000 homes. It also represents a major step toward DTE’s goal to more than double its total energy storage capacity by 2042.

The cost of the Trenton Channel site’s transformation is “significantly offset,” DTE says, by \$140 million in tax incentives through the 2022 federal Inflation Reduction Act and its infrastructure investment provisions. DTE retired its 535 megawatt Trenton Channel coal power plant in 2022 as part of its plan to reach net zero carbon emissions.

The Trenton power plant went into service in 1924.

Billionaire class goes looking for some love

By Jim Hightower

One group of oppressed Americans has become especially outspoken this election year,



contending that top government officials (Democrats in particular) are ignoring their community’s basic needs and

stifling their pursuit of economic advancement.

I speak, of course, about the tragic plight of our nation’s downtrodden multi-billionaire class. While it’s true that Elon Musk, Peter Thiel, and these other Silicon Valley sad sackers and weepy Wall Streeters have vastly increased their wealth under Joe Biden’s presidency, they wail that he has not properly courted and coddled them. Indeed,

Biden set their hair on fire this March by calling out their outrageous tax-dodging ploys, demanding they start providing their fair share of support for America by paying a “billionaire tax.”

Thus, these poor, put-upon moneyed elites have been jetting around to Hollywood, Palm Beach, and other posh enclaves, holding secret strategy sessions and rallying the über-rich class to defeat Biden this fall. Of course, since self-centered, plutocratic billionaires are less popular than bed bugs, they can’t win with their ideas and votes, but only by buying elections – and these gilded conspirators intend to do just that, amassing billions to bury Biden.

But, oops, one money confab in April exploded into public view when some 20 poo-bahs of such oil giants as Chevron, Exxon, and Occidental conferred with Trump himself. In a straight-out bribery offer, he pledged to repeal environmental protections the industry dislikes – if they pony up \$1 billion for his presidential campaign.

This sordid palace intrigue is the product of the right-wing Supreme Court’s 2010 edict letting selfish wealthy interests secretly dump unlimited sums of corporate money into our elections. They’re turning our democratic ideals into a kleptocracy. via www.otherwords.org

“However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.”
–Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)



A MAJOR GREEN-ENERGY project that started this month – a 250-megawatt solar array – is being built in Moorland Twp. at the Muskegon Resource Recovery Center. The solar works will take up approximately 1,900 acres of land within the recovery center’s footprint, which has an existing wastewater treatment plant. The \$350 million Consumers Energy project is expected to employ about 200 construction workers over the next two years. Work started earlier this month.

Photo credit: Consumers Energy

Michigan a front-runner for green projects

(Continued from Page 1)

from lawmakers, America’s clean energy economy showed once again why it is an economic powerhouse that continues to attract investment from across the globe,” said Michael Timberlake, E2’s communication director.

The projects announced for Michigan are expected to create 12,500 jobs. Nationwide, since the Inflation Reduction Act was adopted, about 106,000 jobs are expected to be created from the 316 clean energy projects

that have been announced in 40 states.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2022, natural gas fueled the largest share of Michigan’s electricity generation at 34 percent, surpassing coal at 29 percent and nuclear power at 22 percent.

Solar power, while a green

energy source, is a relatively small player: Michigan currently ranks 25th in the nation in solar power production, with only 1.02 percent of our in-state power sun-generated.

Michigan ranks 15th in the nation for installed wind energy capacity, and windmills produce about 7.5 percent of all electricity in the state.

“I’m lazy. But it’s the lazy people who invented the wheel and the bicycle because they didn’t like walking or carrying things.”

–Lech Walesa (1943 -)

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Zilwaukee's bridges HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE EIGHT-LANE ZILWAUKEE BRIDGE that carries I-75 traffic 125 feet over the Saginaw River hasn't won any architectural design contests, but it has been a vast improvement for motorists, compared to the four-lane drawbridge next door that it replaced in 1988. The drawbridge was later demolished.

Photo credits: Michigan Department of Transportation

Michigan has built some great, big bridges.

The Ambassador in Detroit. The International in Sault Ste. Marie. Blue Water Bridges I and II in Port Huron. The Mackinac Bridge between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. The under-construction Gordie Howe Bridge in Detroit.

All are prominent, well-built, even elegant – they are each architectural icons in their area. And in the case of the Mighty Mac, they put its likeness on our license plates because it's an enduring symbol of our entire state.

Then there's the "new" Zilwaukee Bridge over the Saginaw River. Well, it's not elegant, it's iconic perhaps only in the sense that it's easy to see from afar, and eventually, the test of time has shown it to be well-built. But let's face it, it's not going to be on the cover of any chamber of commerce brochures as a tourist attraction. Still, it does what it's supposed to do, and it has provided 36 years of solid service to motorists heading up and down I-75 in Saginaw County.

One MDOT engineer we talked to called it "a fine structure, in very good shape," with tests done every year to make sure the span is within its tolerances. Also vouching for the bridge in 2001 was Terry Brandon, a Reinforced Iron Workers Local 426/ Iron Workers Local 25 member who helped build the Zilwaukee span as a general foreman for more than three years.

"Building that bridge was a very complicated process, and I know some parts of the bridge are not completely plumb, but it hasn't affected the integrity," Brandon said. "I believe it was a good design, and it's been a good bridge. It has pretty much held up as expected."

The 8,000-foot-long bridge opened on Sept. 19, 1988, providing eight lanes of glorious, unimpeded travel for I-75 motorists over the Saginaw River. We phrase it that way, since the new bridge replaced the bottlenecked, four-lane bascule Zilwaukee drawbridge whose raising for ship traffic below caused legendary, miles-long backups.

The drawbridge design was chosen as a cost-saving measure by the state Department of Transportation. Completed in 1960, the drawbridge-caused delays instantly drew the ire of motorists, who wondered why the state didn't build a span high enough at the site to allow ships to pass underneath.

"Michigan did not have the money to build a high-level bridge in 1956, that is the reason we have a bascule bridge," said a state of Michigan expert in testimony before a House subcommittee investigating the 1982 construction accident on the new bridge, which we will address shortly.

"While it may have seemed like a good idea in the late-1950s, soon after the opening of the (original) Zilwaukee Bridge in 1960 it became clear the crossing would cause more problems than it solved," says MichiganHighways.org. "While the most obvious problems concerned the massive traffic tie-ups on the freeway each time the bridge opened, it also caused problems for traffic on the Saginaw River as well."

"The bridge was only 150 feet wide and several ships actually hit the bridge, causing damage and additional tie-ups on the freeway as well. To top it off, shipping traffic actually



A CUTAWAY of the Zilwaukee's segmented box girder design during construction.

quadrupled in the years after the bridge was completed and the back-ups on the freeway reached three to four hours in duration and often up to 30 miles in length. The worst back-ups, of course, occurred during major holiday weekends and during the fall hunting season."

With two lanes north and two lanes south, the bridge – even without raising the twin leafs for the passage of ships – was going to be a natural bottleneck along the I-75 freeway, which was widened in the region from Flint to Bay City from two lanes to three by 1975. The bridge's design capacity was for the daily passage of 21,000 vehicles in 1960, but by 1987, when its replacement bridge was under construction, the drawbridge was handling 31,000 vehicles per day."

The crescendo grew louder during the 1970s to build a replacement bridge, and eventually the state Legislature came up with the money to fund a replacement span. Similar monetary constraints helped lead MDOT to choose a "segmental concrete box girder" bridge design which was cost-effective but not very common in Michigan.

The span was expected to cost \$79 million when construction began in 1979, but an accident in 1982 delayed construction and added another \$48.3 million to the cost of the bridge. Too much weight was placed on one of the bridge's 150-foot-long deck sections without a sufficient counterweight, causing the section to sag nearly five feet out of alignment, concrete to crack, and a pier footing to crumble.

The accident and repairs



PLACEMENT OF A CONCRETE section is shown on the Zilwaukee Bridge.

led to numerous questions about the bridge's design and long-term safety. At the time the bridge's design was somewhat controversial, with taut interior steel cables holding massive concrete sections together. Fingers of blame for the accident were pointed among the state Department of Transportation, its Dutch-based prime contractor Steven Construction Co., and its U.S. partner, Walter Toebe Construction Co. A settlement was eventually reached with the state accepting a good share of the blame and cost.

But there was no turning back on the project after the accident: it would have cost \$20 million to tear down the bridge, which was two-thirds complete. And the federal government would have demanded about \$55 million of the money it contributed to construction. Plus the drawbridge would still be there.

"It's a very unfortunate accident and we can't duck it. We were involved in it," said Michigan Department of Transportation Director Jim Pitz in 1983. He said later, "I was persuaded that there was not a great deal of future in not finishing the bridge." After some head-scratching about how to repair the span, the 6,700-ton segment that sagged was finally fixed in March 1984, and construction resumed.

There continued to be controversy about the safety of the bridge as it neared completion. One engineer found concrete cracks in more than 100 areas. And waves and dips in the concrete in numerous areas caused concern. But a study by the federal Government Accounting Office found "the bridge is safe as constructed."

Predicted Michigan Department of Transportation engineering consultant Maurice Miller in 1985: "The conditions that produced the accident won't even exist during use. It will have no bearing on the safety of the bridge once it is opened to traffic."

And since then, while maybe it hasn't been an icon in Saginaw County, it has been a safe, dependable bridge that is beloved if only because of the destested drawbridge it replaced.

State jobless agency issues next steps for pandemic claimants

(Continued from Page 1)

"Our focus has always been on doing what's right for claimants and this settlement reflects our commitment to a fair conclusion for all parties involved. UIA is committed to correcting past wrongs and redoubling efforts

to make sure workers get the benefits they deserve."

Under the class action agreement, the state will also make changes to how it collects on overpaid benefits.

The UIA said workers were ordered to repay millions in un-

employment benefits before the UIA could determine whether protests or appeals were submitted on time, or at all, on a wave of claims filed as part of federal pandemic programs. The jobless claims overwhelmed the department's outdated MiWAM computer system.

The agency said it is designing a new computer system, dubbed MiUI, that will be fully operational in 2025.

The UIA said MiUI "will speed claim filing for workers and tax collection for employers and enhance the overall user experience with a user-friendly design and interface. Additionally, MiUI will feature robust anti-fraud processes to stop bad actors who try to steal taxpayer money, ensuring a more secure and efficient system for all users."

Those who believe they may qualify to be part of the settlement can:

- Go to www.michigan.gov/uia and scroll down to the link "What you need to know about the UIA overpayment lawsuit settlement."

- You can also call the Settlement Administrator at 1-866-499-4565 or email info@bwclassactions.com.

- In addition, watch for an email from UIA titled "Saunders v. UIA improper collections settlement alert" sent to those who may qualify for restitution.

- Log in to Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) regularly to see if you've received a web message with the title "Saunders v. UIA Improper Collections Alert" letting you know you may qualify to be part of the settlement.

Just joking

John is walking down the street when he bumps into Teddy, an old friend he hasn't seen in a while. They exchange pleasantries and

then Teddy says he recently got a job as a lion tamer at the circus.

John is surprised and blurts out, "How are you gonna be a lion tamer? As I recall you used to be an accountant."

Teddy explained that circus people told him that the lions know the drill and the tamer is essentially there as a prop.

"Well, what if the lion starts to get aggressive?" asks John.

"They said to use the chair to push them back," John asks, "and what if they're still aggressive?"

"They gave me a whip, and if I crack the whip that should scare the lion and make it move off."

John then asks, "but what if the whip doesn't work and the lion makes a run at you? Then what?"

Teddy responds, "well then, they said to reach into my pants, pull out some poop and throw it at the lion."

"Well that's a ridiculous plan! Besides, how can you be sure there's going to be poop in your pants?" John asked.

Teddy sighs, "They said I'm just gonna have to trust them on that one!"

"Leave well – even 'pretty well' – alone: that is what I learn as I get old."

–Edward Fitzgerald (1809 - 1883)

"Wisdom is what's left after we've run out of personal opinions."

– Cullen Hightower

Political labors paying off for union workers

(Continued from Page 1)

National Labor Relations Board and everything in between, LIUNA and the LHSFNA have watched President Biden and his administration deliver more for LIUNA's membership than any other president.

Across the U.S., we continue to see the popularity of unions, including a breakthrough victory for UAW at a Volkswagen plant in Tennessee that made national headlines. Collective bargaining is also a topic of conversation in Congress, with the introduction of the bipartisan Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (PSFNA). Currently, about half of U.S. states deny public sector workers the right to collectively bargain for better wages and safer working conditions.

LIUNA represents tens of thousands of public sector workers in state and county governments across sectors including health care, sanitation and road and building maintenance. Public sector workers in all states should have the same rights as their private sector counterparts, and LIUNA and the LHSFNA urge Congress to pass the PSFNA.

In the construction and energy sectors, the building trades and their signatory partners are also showing the collective power of unions. The recent "Solar Good Jobs Summit" hosted by the IBEW, IUOE and LIUNA brought together labor leaders, Biden administration officials, utility board members, developers, investment managers and contractors. Getting this many stakeholders to collaborate on large-scale solar projects is possible in part because of collective agreements like the Tri-Trade Solar Agreement.

This national solution is helping to meet the extensive workforce needs of contractors and ensure that project owners are following the labor provisions – and receiving the tax incentives – outlined in the Inflation Reduction Act.

On construction jobsites, one topic that's top of mind as contractors look to complete busy summer schedules is rising heat levels. Temperatures continue to hit historic levels on a regular basis, and while federal OSHA hasn't finalized its proposed heat standard, several states are taking matters into their own hands – some positive and others negative. State OSHA programs in New Jersey and Nevada are discussing actions to protect workers, while Florida's legislature has effectively blocked any legal mandate for heat protections.

Regardless of the existence of such a standard in your state, the LHSFNA strongly encourages all construction contractors to take the risk of heat illness seriously and take the necessary steps to protect your workforce.

By Brent Booker, LIUNA General President; and David Rampono, Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America co-chair, & LHSFNA Labor Co-Chairman

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Local 190

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANNARBOR—A MONTHLY UNION MEETING will be held on **Monday, July 8 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.**

UNION HALL CLOSING FOR AN UP COMING HOLIDAY: Our office will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 to observe Independence Day. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

UA LOCAL 190 PICNIC: Mark your Calendar! The UA Local 190 Picnic will be Saturday, Aug. 17 at Hudson Mills Metro Park, at 8801 N. Territorial Rd. Dexter, MI 48130 from 12-4 p.m. The menu will include hot dogs, burgers, sides and desserts. Refreshments will be provided. Lunch will be from 12-3:30 p.m. Lots of fun stuff for the kids; giant slide, obstacle course, inflatable castle, face painting etc. while the adults will enjoy bingo, euchre tournament and cornhole tournament. Invitations will be mailed soon!

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 28, please mail or return to the union hall.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK: All members who get laid off or report back to work *please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contractor 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.

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

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

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

CREDIT CARD MACHINE: You now have the ability to pay your union dues or purchase merchandise by credit card or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A surcharge of 3.99% is added to your card on the transaction amount. We will then mail you your dues receipt and credit charge slip.

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: each month on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month.** Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

The Training Center will be closed July 4-5 in observance of Our Independence Day. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifi-

cations. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm.; Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from noon to 1pm.

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 certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.**

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org/2024Schedule - **Mondays – July 15, and Sept. 30.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org/2024Schedule - **Mondays, July 22, and Oct 7.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

Welding Lab: Open welding lab is currently closed for the summer. The open welding lab will reopen **Sept. 3** and run Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. 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).

2024 Schedule: First course starts on **Jan 9.** The second course starts **Sept 10.** Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2024 Schedule:** The third course starts **Oct 17.** Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2024 Schedule:** The second course starts **Aug 20.** 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. **2024 Schedule:** Second course starts **Sept 24.** 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. **2024 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 **Fall 2024.** Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

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

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the following members on their retirement.

Randall Fowler Initiation Date: 6/17/1987; Retired: May 1st Steve Norton, Initiation Date: 7/26/1990; Retired: June 1.

May you both enjoy all of
(Continued next column)



Local 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 9** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

PICNIC: Saturday, July 20th, 2024, UA Local 357 will host the annual picnic. We are looking forward to this quality time with our brothers and sisters! The festivities start at noon with door prize drawings at 3:00 pm. Every member who **RSVPs** by Friday, July 7th will receive a special gift at the door. **Go to www.eventbrite.com and search Local 357 to RSVP or call the Union Hall at (269) 679-2570.**

GROWLERS BASEBALL GAME: Due to the Saturday - June 8 - Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game being rained out, they have given us **FREE** General Admission Bleacher Seats for the game on Saturday, Aug. 3. You **DO NOT** need to reserve tickets ... they are at the Union Hall. Just stop by and pick them up. The theme of this game is Nascar Night with fireworks after the game. Food and drink will be at your expense.

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 MEETINGS (NEW PLACE & TIME): Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew (Note – New Location)** located at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

There 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 Kyle Wiswell, and family, on the birth of a son, Tatum.

Local 190, con’t

the things that you have always wanted to do but never had the time for.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Aug. 1 at the Union Hall (Due to the July 4 holiday, cards will not be held during the month of July). 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.

“Rumor travels faster, but it don’t stay put as long as truth.”
–Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

“One cannot conceive anything so strange and so implausible that it has not already been said by one philosopher or another.”
– Rene Descartes (1596 - 1650)

“It is unwise to be too sure of one’s own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.”
–Mahatma Gandhi (1869 - 1948)



Local 85

Plumbers &
Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 24, 2024**, at the Union Hall at 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 PM.

The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, at 7 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

Please note retirees in pay status with pension credits from October 2005 through December 2008 have received pension increases. The increases are not a mistake, the Pension Trustees are very pleased to make these changes. If you have any questions, please get in touch with one of the Business Representatives.

Please note: Our **new mailing address** for all correspondence has changed to 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603.

Contact Information:

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 jbador@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@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: 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 Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local’s jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back
(Continued next column)



Local 704

DETROIT

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

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

There will be a vote for all locations of money on July 10 at the Union Hall. Polls will be open from 12:00 P.M. until 5:30 P.M.

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

Training Classes: Call Jeff Gray to reserve your spot. ASSE 15000, ITM classes are being scheduled for this summer, this is a 40-hour class. Contact the training center for more information.

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 (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

Article IX, Section 4 of Local 704’s Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order states: Members shall report all job starts to their local union office.

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): 248-655-4048 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

Save the Date: This year’s golf outing will be held August 17. The outing will be held at The Lakes of Taylor this year. There is a link on our website to purchase tickets. You must purchase tickets online. The cost is \$110 per person.

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 85, con’t

to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECKSTUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees’ luncheon will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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

“We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful what we pretend to be.”
–Kurt Vonnegut (1922 - 2007)

“Never harbor grudges; they sour your stomach and do no harm to anyone else.”
–Robertson Davies

“He was one of those men who think that the world can be saved by writing a pamphlet.”
–Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

“To become acquainted with kindness one must be prepared to learn new things and feel new feelings. Kindness is more than a philosophy of the mind. It is a philosophy of the spirit.”
–Robert J. Furey

“Don’t be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.”
–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

“For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.”
–Alice Kahn

“I shall never be ashamed of citing a bad author if the line is good.”
Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



Local 111

Plumbers, Pipe
Fitters & HVAC
Service
Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – The next scheduled union meeting will be in **Marquette on July 25th, 2024 @ 7:30. It will be a SPECIAL CALLED MEETING for a full financial report.**

UNION HALL CLOSING FOR UP COMING HOLIDAY: Our offices in Marquette and Escanaba will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 to observe Independence Day. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday!

Welding Classes: Tuesday Evening weld classes are ongoing at the Escanaba Training Center, classes run from 5 pm-9 pm on a week-to-week basis. Contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew to be added to the notification list. Your position in the class is not confirmed until you receive a reply.

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

MRACARD: Please check your MRA Account for transactions that are in need of substantiation or ineligible. You can access this info here: <https://www.zenith-american.com/>

The MRA link will take you directly to your MRA info and you will be able to see the ineligible transactions.

Please make sure what you are submitting is either an **Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** or an **Itemized billing with paid receipt**, that includes:

Provider Name, Patient Name, Date of Service, Description of Service, Total Patient Responsibility

Please if you are having trouble with something you have submitted, you can call the Zenith American Solutions helpline at 1-866-823-4730 extension 1 (MRA) Or call the hall and Rose will be able to try and assist you- 906-226-6511 ext. 4

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

Reminder: Check your records and contact the hall with *any changes* to the following: **E-Mail, home address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death.** Please call April or Rose to have your information updated.

Reminder: It is your responsibility to call the hall as soon as you get laid off, the day you call in is the date that you are placed on the **Out of Work List**, if you do not call in you will not be referred to work.

Reminder to all apprentices, you must attend 4 union meetings per year.

Reminder to Welders/ Welding Forms: The UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the hall. Certifications expire every **6 months** and it is **YOUR** responsibility to get your welding forms turned in on time.

Please update all Non-UA certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA etc.) by sending a copy of your certification to the Union Hall

Check your dues records! You are assessed a \$50 reinstatement once you become 3 months behind. You are automatically expelled once you are over 6 months behind.

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site ua111.com and click on Safety Links. Members must take these safety trainings for each site to work at each mill. Please take note they are valid for 1 year.

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



Plumbers Local 98



DETROIT – **Membership of Plumbers Local 98**

The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you and your family are well.

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to UALOCAL98.COM

Meetings & Union Hall. The next Union meeting will be Thursday, July 11th at 7pm.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

Retiree Meetings. The next Retiree Meeting/Luncheon is Wednesday, July 10 from 12pm–2pm at Local 98!

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

Be advised SUB pay will soon be shut due to travelers and retirees working in the field.

Local 98 along with Locals 636 and 704 hosted the 2024 State Convention downtown Detroit June 12-14, 2024. We enjoyed our week with some great guests: Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan; Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald; Speaker of the House Leader Joe Tate; Gov. Gretchen Whitmer; and Sen. Gary Peters. Great discussions and information shared by all. Thank you to all the 98 officers and staff as well as all the locals that participated and made our event successful. I wish to thank a longtime friend, Retiring U.A Rep Kevin Carden, a great and wonderful retirement, Brother you deserve it! It has been a great honor to work with you these last 100 years. To our new UA Rep. Price Dobernack and our new Pipe Trades President Ryan Bennett, congratulations we look forward to working with you both in your new posts.

98 Baseball Team players: If interested in playing baseball please contact Jeremy Pitts at 586-405-9425.

Local 98 FAMILY PICNIC is SATURDAY, July 20 from noon to 5pm @ Stony Creek Metro Park, Mt. Vernon Pavilion. Kona Ice Truck 1-2:15pm; Bounce house, prizes, raffles, hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and more (BYOB)! Park admissions included. Volunteers, please contact Jim Cools @ 734-307-9841.

Detroit Plumbers CARES Annual Scholarship Golf Outing: This year's golf outing will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, at Oak Ridge Golf Course. Tickets this year are \$120 per golfer for 18 Holes of Scramble Golf, Bloody Mary Bar, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Drinks, and Door Prizes! Tee-off time is 8:30am. For more information, please contact Financial Secretary Treasurer Jon DeRoo at (248) 762-9238 or register online at <https://form.jotform.com/2491194788985073>

SUB Apps/Out of Work List. 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. 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 Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

Call to Action: The time is NOW to move Michigan Unemployment Reforms forward. **Please call the Senate and House Leadership offices and let them know how important this is to all of us.** Our members have waited long enough! Michigan UIA is the only State in the Great Lakes Region not to have 26 weeks of unemployment benefits for its residents. The weekly maximum rate is \$362 which is \$200-\$500 less than other surrounding states. Our weekly benefit rates have not been increased since 2002 (except during Covid with Federal Dollars).

Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (Office) 517-373-1801
Speaker of the House Joe Tate (Office) 517-373-0857

Wage and Fringes: Local 98 is happy to report effective July 1, 2024 the wage and fringes have been increased for apprentices, applicants and summer helpers. Updates will be forwarded to signatory contractors. New rate cards will also be available in the coming weeks. Special thanks to Brother Gary Glaser, the MCA staff and my officers for their support.

Benefits. *We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the

Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. The Local 98 Health Insurance office is receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for them to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2. If they are on the other line, please leave them a message and they will get back to you promptly. Always write down whom you are speaking too.

Three Things to Know:
1). President Biden has awarded \$7 billion to establish hydrogen hubs in 16 states and Southeast Michigan is one of them!! These hubs are essential to developing clean energy technologies and securing good paying jobs for our members.
2). In addition, President Biden's commitment to nuclear energy creates UA jobs! With this robust commitment to modernizing and expanding our nuclear fleet, it is creating more work opportunities for UA members.

Like the \$1.5 billion loan for the Palisades nuke in 357's Kalamazoo's jurisdiction.
3). Lastly, our brothers at UA Local 137 are at the forefront of clean energy innovation. Local 137 BM Aaron Gurnsey spoke at a ribbon cutting for the largest Direct Air Capture prototype in the United States, located in Springfield, IL. This will create valuable jobs as well as play a crucial role in securing our clean energy future. For more info go to www.uagetinvolved.org.

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

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo if you are looking to retire. Please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers & Apprentices. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working nonunion or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses at 248-763-2187. Or get online at The Training Center for more information on Apprenticeships.

Our condolences go out to the family of Andy Reckling, an Oakland County Sheriff's deputy who was ambushed and killed June 22 during an auto theft investigation that originated in Madison Heights and led investigators to the City of Detroit. Andy, a nine-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, leaves behind a loving wife and three daughters, ages 5, 4, and 1, with one more child on the way. He was also the son of Local 98 member Andy Reckling, who works for Guideline Mechanical at Lake Orion.

If you would like to support Deputy Reckling's family, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is accepting donations to its charity, "Mission Oakland," and 100% of donations made will go directly to his family. The address: Mission Oakland, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Building 38E Pontiac MI 48341. Please put "Deputy Reckling" on the memo and make checks payable to Mission Oakland.

Or a link to pay electronically can be found by searching on Facebook for the "Oakland County Sheriff's Office."

In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435. Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 26, 2024. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any

questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division has instituted the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. Books are available for order through the ICC. The Training Center has a limited number of 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code books available for sale.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2024. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class. The 2024 upgrade classes are listed below. Please keep an eye out for the class you need or find interesting!

Monthly Code Class – Next class is PENDING at 4:30 pm. This is not a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call** Paul Baker at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

There will be a code class that reviews the entire Michigan Plumbing Code and includes practice for the practical portion of the Journey exam in the near future. Please call the Training Center if you are interested in attending the class.

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Aug. 6, 2024, we have 2 available evenings to come in and practice for it. The 2 dates are Wednesday, July 24, and Wednesday, July 31. 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.

CLASS LIST 2024. ASSE Backflow Tester Re-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

8 hour recert class Oct. 22 & 23 Deadline is Sept. 20

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): Fall: Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$200

ASSE Repairer: * Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification.** Fall: Sept. 10 - Oct. 15, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$100

ICRA and Water Quality: * Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30** Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$200

CAD/BIM: Fall: Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$100

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$200

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber. Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$100

Hydronic Heating and Cooling. Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$100

OPEN WELDING – is available on Wednesday evenings. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for 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.

****2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be July 13, 2024. **You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

It is each member's individual responsibility to keep all their Certifications current.

If the person you are trying to reach at the Training Center is unavailable, please leave a message to ensure we can return your call. We attempt to return all messages by the end of the business day.



UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 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.

Union Office Closing: The Union office will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 to observe Independence Day.

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast for July has been cancelled.

Wage Allocation: The 2024 wage allocation was voted on at the June 4, 2024 membership meeting. Results were \$1.27 increase on the check, \$0.05 increase to the Retiree Bonus Program, \$0.60 increase to the Pension fund, and \$0.30 increase to the Training Fund.

Save the Date: Local 174 is hosting a banquet for members with 25+ years of Service. The banquet will be held September 23, 2024. Invitations will be sent to the qualified members in the months to come.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The outing will be held Saturday, August 3-2024, located at The Falls at Barber Creek with an 8:00am registration, 8:30am shot gun start. It is a four-person scramble, \$75 per person, \$300 per team. Each team must have 2 UA members on the team. Please contact Therese at the front office to sign up. Space is limited to the first 30 teams to sign up and pay. Money must be paid no later than July 26th.

Local #174 Annual Family Picnic: This year's family picnic will be held on Saturday, July 20th at Heritage Landing in Muskegon. Volunteers are needed at the picnic for both set-up and take-down. Please call Therese at the office if you can volunteer.

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.

Organizing Update: I wanted to start off by thanking everyone for the continued information on unrepresented workers. I've always said our biggest organizing asset is our members! We've managed to pull a couple workers as of recent that were at a company for 15 plus years, making low wages and paying for their own benefits! They are now allies of the organizing efforts, stay tuned!

The message is clear "We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages and benefits!" It has never been a more perfect time to organize with the workload that is here, but it is definitely a team effort! The message is clear, you deserve better wages, benefits, and representation which is why you need a UNION! –Work safe, Johnny Ortiz (616) 307-8551

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)

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

Health Insurance Contact Info:

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/Work ing Retiree \$1,110.33

June 28, 2024

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5

Local 174

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63
Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

Solxsys, Aetna, Retiree First: If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ual174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

Dues: Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office. Remember that if you are expelled from the UA, you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

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.

Jurisdiction: Remember to always call into the local you are traveling to. Do not rely on anyone else to call in for you. They will not get into trouble. It is the member who is working in another local who has not checked-in who will get in trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractor or member working in our jurisdiction.

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:
PLEASE NOTE: We have a problem with people signing up for a class then not being available for the class or missing times during the course. These classes are afforded by the contributions of our members. If you sign up for a course, it is expected to you make your schedule work for these classes.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month), from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, July 11th, 2024, and Thursday, August 8th, 2024.

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, July 13th, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, July 11th, 2024, from 5:00p – 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

OPEN WELD: Wednesday nights 5-9pm. Call ahead to notify us if you'll be late. We will continue to hold open weld providing there is enough interest.

WELDER CONTINUITY: If you have weld certs and have turned in a continuity, the welder certification status cards are now being emailed rather than sent via snail mail. If you have turned in continuity and have NOT received an updated status card, please contact the Training office to verify we have your current email.

PLUMBING: Michigan Plumbing Code 2021 has been adopted. We'll hold the next plumbing code update class once the new 21 code books have been released, which is expected to be in July.

If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates. 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.

"The truth is that there is nothing noble in being superior to somebody else. The only real nobility is in being superior to your former self."

–Whitney Young (1921 - 1971)

"You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club."

– Jack London (1876 - 1916)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES

BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

www.ssdfighter.com



Local 671

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671
MONROE – The next regular scheduled **Union Meeting** is **July 18 at 7 pm. This meeting has been moved in accordance with our bylaws because it landed on the July 4 Holiday.**

There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5 pm July 18. If any member would like to attend the Executive Board Meeting, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

There will be a SPECIAL ORDER of BUSINESS at the next Union Meeting, July 18, 2024 for the second reading on a potential bylaw change.

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassocationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

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

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

Retiree Luncheon: We would like to remind everyone that our retiree luncheons are held on the last Thursday of every month, except for **August** (due to the picnic) and **November and December** due to their proximity to the Holidays. These luncheons are a great time to see old friends, and maybe even meet some new ones. The next retiree luncheon is set for **12:00 pm on July 25th**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Open Weld Shop Nights: The open weld shop nights are now **Tuesday nights** from 6pm-10pm now that school is out of session. A booth will need to be reserved by noon on the Friday prior to the practice night. If we have (3) or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

The next UA weld test session is scheduled for July 25 at 5pm.

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

Cincinnati National Tournament: Thanks to all members who participated in the UA National Softball Tournament. This is a long-standing tradition for Local 671. We didn't bring home any hardware, but the boys played 4 tough games in sweltering heat and represented us with class and professionalism. Thank you to the players and the friends and family who came out to support us.

Local 671 Golf Outing: The Local 671 Scholarship and Benevolence Fund Annual Golf Outing will be held on **July 13th** at Green Meadows Golf Course. Individual tickets (for Local Members) will be \$85 each, and foursomes paid in advance will be discounted to \$320. **Please call the Hall now to get your foursome locked in!**

Monroe County Fair: Local 671 will be back at the Monroe County Fair promoting our Union and Trade. We will be looking for volunteers to fill morning and afternoon slots to represent Local 671. The dates are July 29-Aug. 2. Please contact Vinnie or Justin for information and to slot in a time. We rely on our volunteers to make the fair a success!

In Closing: We will be closed on the 4th and 5th of July for a long weekend. If there is any pressing business that needs to be attended to, Vinnie or I will be available on Friday, the 5th of July. Otherwise, I wish you all a safe and happy fun-filled Holiday weekend and hope to see you all soon either at the golf outing or the upcoming picnic. God Bless Local 671 and all its members. Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com
Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com
Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: carly@ualocal671.com



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636
DETROIT – Our next regular meeting is a **SPECIAL CALLED Meeting for a vote on re-allocation of monies scheduled for July 16** at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (at the Lodge) Southfield, MI 48075.

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. The office will be Closed Thursday July 4, 2024.

A BIG THANK YOU to James P. McCabe III, Geary Tudball, Nicky LaBute, Nick Buckalew, Jason Selph, Jake Verran, Bill Hellwig, and Melissa Leonard for your help with the Golf Outing, it was a huge success.

Save the Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024 Local 636 will have our annual picnic at the SARA CLUB in Brighton, 11am – 4pm.

Attention Retiree Golfers; The 636 Eastside Retiree Golf League is hoping you'll join us this season. We play on Thursdays, usually around 11:00 am, spring through fall on a different course each week. If you are interested, simply call Jim Dunn at 248-709-7036 or Joe Bourgeois at 313-590-0448.

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held July 18, 2024.

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 the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

The Annual Deposit for Retirees' HRA Accounts has been made. If you have any issues please contact Jake Regits.

For those still owing on PLDF we are only able to take checks or money orders for payment.

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

Our deepest condolences go out to the members, families, and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks: Condolences to Aydan Young on the passing of his Father and Lifetime Member Ronald Young May 30, 2024; Condolences to Member Phillip Carpenter on the passing of his Father John Carpenter in April; Condolences to Member Robert Miller on the passing of his wife Darlene May 29, 2024; Condolences to Member Kenneth Aeck on the passing of his wife Kathy April 21, 2024; Condolences to Member Robert Harrison on the passing of his wife Frances April 29, 2024; Condolences to Members Alisa & John Lisecki on the passing of Alisa's Mother Monica Ceckowski April 21, 2024.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Anthony (Tony) Kovach June 14, 2024; Lifetime Member Anthony Klein June 9, 2024; Lifetime Member Ronald Young May 30, 2024, Ronald also served as an Executive Board Member from 1995-1998, Thank you for your service to our Local Union; Lifetime Member Michael B. Johnson May 29, 2024; Lifetime Member David Levene May 3, 2024; Lifetime Member Charles Mullen April 30, 2024; Lifetime Member Stanley McClure April 21, 2024; Lifetime Member Richard Zimmerman April 22, 2024 father of Members Ken and Bill Zimmerman; 47-Year Member George Braman April 10, 2024; 34 Year Member Robert "Bob" Simon Mar. 25, 2024; Lifetime Member James Flanary Mar. 21, 2024; Lifetime Member Gary Lewis March 5, 2024, may they Rest in Peace.

Get Well Wishes to: Michael Bass, Richard Bloomfield, Daniel Caldwell, Patrick Cullen, Theresa Danko, Brian Dyer, Joseph Fiedler, Kevin Harper, Andrew Hernandez, Steven Karowich, Jamie Klimowicz, Michael Rademaker, Mark Surowiec, David Yuhn, James Turland, Brian Mierendorf, Chris Sovey, Paul Franjesh, Jon Pastorius, and Phil Scott.

Congratulations to Bill Russell and his wife Veronica on the birth of their daughter Zoey Ray Russell June 7, 2024.

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!**

January; Daniel Sarna, David Selph, Philip Ryskamp.

March; Amanda Weidenbach, Vaughn Bratten, Greg Criner.

April; Michael Vernot, James Allen, Thomas Parent

May; Roy Morgan.

June; Charles Gordy Baker, Steven Timko, Thomas Kinczkowski.

Dues - Your dues receipts will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

The Ulliance Member 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 leadadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

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

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

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request. The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday. After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

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

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

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when calling BeneSys, please call **248-641-4936 or 888-646-8920.**

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed.

The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution *corrected* website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy).

You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the **(Continued next column)**



Local 370

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7 pm. Retiree Breakfast** is Monday, Aug. 12 at 9 a.m.

Narcan Training We are offering a 1-hour Narcan Training on Wednesday, July 10 @ 2:30 Presented by Greater Flint Health Coalition.

Golf Outing Saturday, July 20 at Flushing Valley. 8am registration. 9am shotgun.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

First Aid & CPR September 18th @ 430

A2L Class Sign up today. Class dates TBD

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

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, July 9, 2024 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:00pm

Executive Board – Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTBSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

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

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

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is 150 dollars.

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The **(Continued next column)**

Local 636 cont'd

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 248-641-4936 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60–90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.**

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

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8

We will be accepting applications for a new service instructor on July 18th, call Kim to schedule an interview time.

Starting Thursday July 11: Refrigeration piping design and sizing.



Local 333

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333
LANSING – July's union meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17, at 6:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI.

August's union meeting will be held Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI.

As of June 18, the proposed bylaw change was voted on and adopted, so moving forward the starting time for the union meetings will be 6:30 pm

Price Dobernick, Special Representative

General President Mark McManus is pleased to announce the appointment of Price Dobernick to Special Representative, effective June 17, 2024. Brother Dobernick will be responsible for safeguarding the interests of the membership in the state of Michigan.

Price has been the Business Manager and Financial Secretary -Treasurer of Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 333, Lansing, MI. a position he was elected to in 2015. As a Business Manager, Brother Dobernick represented workers in the Lansing, Jackson, and Battle Creek areas.

Additionally, Price Dobernick was unanimously reelected as the President of the Michigan Pipe Trades Association in 2022, which comprises 12 UA locals, more than 250 partner employers, and 12,000 skilled trades workers. He was originally elected to this position in 2019.

An active philanthropic and civil leader, Brother Dobernick is serving his 10th year on the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Foundation's Board of Directors. Governor Gretchen Whitmer handpicked him to serve as a trustee of the State of Michigan's State Building Authority, a role he has held since 2023. He is also a longtime Commissioner and past Chairman of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority.

Previously, Brother Dobernick served as Chairman of the Lansing Community College

Local 370 cont'd

Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 who 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.

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

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage of this service there will be a \$1.00 per month charge added to the monthly window dues fee and a 3% fee for all other transactions.

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

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Zach Desrochers for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com. T.I.C. fringe administrators' toll free number is 1-888-797-5862.

Foundation's Board of Directors and as a Director for the Capital Area United Way.

UA Local 333 will be hosting an Appreciation Open House for Price Dobernick Aug. 8, 2024, 2-6 p.m. at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911. Please join us in celebrating Price's new position with the UA, and to thank him for his dedication to Local 333.

Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year are available at all three halls or call Debra at 517-393-5480 ext.#4 to have one mailed to you. Deadline postmarked by June 26, 2024, and in the Jackson office by July 1, 2024.

Summer Session Weld Classes.

Lansing, 06/10/2024-07/31/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30

Jackson, 06/10/24-07/31/24 - Monday and Tuesday 4:30 - 8:30

Battle Creek will not have welding classes.

There will be no classes the week of July 4-2024 and the month of August.

Classes will resume in September.

MIG CLASS. Must have UA21 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

ORBITAL 18A CLASS. Must have UA41 – Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

ADVANCED PIPEFITTING CLASS – JACKSON TRAINING CENTER. Chris Barry – Instructor: Class will start when 6 members have signed

Backflow (NEW) class will be scheduled in the fall.

Please sign up on the Website – ua333.org. If you need assistance call the Training Center 517-323-0333.

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

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

Note: Members needing assistance with the Journeyman Plumbing Code test prep please contact Tim Hicks at the Training Center.

Battle Creek Retiree 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 10:00am 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.

Local 333 is wishing everyone a very safe and Happy Independence Day.

"There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability."

–Robert Half

"Be entirely tolerant or not at all; follow the good path or the evil one. To stand at the crossroads requires more strength than you possess."

–Heinrich Heine (1797 - 1856)

"Whatever you think, be sure it is what you think; whatever you want, be sure that is what you want; whatever you feel, be sure that is what you feel."

–T. S. Eliot (1888 - 1965)

"You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was."

–Irish Proverb

"Seize the moment of excited curiosity on any subject to solve your doubts; for if you let it pass, the desire may never return, and you may remain in ignorance."

– William Wirt (1772 - 1834)

"Not to be absolutely certain is, I think, one of the essential things in rationality."

–Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on July 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

CONDOLENCES: Our deepest sympathies to Fred Engelman on the recent passing of his wife, Edith. Please keep Fred and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



PAUL
GUALDONI

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

THE 36TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING: The Local 292 annual Charity Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024. The outing is being held at Oak Ridge Club in New Haven.

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.

RETURN TO WORK BY NORMAL OR EARLY RETIREES: Consistent with the actions of the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, the Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 292 Pension Fund ("Fund") have decided to provide a limited waiver of the Fund's suspension of benefit rule from March 22, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024 only, without limitation and without incurring a suspension of benefits then in pay status. This means that, during this period, if you are working as a sheet metal worker for an Employer that contributes to the Fund, you will receive your monthly pension benefits from the Fund no matter how many hours you work in any one month. This waiver is based on the current demand for sheet metal workers and is not anticipated to be continued indefinitely. Call Paul for more information or if interested.

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

TRUHEARING: On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292, we would like to introduce TruHearing, the NEW exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

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

DUES: Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE: The online store is no longer available. If you are interested in purchasing merchandise, please contact Paul or Tony.

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

RETIREEES NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 2024 schedule for the Local 292 Retiree luncheon is as follows: August 1, and October 3. We will post the date of the December meeting at a later date. The retirees' luncheon will be held at: ***NEW LOCATION*** Madhouse Bar & Grill @12:30 pm, 32787 Stephenson Hwy., Madison Heights MI 48071; Located on Stephenson Hwy 1 block south of 14 Mile on the west side of the street. Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you want to be added to the retiree email list.

Please join us for lunch, great conversations, and storytelling. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!!

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The Constitution and Ritual of the 2nd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall will also has hard copies for members who want one.

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving 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. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. 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.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union Hall and we will make the change.

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

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 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on July 13, July 20, and July 27. These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

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

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



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 is scheduled for July 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2024 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.



TIM
MULLIGAN

UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS Monday through Friday 7:30 – 4:00, unless otherwise indicated in holiday hours.

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2024 schedule is as follows: June 17, Aug. 19, Oct. 21 (holiday party) and Dec. 16. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

RETIREE NEWS: 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.

Effective immediately you will need to start sending your unemployment proof to smw80subfund@gmail.com or fax it to 248-557-0297. Your unemployment proof needs to be in by 2pm on Tuesdays to be paid on that Friday. Local 80 will be handling all of your proof now. If you have any questions, please call us at 248-557-7575.

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: There will now be a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now SOLD OUT! If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please call the hall. Please join us on July 13th at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$105 a ticket for members and \$140 a ticket for non-members. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts & danishes, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket! *Payment must be received to lock in your ticket*

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Lawrence Kettler Jr., Michael Groce, Charles Taormina, Robert Hocking, Devern Rabideaux, Richard Altizer, Frank Baran, George Dluze and Jeremy Molczan.

DUES PAYMENTS: YOUR DUES PAYMENTS ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. The books will close at the end of the business day on the last day of the month. **Payments made on the 1st of the month are considered late for that month. There will be no exception, once the books are closed it cannot be undone.** Members will receive a text message dues reminder prior to the end of the month. If you are not receiving our text messaging, please call the hall. **REMINDER:** We ONLY take Visa, Master Card & Discover and **do not accept** American Express.

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your Local 80 and international benefits. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your spouse first and if there is no spouse to your children UNLESS you designate otherwise in writing with each specific benefit. Depending on your classification you could have benefits due to your heirs from Local 80 pension, insurance, annuity and from international and SASMI. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary unless you want it to go to your spouse or children. As always seek the advice of an attorney.

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 need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well. That is not done through the hall.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each member's name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall **prior to 3 pm on Friday.**

WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Everyone must obtain a work assignment prior to starting work. If you fail to do so you could be written up on charges.

LAYOFFS: All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off, even if you only work one day. These are the By-Law rules for the Out-of-Work List. Your name will be removed from the list 14 days after receiving an assignment. It is very important to report to the union hall immediately after your layoff. Members get confused because the S.U.B. Fund allows you a period of up to seven days to apply for S.U.B. benefits after lay-off.

LAY-OFF SLIPS/TERMINATION NOTICES: Lay off slips must accompany all applications for sub pay. Without lay off slips you cannot collect sub pay. It is **the member's responsibility** to make sure they get one from the contractor when laid off. Your application cannot be submitted without one. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue one in accordance with our contract.

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST: You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. benefits or SASMI. Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through Sept. 20. If you fail to re-register you will be removed from the list.

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you work 16 hours or less in a week or have a short work week due to weather you may collect sub for that week but only if it is at the **beginning or the end of a layoff.** You may NOT collect if you are not laid off. You must complete a sub application at the hall, provide a pay stub for that week and the hall will submit it to the fund office. If you are not laid off and it is due to weather the company MUST provide written documentation that it was weather related.

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. **Ulliance** is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.**

NOTARY: We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge. Please call to confirm availability.

SAVE THE DATE:

Golf Outing – July 13

Picnic – August 3

June 28, 2024

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, Aug. 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 July 11th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 July 16th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 July 10th at 6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

*Zone 3 Sept 26th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 July 9th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 August 1st at 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Picnic is Canceled – due to lack of availability of cabins/campsites.



SAM
FULLER

Elections results will be mailed out.

Please register on our website at www.sheet-metal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2024. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

NEWS: Local No. 7 – **Union Hoodies** available through the Lansing office for \$70.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Gray, Black or Navy with White logo. *Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.*

SMART Members Assistance Program provides counselors to speak with members experiencing crisis. Call (877) 884-6227 for 24/7 assistance with Suicide Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area remains busy and will increase as we get into spring and summer. 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).

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like)

– **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 still remains steady with some shutdown work coming up for the 4th of July holiday. Sorry to say but the Local 7 picnic will be cancelled this year due to lack of campsites availability. On a good note the golf outing is still on for September 7th at the Lynx Golf Course in Otsego. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is July 16 at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Rd. Norton Shores, MI. at 6:00pm. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and keep me informed of any address or phone number changes. **Work Safe and Thank You, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work should be picking up this month. Make sure you let the Lansing office or myself know if your phone number or address has changed. Remember to schedule your physicals this year. Kurt Scheibner was hired as are new full-time instructor.

The next retiree's meeting will be June 25th at the Ponderosa on Wilder Rd in Bay City. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Work in the area is steady and looks to be another busy summer. If you know anyone that wants to get into our trade have them call me. If you have not received the notice, our summer picnic has been cancelled. Don't forget to set up your yearly physicals and go to www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/ benefits to register for your H&W and Local pension status as with the National Pension Fund, go to www.smnwpf.org and register to see your future benefit. If anyone needs help in applying for the physical rebate from SASMI please contact me. Have a safe July 4th. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: It looks to be another outstanding year for work with all the school work and some nice jobs on the books. Local 7 Zone 4 will continue to grow and get stronger. We have some great events coming up, Local 7 Picnic is July 20th at Timber Ridge in Traverse City and our annual golf outing is Sept 7th at Lynx Golf Course, Otsego. Don't forget to if you are interested in getting some upgrade classes contact Dan Bryant at the Flint training center. I am proud to announce that Zone 3/4 hired Kurt Scheibner as our new instructor, Good luck Kurt. **Your Brother Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info Work in the U.P. is busy and we have a few travelers up here right now. It should stay that way through the summer now. There is a lot of mine work coming up in the next several years so if you don't have your mine safety training make sure you get signed up for that at upconstruction.org. The Local 7 statewide picnic on July 20th in Traverse City has been **CANCELLED** due to no availability. The next retirees' breakfast meeting will be on July 10th at Sherries Restaurant in Ishpeming at 10am. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Mgr./Financial Sec.-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 (Saginaw) **989-225-0095**

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

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

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

BOOT REPAIR

For your next repairs, call or text

Please look us up on Facebook or Instagram and YouTube @ EBR Leathercraft

(810) 588-7576

434 W. MAIN ST., BRIGHTON, MI 48116



IBEW
LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

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

TRAINING CLASSES 2024: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM
Code Update session 5, Mondays and Thursdays Sept. 9, 12, 16, & 19
Code Update session 6, Mondays and Thursdays Sept. 30, Oct. 3, 7, & 10
Code Update session 7, Mondays and Thursdays Oct. 14, 17, 21, & 24
Code Update session 8, Mondays and Thursdays Oct. 28, 31, Nov. 4, & 7
Code Update session 9, Mondays and Thursdays Nov. 11, 14, 18, & 21
Code Update session 10, Mondays and Thursdays Dec. 9, 12, 16, & 19
CPR/First Aid, Tuesdays, Sept. 3, 10, Dec. 3, 10, 2024
There will be a code update required in 2024 for 2025 license. We have 4 sessions this Winter, Spring and will have six more in the fall. Sessions are limited to 50 people each.

There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/ CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register.

There will be a code update required in 2024 for 2025 license. We have 4 sessions this Winter, Spring and will have six more in the fall. Sessions are limited to 50 people each.

2024 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2024 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2024 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2024! Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! Only mail-in registrations are now accepted. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.

GEORGE PERROS GOLF OUTING: This year's golf outing will be on July 13 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118. Registration starts at 7 a.m., shotgun start at 8 a.m. Cost is \$20/person and will include dinner. First year apprentices and retirees are free. There will be a 50/50 raffle to support the benevolent fund. Contact the Union Hall to sign up (734) 424-0978.

PICNIC: This year's picnic will be held at the Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Orban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240 at noon on Aug. 17. Please contact the campground at (517) 522-3467 if you wish to reserve a site. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Beck at (810) 858-0033.

THIS YEAR'S RETIREES' NIGHT will be celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Please make every effort to attend. This meeting is in honor of our retired members who have worked so hard to make the Local what it is today. Members receiving their 50-year pins are: Thomas R. Buss, Robert J. Melton, David F. Steward, Henry S. Truszkowski, Richard L. Sayre, Hilbert L. Hanible, Richard M. Murphy, William C. Snyder, John F. Lutz, Douglas C. Walz, Dennis J. Kittel, Philip N. Marentay, Chris A. Wise, and Arthur J. Rousseau. Members receiving their 55-year pins are: James H. Robbins, Robert W. Bishop, Leonard C. Neely, Richard M. Plisko, James A. Fettes, James W. Augustine, Lynn D. Grenier, Glenn C. Schaner, David L. Spicer, Kent E. Wilson, Gerald K. Fisher, Don E. Frasure, Kenneth A. Bolton, Wilson Little, and Lester G. Hall. Members receiving their 60 year pins are: Harlan W. Vanblaricum, Mark E.. Moon, and Gary R. Mills. Members receiving their 65-year pins are: Richard M. Curtis and Jerry L. Gould.

DETROIT TIGERS UNION DAY: We are organizing a bus trip to the Detroit Tigers game against the Baltimore Orioles on Sept. 14. Tickets are \$30 and include entry to the game, bus transportation, and \$10 Fun Money to spend at the park. To RSVP, contact the Union Hall at (734) 424-0978.

UNION 4 LIFE GOLF OUTING: will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 at Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118. Register online at www.union4lifecharity.com or contact the Training Center at (734) 475-1180. All proceeds benefit U of M Rogel Cancer Center's Breast Cancer Research Fund. Entry fee is \$110 per player, \$440 per team and includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, and two drink tickets. Tournament will be played in scramble with 4 person teams. If you do not enter a team list you will be placed with others. Open to all unions and the general public.

RETIREE'S CARD GAME: The first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for card games and donuts. The games start at 9 a.m. Please come join the fun.

RETIREE'S BREAKFAST: The Retirees' Breakfast will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

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

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

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for a number of issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

AFLAC INSURANCE: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone no.: (517) 306-0144.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

CREDIT CARDS: The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3% to use your card.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2024, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 for second quarter 2024. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2024. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, June 28, 2024.**

Future Dues Increases:
Effective July 1, 2024: A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.
Effective January 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.
Effective July 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.

The Business Office will be closed July 4 and 5 in observation of Independence Day.



Local 275



IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

SAGINAW – UNION NEWS-

SAFETY – It goes without saying, but please Brothers and Sisters, work safe while out on job sites. Please use the practice of making sure to check and double check any situation you may come across involving live wiring and equipment. Contractors have safety protocols and procedures in place for a reason. Please use them and follow those procedures. At the end of the day, we all want to return home safely to our families. Please, look out for each other.

LOCAL 557 ORGANIZER- Rex Christian has been on the job for almost two months now. Rex is doing great so far and working hard. Organizing is a tough task in the IBEW and in the trades in general. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex all the help he needs to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to him or need to chat about a different matter, please reach out to him directly at 989-890-4578. Additionally, Gus Voisine continues to Organize for the Local through the Michigan Initiative program as well. Please either reach out to Gus or Rex with any organizing questions. Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work is slowly kicking off at the mega project happening across the street from Hemlock Semiconductor. The job has been labeled Project Phoenix. Some calls have come in with plenty more to come. Please keep a look-out for more calls on this large-scale project.

PROJECT PHOENIX could provide this Local with an amount of work that has not been seen in this area in a long, long time. There is the potential for an even more massive amount of work that could spin off from the first expansion. If our Local is to see the full benefit of all this work, there is only one way that can be accomplished: our members will need to come home to man the work. Local 557's membership should be depended on heavily for the success of the project. It will take all of us to make it work. It cannot be understated how important this work could possibly be to the future of the Local. Please start thinking about where you may fit into this project.

GOLF LEAGUE- Golf League Night at Twin Oaks continues through the summer. There is no set schedule for golfers, just show up and golf. Tee times start at 6pm each Thursday. Format is a 2-person scramble.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next membership meeting is July 2nd at the Hall at 5:30pm. The end of June marks the end of the current calendar year quarter. Many members will need to pay their quarterly union dues ahead of the meeting on July 2nd. Please plan ahead on your payments.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7-4:30pm. **THE UNION HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON BOTH THURSDAY JULY 4TH AND FRIDAY JULY 5TH.**

BOOK SIGNING- If you

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – Work in the jurisdiction is very busy. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

Local 275's annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 27 at the union hall from noon to 5:00 p.m. Geoff Yonkers needs volunteers for the event, so please

contact him to add your name to the list.

The JATC has been conducting code update classes over the past couple months and have more scheduled. Please contact either Dave or Bryce in the JATC for options available to you.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues:

Trevor Bodnar, Joshua Dassinger, David Daum, Sennett Dodson-Garrett, Shaun Frantz, Dennis Gabbert, Andrew Holmes, Tyler Johnson, Kevin Koon, Trevor Krefit, Cody Moore, Nicholas Perry, Juan Rodriguez, Jose Salinas, Scott Whitby and Andrew Wohlfert. Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.



IBEW
Local 498
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings. Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Monday, July 8, 2024.

Office Closings: July 4, 2024 – Office Closed all day.

Code Update Class – 2023 NEC 15-hour Code Update.

Option 1: Online class for Local 498 members only \$70.00 Call TCJATC for details. 231-943-4193

Option 2: In-Person classes for May, June & Sep are all full. More in person classes are being considered.

*Must pre-register by mail. Member fee \$20 by check or cash. Make Check payable to "TCJATC"

Resale Items –We still have a few select sizes of Local 498 t-shirts, as well as Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship "Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment" for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.gtcf.org/scholarships/. Local 498 Union members' children get preference to the endowment. A huge thank you in Memory of Bob Dost for his generosity and being a great union member.

Service Pins – Service Pins are still available at the union hall for those members who have not received them. Stop by and get yours today!

Email Addresses - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300
NEAP 1-301-556-4300
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES

July 1, 2024 – Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter.

Info Updates – Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#

"Security is a kind of death."
–Tennessee Williams (1911 - 1983)

THE HIGHLY SKILLED crew of IBEW Local 275 members stand behind their banner while working at the K-Star project in West Michigan.



IBEW
LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meetings

Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be July 8th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

The September Picnic will be held this year on September 7 at our union hall. Family members are welcome.

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 summer months. Steady calls have been available for GM centers. Long term calls for service truck drivers have been made available with small shop calls being made available bi-weekly. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

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

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

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

Tiger's Party Bus - Attention membership, there are spaces available for members to attend the Tigers game on Sept. 14th. For sign up please contact Jenny at the hall.

New Membership - Welcome to our latest members; Cole Dominick, Kenneth Manwell, Corey Adamczyk, Mohammed Ahmed, and James Jacobs. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Marvin Carlson, Michael Poisson, and Charles Reid on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the families of Michele "Shelly" Fay, Todd Machia, and Bruce Bellinger. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep these Brothers and Sisters in our hearts.

"Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice. It will be an exhilarating experience because it is an intense effort applied toward a meaningful end."
–Dr. Thomas Dooley



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IBEW 692
BAY CITY – **Union Meeting.** The July monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, July 1, 2024.**

Executive Board Meeting. The July Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, July 15, 2024.**

Message from the Business Manager. Happy 4th of July Brothers and Sisters. Hopefully we will all enjoy some beautiful weather, fireworks, boating or the beach. Please remember to be safe and enjoy all of your time spent with friends and family.

Please note the hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

Work Report. Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:

-Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain

-Master Electric continues Electrical installations on the new Isabella County Jail. More calls for this project are expected. Master also has projects at the Midland Armory and Midland ESA for this summer. Master has recently secured Phase 2 at the Bangor Schools.

-Countyline has secured Airport Work. Countyline has a project at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility.

-Clements Electric Independence Bridge work continues along with Bay Carbon Project, and also work out to the Bay City State Park. Clements has also secured the next phase of work out to Mersen. Work on the 7 Mile grow for Clements Electric is also underway.

-Conti Electric has many projects inside I -Park (DOW).

-Conti Electric is continuing work on the Rogers City Solar Project. Conti expects the average manpower on this project to be around 50 peaking at 90. The hall has seen many calls for this project and will continue to have more. Zone 1 scale will be paid on this project along with \$ 50 a day incentive pay being offered per Conti. There will be a significant manpower call for this project the first week in July.

-Escon continues work on a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end. Much more work is to come out at Mersen with projects bidding as you read this article.

- Zone 2 also has another Solar project coming to the Lafarge Cement Plant. This Project could also start very soon. Northern Valley has secured this work.

-Ranck will begin work on Mission Solar immediately following the 4th of July Holiday. This is a 250 mw Solar Site and will need a substantial number of JIWs from our local.

- Superior Electric has a new line out to Bay City Powertrain along with a cooling tower project. Calls will continue for these projects.

- Newkirk has work at both Loud and Alcona Dams. Both of these projects will pay Zone 1 scale and have overtime.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership.

All locals in the State of Michigan are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. Organizers have finished up visits to schools and held their final career fairs and skilled trades expos for 2024. Seven area seniors have been selected into 692 apprenticeship programs, most of whom participating in Signing Day events. Planning continues for multiple skilled trades camp events and career fairs this summer.

As always, organizers continue to visit non-union job sites to speak with unrepresented electricians. If any Brothers or Sisters are aware of electricians who may be interested in joining our Local, please do not hesitate to reach out. Immediate onboarding opportunities are currently available around the state with additional local opportunities expected this summer.

Registrar's Report. "Politics matter." Any Local 692 hand who has attended a union meeting over the past few decades has likely heard this phrase spoken by agents during their reports. As cliché as it may sound, there is no doubt of the statement's validity. Locally, our relationships with commissioners, school board members and decision makers have paid dividends, resulting in more work for our members. The elected representatives close to home know who we are and what we do, and they craft their policies (and award their contracts) accordingly.

On a state level, our political involvement has clearly made a direct impact on the lives of our members and their families as recently elected labor-friendly candidates eliminated pension taxes, repealed Right-to-Work, and reinstated Prevailing Wage protections.

In matters of the heart, politics shouldn't matter. We all share important bonds with loved ones who hold political beliefs which differ from our own. Local 692 officers remain committed to representing *all* members, regardless of any individual's political affiliation. In a perfect world, it wouldn't be necessary for union leaders to pick sides at all. But we do not live in a perfect world.

The current state of our nation's news cycle does not help things. Once a public service, civil discourse on traditional media outlets has taken a backseat to disingenuous political commentary, misleading headlines, and unrelenting hot takes posted and shared online. It's hard to know who to trust. Political discussions among family and friends are often contentious, but no matter how hard these conversations become they must take place. Make no mistake, in matters of our collective livelihood as electrical workers, politics *still* matter.

As November's general election approaches, there is a clear choice before all IBEW voters at the ballot box. President Biden has made his commitment to improving the lives of IBEW members no secret. Under his leadership, historical investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, and renewable utilities have put us in position to thrive during a once-in-a-generation electrical construction boom.

The presumptive Republican nominee for the presidency has claimed that he supports workers. His record, however, tells a much different story. His past appointees to the National Labor Relations Board acted on policy stances spoon fed to them by groups such as ALEC and the Chamber of Commerce. Every single Trump-era NLRB decision weakened workers' protections and limited rights to union representation. Trump's signature policy "achievement," his 2017 Tax Law, denied our traveling Brothers and Sisters their ability to deduct legitimate business expenses. The list of the previous administration's past anti-union antics goes on and on.

Brothers and Sisters, politics matter. Perhaps now more than ever before. Please be sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming election. Please do not shy away from speaking about our political future with your coworkers, family, and friends. All Local officials are willing to discuss IBEW's political involvement with 100% transparency with any member at any time. Let us show you the receipts.

Ultimately, your vote is your business. But our voices are louder together. The aim of our political involvement is never to divide. Our aim is now and has always been to advocate for policies that improve the lives of our fellow members and their families while strengthening our communities.

Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security. We refuse, and will always refuse, to condone or tolerate dictatorship or oppression of any kind. We will find and expel from our midst any who might attempt to destroy, by subversion, all that we stand for. The Brotherhood will continue to oppose communism, Nazism, or any other subversive "ism." We will support our God, our Nation, our Union. Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. Effective July 1, 2024, dues will increase to \$46.20 per month. This \$1 per capita increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.

(Continued next column)

IBEW 58
DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting the Next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30. Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes.

Please check them out at <http://www.detroitetc.org/continuing-education/>. <<http://www.detroitetc.org/continuing-education/>>We will start to cancel classes if they don't meet the minimum enrollment requirements, or more hopefully we will order books for those of you who've signed up. Members on the Storm Book must secure their training through the Continuing Education Program offered by the school. If you need assistance in registering for a class, please call the Training Center, 586-751-6600.

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. \$10000 Donation per Brick.

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

Local 58 Dues Department - Look at your Dues Receipt - if your paid through date shows 12-31-2024 you are going to lapse at the end of June. If your paid date shows 3-30-24 you will have the \$30.00 reinstatement fee. It is Your responsibility to pay your dues on time - this could affect your retirement and death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep

IBEW 692, con't

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*

2024 Dues (January 2024 thru June 2024): \$45.20 Monthly
2024 Dues (July 2024 thru December 2024): \$46.20 Monthly

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

Fringe Benefits
REMINDER: if you have recently been married, divorced, had children, etc. make sure your 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

the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next meeting will be Tuesday July 2, 2024. The first recipient of the John Mayernik Scholarship was apprentice Eric Demeter. We received 8 applications, and they were all great candidates. We look forward to more applications in the future.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 9 at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The 110th Anniversary Picnic will be on Aug. 3. We will be providing picnic shirts to everyone who attends this year, picnic challenge coins for members, and stickers. The mailer will be sent out soon, check your mailboxes, and don't forget to bring your door prize slip. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 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, July 15, 2024, at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number 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. We have a lot of events and projects on the horizon this year and we need all hands-on deck. Tickets are available for our quilt raffle. Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, July 22, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

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

The Political Action Committee (PAC)- If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at registrar@ibewlocal58.org or registrar@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.

Local 58's Women's Committee- Our next meeting will take place on July 25, 2024, 5:30pm at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org.

(Continued next column)



Electrician spark spans generations

The photo and note below come from Celeste Brooks, who can probably find a good electrician or two in her family if she needs one. Pictured are her dad, Bill Lezotte, a 90-year-old IBEW retiree, and her daughter Madelyn, who followed him into the trade. Bill Lezotte, 90, was an electrician all his life, following in his dad John Lezotte's footsteps who, together with his brother Bob, both were members of IBEW Local 58. My dad was one of 12 kids (with two sets of twins) who played briefly for the Brooklyn Dodgers farm team, before deciding to come back to Michigan and become an electrician. Hired into Local 58 in 1952, he worked on several commercial buildings, as well as on Zug Island, coke ovens and steel mills. Most of his career he worked for Triangle Electric, while raising nine children with his wife, Sally. A year ago, my daughter Madelyn (one of his 17 grandchildren) was looking for a different career, and took interest in the trade. She asked several questions of my dad and he gave her a lot of insight into what the job would be. She is now a member of Local 252, and is currently working for A. F Smith.

IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – In Memoriam It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of John Conkell. John was a 46 year member who had just recently retired. Please keep John and his family in your prayers. There are no services scheduled at this time.

Code Update Classes The BCEJATC has Code Update Classes and Online Courses available. Please contact the Hall at (269) 964-4545 or the BCEJATC at (269) 300-8002 to get on the sign-up sheet. The last in-person class is July 13 & 20, 2024 from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing The 17th Annual IBEW Local 445 Golf Outing hosted at Binder Park Golf Course is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 8am shotgun start. Please contact the Hall for the individual/team registration/sponsorship paperwork.

IBEW Local 445 Member Picnic the Annual IBEW Local 445 Member Picnic will be at the Hall on Sept. 7, 2024, starting at noon.

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

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

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. To sign Book 1 & 2, initial signs are still in person only.

Special Fund – *IMPOR-TANT* This is a reminder that you may be required to supply proper receipt substantiation for your debit card usage.

Claims prior to Aug. 31, 2023, were issued a 1099 for unsubstantiated claims and no further action is needed for those claims.

Any claims after Aug. 31, 2023, may need substantiation. You will want to sign into the Special Fund website or App to verify if receipts are required.

If proper substantiation is not made within 63 days of the Debit Card usage, your card may be

suspended until proper substantiation is provided or repayment to the Fund is made.

Wilson-McShane has replaced TICI for our benefit administration. You can visit www.michiganelectrical.org to create a new account under the *Member Portal tab*. You should have received new Special Fund cards that are white. Please dispose of the old blue cards.

The website to access your *Special Fund* is <https://ibewmichigan.lh1ondemand.com/Login.aspx>. There is an app you can download from your app store.

MI IBEW Special Fund. You can find both links on ibew445.com website under Benefits.

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.

Reminder about Health Plan Advocate This is a reminder about the Michigan Electrical Health Plan Pharmacy Savings Program. Health Plan Advocates is working with the MEEHP to help the fund and the members to save money on costly prescriptions. If your prescription is over \$400.00, the HPA will check for copay savings cards to get members a \$0.00 payment for that prescription. If you receive correspondence from HPA, either via mail or email, you MUST respond to them to get enrolled. If you don't contact HPA, you could encounter a high deductible/co-pay when you fill that RX on your next refill.

2024 personal information Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest
Recording Secretary

Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.

THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
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With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

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IBEW

Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan
Since 1916

IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The Union Hall Normal Business hours Monday – Friday, 8-4:30 p.m. The Union hall will be **CLOSED** on Thursday July 4 and Friday July 5. The next **General Membership** meeting will be held on July 1, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on July 15, at the union hall, at 5 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on July 15, at 5 p.m.

The **Veterans Committee** Meeting will be held on July 11th, at Union Hall, at 5:00 p.m.

Woman in the Trades meeting will be held July 16, at 6 p.m.

Brotherhood Night is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30-5:30p.m.

The Annual Picnic is scheduled for July 27 at River Oaks Park in Galesburg.

The Labor Rally is scheduled for Sept. 7.

I am looking to start a new group called the **Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EVMC)**. The primary purpose of the *Electrical Workers Minority* is to advocate for greater diversity and inclusiveness within the IBEW, with extreme emphasis on increasing the numbers of people of color and women in leadership positions at all levels of the IBEW. I will be setting up meetings starting in August. If you are interested, please let me know.

The Work Outlook continues to be steady. Today we have 20 open calls for Moore, Champion Services, KEI, and Hi-Tech. We have crews working on the Pfizer, Zoetis, Gun Lake Casino Abbott labs and Palisades. There is plenty of school work. Lots of 40-hour calls. Give me a call if you want to go to work. Train the apprentices, encourage their involvement in the local. Remember to have fun at your job.

Organizing needs your help. If you know any electricians in your social circle, please encourage them to reach out to our organizer, Ryan. There is a lot of work coming to our local and we will need all the help we can get.

Sign up for a **Code Update** class. Classes are scheduled for Sept. 14-15, Oct. 16-27, Nov. 23-24, and Dec. 1-25, 2024. Call the hall or email mapplebey92@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Classes are limited to 30. Online classes are available through KETA. Contact Nicole at 269-388-4434

Retiree Lunches at the following locations:
July 17, The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd., Portage, 49002 @ 11 am.
Aug. 21, Heroes Food & Spirits, 121 S. Grove St. Delton, 49046 @ 11 am.
Sept. 18, McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 East Main St. Kalamazoo 49048 @ 11 am.
Oct. 16, Travelers Craft BBQ, 5225 Portage Rd., Portage, 49002 @ 11 am.

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 am.

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

With a heavy heart, I am sad to report Brother Keith Moore, a 45-year member, passed away on June 9, 2024, at the age of 66. Roundman always had the union close to his heart. I enjoyed working for Keith at the papermills.

Picnic on July 27 at River Oaks Park in Galesburg. From 11 am to 3 pm. Lunch will be served from 12-2 pm. RSVP, please call the hall and leave your name. In July, keep an eye out for a postcard in the mail to use to cover parking at the park.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF application takes at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down: (Continued next column)



Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – The next **Regular Meeting** will be held on **Friday, July 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**. It will be held at New J.A.T.C. Training Center, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

Please notify the Local Union Office with 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.

Local 47 will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, July 20 at Royal Scot in Lansing, MI. You can call or text the office with the names of your team by July 5. Cost is \$75/golfer, \$300/foursome. The outing is filling up fast, be sure to reserve your spot!

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Dr., Lansing, MI 48917-9275. Toll Free: (800) 323-8079

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: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."

Good and Welfare: Local 47 sends our Condolences to the Family and Friends of Armando Anguiano, Sr. Who passed away on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

Please stay in good health and enjoy your summer!

IBEW 131, con't
NEBF 301-556-4300 IO Pension 202-833-7000

Three Months or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Michael Ankney, Robert Chopp, Easton Lovell, Joseph Miller, Peter Reaume, Jaden Shedd, Jason Streit, Gary Yerden, Randall Youmans, and Joseph Zirkelbach.

Morris Applebey
Business Manager



Local 25

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25
SOUTHFIELD – The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033.

ANNUAL PICNIC: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Picnic will take place on Saturday, Aug. 3. The festivities will take place at Catalpa Oaks County Park, 27725 Greenfield Rd., Southfield, An informational mailing will go out soon. Anyone with questions or is interested in volunteering, please call the Union Office and we can put you in touch with the Picnic Chairperson, David Chudzinski, Jr.

INSTRUCTORS NEEDED: The JATC is in need of 2 instructors, one full time the other part time. If interested, please submit a resume to curtmcglone25@aol.com. Please contact JATC Administrator Curt McGlone or Apprentice Coordinator Martin Allen should you have questions regarding the positions.

SUB FUND BENEFIT: Please be reminded, documentation for SUB Fund benefits must be received by 2:00 p.m. Thursday to receive a benefit check on Friday. Any documentation submitted after the deadline will be issued the following Friday.

PER CAPITA: Any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a **monthly** basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments **monthly** to Local 25, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: It is important to keep your Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within 48 hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION: Per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within 30 days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the 30 days will be denied per the Plan Document.

NOTICE TO ALL: When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year, is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to **get the name of the person providing you information**. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

SICK AND INJURED: Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.



CURT
McGLONE



Local 149

Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149
DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., July 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Notice of Election –for Two Pension Trustees. The election will take place at the Detroit Union Hall, 1640 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48216, on July 2, 2024, from 2pm thru 7pm. 1

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., July 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

The Detroit 2024-2027 ratified contract is as follows: 3-year contract.

\$3.80 first year, \$2.50 second year, \$2.10 third year, all raises are across the board.

Travel pay increase, Area 1 \$28 (from \$23), Area 1A \$55 (from \$50), Area 2 \$95 (from \$80), Area 3 \$105 (from \$90).

Pitch Pay \$4.00/hr. to apply (beginning Oct. 1, 24)

Shift work- Shift 2 - \$0.75/hr., Shift 3 - \$1.00/hr.

Foreman pays \$4.50 over Journeyworker pay (from \$3.50)

Detroit 2024/2025 Raise Notice. \$2.25 on the check (across the board), \$1.00 to the Pension, \$0.25 H&W, \$0.17 Vacation Pay, \$0.10 Check Off Dues, and \$0.03 International ED Fund.

Vacation Checks. The **Detroit** Union Hall will open at 4:30am, Friday, July 12, 2024 to distribute vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8:00 until Noon, Saturday, July 13, 2024 for anyone that cannot make it down Friday. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

Mid-Michigan vacation checks will be mailed July 11, 2024.

Those who have their vacation pay **Direct Deposited** will have their money deposited in their bank on July 5, 2024.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check directly deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas. To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

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

Dues must be current to enter the Training Center.

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

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

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.

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Notice. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 6/24/2024, 1:30p.m.

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

“When ideas fail, words come in very handy.”
–Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)



Michigan Painters District Council

PDC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members, **DC1M WEBSITE:** www.iupat-dc1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*
Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

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

1st ANNUAL S.T.A.R. BANQUET SEPTEMBER 21st at CAMP DEARBORN

To all Members who have completed their upgrade training to be eligible for the banquet. The banquet will be held September 21st outdoors at Camp Dearborn.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

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

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

Search for “Painters and Allied Trades” download APP

Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

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

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



ROBERT
GONZALEZ

Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
Our next union meeting will be held on Monday July 1, at 6pm. This meeting will be a “special called meeting”. We will be nominating a Trustee for local 357. Please make every effort to attend.

IUPAT DC1M Union Hall, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren.

On Saturday June 8 we held our Local 357 100th anniversary party, at the Vintage House in Fraser. Thank you to the hundreds that attended. Thank you to our Officers, Contractors, and all the local 357 Brothers, and Sisters who made this party special. Congratulations Glaziers, and Glassworkers Local 357 on 100 years of excellence!

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

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

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.

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

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office, 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or the Council, 586-552-4474. –Business Rep- Don Stepp



Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers



CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

Aluminum - Copper - Brass
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide
Radiators - Lead - Batteries

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

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



Michigan Painters District Council

District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez
Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933
Local Union 312
Business Rep: Tim Schwerin
Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053
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 – Fred Frederickson
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Local Union 1052
Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803
Business Rep: Josh Ovalle
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Free-land, 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, August6, at 5:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

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 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.



CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

Aluminum - Copper - Brass
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide
Radiators - Lead - Batteries

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

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



BAC Local 2
WARREN/LANSING –
JULY 2024 CHAPTER MEETINGS:

METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, July 02, 2024 has been **CANCELLED** due to the Fourth of July Holiday.
ANNARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, July 02, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

The Ann Arbor Chapter will be having the wage allocation at the **JULY** chapter meeting. Please make sure you are current on your dues to participate.

PAUL FLINT DUNFORD CHAPTER: Wednesday, July 3, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St., Lapeer, MI 48446

The Flint Chapter will be having the wage allocation at the **JULY** chapter meeting. Please make sure you are current on your dues to participate.

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, July 08, 2024 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM, 3912 Blair Town Hall Rd West, Traverse City, MI 49685

DEATH REPORTED: Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Douglas Hervela** (Bricklayer & Cement Mason) who passed away on April 12, 2024. Brother Hervela had been a member for 38 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Leroy Hoppenworth** (Bricklayer & Cement Mason) who passed away on April 16, 2024. Brother Hoppenworth had been a member for 52 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Albert Wallace** (Bricklayer) who passed away on June 02, 2024. Brother Wallace had been a member for 72 years.

UNION DUES UPDATE: As of **Jan. 01, 2024**, the dues discount has changed. It is now pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

TEXTING PROGRAM: Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI** to **50607**

You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#); Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

WEBSITE UPDATES: Be sure to check out our new website at www.bricklayers.org and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

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.

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors.

(Continued next column)



Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, July 16, at 7:00 pm. There will also, be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come fellowship with your brothers and sisters and we will be holding a raffle for Detroit Tiger tickets!!

Congratulations to the winners of the Detroit Tiger tickets!! Juan Hernandez, Rafael Perez, Dennis Jackson, Tommy Sanchez

July 2024 Membership gold cards-Congratulations! Daniel O'Malley-30 years Umberto Valerio-40 years

Let's hear a big hooray for the 4th of July! It's time to put all our work stresses aside and celebrate. Here's wishing you all a blessed Independence Day with your friends and family. From your Local 514 family.

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

For any questions regarding the Apprenticeship program, contact Tommy Sanchez, the new Apprenticeship coordinator, at (313) 350-0389

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustb-safe.com to see how many modules you have. Your username is your full social security number and your password is the first four of your social security number.

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

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

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

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

Local 2 cont'd

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.

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual **RESPIRATOR FIT TEST** or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2024 online training classes.

APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS: Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets **MUST** be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

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) – (800) 531-2244

Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000

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

Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

member.

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

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

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org. Please refer to website for updated information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Access and make changes to your account 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 you Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you. Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address. Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

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

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

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

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 30700 Telegraph Rd., Ste 2400 Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **July 19, 2024**. This meeting will be at IBEW 275 Hall, 140 64th Ave N, Coopersville, MI 49404.

It's that time of year! Spring has sprung and Summer is right around the corner, along with our traditional Union picnics. Bring your family and friends to a picnic near you. There is always lots of food, fun, and prizes at these family friendly events. Food and beverages are provided. Feel free to bring a dish to pass if you can.

As always, volunteers are needed. Journeymen & apprentices are encouraged to participate. Contact the Union Hall to volunteer. Please remember, a union is only as strong as its weakest member. Show your union pride by participating in union activities with your union Brothers and Sisters!

Area 1 picnic at Camp Dearborn, July 27th, beginning at noon. Please bring a side dish to share. Area 2 picnic in Muskegon following the Labor Day Parade. Area 4 picnic on July 13, 2024 at Pioneer Park from 1-5PM. Current Union dues for 2024 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

In an effort to assist our active members, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has waived any increase in dues for the upcoming 2024 year. Dues for the 2024 year will remain at \$55.85.

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

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

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

Our current schedule for Apprentice Bootcamp is the weeks of July 29th & August 5th, followed by Commonarc testing the week of August 19th. Journeymen may schedule with B&G Processing at 586-477-1562.

Apprentices, please contact your area agent for available appointment times.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons **Area 1** Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, MI.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be July 17, 2024 at 11AM. The location will be The Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission Street, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858. Everyone from all areas are welcome.

Area 4 Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the

(Continued next column)

June 28, 2024

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT- ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular **MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE July 22, 2024, at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter Street, Detroit, MI.** Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Attention All Members, 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.

The Union Picnic will be July 27, 2024. The park will open at 10:30 am and go till 6:00 pm. Please come join us for a fun family day at St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds 11541 21-mile road, Shelby, MI. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Jon Bujan @ (586)787-1114**.

The Labor Day Parade will be on Monday September 2, 2024. We will meet at the hall @ 7 am, there will be doughnuts and refreshments before the parade and hotdogs, hamburgers and refreshments after provided by Local 149. Please come and show your union support.

Our 1st Annual Kyle Owsley Memorial Golf Outing will be Saturday, September 7, 2024. A link to register will be sent out in the next couple weeks. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Golf Outing, please contact **Justin Smith @ (248)709-0341**.

Anyone interested in attending Tigers Union Night on Saturday September 14, 2024 @ 6:10 pm, I sent an email with a sign-up sheet, fill out how many tickets you want and send it to the hall, or contact the hall.

There will be a Veteran's Day Parade on Sunday, November 10, 2024, I will get more information out as it gets closer.

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 Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work.

If you are off for a work-related injury, there is a separate form you must fill out to extend

Local 169, con't

hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.org or on our Facebook page.

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

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

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

your insurance. Call the hall with any questions.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text **(855) 957-1801** and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** call those jobs into 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.

Attention All Mechanics, when filling out Probationary Apprentices OJTs, give them an honest evaluation, if you are having issues with them, state it on the OJTs. They will be evaluated at the JAC meeting, and if necessary, bring them in to try and correct any issues.

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!!!**

Orientation for NEIEP Classes will be on the week of August 5 and school will start the week of August 12.

If you are eligible to sit for your State of Michigan or City of Detroit class A journeyman's license, study the code books and schedule a time to sit for them. If you pass your mechanic's exam and don't have your licenses you are not eligible to work in the State or City as a Mechanic without them. Getting your licenses and any certificates/training only makes you more valuable as an employee. If you need help with any part of the process, call the hall.

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 the **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 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 get you on the email list. We would like to extend best wishes and a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!

"Nature abhors a vacuum, but not as much as cats do."
– Lee Entreklin

"You have to recognize when the right place and the right time fuse and take advantage of that opportunity. There are plenty of opportunities out there. You can't sit back and wait."
– Ellen Metcalf

"Curious things, habits. People themselves never knew they had them."
– Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976)

"Be a craftsman in speech that thou mayest be strong, for the strength of one is the tongue, and speech is mightier than all fighting."
– Maxims of Ptahhotep, 3400 B.C.

"If you wouldst live long, live well, for folly and wickedness shorten life."
– Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

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Laborers' International Union of North America

LIUNA! LOCAL 1191

Feel the Power

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

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

Labor Day 2024 Celebration: Laborers' Local 1191 will have its Annual Labor Day Celebration on September 2, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Local Union parking lot, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. This event is limited to Local 1191 Membership only. Due to limited selection of food and beverages, Members are permitted to only bring immediate family members.

Additional parking will be available, but locations are currently to be determined. Please reference our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important updates regarding the 2024 Labor Day Celebration. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be any alcoholic beverages provided or permitted to be consumed during this event.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your 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: 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). The next General Membership Meeting will be held on the 12th of July, 2024 in observance of the July 4th holiday. **NOTE:** There will be no Monthly Membership meeting held the week of July 1, 2024. August's General Membership meeting will be held on the 2nd of August, 2024.

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 next Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 26th of July, 2024. August's Retiree Council meeting will be held on the 30th of August, 2024.

Union Dues For 2024: 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 (1st) five (5) days of the following months: March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. ***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



A GREAT LAKES bulk freighter slides under the newly connected Gordie Howe Bridge. Below, the bridge awaits placmenet of the its final deck segment.

Photo credits: Bridging North America



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.must-bsafe.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 tech-

nical trainings 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' AND Michigan Laborers' Vacation Funds

WPAS

* Telephone: (833) 389-0025

EXT. 3359

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

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

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

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

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

\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

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

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

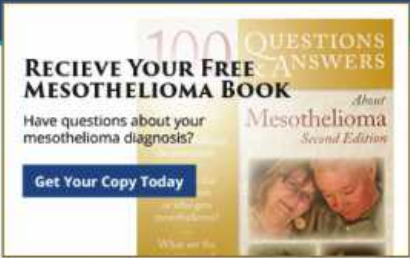
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Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.



IRON WORKERS gather to celebrate the connection of the Gordie Howe Bridge over the Detroit River.



IRON WORKERS set a piece of steel to support the final connection of the Gordie Howe Bridge this month.

Photo credits: Bridging North America



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – All Union Halls will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2024. We wish everyone a Great 4th of July Holiday!

The July Union meeting will be Monday, July 29 at 7:00 pm and will be **IN-PERSON ONLY**. All out-state Halls will be open. All are invited to join us for friendship & comraderie.

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

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, July 17 at 6:00 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, July 18th at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday July 29th at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

The 40th Annual International Iron Workers Festival will be held August 9-11, 2024 in Mackinaw City MI. Please plan ahead and reserve your hotel room(s). For more information, please go to www.mackinaw-chamber.com

SAVE THE DATE: Awards Night will be held on August 26, 2024 at the Novi Union Hall.

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

IMPORTANT: Dependent Eligibility Verification for Health Insurance Benefits coverage has been extended but is now in its final round. PDA Verification Team from Livonia MI is conducting this audit. All members who have dependents (spouse and/ or children) on their health care must comply. If you missed the mailing somehow, watch your mail for this final mailing coming soon!

PLEASE RESPOND RIGHT AWAY WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR LETTER AS THIS IS VERY TIME SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL TO YOUR CONTINUED COVERAGE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN. ANY QUESTIONS CALL 833-902-4649

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

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

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

HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted.

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

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

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.

Apprentices: Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab “Monthly Report Sign-In” this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also, located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “Welding Test Certifications”. You can now electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests.

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to the ironworkers25.org to view the 2024 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Training Schedule. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. **The Wixom Training Center – Phone: (248) 960-2130 24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Retirees’ Club. The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 8:30 am. The Retirees’ meeting/lucheon will be Tuesday July 16, 2024 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

Lifetime IW Jim Pente #1104213 is home from the hospital (6/3) recovering from cancer surgery. Cards & phone calls would be welcomed! Get well Jim!

The Retiree Club Annual Golf Outing Fund Raiser at Green Hills Golf Course will be held July 11, 2024. For more information, please contact Dallas Compeau 989-737-5518.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 9:00 am

at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting **AND ANNUAL PICNIC** for the **Bay City Chapter** will be July 18, 2024; 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 The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be 9:00 am on July 19, 2024 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

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

FindTreatment.gov 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 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 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: Dana Marie Jones passed away on Thursday June 6, 2024 at the age of 36. She was the beloved wife of Iron Worker Michael Jones #1377484 and mother to Dane & Michaela. Lifetime IW James Sego passed away on Saturday June 8, 2024 at the age of 91. He was a member of Local 25 for 67 years and was a 3rd generation ironworker. He is survived by his son lifetime ironworker Thomas Sego #1060207. Lifetime Rodman Leroy Haas #1175967 passed away on May 27, 2024 at the age of 75. He was a member of Local 340/25 from Fremont Michigan for 42 years. Lifetime IW Troy Patrick #1251832 from Grand Ledge Michigan, passed away on Sunday June 16, 2024 at the age of 52. He was a 25-year member of Local 25, a friend to many Ironworkers & will be greatly missed!

Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (June 24, 2024 10:00 am E.S.T.):-



THE U.S. Point of Entry in Southwest Detroit connected to the Gordie Howe Bridge consists of a massive 167-acre site cleared of all buildings. Being erected as part of the project are 13 buildings, which will comprise one of the largest border crossings in the U.S.

Photo credits: Bridging North America

Hardhats on Gordie’s bridge finally meet in the middle

(Continued from Page 1)

remain on course to open the bridge in fall 2025, and, with that, create new opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.”

There were a number of final steps leading to the mid-gap closure. A 49-foot segment on the U.S. side was the second-to-last to be installed, before the final 36-foot-long section was placed.

According to Bridging North America, unlike any of the other 54 segments that were installed one at a time to make up the bridge deck, the mid-span closure was custom built with the installation process taking up to six weeks and including multiple steps.

Each segment is composed of steel edge girders, steel floor beams, steel redundancy girders, concrete precast panels and steel soffit panels and. On average, they are 49 feet long and 123 feet wide. Crews used temporary jacks to move the Canadian bridge deck approximately six inches to allow for enough clearance for the mid-span closure.

Two cranes, one on each side of the bridge deck, were centered on segment 26 (U.S. side), and segment 25 (Canadian side), in preparation for the mid-span closure. Six temporary bracing pieces were installed to hold the deck in alignment.

Engineers physically measured the gap again. An exact measurement ensured a perfect fit when the final components for the mid-span closure were installed.

The entire bridge deck spanning the distance between the two 722-foot-tall towers measures 0.53 miles, making it the longest main span of any cable-stayed bridge in North America and the tenth-longest in the world. It will also be the longest composite steel and concrete bridge deck for any cable-stayed bridge in the world.

“While work remains to complete the structure, it is appropriate that we celebrate connecting this bridge deck, a physical link between the state of Michigan and our most vital

“An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.”

—H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

“Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.”

—Steven Wright (1955 -)

trading partner,” said Michigan Department of Transportation Director Bradley Wierich. “I cannot overstate the significance for the businesses and citizens on both sides of the border who rely on the timely movement of goods as well as for members of the MDOT team who have been working for decades to build relationships in Detroit neighborhoods and respond to residents’ concerns as this historic bridge becomes a reality.”

Connecting the bridge deck 138 feet over the Detroit River is a major engineering and construction feat, but there remains much work both on and behind the span in both Detroit and Windsor. Crews will stress stay cables and install electrical, fire suppression and drainage systems, and to-be-installed are barriers, signage, lighting, deck paving, and pavement markings.

Behind the bridge in Southwest Detroit, work also continues on the interchange that will link the span with I-75, as well as the 13 buildings that make up the U.S. Point of Entry over a 167-acre site that will be one of the largest border facilities in North America.

Construction began on the \$4.8 billion project in October 2018, and work on the span was delayed by the pandemic. Originally expected to be complete in November 2024, the span is now scheduled to open to traffic in the fall of 2025.

The Gordie Howe Bridge, with a total length of 1.5-miles, crosses the Detroit River about a mile south of the Ambassador Bridge (1929). Supporting the span are 216 metal-stranded stay cables, 108 on each side, which are attached to the tops of each tower and then anchored into 35 concrete ground-level boxes on each side of the river.

The six-lane bridge deck has a total of 106 segments. Each floor beam weighs 55,000 lbs. and each edge girder for the road and bridge decks weighs 99,000 lbs. Each concrete precast panel for the road and bridge decks weighs between 35,000 lbs. to 55,000 lbs.

Construction is being managed by Bridging North America, and the project is being paid for by the Canadian government, with long-term reimbursement from vehicle tolls on the American side. Since construction began on both sides of the river, about 10,000 people have worked more than 10 million hours of work on the project.

“Bridging North America is proud of the dedicated engineers and skilled trades people whose unwavering commitment to safety and excellence has propelled us... to completing the bridge deck of the Gordie Howe International Bridge,” said David Henderson, CEO, Bridging North America. “Their resilience and skill are the driving force behind the realization of this historic infrastructure project.”

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By Rachel Lincoln
Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

In the vast expanse of Michigan’s Pigeon River Country State Forest, where diverse wildlife thrives amidst the expansive wilderness, a partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Detroit Zoological Society has emerged to breathe new life into a landscape scarred by wildfire.

Stretching for more than 110,000 acres across Cheboygan, Otsego and Montmorency counties, the forest affectionately referred to as “The Big Wild” is the largest block of undeveloped contiguous land in the Lower Peninsula and features a rich tapestry of wildlife and habitats.

But in May 2022, a wildfire sparked from the fiery touch of a lightning strike swept through the forest, leaving behind a trail of ash and blackened earth. The Blue Lakes Fire burned 2,516 acres of the forest over the course of seven days.

The raw heat generated from the fire burned so intensely that most plants and trees did not survive. Trees such as oak, apple and hawthorn and blueberry shrubs were a reliable food source for white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey and many other wildlife. While most wildlife fled the area during the fire, the loss of their habitat and food sources led them to seek refuge elsewhere within the forest.

“The size and scale of this fire was unprecedented,” said Shelby Adams, Pigeon River Country wildlife biologist. “The intensity and extent of this particular fire presented unique challenges for recovery and regeneration.”

But despite the devastation, Adams said that fire is a natural part of the ecological process.

“Michigan has ecosystems that are inherently fire prone,” she said. “This means that both the land and its inhabitants have evolved to adapt to the natural cycle of wildfires.

Outdoors

Life after the Blue Lakes fire



NEW, GREEN SHOOTS sprout up amid the ashen ground and burned trees in the wake of the Blue Lakes Fire.

“In many cases, fire acts as a cleanse for the land, clearing away forest floor debris and creating space for new life to flourish. During fires, wildlife knows to flee the affected areas in search of safer habitats.”

Detroit Zoo CARE grant. Melissa Thueme, a primate super-

visor with the Detroit Zoological Society, has been a lifelong visitor to the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

“Since I was young, my family would drive north to Pigeon River Country State Forest to go camping for a week during the summer,” she said. “It was in the

Pigeon River Country that I fell in love with nature, animals and the environment.”

Thueme visited the area shortly after the wildfire was extinguished and was awed to see the changes to landscape.

“Places where it had been impossible to see more than a few



BURNED TREES and ash-covered ground are shown in the wake of the Blue Lakes Fire.

feet through the foliage were now nearly clear – except for a few char-barked trees trying to hang on to life,” she said.

The impacts from the wildfire were still fresh in her mind when the call for proposals opened for the Conservation Action for a Resilient Environment grant through the Detroit Zoological Society.

The CARE grant program is offered to zoological society employees to provide the opportunity to engage in conservation projects meaningful to them while addressing conservation and environmental issues in the Detroit metro area and the Great Lakes region.

The Detroit Zoo began working in partnership with the Pigeon River Forestry Management Unit to create a CARE grant proposal to provide a head start to the re-growing burned area.

Led by Mark Monroe, the DNR Pigeon River Country State Forest unit manager and a seasoned firefighter, and Shelby Adams, the wildlife biologist there, the team collaborated on a plan to plant oak and apple saplings in the wake of the Blue Lakes Fire.

These trees were strategically selected, each chosen for its ability to provide food and shelter to local wildlife.

Rooted together: planting trees one year after the fire

On a crisp morning in May 2023, on the first anniversary of the Blue Lakes Fire, stewardship volunteers from the Detroit Zoological Society and DNR and local community members gathered at the Pigeon River Discovery Center.

Among them was Monroe, who talked about the long history of fire at the Pigeon River Country State Forest and shared photos and stories of his experience on duty at the Blue Lakes Fire.

Adams followed to provide insight on the intricate balance of fire in ecosystems and the benefits that can come from it, such as creating habitat for the Kirtland’s warbler, a small, yellow songbird that relies on intense heat generated by fire to open the cones of jack pine trees to continually seed and grow new stands of jack pine forests.

Following a discussion about fire, the team of stewardship volunteers made its way to the burn site to begin planting trees. In total, they planted 20 trees spread

across four sections. These newly planted trees will offer essential food and shelter to wildlife as the charred area gradually begins to regenerate.

“As we parted ways, I stood back and looked at the trees we planted amongst the low grasses starting to regenerate. It felt good to be a part of something to give back to the forest which has given me so much,” Thueme said. “I hope that 30 years from now, another young girl is hiking through the Blue Lakes area past these now-mature trees and finds herself just as inspired as I was all those years ago.”

Ashes to abundance. Last month marks one year after the tree planting. While there are charred remnants on the base of the still-standing dead trees, the once-smoldering area is now fresh with vivid greenery.

Trees bear scrapes from antlers rubbing against them, brightly colored fungi flourish amid the downed wood, and there are ample caches of hollowed-out nuts left by squirrels. Fire had scarred the land, but in its wake, new beginnings have taken root, a testament to the resilience of nature.

“Thanks to the CARE grant, our partners at the Detroit Zoo successfully brought together a community of people who love the Pigeon River Country Forest and the wildlife within,” Adams said. “We deeply appreciated their dedication to jump-starting the regeneration of the forest and the benefit it brings to wildlife.”

Plan your visit to The Big Wild. When planning a visit to the Pigeon River Country State Forest, remember it’s a rugged and remote area perfect for a variety of activities like hiking, camping, fishing and elk viewing.

Visitors are encouraged to respect the environment and follow guidelines to preserve its wild character. Cellphone coverage is patchy in the forest, and signs are limited. To get a map of the area and learn about the history of the forest and all of the opportunities to explore and experience The Big Wild, stop into the Pigeon River Discovery Center.

The Discovery Center offers events throughout the year for visitors to connect to nature, like a mushroom foray or a guided hike to find elk.

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