

SHORT
CUTS



See endorsements
this issue on Page 4

Michigan voters will go to the polls to vote in the statewide General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, but absentee ballots will soon arrive in mailboxes around the state.

For many it's time to consider who to vote for in the election. A list of candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated councils appears in this issue on Page 4. The list includes candidates who have requested an endorsement.

Union members are urged to research, support and vote for candidates who share the goals of organized labor.

Inflation, tariffs smack construction

The producer price index for inputs to new nonresidential construction rose 8.9 percent from August 2025 to August 2026 "as conflicts in the Middle East and steep tariffs on key materials led to rising prices that are contributing to construction project delays," according to the Associated General Contractors of America.

The AGC's released its analysis of government pricing data on Sept. 10.

"Rising materials prices, along with higher labor costs," the AGC said, "are making it harder for many projects to pencil out, prompting some developers to put planned construction on hold."

"Construction firms are being squeezed by tariff- and war-induced materials cost increases, even as they boost wages to attract personnel," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "Those cost increases, according to our latest survey, are a major reason project owners are cancelling, postponing or scaling back projects."

The largest price increases affected petroleum products, along with metals that are subject to tariffs of up to 50 percent. The producer price index for diesel fuel, which reflects prices at the refinery or fuel terminal level, jumped 77.8 percent from August 2025 to last month. The index for liquid asphalt rose 16.4 percent year-over-year.

Metals prices also rose steeply over the past 12 months. Prices climbed year-over-year by 27.3 percent for aluminum mill shapes, 23.4 percent for steel mill products and 20.9 percent for copper and brass mill shapes.

In other year-to-year major material categories, the price of precast concrete was up 10.4 percent; lumber and plywood were up 8.3 percent, and sheet metal rose 6.8 percent. Some prices fell: gypsum building materials were down 0.9 percent, and cement dropped 1.2 percent.

Construction workers' wages have also been accelerating, in contrast to overall private sector wage gains.

The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Sept. 4 that average hourly earnings for most construction craft workers and office workers who aren't supervisors, increased by fivepercent from August 2025 to August 2026, while the same measure for the entire private sector rose 3.3 percent. That was the smallest gain in more than five years.

Quotable

"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

—Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne, 1882-1956)



SPREAD OVER a 250-acre campus in Washtenaw County's Saline Twp., construction of Related Digital's data center has reached a milestone of 1 million hours worked by the building trades. The valuation of the project and its electronic contents – which primarily consists of three single-story 550,000-square-foot buildings – has increased to an astounding \$43 billion. The start-up of the project – expected in 2028 – will yield a data center capable of delivering more than 1 gigawatt of energy.

'The Barn' raising continues: 1 million hours by 1,800 Hardhats

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

SALINE TWP. – One of the largest construction projects in Michigan's history – the data center known as "The Barn" – passed the 1-million mark for craft hours worked on Aug. 27. And the milestone was reached less than a year into the construction process.

That quickly-reached milestone is the result of the employment of more than 1,800 unionized construction tradespeople on the project – a number that's expected to peak out at 2,500 jobs, as there is more than a year remaining in the project's construction timeline.

The milestone was marked at the site by representative of Related Digital, Oracle, Wal-

bridge, Blackstone and leadership from North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council.

"Today, as we celebrate one million work hours and the incredible progress that's been made, we also celebrate Michigan's long history of leading in industrial innovation, thanks to its skilled labor force," said Bruce A. Beal, Jr., president, Related Companies, the project's lead developer. "This project is proof that we can reenergize our skilled trades, reenergize manufacturing across the country, and carry forward Michigan's legacy of powering American competitiveness."

"Thank you to our partners at NABTU, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, and Walbridge for their shared

commitment to this work."

The Barn – named for a old barn that was left standing at the construction site – is being built under a first-in-the-nation project labor agreement executed under the National Maintenance Agreement, covering all 14 signatory affiliated skilled trade unions.

With a current valuation of \$43 billion, it is also the first data center built under the memorandum of understanding between OpenAI and NABTU. The agreement was developed collaboratively with the project's general contractor Walbridge, whose century-long relationships with Michigan's building trades made the partnership possible.

"This milestone reflects

(Continued on Page 4)

Consumers' \$17B plan has variety pack of jobs, generation

JACKSON – Consumers Energy on Sept. 3 unveiled its "Energy Supply Plan," a 20-year blueprint to "deliver reliable and affordable energy for Michigan through an all-of-the-above mix of natural gas, solar, wind, pumped and battery storage."

The utility's building plans are of enormous importance to unionized construction workers in Michigan, many of whom have made careers building and maintaining Consumers Energy's

power plants and properties. And it looks like some more significant work is on the horizon – the utility revealed earlier this year that it expects to spend more than \$17 billion in generation, distribution and other investments over the next five years.

The Energy Supply Plan includes expanded renewable energy resources and two fast-starting natural gas plants that will help the utility maintain the delivery of reliable power.

State cash tees up U.P. copper mine

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

LANSING – The Michigan Strategic Fund on Aug. 25 approved \$50 million for infrastructure upgrades at Highland Copper's Copperwood Mine project in northern Gogebic County.

The fund's board approved the grant by a 7-2 vote, and their action sidesteps any vote on the project by the state Legislature, where approval for the project had stalled. The Strategic Fund money is being diverted from a 2022 project that didn't work out.

While environmentalists decried completion of one of the last steps for the establishment of a copper mine near the pristine Lake

of the Clouds in the Porcupine Mountains, a delegation of Upper Peninsula Republican lawmakers hailed the allotment of the money and the jobs and economic benefits it will bring to the region.

"The hardworking people of the U.P. are anxious to see their communities grow and prosper," said Rep. Karl Bohnak (R-Deerton). "We don't want to see our schools and fire departments close, and that means we need growth across the economy. Eagle Mine in Marquette County is showing how mining and tourism can operate side by side to benefit a region under some of the strongest mining laws in the nation."

(Continued on Page 4)

Labor Day in Michigan

BUILDING TRADES union members and supporters participated in several Labor Day celebrations around the state on Monday, Sept. 7. Once again, the state's workers showed up on Labor's day, reaffirming union solidarity while enjoying some fun and fellowship.



IRON WORKERS Local 25, Detroit.



IBEW Local 906, Escanaba, below.

UA Local 174, Muskegon, at right.

SHEETMETAL Workers Local 7, Muskegon, below.



Record-high approval, record-low power for America's unions

**By Harold Meyerson
The American Prospect**

Americans really like unions. Last month, Gallup released its annual survey of the public's assessment of the labor movement, and found that unions' approval rating stood at 71 percent – the highest it's been since 1957. While 89 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independents approved of unions, even 52 percent of Republicans felt that way as well.

Moreover, fully 47 percent of our fellow Americans said they wanted unions to have more influence than they currently have, which is a record high for this century. Only 23 percent said they wanted unions to have less influence.

Gallup wasn't the only entity asking questions about unions' influence last week. On Sept. 3, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its own survey, which found that the share of the nation's economic output – its work product – going to wages and benefits was, at 52.8 percent, the lowest since the Bureau began

Viewpoint

Union 'evisceration' is actively harming economy and society

measuring it in 1947. This followed another government study in May that found that wages and benefits comprised the lowest share of the nation's income – 51 percent – since, again, the government started measuring such matters in 1947.

As the labor share has been declining, the capital share has been rising. The same May study showed that profits' share of the nation's income had risen to 12.1 percent, the highest level since 1950. The gap between wages and profits has ballooned over the past six years. Inflation-adjusted wages have increased by just 3 percent since late 2019, while profits have risen by 50 percent.

Pundits who wonder why the number of American socialists is growing should contemplate that last set of statistics.

(Continued on Page 2)

Positive reviews for unions don't translate into more members

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

It's a challenge to get 71 percent of Americans to agree on anything these days.

So it's no small thing that for the sixth consecutive year, the annual Gallup survey on union favorability in the U.S. has put organized labor's approval rating among Americans in the 67-71 percent range. That consistent popularity level was last seen

decades ago.

"Public sentiment toward labor unions has undergone a broad reversal since the Great Recession," wrote Gallup's Lydia Saad on Sept. 1, with the release of its annual survey on how Americans view unions. "Approval, which fell to a record-low 48 percent in 2009, now stands at 71 percent." Gallup said across its 90-year trend on this measure of union approval, the number was only higher in the 1950s, when it reached 73-75 percent, and in the initial survey in 1936 (72 percent).

And that consistently high union approval wasn't even the top feature of Gallup's union-related report, which was released under the heading, "Record-high 47 percent want unions to have more influence."

"Nearly half of Americans (47 percent) want labor unions in the U.S. to have more influence than they do today," Gallup said, "a record high in the past quarter century and roughly double the 23 percent who want unions to have less influence. Another 26 percent want unions' influence to remain the same."

The share of survey respondents wanting greater union influence is up four percentage points from 2023 after rising almost continuously from a record-low 25 percent in 2009. Over the same period, the percentage wanting

(Continued on Page 4)

Viewpoints

Workers and the Midterms

This Labor Day, shit’s too expensive.

That’s what 94 percent of workers told us, in our new poll. Four out of five say: paychecks aren’t keeping up with the cost of living – groceries, rent, child care, gas.

This is happening, by the way, in a country where CEOs now make an average of 312 times what the median worker makes. CEOs got a 21 percent raise in one year – who else gets that? Democrat, Republican, Independent – whatever your politics, this economy isn’t working for working people. So how do we build a better one?

The answer is growing the power workers have – joining together, building our numbers so we can demand more.

Last year in our State of the Unions, we said we’d put together the single biggest year of action in our history. We talked about organizing everywhere, getting more young people into our movement, bringing people together around unions and what we fight for. A year later, we have more union workers in this country than we’ve had in 16 years. Nearly half a million workers joined a union last year – almost all of them under the age of 40.

So this June, our unions voted to double down and organize two million more workers into unions over the next five years. We’re going to deliver a Workers’ First AI Agenda, making sure technology works for working people, not just billionaires and corporations. We’re going to keep fighting for good housing, better pay, health care and retirement – and bringing good union jobs to everyone.

But these things don’t just happen.

The labor laws in our country are rigged against workers trying to form a union, so it’s harder to organize. It’s harder to win on AI when we have politicians – Republicans and Democrats alike – who cash checks from Big Tech CEOs instead of doing their job and regulating them. It’s harder to build worker power when the people in charge are working every day to undermine the movement that gives working people a voice.

That’s why these midterm elections matter. If we don’t right the ship in November, it gets “that much harder” to build an economy that works for all of us. We’re 63 days from Election Day and here’s what we know:

Workers are sick and tired of both parties: Republicans who enable a White House that has made our life worse and more expensive at every turn. Who have rubber-stamped Trump’s needless wars, chaotic tariffs and attacks on our communities. And at the same time, we have too many Democrats who pay lip service to working people, say they understand us, and want our votes on Election Day – and then take office and cozy up to the same corporations we’re fighting on the picket lines.

This year, it’s time to put the full weight of the labor movement behind candidates who will actually deliver for working people.

We’ve endorsed worker-first candidates in battleground states, governor’s races, Senate races, House districts. Democrats, moderates, Republicans, Democratic socialists, independents and everything in between. They all have one thing in common: they’ve proven they’re ready to fight for us. And over the next two months, we’re going to throw everything we have into electing them.

First, we’re going to turn out union voters and their families on a scale we never have before.

Two years ago, in 2024, the three closest Senate races in the country were in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. The total number of votes that decided those races? Sixty-three thousand combined. We have enough union members and union family members to make that margin. Think about the different world we’d live in right now with just a little more turnout. That’s why we’re setting a goal of 16 million union voters and their families, 2 million more than the last midterms.

The second thing we have to do, more than we ever have before, is protect and defend the vote in this election.

Unions helped get the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965. Growing up, I remember hearing stories about union members standing at polling places, making sure their neighbors knew how to cast a ballot. We’ve done it every single election year, and we’re going to step up again, right now, when the right to vote of so many Americans is under attack. We’re training 50,000 election protectors to staff every battleground district in the country.

We’re going to be there with our yellow vests at polling places, helping people navigate the process. Letting people know their rights before Election Day. And guess what? Even after the election, we’re going to keep our election protectors right there on the ground, including legal support, making sure every single vote is counted.

Look: none of this is going to be easy. Those same CEOs and billionaires I spoke about earlier, who’ve gotten wealthier by the minute? They’re using that money to buy influence, to buy these midterms. The 50 biggest individual political donors have already spent more than \$1.6 billion on the 2026 election cycle. Elon Musk – one guy – is ready to spend as much as \$200 million the next few months alone. We can’t outspend them. We can’t compete with the billionaire TV ads. But we don’t have to.

Our answer is people talking to people. It’s the trust, the relationships that union workers have all over America. We are the antidote to billionaire money.

In our polling this year, workers told us there’s only one group in this country they trust more than unions: their own neighbors. That shouldn’t surprise us. Because union members are people’s neighbors. We’re the nurse down the street; the teacher in your kid’s classroom. The people who coach Little League, volunteer at the food pantry and sit next to each other at church.

Those relationships and the trust that comes with them are a superpower no other institution has. And as we mobilize every day from now until November, that’s what we’re going to lean on. Billionaires can buy their yachts, they can buy their rocket ships – but they cannot buy our democracy, and we’re not going to let them try.

One midterm election is not going to fix every problem. It won’t fix our broken labor laws overnight. It won’t organize 2 million more workers into unions. We have to do those things, and we will. But winning in November – righting the ship—puts us directly on the path.

So from now until Nov. 3, every day is an all-out sprint. We are the only movement that can do this at scale – that has the trust, the infrastructure, the know-how. We’re going to talk to workers who are frustrated, who have never voted before, who have stopped believing politics can deliver for them.

And our message is simple: We have power. Our vote gives us power. Our voice on the job gives us power. Our unions give us power. And when millions of workers act together, no billionaire can beat us.

Working people are hurting. Working people are angry. But this Labor Day, the State of the Unions is clear: We’re motivated. We’re mobilized. We’re ready. And we’re going to win.

Sixty-three days left. Let’s make every single one count.

Liz Shuler
President, AFL-CIO

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and to shorten them. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.

How to contact us –
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Consumers’

\$17B plan

has variety

pack of jobs,

generation

(Continued from Page 1)

Genesee County will also be erected on the utility’s property on a site north of Flint. It will be a \$750 million natural gas-fired plant that will generate more than 900 megawatts.

Consumers Energy also announced the signing of two contracts to purchase power from third-party sources. One is a “clean resource contract” to help the utility meet Michigan’s clean energy standards set by the state Legislature, while the other is a new agreement to purchase power from the Midland Cogeneration Venture gas plant.

“This plan takes an all-of-the-above approach that serves our state and customers today and ensures we have the energy supply for our state over the next two decades,” said Chris Fultz, Consumers Energy’s senior vice president of electric supply. “Our plan will help lower customers’ bills while powering Michigan with affordable energy.”

Overall the new construction and other plans by Consumers Energy will result in the addition of more than 19 gigawatts of solar, wind and battery storage resources by 2040 to meet the state’s 2023 renewable energy portfolio mandates. The plans would increase Consumers’ generating capacity from 14.1 gigawatts in 2028 to 33.8 gigawatts in 2040.

Why are

our poverty

policies so

hateful?

By Jim Hightower

Here’s a reality that the Powers That Be keep trying to put out of sight and out of mind: Poverty.

Yes, right here in our own fabulously-rich USA. Don’t tell anybody, but millions of American children, workers, and elderly people are enduring the personal horror of dispiriting, debilitating, deadening poverty every day.

It’s our national horror, too, for the greatest cause of their penury is not lack of ambition, drug addiction, stupidity, or other canards hurled at the impoverished.

Rather it’s the moral poverty of the rich and powerful who routinely rig the system to cut off food access, hold down wages, eliminate health care and child care, jack up rents, privatize everything... and turn government into an exclusive club for corporations and the rich.

Such deliberate moves by moneyed and political elites to close off America’s pathways of upward mobility is both stupid and suicidal. Not only does it foment deep social anger, but it denies our country the creativity, enterprise, and – yes, the genius! – inherent in even the poorest communities.

Most pathetically, the callous moves to abandon the poor is driven by the worst traits in our society: One, a condescending right-wing meanness that openly regards the poor as failed humans who’re unworthy of public support; and two, upper-class fear that the poor are hard-wired moochers who pollute the gene pool, so they must not be coddled.

Our people’s fundamental values are better than this, and America obviously has the wherewithal to DO better. There’s no excuse for letting poverty bigots and billionaires set America’s ethical standards.

To assert “little-d” democratic values and take action go to BreachRepairers.org.



Labor’s day in Michigan

LABOR DAY in Michigan celebrants included Monroe Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 671 members, above, and Boilermakers Local 169 members in Detroit, below.



Record-high approval, record-low

power for America’s labor unions

(Continued from Page 1)

There are any number of reasons why the share of America’s economic output and Americans’ income is at record lows for workers, but the evisceration of unions – the only real vehicle through which workers can exert power – over the past seven decades is the primary cause. In the early 1950s, more than a third of the nation’s private-sector workers were unionized, and in many states outside the South, the unionized share stood at 40 percent or even higher.

Unions’ power – strikes and the threat of strikes – was such that companies with union contracts regularly raised wages and benefits in the quarter-century following World War II, and many companies with no union contracts were compelled to match the wages and benefits of the unionized companies in their industry, for fear of losing their workers to them.

As labor historian Nelson Lichtenstein recently noted in our pages, the power of unions like the United Auto Workers “forced managers of America’s greatest industry, and all those who followed the patterns it set, to double the real wages of American industrial workers in little more than a generation. That was a singular accomplishment, never repeated in American history, before or since.”

That, however, was then. Since that time, the erosion of workers’ legal protections when they seek to form or join a union (an erosion propelled by employers, judges, and Republicans and not significantly countered by Democrats) has defeated countless organizing campaigns, while financialization, offshoring, and legislation that facilitated wealth concentration and capital’s political influence have combined to decimate unions. Where once they represented one-third of the nation’s private-sector workers, today unions represent a mere 6 percent.

None of the tech giants or retail behemoths that dominate today’s economy are unionized; the merest hint of workers seeking to organize prompts a level of management retaliation for which the word “disproportionate” is laughingly inadequate.

Baristas at 700 Starbucks vote to unionize; the company refuses to bargain with them. Employees at an Amazon warehouse in Staten Island voted to unionize in 2022; the company has yet to begin bargaining with them – and when its warehouse workers in one Quebec warehouse were able to unionize, thanks to Canada’s more equitable labor laws, Amazon’s response was to shutter not just that warehouse but all seven of its warehouses in Quebec.

Democrats have periodically sought to put some teeth back into the National Labor Relations Act, under whose current version management faces no meaningful punishment for violating its terms by illegally firing a worker involved in organizing. Going all the way back to the Johnson Administration, Democrats seeking to restore workers’ rights have never been able to surmount the Senate’s 60-vote filibuster hurdle.

If they have trifecta control of the federal government after the 2028 elections, and move to scrap the filibuster so they can enlarge the Supreme Court, Democrats must also scrap it when it comes to reforming labor law. And merely passing their current version of that reform, the PRO Act, won’t be enough to rebalance the relations between owners and workers.

Unless they’re resigned to perpetuating an economy in which a half-decade’s rise of 3 percent in workers’ wages requires a rise of 50 percent in profits, they must repeal the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act. By so doing, they would not only end right-wing states’ use of “right to work” statutes to block unionization, but they would also restore workers’ freedom to boycott companies – not those at which they themselves were employed – whose workers are on strike.

It was through such measures that American worker power soared in the 1930s and ‘40s, and how labor stays strong in nations where secondary boycotts are still legal. (When McDonald’s attempted to break the labor system in Denmark, it was brought to its knees by boycotts that blocked the delivery of everything from menu paper to food).

If workers in this country are to regain the power they once had, and if America’s current race to become the most economically unequal nation on the planet is not arrested and reversed, the Democrats are going to have to curtail much of capital’s clout and, as the new Gallup poll shows record support for, increase labor’s influence.

(If repealing Taft-Hartley strikes some Democrats as extreme, they might remember that the bill was vetoed by that dangerous radical, Harry Truman, before it was overridden by Republicans and Southern Democrats.)

And if the Democrats are at all serious about regaining the long-term support of the working class, they’re going to have to do what Franklin Roosevelt’s Democrats did 90 years ago to win that support in the first place: empower America’s workers.

That would entail alienating most big-time investors and C-suite occupants who dominate our political economy, of course, but that’s a necessary condition for American restoration.

(Reprinted with permission from *The American Prospect*, where Meyerson is the editor at large).

Just joking

A man went to the hospital to visit his mother-in-law, who was in a very serious condition.

When he gets home, his wife asks, “well, how is she doing?”

The man responds, “apparently she’s doing great. I guess she’s going to get out of the hospital and live with us for decades!”

The wife responds, “that’s amazing, but I don’t understand. The doctor said yesterday that she only had a few days to live.”

“Well I don’t know about about yesterday,” her husband replies, “but I’m telling you what the doctor said today. He told me to prepare for the worst.”

I knew a guy who was engaged five times. He had a lot of near-Mrs.

Some thief is stealing the wheels off of police cars. The cops are working tirelessly to catch him.

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Bissell sweepers HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

THE BISSELL CARPET SWEEPER CO. building was a fixture on the Grand Rapids riverfront from 1884 until it was demolished in the 1960s. The company originally made its name and fame with a mechanical rug and carpet sweeper that was lightweight and easy to use. Like Band-Aids and Kleenex, the Bissell name became the brand associated with carpet sweepers. The Bissell company, whose headquarters is still in the Grand Rapids suburb of Walker, remains one of the world's top manufacturers of mechanical floor cleaning products.

(Photo credit: Michigan History)

Today the Internet tells us that 99 percent of U.S. homes have a vacuum cleaner, and one wonders how the other one percent gets along without one. For centuries – until 1876 – the homeowner's best option to remove dirt and debris from rugs was to drag them outside, hang them over a clothesline and smack them with a broom. Since the days they covered the floors of European castles, that was pretty much the go-to method for rug cleaning. That is, until Grand Rapids

crockery shop owner Melville Bissell and his wife Anna grew tired of dragging their rugs outside, or using a broom and dustpan as a means of cleaning sawdust from their shop's rugs. Melville's improvement of a mechanical carpet sweeper, and later Anna's corporate guidance, led to "Bissell" becoming a household name that is still a Michigan-based nameplate on a familiar line of floor-cleaning hardware products. "The Bissell carpet sweeper was developed in 1876 by

Melville R. Bissell, who operated a crockery store with his wife, Anna, in Grand Rapids, Michigan," says a write-up by *Funding Universe*, which hosts entries from the *International Directory of Company Histories*. "The Bissells received most of their fragile glass and china shipments in crates packed with sawdust, which often spilled onto the floors in their shop. In sweeping up the wood shavings, Bissell kicked up dust that got into his rugs, prompting him to invest in a carpet sweeper.

"These devices, which had been available since 1858, used floor wheels to drive rotating brushes that swept dirt out of the pile in rugs. Although not perfect, they were infinitely more effective than brooms." Of course the later availability of electricity eventually led to better vacuums and sweepers, but early inventors had to make do with manual power. In 1868 a Chicagoan named Ives McGaffey invented the first rug cleaner, but his "Whirlwind" device was laboriously heavy and was hand-cranked.

The *International Directory* report said eight years later Bissell purchased a competitor's sweeper called "The Welcome," and "endeavored to develop a better model. Bissell's design used floor wheels to drive a brush, but on an improved reduction gear. The bristles bent slightly as they brushed through the carpet. When they rotated off the floor, they sprung whatever debris was in their path up into a compartment. The dirt could be emptied by simply opening the top of the box and shaking it over a garbage can."

Anna knew first-hand that Melville's improved design was a winner. So did customers who came into their crockery shop. "It didn't take long for friends and customers at the shop to ask about buying the sweeper, and when they did, a new business was born," says a Bissell company history.

With word of mouth and via their own sales visits, soon the Bissells were making 30 carpet sweepers a day and shipping them to retailers throughout Michigan, the Midwest, and eastern states.

Confident in their patented product, the Bissells in 1883 organized "The Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co." and took the huge step of erecting a new six-story manufacturing building in Grand Rapids along the Grand River at Erie Street. It was destroyed by a fire in 1883 but was rebuilt in 1884.

Melville died in 1889 and Anna took over the operation of the company – she became the



A 1906 BISSELL carpet sweeper ad. Initial company advertisements focused on the mechanical superiority of the sweeper. Around 1890, sales increased when ads focused on the sweeper's labor savings, appearance and use of quality wood and polished brass. "I am talking to women. They are not mechanics," the Bissell advertising director said.

nation's first CEO. She actively defended the company's patents and began to market the sweepers across North America and Europe.

By the early 1890s, the firm was manufacturing 1,000 sweepers a day, and operated sales offices in New York, Boston, London, Paris, Hamburg, and Rotterdam, and said it had "representatives in almost every civilized country." Its promotional literature claimed in 1893 that more than 2 million Bissell sweepers had been sold during the company's relatively short history.

"Under Anna's aggressive and innovative management," says her write-up by *Michigan Genealogy on the Web*, "Bissell soon began to look in new directions in product development for their budding carpet sweeper line and to expand their carpet sweeper business to include all the continents of the world."

After Melville's death, "Anna became chief executive officer and over the next 30 years built the company into the largest firm of its kind in the world," said the Greater Grand Rapids Women's

History Council. "She initiated progressive labor policies, including workers compensation, insurance and pension plans, long before these were widespread in industry." The company's "big break," the *International Directory* said, "came when Queen Victoria allowed the Bissell sweeper to be used in her palace. Following the royal example, thousands of English homemakers ordered their own sweepers. Soon the practice of carpet sweeping became known generically as 'Bisselling.'"

Anna served as the company president from 1889 to 1919 and chair of the board from 1919 to 1934, the year she died at age 89.

The mother of five children, Anna shouldered civic as well as family responsibilities.

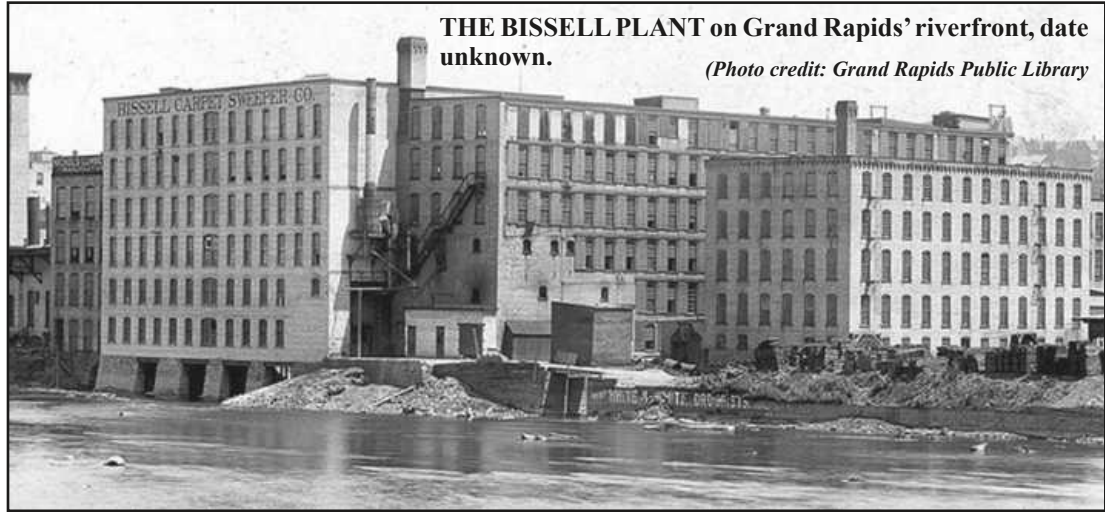
A statue was unveiled in Anna's honor near the Devos Convention Center in 2016. She founded the Bissell Settlement House which offered classes for recent immigrants and the city's poor, including kindergarten for the young children, and classes and clubs for older children.

Anna also helped finance the Blodgett Home for Children and the Union Benevolent Association, now Blodgett Memorial Medical Center, and the Clark Memorial Home (now a retirement community).

Bissell's Grand Rapids Erie Street plant was its production hub for decades. In 1959, the company moved its manufacturing and corporate operations to a modern 500,000-square-foot facility in the City of Walker.

In 2002 Bissell announced the offshoring of its manufacturing operations to Mexico, with the actual transition and loss of about 200 local production jobs taking place two years later. A portion of the Walker plant continued to manufacture carpet-cleaning chemicals. The plant made upright vacuum cleaners, carpet deep-cleaning machines, and the legacy carpet sweepers.

Bissell has since maintained its local global headquarters in Walker, which has included sales, marketing and research and development operations.



THE BISSELL PLANT on Grand Rapids' riverfront, date unknown.

(Photo credit: Grand Rapids Public Library)

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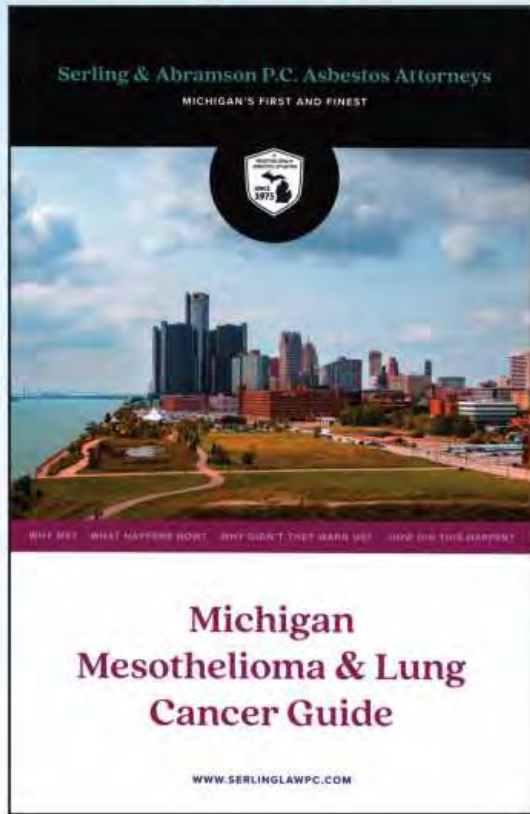
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Election: Tuesday, Nov. 3

Vote in the statewide Michigan General Election.

Here are Building Trades endorsements



Following are candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its local affiliate councils for the statewide Nov. 3 General Election.

This list will continue to be updated prior to the election.

Updates can also be found at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

Governor: Jocelyn Benson
U.S. Senate: Abdul El-Sayed
Attorney General: Eli Savit
Secretary of State: Garlin Gilchrist
Michigan Supreme Court: Megan Cavanagh, Noah Hood
State Board of Education Trustee: Judy Pritchett, Tiffany Tillee
Michigan State University Trustee: Brianna Scott, Kelly Tebay Zemke
University of Michigan Regent: Paul Brown, Amir Makled
Wayne State University Board of Governors: Shereef Akeel, Richard Mack

U.S. House of Representatives

District 1: Callie Barr	District 10: Christina Hines
District 4: Sean McCann	District 11: Jeremy Moss
District 6: Debbie Dingell	District 13: Donovan McKinney
District 7: Will Lawrence	

Michigan State Senate

District 1: Justin Onwenu	District 13: Sean Carlson
District 2: Abbas Alawieh	District 15: Felicia Brabec
District 4: Darrin Camilleri	District 18: Anthony Pennock
District 5: Matt Koleszar	District 19: Julie Rogers
District 6: Mary Cavanagh	District 22: Rob Hower
District 7: Jason Hoskins	District 27: John Cherry
District 8: Dayna Polehanki	District 30: Carol Glanville
District 9: Theresa Brooks	District 32: Rebecca Amidon
District 10: Amanda Treppa	District 35: Chedrick Greene
District 11: Veronica Klinefelt	District 38: Sara Cambensy
District 12: Kevin Hertel	

Michigan House of Representatives

District 2: Joanna Whaley	District 53: Brenda Carter
District 5: Candace Calloway	District 54: Sarah Pounds
District 6: Melanie Macey	District 55: Alex Hawkins
District 8: Helena Scott	District 56: Sharon MacDonell
District 13: Mai Xiong	District 57: Tom Turner
District 14: Mike McFall	District 58: Katrina Manetta
District 16: Stephanie Young	District 61: Denise Mentzer
District 17 Laurie Pohutsky	District 66: Ned Zimmer
District 18: Kelly Garrett	District 68: Matt Schlinker
District 19: Samantha Steckloff	District 71: Stephen Shlaack
District 22: Lisa McIntyre	District 73: Julie Brixie
District 23: Jason Morgan	District 74: Harold Pope
District 27: Jaime Churches	District 75: Penelope Tsemoglu
District 28: Sherry Berecz	District 76: Angela Witwer
District 31: Shannon Dare Wayne	District 84: Khristian Silvis
District 32: Jimmie Wilson Jr.	District 86: Joseph McClusky
District 38: Joey Andrews	District 87: Will Snyder
District 40: Matt Longjohn	District 88: Kiel Reid
District 41: Jen Strebs	District 91: Frank Lafata
District 44: Jim Haadsma	District 94: Amos O’Neil
District 46: Jan Maino	District 96: Christopher Girard
District 48: Jennifer Conlin	District 109: Anna Rink

Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council Macomb County
39th District Judge, non-incumbent (Fraser): Derek Boedecker

Oakland County
Oakland County Community College Trustee: Robin McGregor
Oakland County Probate Judge: Jessica Ann Hallmark (non-incumbent)

Wayne County
Wayne Executive: Warren Evans
Wayne County Commission- District 5: Angelique Peterson-Mayberry
River Rouge Treasurer: Mike Bowdler

Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee Building Trades Council Flint City Mayor: Sheldon Neeley
Genesee County Probate Court Judge: Ashley Prew, Andrea L. LeGendre
67th District Court Judge (Fenton area): Cheryl A. Lopez

Upper Peninsula Building Trades Council
Marquette County Commission- District 1: Cody Mayer
Marquette County Commission- District 3: Jenna Smith
Ishpeming City Council: Collin Fleury (IBEW Local 906 member)
Gladstone School Board: Brandon Langenfeld (SMART Local 7 member)
Masonville Township Trustee: Travis Cary (IUPATDC Local 7 member)

‘The Barn’ raising: 1 million hours by 1,800 Hardhats

(Continued from Page 1)

the skill, professionalism and commitment to safety demonstrated every day by Michigan’s union trades workforce,” said Mike Haller, CEO, Walbridge. “The Barn is being built under an innovative labor agreement that brought together owners, contractors and the building trades with a shared commitment to safety, opportunity and respect. We’re proud to work alongside these skilled men and women as they help build one of the most significant projects in our state’s history.”

Construction continues to progress across the 250-acre campus in Washtenaw County. To date, per Related, the trades have installed:

- 240,000 feet (approximately 45 miles) of low- and medium-voltage duct, enough to cover driving distance between Detroit and Ann Arbor, laid end to end.
- 25,900 cubic yards of concrete, enough to pour a sidewalk running the entire Lake Michigan shoreline of the Lower Peninsula.
- 12,000 tons of structural steel erected onsite.
- 82,000 bolts placed across the campus, more bolts than there are seats in Ford Field.

“The 1 million hour milestone celebrated today is a direct reflection of the unwavering commitment shared by all the men and women of the Michigan Building Trades to continue to build this state,” said Steve Claywell, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. “The union building trades workforce continues to demonstrate quality and professionalism regardless of the size of any project. The relentless commitment to training and safety continue to be paramount in what they do every day.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities on a landmark investment such as this. We would like to thank Oracle and Related Digital for their vision and investment in Michigan. We stand ready to continue our partnership with Walbridge and see to the completion of this historic project.”



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **October 9, 2026 at 8:00pm** at IBEW Local 692. The address is 1300 W. Thomas St., Bay City, Mi. 48706

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of \$5.85 for 2026.

We have a very busy out-age season coming this fall let keep safety and quality number one this season and show our owners and contractors why Local 169 is there best choice.

Labor Day was an immense success in all areas that had parades and picnics. Please send pictures to lynn@boilermakerslocal169.com There are some tees and hats at the Union Hall for any members interested.

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

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Scott Ivey 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.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons

Area 1 Retirees luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar, 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on Sept.16, 2026, at The Beaverton Tavern. The address is 102

MICHAEL CARD





Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; our next regular membership meeting will be **Sept. 28, 2026, at 5:30 pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions.

Attention All Members, Upcoming meetings:

September 21st – Executive Board Meeting at 5 pm.

September 28th – General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.

The Kyle Owsley Memo-

Local 169 cont’d

W. Brown Street, Beaverton, MI. 48612. As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller 55 for 2XL, 60 for 3XL and 70 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.com or on our Facebook page.

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

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

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

rial Golf Outing will be held on **Saturday September 26, 2026 @** Links of Novi 50395 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48374. The Golf outing is **SOLD OUT** for golfing but if you would like to donate to the outing or have any questions contact Just Smith (248)709-0341 or Mike Waker (734)389-9633 or go to, <https://www.eventregisterpro.com/event/annualiueclocal36golfouting>

If you haven’t already signed up for the IUEC Voluntary Income Protection (VIP) Plan for short-term, Long-term, Life and AD&D insurance, there are two enrollment dates, the second enrollment will open September 1, 2026, to October 31, 2026, and effective November 1, 2026. This will be the ONLY chance to sign up for this till 2027. www.IUECVIP.com or call (224) 487-5030

Just wanted to remind everyone that we **DO NOT** provide personal identification as a condition of entering or working on a job. Please refer to the CBA Article XXII Par. 6, when your company tells you to give your license to enter a job or call the hall.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWPF National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com or Ricky Azzopardi (Local 36 Co-Chair) (586)719-7465 or email him at rickypardi@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

The Local 36 Veterans Committee is happy to announce its first annual Side by Side Ride. This fundraiser is to benefit the Charitable Support Fund at Michigan Veterans Homes at Chesterfield Twp. This event will be held at the Belle River Course. The ride will begin and end at the golf course with dinner to follow.

Tickets are \$50 and are cash only. Tickets will be available at the union hall or through Ricky Azzopardi. Ricky is also in the process of securing a second location to purchase tickets. Ricky will keep you all updated through this paper, on Facebook, or if you like you can contact Ricky direct at 586-719-7465 or by email rickypardi@yahoo.com. Also, if you ride dirt bikes or four wheelers you are more than welcome to join us. The more the merrier!!

Local 36 website is up and running, this is still a work in

Positive reviews for unions don’t translate into more members

(Continued from Page 1)

unions to have less influence has fallen from 42 percent to a record-low 23 percent. “Americans’ strong desire for unions to gain influence coincides with labor union approval tying its recent high,” Gallup said.

“It should be no surprise,” said Economic Policy Institute Senior Policy Analyst Margaret Poydock, “that the public views unions favorably: Unions help workers win higher wages, advocate for safer and healthier workplaces, support a thriving middle class, and strengthen democracy by boosting civic participation.”

That popularity is not translating into increased union share, which sat at a record-low 5.9 percent for the private sector workforce in 2025, according the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Gallup provided a few other points to ponder for its survey:

- There is greater partisan agreement on union approval.

There are still wide differences on whether unions should gain influence: affirmative answers came

from 89 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of Independents and 52 percent of Republicans. “Broad Democratic approval is typical,” Gallup said, “but this is only the second time in the past quarter century – the first being in 2022 – that a majority of Republicans have approved of unions.”

- Americans’ growing desire for stronger unions does not mean they are confident this will happen. The same poll, Gallup said, finds that 27 percent expect labor unions to become stronger in the future, down from a record-high 34 percent in 2023. Meanwhile, 39 percent expect unions to weaken, and 29 percent say their strength will remain about the same.
- Even so, the share of respondents who expect unions to gain strength remains above much of the trend since 1999, when the confidence figure was typically closer to 20 percent.
- Even as Democrats have grown more likely to want unions to gain influence, they have become less confident that unions

will do so. Currently, 31 percent of Democrats expect unions to gain strength, down 16 points from 2023. Independents’ expectation that unions will gain strength has declined by eight points to 28 percent, while Republicans’ is essentially unchanged at 21 percent.

- Union members and non-members have similar outlooks for the future of union strength, with both groups leaning more pessimistic than optimistic. Among union members, 33 percent think unions will become stronger than they are today, while 45 percent think they will become weaker.
- Republicans are the only major demographic group that is more likely to want unions to lose influence than gain it (49 percent vs. 19 percent), while another 28 percent want it to remain the same. Their 30-point preference for less influence contrasts with Democrats and independents favoring more influence by margins of 67 and 26 points, respectively.

progress, and we would appreciate any feedback to improve the site to work for our members and retirees. Visit www.iueclocal-36detroit.org. Please be patient as we continue to improve the site. If you have any questions, contact the hall.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. **When starting a new job please use the website job reporting at www.iueclocal36detroit.org/job-reporting.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

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

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the **fund office (800) 523-4702** and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one week waiting period.

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

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic’s Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting January 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.

Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.

Attention All Apprentices, if you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic’s exam, you must fill out your OJT’s till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJT’s, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!**

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

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.

It’s with a heavy heart that I must announce the passing of Honorary Brother Jack Goss, please keep the Goss family in your thoughts and prayers. We would also like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

State cash tees up U.P. copper mine

(Continued from Page 1)

Eagle Mine began operations over 15 years ago and is the nation’s only nickel mine. It was also the first mine to begin operation under Michigan’s unique mining laws, which were unanimously adopted by the Michigan Legislature and signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2004. The laws are not only environmentally strict but also add a severance tax on top of normal business taxes to help local communities and rural areas across the region.

The Michigan Strategic Fund’s vote provides approximately \$5 million to the Gogebic County Road Commission for road infrastructure and nearly \$45 million to Copperwood Resources Inc. to improve energy and communications infrastructure. The cost of these improvements will also require equal or greater investment from the company. The total investment in the mine is expected to be \$425 million. State approvals to proceed with the work have been granted to the mine owners, who still must raise capital for the project and

update their plans for the site.

Gongwer News Service said the performance-based state grant is tied to the creation of 380 jobs, plus hundreds of construction jobs, and if Highland Copper doesn’t reach that threshold, there were claw-back provisions that would either get some, or all, of that money back.

The proposed underground mine, located less than two miles from Lake Superior, is expected to yield 820 million pounds of copper over its lifetime, in an era when the Trump Administration is eagerly pursuing domestic production of various metals for use in electronics. Environmentalists point out that the mine would create sulfide-bearing mine waste, which they fear could leach into the watershed.

Upon completion of mining activities, Highland Copper is required to return the site to a natural condition, and state law requires the posting of a bond to pay for the work in case the firm goes under.



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – The September Union Meeting is Monday, Sept 28, 2026 at 7:00 pm and will be in-person and ZOOM will also be available. All Union Halls will be open. We would like to encourage members to come in person to the September meeting for solidarity & fellowship! We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails.** You can download our APP for android on google play or for iphone at the APP store just search “Iron Workers Local 25” Martinez web shop. Or sign up via our website (www.ironworkers25.org).

The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026 at 6 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Sept. 28, 2026 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

West Michigan Informational meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026 at 6 p.m., at the VFW Post 4499, 1211 28th Street, Manistee MI 49660. Another West Michigan Informational meeting will be Thursday Oct. 1, 2026 at 6 p.m., at the Masonic Temple Lodge 34, 233 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. All are welcome.

The 10th Annual Local 25 ICIF Fundraiser will be (one week later than usual) Saturday **SEPT. 19** at the Novi Union Hall at 4 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be bought at the door or through any Business Agent. **Join us for food, drink and comradere** We have great prizes to raffle off as we’ve done in the past!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT AND HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE will be at the Novi union hall on **Wednesday Oct. 7 from 8 am to 2 pm, NEW TIME.** If you have questions, call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome!

If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.

Apprentice applications accepted electronically. Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can apply online, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

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

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

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find “Make-Up Days” & “Welding Test Certifications” where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2026 Block Schedule, Roster or Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

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

BENEFIT FOR 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 open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

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

If any member is having problems with the HRA substan-

tiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

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

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

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

Special Meeting Wed., Oct. 14 at 1 pm for Retired Members who are enrolled Local 25 BCBSM Health Plan are encouraged to attend an important informational meeting with LaborFirst to be held at the Novi Union Hall 25150 Trans X Rd. Novi MI. Representatives from LaborFirst will explain upcoming changed to the retiree health plan & outline LaborFirst’s role as a healthcare navigation & advocacy resource for retirees. We strongly urge all affected retirees to attend. Come prepared to learn about the changes to your health care coverage & how LaborFirst will assist you in understanding & navigating your benefits.

The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees’ Club. The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 8 am. The Retirees’ meeting/ luncheon will be Tuesday Oct. 20 at 10 am. All are welcome.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, MI 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be Oct. 15, 2026; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw Mi 48604 at 12 pm. All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9 am Oct. 16 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, MI., 48183. All are welcome.

The IRONWORKER Magazine To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up> **Veterans Crisis Line:** Dial 988, then press 1. Or, you can send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24/7. For more information visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

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

When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call or text 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential. **Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT:** <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text **HOME** to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform.

In Memory: David Berlin Sr. #792095 passed away Aug. 29, 2026 at the age of 91. His wife Jackie passed away in July. David was a 58-year member and is survived by his sons David Berlin Jr #978645, Michael Berlin #1124875 and son-in-law William Parsons #978393. Steven Haynes #1210320 Passed away Aug. 24, 2026 at the age of 74. He was a 47-year member survived by his wife Regina. Lifetime IW Darrell Weaver #522348 passed away Sunday July 13, 2026 at the age of 94. He was a 73-year member of Local 25. He is survived by his brother Raleigh Weaver #699169 along with Darrell’s grandsons Hunter Gill #1583888 and Bremner Gill #1676948, six daughters and many friends in the ironworking industry.

Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your dear loved one(s).

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Sept 14, 2026 9:00 am E.S.T.).



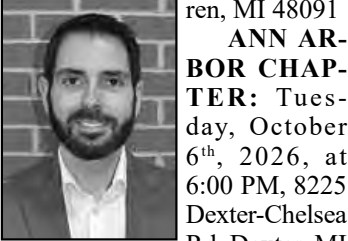
BAC Local 2

WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, September 21st, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, October 6th, 2026, at 5:30 PM, 21031 Ryan Rd, Warren, MI 48091



BRETT GIERAK FLINT CHAPTER:

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St, Lapeer, MI 48446

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Dr, Lansing, MI 48906

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, October 8th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Rd, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, October 8th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Trivola, MI 49965

GRAND RAPIDS: Thursday, October 8th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 233 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about the Training Centers, please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

BAC LOCAL 2’S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST, or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 training classes.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

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

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

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

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled **(Continued next column)**



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an Executive Board meeting that day at 5:30 p.m.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations!

September 2026: James McKeage-30 Years Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opciami.org Please contact the local office at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to ajrouche@opciami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please refer to the website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michi-

Local 2 cont’d

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

A SPEEDY RECOVERY: A speedy recovery is wished to all those who have been sick or injured. Let’s keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: The IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday – Friday 8 am – 7 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000 CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Michigan Masonry Trades Pension – (248) 828-6000

Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000

gan. We welcome Members and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316 or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are negatively impacting our market share. This year’s work forecast looks better than last year’s. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fined. Let’s work together to secure our future!!

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

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

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

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

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

Go online: Principal.com

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

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

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don’t provide your mobile phone number, you’ll

need to answer a few personal questions to confirm it’s really you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

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

Plasterers and Commercial Cement Masons can call (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and toll-free at 1-877-876-9357.

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

For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION, call 1-888-880-8222 (toll-free) or (202) 638-1996.

“Speak when you are angry-- and you will make the best speech you’ll ever regret.”

–Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

www.ssdfighter.com



Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Local 190

UA Local 190
ANN ARBOR – PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

OHIO GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING: is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 from 9 a.m. until Noon at our Ohio Training Building, 2064 Industrial Ct., Covington, OH 45318. Bernadette Maus, Our Benefits manager will be there to answer any insurance, pension, and any other questions you may have, hope to see you there.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION UNION MEETING: is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd. Mt Pleasant, MI. Hope to see you there!

The following dates there will be a requalification weld test for Consumers Energy, DTE and Semco Energy at Local 190's Training Center, at 8040 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor MI.

Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4.

Monday, Dec. 7 through Friday, Dec. 11.

Also please be aware there is a policy change with Consumers Energy and Semco. Welders must not exceed two calendar years between performing initial qualification requirements for all qualifications held. Please contact Ralph Booth at (734) 369-1432 to schedule your test date, first come first serve!

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.

PICNIC COMMITTEE: This year the Local 190 summer picnic was a big success. A very special thank you to Janie Anderson, Brian Keating, Lori Joseph, Nate Knapp, Anna Brooks, Ryan Henry, Randall Whitaker, Dave Forbes, Melissa Wood and Ralph Booth.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All members who get laid off or report back to work *please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.*

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

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

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

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

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 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.

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

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28.**

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule: 5 p.m., Monday, Oct. 5.**

Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs): This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the basic fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety.

Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

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

Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2026 Schedule:** Second course starts **Oct. 6.** Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. **2026/2027 schedule:** course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2027.** 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. **2027 course to be announced later.** Please register through the website: ua190.org.

Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.): Journeyman members who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

Hiring: Full-Time Plumbing Instructor. The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC is seeking a full-time plumbing instructor for a highly important and stable year-round teaching position serving apprentices and journeymen pursuing upgrade training. This role is more than a classroom assignment, it is an opportunity to pass on proven trade knowledge, strengthen the future workforce, and help shape the next generation of skilled plumbing professionals.

The successful candidate will teach day and evening classes, support hands-on learning, and play a key role in preparing students for long-term success in a trade that remains essential

(Continued next column)



Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters
and HVAC Service

Local 370

UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday Oct. 13, 2026 at 7 p.m.**

Retiree Breakfast will be Monday, Oct. 12th at 9 a.m.

Great Lakes National Cemetery Headstone Cleaning will be Saturday, Oct. 17. We are going to meet at Local 370 Union Hall at 8:30a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026

Local 370 will host our annual Service Award banquet and Holiday celebration. It will be at our hall at 2151 W. Thompson Rd., Fenton. Cocktail hour will begin at 5 pm. The service award ceremony will begin at 6 with dinner following. Please call Karla or Kyara at the hall to reserve your spot for a night of dinner, dancing and celebrating members' years of service and the Christmas Holiday.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is now available to all members and retirees as of March 1. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and

Local 190, con't

to commercial, industrial, health care, data-center, and advanced construction markets. Candidates should have strong knowledge of the Michigan Plumbing Code, excellent communication skills, and proficiency in math and computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint). Teaching experience is preferred. Travel is required throughout the year for instructor training through the UA ITF regional training program.

Responsibilities include:
Teach plumbing-related apprenticeship and journeyman-upgrade courses

Prepare lesson plans, demonstrations, and hands-on laboratory exercises

Evaluate student performance and maintain required records

Maintain a safe, professional, and respectful learning environment

Assist with curriculum development and updates

Maintain training equipment, materials, and classroom resources

Participate in instructor training and professional development

Mentor apprentices and help address individual learning needs

Remain current on plumbing codes, technology, and industry practices

The ideal candidate will hold the following credentials:

State of Michigan Plumbing License

Medical Gas Certification

ASSE Backflow Certification

Candidates must also have, or be willing to obtain, the following:

State of Michigan Master Plumbing License

Associate's degree in industrial training

This list is not final or exhaustive; additional coursework will be required as technology and trade practices continue to evolve. This position is paid at the UA Local 190 Journeyman Foreman rate and includes a full benefits package. Please submit your resume, Michigan plumbing license, transcripts, and certification documents to the UA Local 190 Training Center by **Oct. 2, 2026.** Qualified candidates selected for further consideration will be contacted for a scheduled interview after the deadline.

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Brian Keating. Brian initiated Sept. 17, 2010 and retired Sept. 1, 2026. We all want to thank you and your wife Beth, for your extensive volunteer efforts pertaining to the annual golf outing, picnic, Thanksgiving For All and Children's Christmas party. Your passion for community involvement and helping others is highly commendable. May this next phase of your life bring you the reward and fulfillment you deserve.

RETIREE MEETINGS – The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and 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.

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

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

Weld Test: Saturday, Oct. 3 at 7:00 a.m.

Welding: Oct. 5-28. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30p.m.–7:30p.m.

October Welding: Oct. 6-29. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 4:30p.m.–7:30p.m.

Rigging: Sept. 8 thru Oct. 8. 4-7:30p.m. Testing Oct 12-16.

CPR: Sept.16 @ 4:30p.m.

Boiler 101: Oct. 5, 7, 19, and 21. 5:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

CSD-1: Nov. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. 5:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

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

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available. Cost is \$85. Check, money order or Credit Card.

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, The Building Tradesman is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday, October 13th., 2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, October 13th., 2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday, October 13th., 2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Oct. 13th., 2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee –Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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

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

MobileApp. Our mobile app. is now available for download on you cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370.**

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

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

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.

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



Plumbers &
Steam Fitters

Local 85

UA Local 85
SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held at 7 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2026**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

The UA Local 85 Picnic will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Clare County Fairgrounds.

Contact Information:

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

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

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

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

The **new website:** 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, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

Social Media: Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

JATC News: Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects. If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: SUB@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of Another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance.

ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated.

THE NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON: will be held on **Tuesday, Oct. 13** at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 3535 Bay Road 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



Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

Local 357

UA Local 357
KALAMAZOO - **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Oct. 13** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00.

GOLF OUTING: The Annual Golf Outing held on Saturday, Sept. 12 was a great success, with \$5,000 donated to the Local 357 Community Service Trust Fund. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and participants. We look forward to next year's event.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree **BREAKFAST** is on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage. Phone no. 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 and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change. **There also seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents.** (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Craig Beach Jr and family on the birth of a son, Craig Beach III.

Congratulations to Zachary Alzate and family on the birth of a son, Bowen.

Congratulations to Nathanael Trumbull and family on the birth of a daughter, Juliette.

Congratulations to Carter Morris on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Christopher Walters on his recent marriage.

“Deeds, not words shall speak me.”

– John Fletcher (1579 - 1625)

“Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.”

–Dr. David M. Burns

“To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.”

–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790), *Poor Richard's Almanack*, 1737

“There are two kinds of men who never amount to much: those who cannot do what they are told and those who can do nothing else.”

–Cyrus H. Curtis (1850 - 1933)

“Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile I caught hell for.”

–Earl Warren (1891 - 1974)

“What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

“There are two modes of establishing our reputation: to be praised by honest men, and to be abused by rogues. It is best, however, to secure the former, because it will invariably be accompanied by the latter.”

–Charles Caleb Colton (1780 - 1832)

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose.”

–Lyndon B. Johnson (1908 - 1973)



Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

On behalf of Local 98 Officers and myself, we would like to thank the members and their families who came out and walked in solidarity with Local 98 and the many other labor unions for the Labor Day Parade.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following members who graduated from our apprenticeship program on Sept. 11, and are now journeymen; Carter Aleck, Connor Bacon, Lucas Badke, Zachary-John Cline, John Frank, Robert Free III, Luke Isham, Kevin Johnson, Michael McDonough, Daniel Moran, Richard Myers Jr., Jacob Paulsin, Jack Walsh, Trent Werner, and Zachary Woolsey. We wish you a lifetime of success and we are very proud of you!

Local 98 is proud to welcome Omar Amoles as our second Michigan Pipe Trades Organizer. We're excited to have Omar stepping into this role and helping grow Local 98 as well as the UA, organize workers, and build a stronger future for our members and the entire United Association.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026 at 6:00pm. A proposed by law change was read, seconded and signed by 39 members in good standing at September's union meeting. It will be read the second time, discussed and voted on under a special order of business at our next union meeting Oct. 8, 2026.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026 at 4:30pm. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

The next retiree luncheon is Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026 at Noon at the PLUMBERS LOCAL 98 hall. Please contact Dave Schroeder or Dominic Fanto if you have any questions, or call the hall.

Adopt-A-Highway: Save The Date – Our semi-annual Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean Up of I-94 in Macomb County is **Saturday, Sept. 19, 8am to Noon** (inclement weather back up day is Saturday, Sept. 26). We will meet at Bob Evans in Roseville at 8am. Please RSVP with Jeff Kavalor so we can be sure to have enough supplies.

Marathon Health: Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) are now open. For more information, please see their website at my.marathon.health or call 866-434-3255. Participants enrolled in the Fund's Medicare Advantage program are unable to utilize Marathon Health. Contact an officer with any questions.

NOMI is part of our health care benefits which started Aug. 1, 2026. The NOMI Health Network is an additional power network to make your healthcare experience more accessible, affordable and tailored to your unique needs. Information has been mailed to our active membership, under 65 and do not have retiree Humana health care. Any questions, please call BeneSys for additional information.

Benefit Update: To better serve you, Local 98 has changed record keepers for our Defined Contribution plan from BeneSys to Empower. Empower can be reached at (833) 569-2433. We have also changed our HRA tracking portal. Any questions on setting up your new accounts please call an officer. In addition, the monthly status reports will only include the past hours and contributions reported since the previous statement. To check your balances please go to fundoffice.lh1ondemand.com The username is your first initial last name and last four of social security number. For additional information please call the hall or BeneSys.

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

Pipe Up is the official podcast of the UA General President. The program offers monthly stories, skills and a look into the lives

of our membership. Access the podcast at ua.org/pipeup.

Membership Dues Reminder: Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues to avoid suspension fees and/or being expelled. If you have not paid your second quarter dues yet, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid interruption to your benefits.

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. This also includes notifying the hall for jury duty, bereavement, short term disability and worker's compensation. *We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay.*

Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

Benefits. *We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues **PLEASE CALL BENESYS at (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.** If they are on the other line, please leave a message and they will get back to you promptly.

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

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, Dec.18, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

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

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Nov. 10, 2026, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday Oct. 8, and Wednesday Nov. 4. **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 LISTS FOR 2027 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE DATES TO BE RELEASED (Continued next column)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7:30 PM. All members are encouraged to attend.

1ST YR APPRENTICE CLASS SCHEDULE UPDATE: Due to high enrollment, the 1st Year Apprentice Class has been divided into two sessions. As a result, some 1st year apprentices will have different class schedules. Those affected have been notified.

ONLINE REFERRAL PROGRAM will go into effect on **June 1, 2026.**

REFERRAL RULES UPDATE: Due to recent referral rules change, text messages from the Local are now more important than ever. If you are not receiving texts, call the hall to update your information.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES: Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line – Extension #7. All job calls will be posted via our new **online referral program**. The user guide, along with mobile app and desktop login instructions, are available on the website at lu111.com. If you have any questions, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft.

MRA FUND: Members are reminded that the Local 111 Health & Welfare Fund's Medical Reimbursement Account covers **eligible expenses** such as copays, deductibles, coinsurance, eligible self-pay medical costs, non-covered dental and vision services, non-covered medical services and prescriptions, and durable medical equipment. The MRA **does not** cover home exercise equipment, sporting equipment, hot tubs, saunas, mattresses or bedding, beauty products, recurring memberships, fitness trackers, vitamins, vacations, or other expenses that are primarily for general health and wellness. Please refer to the Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) for complete details or **contact the Fund Office at (866) 823-4730 with any questions.**

MRA cards can no longer be used for purchases through the online FSA Store or other vendors that use the same merchant category codes. Eligible items may still be purchased from these websites using another form of

Local 98, con't

FOR ANY CLASSES YOU MAY BE LOOKING TO GET IN TO. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only.

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

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

****2026 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 Oct. 3, 2026. ****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.** Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

OSHA Training – OSHA 10 (559), and OSHA 30 (\$159) available as an online class at www.careersafeonline.com. These OSHA classes are 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.

payment and submitted for reimbursement according to plan rules.

This change helps ensure compliance with plan guidelines and prevent ineligible purchases. Your MRA card may continue to be used for eligible expenses at approved providers and merchants.

For any questions or assistance, please contact the Fund Office at **866-823-4730.**

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

NEW HEARING HEALTH BENEFIT: UA members have access to an exclusive hearing healthcare program through Amplifon Hearing Health Care. The program includes discounted hearing aids, a free hearing exam, a 60-day risk-free trial, warranty coverage, and follow-up care. To learn more about this valuable member benefit, check out page 45 of the UA Journal magazine or contact Amplifon at 866-488-3873.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The thing that impresses me the most about America is the way parents obey their children.”

— King Edward VIII (1894 - 1972)

“Never stand begging for that which you have the power to earn.”

— Miguel de Cervantes (1547 - 1616)

“I bid him look into the lives of men as though into a mirror, and from others to take an example for himself.”

—Terence (185 BC - 159 BC)

“The most dangerous strategy is to jump a chasm in two leaps.”

—Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

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

— Lord Chesterfield (1694 - 1773)

September 18, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



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

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular Meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday Oct. 20, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.

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

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

Trades Women Build Nations – The 16th Annual Trades Women Build Nations will take place in Houston, TX Oct. 9-11 2026 hosted by North American Building Trades. This event is the largest gathering of Union Trades Women and growing each year. Featuring conferences, workshops, speakers and a banner parade through the host city. If interested in attending please contact the Union Hall. Reminder, registration does fill fast.

Get Well Wishes to: Jeff Selph, Daniel Albergo, Rebecca Blair, Douglas Detomaso, Michael Ferrante, Daniel Foltz, Jacob Giacobbi, Jonathon Grinter, Ryan Hartmann, Winston Jones, Michael Kovak III, Anthony Lumetta, Ian Martin, Jason McKim, Roger Pruitt, Allen Snider Jr, David Stone, Jeremel Ducharme, Mike Marshall, John Pastorius, John Hurley.

Deceased Members; 27 Year Member Mark Carter Sept. 10, 2026; Lifetime Member Felix Jarnot, Sept. 9, 2026.

Our Sincere condolences to Ralph and Scott Jarnot on the passing of their father Felix Jarnot Sept. 9, 2026.

DUES – 3rd Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and retirees.

This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

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

636 Retiree Association! The next meeting will be held Oct. 15. Informing all retirees and their significant others to attend our meetings at the Local Union Office in Farmington Hills, every third Thursday of every month at 11 am, excluding December. The meetings present speakers which are very helpful with regard to your retirement and officers are there to answer any questions, you are also brought up to date on the activities of Local 636. Lunch is served for \$7.00 with refreshments and desserts.

Also, our next day trip will be to the **Detroit Institute of Arts Friday Sept. 25.** We will meet in the parking lot of St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075 and board the bus 8:30 am – 9:15 am. Secretary Michael N. Sylvester

SUBPAY – NEWS. Participants should continue to send all

applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

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

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The customer service number for Empower is **833-569-2433.** For account information please create log in at **empowermyretirement.com** or download the Empower mobile app.

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

Are you “Work Ready”? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at **mustsafe.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: Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

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

Controls I with Jason Blouin Starts Monday Sept. 28th from 5-8pm

VFD with Jason Mon Nov 2nd from 5-8 pm 5 weeks

CSD 1 with Kevin, Oct 5th 5-8pm 5 weeks

Basic burner class with Kevin, Thurs. Oct 8th 5-8 pm 5 weeks

A2L class Oct 8th 5-8 4 weeks

Basic Chiller class with Dan Oct 7th 5-8 pm 5 weeks

MES 1 class Mon. & Thurs. 5-8 Oct 5th, 120 hours.

Revit 1 Thurs. Oct 8th 5-8pm 5 weeks

Trimble Class Thurs. Oct 8th 5-8pm 5weeks

Provisional Journeyman class Mon. & Thurs. 4-8pm beginning Oct 5th 10 weeks

Cert. Rigging class Mon. & Thurs. Oct 5th 4-8pm 5 weeks

Tube bending Mon. & Thurs. 4-8pm 5 weeks Nov. 9th

Orbital Mon. & Thurs. 4-8pm 3 weeks, call Mike at the training center to sign up.

****We will accept applications again for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices beginning in Dec 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.pipefitters636tc.org**

“I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.”

—Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969)

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Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters
& Service Trades

UA Local 174

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

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

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Hiring New Organizer: The Michigan Pipe Trades is currently accepting resumes for an organizer. Any UA journeyman member from Michigan can apply. If you have any questions or are interested in applying, please contact Ryan Bennett.

Operation United: As we begin planning for next year’s event supporting West Michigan Veterans, we are currently working to identify veteran Union members in need of assistance with yard work and minor exterior home projects next spring. If you know a veteran Union member who could benefit from help, please reach out so we can begin building our project list for 2027.

Local 174 Peer Support Group: Sometimes talking with people who understand makes all the difference. Join fellow Local 174 members for an **anonymous, judgment-free, Peer Support Group** at **6 PM the Tuesday after each Union Meeting.** Come talk, listen, share, or just be there. There is **strength in numbers** – the more members who participate, the more experiences, perspectives, and support we bring to the room. **No pressure. No judgment. Members supporting members.** Reach out to Chris Phillips or Josh Herrick with any questions.

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

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

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

\$10.80 over 3 years.
Language changes:
Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foremen pay.

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

*The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Wage Allocation: The 2026 wage allocation was voted on at the June 2, 2026 membership meeting. Results were \$2.25 increase on the check, \$0.05 increase to the Retiree Bonus Program, \$0.50 increase to the Pension fund, and \$0.50 increase to the Health Fund.

Organizing Update: *I have been on the east side of the state, helping with manpower needs in the Detroit area. Again, I appreciate everyone reaching out to coworkers and giving them my information. I have been reaching out to them, educating them on benefits, opportunities, and wages LU 174 has to offer. You’ve heard me say this many times over, the best organizers are the workers in the field! Please keep spreading the word, we’re all doing the same work, we’re just not all getting the same wages and benefits! Better wages, benefits, insurance you don’t have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION!*

–Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551.

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS). West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 5600 New King

St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098. (855) 407-5862.

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

*New rates reflected below effective 9/1/26.

Current Health Insurance Premiums: Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,300
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$926.00 with Non-Medicare Spouse/Dependents
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$582.00 with Medicare Spouse/Dependents
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 rben-nett@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.

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

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

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

Helpers: Please remember that if you are working as a Helper, 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 and the Lakeshore have merged their meetings and are now held on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 pm in Local 174’s Assembly Hall.

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact Nathan Phillips for details.

Training News:
ATTENTION: Members must notify the Training Office when licenses are renewed so records can be updated. Failure to report renewals may affect dispatch.

ASSE Recertification: Testing will be October 7th @ 5pm. ASSE requires 8 hours of training prior to test.

MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER RECERTIFICATION CLASS: If your installer’s certification expires before the end of the year, contact us by Sept. 21st. Class dates are Sept. 28, 29, Oct. 1 and test on the 5th @ 5pm.

INDUSTRIAL RIGGING & SIGNALING CLASS: The Industrial Rigging and Signaling Class begins on Tuesday, Sept. 22, with classes held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-9pm until Oct. 22, followed by a Practical Test. Class size is limited to 10
(Continued next column)



Local 671

UA Local 671

MONROE – The next Union meeting will be held on Oct. 15, 2026, at 7pm. The Executive Board will have a meeting on **Oct. 15, 2026, at 5pm.** If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedas-sociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

Special Order of Business: Per Article XV section 2 of our Local 671 Bylaws, there will be a special Order of Business at our Oct. 15 union meeting for the potential purchase of a new vehicle for the Business Agent. All members are encouraged to attend.

Gratitude: I would like to thank everyone that helped and volunteered for the United Way Steak Roast kickoff and, also the fund raiser we had for Rick Hurd’s niece Mia. Both events were a huge success, and I appreciate all the help.

Health & Welfare: We have launched a new website for our Health and Welfare. You should have received a notice in the mail about accessing the new website. You will be able to access important documents, and you are able to submit forms and other materials electronically using the secure website. For questions or help getting logged on contact Greg Smith at TIC at 517-327-2148.

Local 671 App: To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Mike at the Union Hall. There will be a new platform for the app coming soon. Stay informed about what’s going on in the Local by using the app.

In Closing: The leaves are turning and the mornings are getting cooler. This means Michigan’s hunting season is almost here. We wish all who participate in the Michigan Hunting season a very successful and safe hunting season. Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: Kirk@ualocal671.com

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

Local 174, con’t

participants. To register, please call the Training Center. By registering for this class, you are committing to attend **all scheduled class dates.**

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm. The next class will be held Thursday, Oct. 8.

WELD TEST: Capability demonstration will be Wednesday, Oct. 7 and the test event to follow Thursday, Oct. 8 at 5pm.

OPEN WELD: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; Watch the Facebook ‘Local Union 174 Members’ group page for any updates.

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

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

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

If I have lost confidence in myself, I have the universe against me.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

“There ain’t no free lunches in this country. And don’t go spending your whole life commiserating that you got raw deals. You’ve got to say, ‘I think that if I keep working at this and want it bad enough I can have it.’”

–Lee Iacocca (1924 - 2019)



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters
Local 333

UA Local 333

LANSING – October’s union meeting will be held in Battle Creek, Oct. 21, 2026, at the IBEW Local Union 445 Hall, 4071 W. Dickman Rd, Springfield, MI. 49037. Meeting will start at 6:30pm.

November’s union meeting will be held Nov. 18, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

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

Weld classes, 10 weeks starting Sept. 9, 2026, for all three Regions.

Lansing:
Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30pm – 8:30pm, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906

Jackson: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday will open only if Mon/Wed class fills
Limit 8 people, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI 49201

Battle Creek: Monday and Thursday 4:30pm – 8:30pm.
Limit 12 people

(KCC) RMTc, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037

Tube Bending
Rigging INDUSTRIAL RIGGING/SIGNALPERSON – NEW CERT – FALL 2026 DATES TBD 4:30 – 8:30PM

**need 6 people to hold class
INDUSTRIAL RIGGING/SIGNALPERSON – RENEWAL – FALL 2026 DATES TBD 4:30 – 8:30PM ** starting October 2026, rigging/signaling recertification classes will only be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Backflow: ASSE BACKFLOW – NEW CERT – FALL 2026 DATE TBD (Tues & Thurs) 4:30-8:30 PM **must have a Journeyman plumber license and 5 years of piping experience or be in the 5th year of apprenticeship

ASSE BACKFLOW - RENEWAL - FALL 2026 DATE TBD (Tues & Thurs) 4:30-8:30PM

** starting October 2026, ASSE Backflow certification classes will only be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Medical Gas Installer: MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER – NEW CERT – FALL 2026 DATE TBD (Tues & Thurs) 5-8 p.m.

MEDICAL GAS INSTALLER – RENEWAL – FALL 2026 DATE TBD (Tues & Thurs) 5-8 p.m. ** starting October 2026, med gas certification classes will only be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Pipefitting: LANSING: ADVANCED PIPEFITTING & LAYOUT – OCT 2026 DATE TBD ** must be a 2nd year or greater

JACKSON: ADVANCED PIPEFITTING & LAYOUT – OCT 2026 DATE TBD ** must be a 2nd year or greater

PIPEFITTING FUNDAMENTALS – OCT 2026 DATE TBD

Tube Bending: TUBE BENDING CLASS – OCT 2026 **must have 6 people to hold class

Trimble Robotic Station: – OCT 2026 DATE TBD

** limit to 6 people per class
Blueprint Interpretation Reading: INTO TO BLUEBEAM – OCT 2026 DATE TBD **limit of 6 people per class

Basic First Aid: 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min 6 people have signed up

CPR: – 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min of 6 people have signed up

Please note for all certifications: 2 weeks before class begins, you will be notified of all class details.

Please note moving forward, classes will be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of Jan. 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certification. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call the Lansing Training Center
(Continued next column)

Local 704
Sprinkler Fitters



UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD- The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday October 14th, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Any member interested in joining the Local 704 hockey team please contact Mark Micolo at 248-841-5233

Local 704 will be hosting a health gauge event on October 24, see the website for a sign-up link. This service is open to members, spouses and dependents over the age of 18.

Congratulations brother Jacob Uherek on becoming a grandfather. His oldest son Turon Marshall gave birth to his granddaughter Amoura Rose Marshall on Sept. 3, 2026, 8lbs 2oz 20” long and a full head of hair.

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

Please sign up for MDLive. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 333, con’t

517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone’s continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. It is the member’s responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

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

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

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

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

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

Attention: when you have a life change, marriage, divorce, birth of a child, change of address, or phone number. Please contact your regional office with the updated information, request new beneficiary paperwork if changes need to be made

“Too much of a good thing is wonderful.”

– Mae West (1892 - 1980)

“Before you contradict an old man, my fair friend, you should endeavor to understand him.”

– George Santayana (1863 - 1952)



Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues, Oct. 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

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

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 13, 2026, at 6 pm. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Labor Day 2026. The 2026 Detroit & Mid-Michigan Labor Day Parade and Picnic was a huge success! Business Manager Brian Gregg thanks all volunteers who busted their butts on Labor Day to make this Labor Day Parade and picnic was a huge success. We could not have this event without the help from our volunteers, and our generous sponsors.

A special thank you to the 2026 Labor Day Gift Sponsors AsherKelly Attorneys at Law, BeneSys Inc., DENCAP Dental Plan, Detroit Roofers Training Center Instructors, IUec Local No. 36, Lutz Roofing, Monica Woltkamp Fund, Officers, Trustees, & Members of LU No. 149, Ram Construction Services, Roofers & Waterproofers I.U., Royal Roofing, Schreiber Roofing Corp., The Brice Group, Wesley, Haddad & Co. CPA, Office Staff of LU No. 149.

Congratulations to ALL of our winners and participants!

Pictures of the 2026 Labor Day Picnic are posted on Facebook @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

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 in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-206-7620, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

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

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

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

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

Out-Of-Work. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

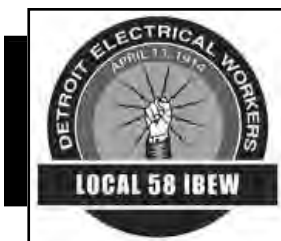
Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

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

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

The date of this publication above is 9/14/2026, 2:00pm

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



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

UPDATE – Sub Pay is NOT available at this time. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

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

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

Local 58 Dues Department – Please check your dues receipt. If your dues receipt has a paid-through date of 03-31-2026 you owe the \$30.00 reinstatement fee, and dues. You will lapse your membership at the end of the 3rd quarter, (Sept. 30, 2026), if your dues are not paid. Dues statements have been mailed. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone no. Thank you.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the local union hall.

Bus Trip travelers, if you still need travel insurance for the September Trip, here is the contact information, on-line www. TravelConfident.com or call 1-(855)376-2037.

Our September Luncheon venue continues to be closed from a fire earlier this year, so we will be at the Gazebo Banquet Center on Wednesday, Sept. 23. The cost is \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

Electrical Workers’ Joint Boards of Trustees (Fringe Benefits Office) – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

Retirement: The NEBF pension applications are no longer available at the Local 58 union hall. They are available either by contacting NEBF directly at 301-556-4300 or through your online account at NEBF.com. Standard processing time for NEBF pension applications has been 90 days. Please allow at least 3 months prior to your retirement date to submit your application to NEBF directly for processing. The IBEW PBF (International Pension Benefit Fund) applications can still be obtained at the Local 58 union hall. For questions regarding the NEBF or IBEW PBF pensions, please call Rebecca at 313-963-2130 ext. 3013. Questions regarding the Local 58 Pension or Annuity should be directed to the Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center - Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please inquire with the Training Center at www.detroitetc.org for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund: Next meeting will be Tuesday Oct. 6 at 5:30 pm. The 6th Annual Brad Ballard Memorial Golf Outing was Friday, Aug. 28. It was a great day for golf with beautiful weather and Pine Valley golf course was in great shape. A big thank you to all the Benevolent Fund members, Women’s Committee members, local members and spouses for making the event a great success. Also, Gayle and her staff at Pine Valley for hosting us and A Moveable Feast Cater-

ing for providing the dinner.

We had 3 teams that tied with a score of 58 (14 under); Craig Odren, Brandon Alexander and Nathan Kelly. After using the tie breakers the winner was Craig Odren’s foursome.

Also, like to give a Big Shout Out to all the trades, vendors and Locals who were generous with sponsorships to make this event a success: Graystone Consulting Morgan Stanley, HealthJoy, Milwaukee Tools, Conti Electric, IBEW Local 58, Operating Engineers Local 324, IBEW Local 665, Sheet Metal Workers Local 80, Miller Cohen PLC, Varipor, the Local Credit Union (Electrical Workers Credit Union), Joyview Market, Coyne First Aid and Motor City.

All proceeds benefit Benevolent Fund with member assistance and the Women’s Committee with the ARC Scholarship.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 13 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. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 13, 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, Sept. 21 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement.

Save the date - Friday, Nov. 13 - for our “Tux & Chucks Casino Night Party.” Flyers will be available soon. More info to come.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 13 at 5:30 PM.

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

In recognition of service to country and union, all IBEW members who have served in the military can claim their free challenge coin by visiting the website: <https://ibew.org/about-ibew/affinity-groups/veterans-committees/>

Local 58’s Women’s Committee – The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Milam (586-291-8014) Email at 58womencommittee@ibewlocal58.org.

Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a PAC meeting, you can reach out to registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

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

Electrical Workers Credit Union is offering **New Auto loans** starting at **3.99%** and **Used Auto loans** starting at **4.99%** Give the Credit Union a call to see if you qualify! 313-963-6060. Credit Union hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Closed Friday between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for lunch). You may now apply for membership online. Go to ewcu.net.

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meeting.

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be October 12th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be October 6th, 2026 at 9:00am.

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

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns.

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

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

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

Retirees - Congratulations to Steven Cox, Douglas Roth and Arnold Shangle on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the family of Gerald “Butch” LeVasseur II. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

Local 58, con’t

Dormant accounts! Please call the credit union to see the options to make your account active.

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

Local 58 Senior Golf: Looking for seniors 55+ years old to grab your clubs and join us for golfing and fun. Golfing starts at 9 am Oct. 8, Sanctuary Lake Golf Course 1450 E. South Blvd Troy, MI 48084. Please contact Jeff Gregory via phone call or text @ 248-240-7449. Thank you!

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Jeffrey Beare and Ronald Kokanovich. We wish you all the best as you begin your new journey. Thank you for your years of service with the IBEW.

Members that have Passed Away: Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss. **Gilbert Dueweke**, Father to Russell Dueweke, Pension member, 37 year IBEW membership, Andy Dueweke, Assistant Business Manager of Local 58, JIW and John Dueweke, JIW; Grandfather to JIW’s Eric Dueweke, Craig Dueweke, Alex Dueweke and Vinny Boiardi, Apprentice JIW; **Justin Goike**, Journeyman Inside Wireman; **Michael Levitt**, Pension member, 59 year IBEW membership; **David Rodge**, Pension member, 39 year IBEW membership and **Johnny Sartin**, Award-winning Photojournalist at WXYZ-TV, recipient of many Michigan Emmy Awards, six regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and two Alfred I duPont Columbia University Awards.

“To the soul, there is hardly anything more healing than friendship.”

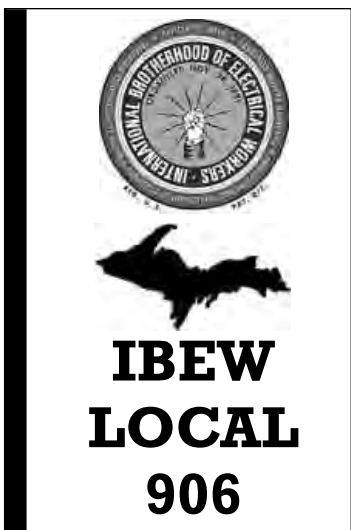
– Thomas Moore (1779 - 1852)

“If a problem has no solution, it may not be a problem, but a fact - not to be solved, but to be coped with over time.”

– Shimon Peres (1923 - 2016)

“Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering – and it’s all over much too soon.”

– Woody Allen (1935 -)



IBEW Local 906

UPPER PENINSULA — MEETINGS. There will be normal unit meetings for the month of October, 2026.

Marquette – October 6, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855

Iron Mountain – October 13, 2026 @ 7:00pm CST. Located at 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Escanaba – October 14, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 1219 1st Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829

Work Outlook- Work is busy. Upcoming projects include, VA Hospital in Marquette, Brimley solar, and Republic solar.

We currently have a 1-man foreman call for MJ Electric, a 1 man call for Pieper in Ironwood and a 2 man call for Code Electric in the Marquette area. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you’re interested in any of these calls.

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

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

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

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

There is a retiree breakfast the first Saturday of every month at Hardees in Iron Mountain at 8:00am CST.

There is a retiree breakfast the fourth Thursday of every month at Burger King in Houghton at 10:00am EST.

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

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

Union Dues- A friendly reminder that dues are \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026. If you are paying for the whole year at one time you receive a free tee shirt.

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

New Journeyman- None

Retirements- None

Members that have passed away- Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters.

Brother **Francis Pheiffer**, Pension member, 63- Year Member

Labor History- IBEW Local 906 is looking for labor history in the Upper Peninsula for our local/union. If you have any information that you’d like to submit or meet up for an interview please call the hall.

“Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. It isn’t the mountain ahead that wears you out - it’s the grain of sand in your shoe.”

– Robert Service (1874 - 1958)



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – ESTA MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America have filed a new federal lawsuit regarding ESTA. We continue to get favorable decisions from Michigan Wage and Hour Division, but those decisions are currently on hold due to the new lawsuit. If you are requesting ESTA payment from your employer, we are asking you to email those requests to your employer. If denied ESTA pay, please file a complaint to the State of Michigan Wage and Hour Division at <http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim>. The act references substantial fines and penalties for failure to comply, but you must file your complaint with the State.

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: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

1. First Aid/ CPR- Sept 1, Sept 8, Dec 1, Dec 8
2. Fire Alarm- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21
3. NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information)

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

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

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS ONLINE: We can now accept payments for union dues online. Visit our website www.ibew252.org and click on “Pay Dues”. Follow the instructions to create your account through the payment portal. Your dues receipt will be mailed to you.

DETROIT TIGER’S UNION DAY: The Union Day Tiger’s game will be on September 26, 2026 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets are \$30 and include entry to the game, bus transportation, and \$10 fun money to spend at the park. The bus will depart from the union hall at 10:30 a.m. Tickets first come, first serve, and will not be held until they are paid for. Call or stop by the union hall to sign up.

VETERAN’S COMMITTEE: We are looking for veterans to join our veteran’s committee. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact John Gilbert at (517) 920-1422.

LOCAL VEHICLE FOR SALE: The Local’s White 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe with 88k miles is open for bids starting at \$27k. Please turn in your sealed bid to the union hall prior to the October 7th Executive Board meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 6/2026, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for “A” members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your third quarter dues (July through September) are due now. **Payments for third quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES:
September 30, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 3rd Quarter Dues
October 24, 2026: Trunk or Treat
December 12, 2026: Holiday Party

“The smaller the mind the greater the conceit.”

– Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC)

“Absolute faith corrupts as absolutely as absolute power.”

–Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

“I’ve always tried to go a step past wherever people expected me to end up.”

–Beverly Sills (1929 - 2007)

“Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.”

–Bertolt Brecht (1898 - 1956)

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

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

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



Local 275

IBEW Local 275
COOPERSVILLE – Work Outlook: Work in the Local has started to pick back up with calls for Fresh Water solar and Taggart compressor starting. Please make sure to call the recorder for jobs.

Healthcare coverage: At the April 2026 allocation meeting the body voted to add vision coverage as an additional benefit. Benefits will be in effect as of Aug. 1 and we are being told by the administrators that there will not be an additional card but would be the same information as your Delta Dental cards. They also have an app that we will work on distributing. Some members have reached out about their special fund cards expiring. Please keep an eye on your mail for new cards coming, your current card will remain working until the end of the month.

Building Corp: Recently we wrapped up the inspection period for the new potential Union Hall in Walker. Currently we are waiting on the appraiser to finish their assessment, and that should be the final hurdle. If you happen to stop by the Union Hall, you may notice the for-sale sign. Please note that we have things in place that the Union Hall will **NOT** be sold until we have closed on the new Union Hall.

Labor day: We want to thank all the Brothers, Sisters, and their families for coming to walk with us this year. It was a great turnout and once again we had one of the larger groups in attendance.

Volunteer Info: Labor rings the bell will be the next volunteer event. For those who are not aware, Local 275 challenges all other Unions to raise money with all proceeds going to Salvation Army red kettle drive. We have held the trophy all but 2 years and would love to continue to do so! If you are interested in ringing the bell, please reach out to Nicole.

West Michigan EWMC: Meetings will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. Please Join the EWMC on Oct. 11 at Millennium Park in Grand Rapids as we walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention. Check in starts at 11, and the walk starts at 1pm. All are welcome to attend! The newest EWMC shirt is available at the hall, \$30 cash with 2 colors available.

RENEW: Renew continues to meet monthly and discuss future events. If you are interested in joining, reach out to Mark for the next date.

Veterans’ Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

Training: Apprentices- Please pay attention to Trade-school for upcoming schedules for classes for the 26/27 year.

The JATC is now offering master’s Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjate@gmail.com

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

General Info: The Local Union has a new swag! The new challenge coin is a throwback to the All-American Girls Professional Baseball team, the Grand Rapids Chicks. Coins are \$15 each, limit of 5. We also have new convention pins in \$20 a pin with a 2 pin limit. Finally, we have new hoodies on order, and have brought back the most requested design, Union Brothers! If you could not get the shirt, make sure to get a hoodie! All items **MUST** be picked up; we do not ship swag.

If you are working on a project in our jurisdiction and are told that you were selected for a random, **DO NOT** take it, call the Hall first. Randoms are part of the **MUST** program that was agreed to by NECA and IBEW in our contract. We’ve been seeing our contractors who are subs being told by the G.C. that one of our members were selected for a random through their program.

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – Pension Benefits Workshop **Correction on the Date** The Benefits Workshop will be on November 12, 2026, at 5pm. Please RSVP for this event.

Battle Creek Christmas Parade will be held on November 21, 2026, at 5:45pm.

The date for Christmas at the Hall is Dec. 12, 2026, at 9:00 am. You will be seeing postcards for the event in November. Please RSVP for this event.

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

Paying dues late If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be charged a \$10 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

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

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

As of **January 1, 2026**, the following due’s structure:
IWs: Monthly \$61.00 • Quarterly \$183.00
Apprentices: Monthly \$50.00 • Quarterly \$150.00

IBEW Local 445 App/Website The new app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

The General Membership Meeting is on the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall.

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

2026 Personal information Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

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

Local 275, con’t
We are not signatory to B&V, Barton-Malow or any other G.C., therefore we are NOT subject to their drug testing.

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

As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The office will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm and is closed from 12:30-1pm for lunch.

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

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Jamie Butcher, Tim Davis, Dan Foster, Damien Keglovitz, Kevin Koon, and Chris VanMaanen. Please make every effort to get caught up.



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The Local 131 110th Anniversary Party was a great success! Thank you to everyone in attendance, you all made it a great evening! The band was awesome, the food was on point, and the venue was spectacular. Christine, Nicole, and Ryan did an amazing job booking, setting up, and preparing for the event. I am truly grateful for their efforts.

If you took any photos at the event, please send them our way.

FREE TIGERS TICKETS - Saturday Sept. 26 is the Tigers annual Union Day game! Tickets are now free to all members and their guests! That includes access the Blue Moon Bases Loaded bar for pregame activities and charter bus transportation. The bus will leave at 8:30AM. Opening pitch @ 1:15PM. Call the hall (269) 382-1762 to reserve your spot.

FREE WMU Broncos Football Season Tickets – Local 131 has once again partnered with WMU athletics, which includes 50 season tickets to see the Broncos @ Waldo Stadium all season long! Any member can go to every game if they choose (so long as tickets are available). Please call the hall or text Jon Current @ 269-716-7577 to reserve your tickets!

Media and Anniversary Photos: If you are able to take photos or videos at work, please send them our way! If you took photos at the anniversary party please send them our way! You can upload your videos and photos to our google drive folder using the QR below:

IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch: Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching “IBEW 131.”

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

Veteran’s Committee Meeting: September 3rd 2026

Executive Board: September 21st 2026, 5PM @ the Hall

RENEW Committee: October 20th, 6PM @ the Hall

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

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

Upcoming Events:
Saturday Sept. 26: Tigers Union Day game, bus leaves from the hall @ 8:30AM **Free Tickets Available**
Saturday, Sept. 26 : WMU vs Boise State -Free Tickets Available
Saturday, Oct. 10: WMU vs Kent State-Free Tickets Available
Saturday, Oct. 10: Member Orientation Breakfast 8-10 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31 : WMU vs Bowling Green -Free Tickets Available
Tuesday, Nov. 17: WMU vs EMU, Free Tickets Available
Tuesday Nov. 24 : WMU vs Miami OH Free Tickets Available
Work Outlook: Palisades continues to chug along as more “emerging work” pops up every time a new system is activated. The immediate work picture is slowing outside of Palisades as we have several apprentices on the books waiting for assignment. Everyone still seems to be finding work in neighboring jurisdictions.

Retiree’s Lunches at the following Locations:
Oct. 21: Berries Famous Pancake House, 5585 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Nov. 18: Marjo’s West, 325 N Grand St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087
Monthly Pizza Gathering (Last Friday of the month): Sept. 25 at 11:30 AM: Jac’s Cekola’s Pizza, 31132 S 9th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast: Every Tuesday at 10 AM: The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002
Death of Members: None (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 557

IBEW Local 557
SAGINAW – NEXT UNION MEETING - The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct.6 at 5:30pm.

LOCAL 557 GOLF NIGHT –Tee times are now moved up to 5:00pm every Thursday at Twin Oaks. Earlier tee times will continue until the end of the golf season.

2026 MID-TERM ELECTIONS – As you may have heard before, this year’s election is the most important of our lifetime. We have an opportunity to put in place Labor Friendly candidates. The IBEW and the AFL-CIO do an excellent job recommending candidates that should do the best for working families. If you are interested in helping the cause, many door-knocking and phone banking opportunities are available and all the help we can get is greatly appreciated. Please either reach out to Gus or someone at the Hall for further details.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS – These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting.

JOBSITE SAFETY - Job-site safety is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work. All members should be as diligent as possible when it comes to making sure work is completed in a safe manner.

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

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.

BOOK SIGNING- If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and register on Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either jobline@ibew557.org or renee@ibew557.org

WORK OUTLOOK- Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, wastewater plants, and other various jobs. The Saginaw Twp. schools re-light project has begun with some hiring. Calls have begun for Battery Energy Storage System (B.E.S.S.) projects in multiple locations within the Local’s jurisdiction. Locations include Alma, Merrill and Fairgrove. All are expected to hire more moving forward. We will need our members to take these calls as well as calls at the Solar Field in the Freemont Township area. New contractor W.S.G. has the Freemont Solar job and are currently waiting for permitting to go through before beginning the work. The Ingersol Twp. Solar Farm has been delayed with no clear resolution in sight. Local 557 is expecting more calls to be coming in shortly that may prove to be challenging to fill.

(Continued next column)

Local 131, con’t
to report.

Delinquent Members: Robert Dalecki, Ryan Eklund, Timothy Hazard, Gabriel Powell, Nathan Smith, Cory Werner-Hoskins
Jonathan Current Business Manager IBEW Local 131

QR code to send photos to Local 131



IBEW Local 665’s column - See Page 11



IBEW Local 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Oct. 5, 2026.**

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, September 21st, 2026.**

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

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

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

Work Report.
The work report in our jurisdiction remains solid. We have had open calls recently in Zones 1 & 2.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy’s Karn Solar site in Essexville. Although weather has been an issue, more calls are still expected.

Bay Valley Electric is finishing work at a nice dorm project at Alpena Community College.

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

Local 557, con’t

It is very important to fill these calls to protect our market share and contract conditions.

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

BLUE CROSS APP- Download the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan app for your smartphone. Search for “BCBSM” on the Google Play app or Apple store.

WEX APP- To download the WEX app on your smartphone, search for “MI IBEW Special Fund” in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don’t forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3. You can also view job calls for the day through the Local 557 website and the accompanying smartphone app as well. Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like, please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone.

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

Michigan Sugar, in addition to a handful of other local projects.

Conti Electric has ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility and Consumers Energy’s dams along the Au Sable. Phase 3 of Little Trout Solar in Hawks is wrapping up late summer.

Countyline Power continues work at Midland Waste Water, has upcoming work on the Tittabawassee dams, and secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar.

Escon Group has some work in Midland’s I-Park and McLaren’s Bay City West campus and Bangor Schools.

John’s Electric continues work at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks.

J. Ranck Electric will be adding a battery storage facility on the Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush late this summer. J. Ranck has begun pole testing at solar sites in West Branch and Cheboygan to fully mobilize in 2027.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission and has also picked up a couple nice projects out to CMU.

Nelson Electric is wrapping up projects at Bay City Power-train and continues access control and security work at the Amazon warehouse in Clare.

Northern Power has secured summer work at Alpena Schools.

Northern Valley continues work at the AMRIZE Cement Plant and has started Alpena’s Meijer remodel. Work at Alpena Community College’s solar field is also ongoing. Their residential and generator divisions continue to secure a fair amount of work.

S&G and Hardies Electric are keeping their crews busy on various projects.

Swan Electric has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg.

Teds Electric continues work at Clare Schools.

Van Ert Electric continues work on their solar project in Gladwin.

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

If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use ext. #1.

In Solidarity,
Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Organizers’ Report. Job calls are now posted on our website, www.ibew692.net. The out-of-work list has been updated with additional information such as ding detail, a job log, and a list of recently rolled members. Please note initial sign of the out-of-work list should be in person at the hall. Re-signs after rolling can be done by emailing, texting, or calling Business Manager Ryan Charney.

Passes for Hell’s Half Mile Film & Music Festival may be available due to our continued sponsorship. The event takes place in Downtown Bay City September 24th through 27th. If interested in attending any events, please contact Deon.

-Brendon “Deon” Baranek 989.327.4131, Kevin Klapish 989.252.9225

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

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

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



IBEW Local 665
LANSING – WORK OUT-LOOK: Projected to be busy throughout 2026. There are many projects going currently in IBEW Local 665 jurisdiction. LG battery plant is still going strong with more work to come. MSU plans to spend \$2 billion over the next four to five years.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have 900 members in the Local. Of which 220 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman’s job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

Upcoming Events: Oct. 1, 2026, is the start of IBEW Locals 665 Annual Food drive and goes until Nov. 20, 2026. Please drop your donation off at the hall. IBEW Local 665 Golf Tournament is on Oct. 3, 2026. Look for the Flyer in your email for more information.

The Renew Committee will be hosting a Euchre Tournament on Oct. 17, 2026, at the Hall. Look for the Flyer in your email.

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical, we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejatec.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to LEJATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejatec.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665’s apprenticeship program.

To apply, go to www.lejatec.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on doing any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

OUR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall. Remember that we have a wage allocation this year and nominations are in May’s meeting for Business Manager, E-board, Recording Secretary and Delegates for the IBEW International Convention.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #370. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Brian Thompson 05/26/26, Charles Vanhorn 05/09/26, Ronald Bullen 04/09/2026, Steven Goodine 03/17/2026, James Foster Jr. 02/28/2026, Joseph Perkins 02/20/2026, Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2025, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2025, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2025, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon “Bill” Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25.

“Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory.”
–Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)



PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M members walk in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS Local 25 members walk in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



Local 25

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

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

APPRENTICE TURN-OUT: A class of apprentices will be turning out as Mechanics at this month’s Membership Meeting. Please join us in celebrating their achievement.

PANCAKES WITH SANTA: The Union will be hosting Pancakes with Santa at the Union Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Santa will be joining us from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mark your calendars for the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, 2026. This year’s celebration will be held at **The Henry**, located at **300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan, 48126**.

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

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

REPORTING JOBS: A reward will be provided to any member that reports non-union or union mechanical installing insulation under our scope of work. Members with valid leads should contact Eloany Rodriguez at (248) 750-4992 and you will receive a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) gift card.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25’s Constitution & Bylaws Article III Section 5, failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Future failures to report a job start will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President. **PLEASE** report all job starts promptly so we can avoid having to fine members. Reporting is now easier with our **QR code** --- simply scan, fill out and submit your jobs. Visit our Facebook page for additional information and access to the QR code.

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization activated.

Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes including hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within forty-eight hours. This includes employment changes for members, retirees, and travelers. This is the only way to guarantee you

(Continued next column)



Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47
LANSING – The next Regular Meeting will be held on Friday, October 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Local 47’s Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

Please make sure to call or text all starts and layoffs to the Union Office. Be sure to leave your name, the contractor’s name, and the start or layoff date.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees continue receiving Robo Calls, please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. Several members currently have this number blocked and therefore are not receiving important notifications.

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 Union Office so we can verify your phone number and ensure the number has not been blocked.

Please notify the Local Union Office of any phone number or home address changes. We need current member information updated throughout our system, TIC records, and with the International.

PATRICK WELCH
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. **ATTENTION RETIREES:** Effective Immediately, the 79 hour rule is now in effect beginning September 1, 2026.

Congratulations to Steven and Andrea Mauro on the birth of their daughter Cassidie Mauro born on September 6, 2026!! Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671 Allied Workers’ Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079 Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502 Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell is available by phone to answer questions regarding Pension, Welfare, Vacation Funds, and Special Benefits.

To all Active Members: if you have not submitted your Coordination of Benefits Form, Spousal Form, or Birth Certificates for your children to TIC, no one will be covered under our insurance plan until these items are received. Please contact TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and submit the required documentation as soon as possible. Coverage will be reinstated retroactively once the information has been received.

Auto and motorcycle accidents are not covered under our plan. These claims should be covered through your personal automobile insurance policy.

Members with questions regarding Pension and Welfare Funds may contact TIC International at the numbers listed above or visit <http://www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org>. Please also remember to complete and return all Working Spousal Forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616) 375-0538.

Applications are now open for the Apprenticeship Program. Please call the Union Office or visit insulators47.com to complete an application.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 Part L, Page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states: “According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report no later than 10 days from the end of the current work week.”

Local 25 cont’d

are on the out-of-work list, and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic

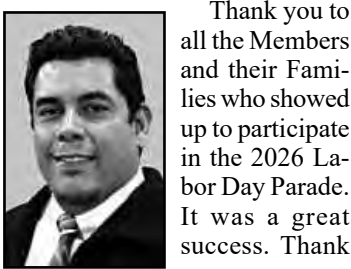
fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine.

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



Painters District Council 1M

Panthers DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
Labor Day Parade 2026:



ROBERT GONZALEZ
Thank you to all the Members and their Families who showed up to participate in the 2026 Labor Day Parade. It was a great success. Thank you
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdclmichigan.org

DC 1M UNION CARDS*
Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC 1M offices at:
Warren: (586)552-4474, Ext. 100

Freeland: (989) 695-6888
SICKNESS AND DEATH. Local 826 retiree Mark Brink had his son pass away. Please keep the Brink Family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, October 5th at 5pm. Please make it a priority to attend.

We had a terrific turnout for this year’s Labor Day Parade. Thanks to all that came out and helped celebrate our holiday.

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

Apprenticeship School is back in session. If you have a question about your schedule please reach out to Frank Tate, the apprenticeship coordinator.

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

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

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

District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez
Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933
Local Union 514
Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529
Local Union 845
Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Local Union 1052
Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529
Local Union 1803
Business Rep: Josh Ovalle
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, 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, October 6, at 6:00p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

Local 357 cont’d

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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



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Troy, MI 48098



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – Due to a scheduling conflict, the next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Oct. 7, 2026, at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance. The regular meeting schedule will resume in November. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Union Hall.

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be Oct. 1 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice to catch up and stay connected. Please contact the union hall via our website, www.sheetmetal292.com. Click the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

LABOR DAY PARADE: Thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters and their families who came out to march in solidarity with all the Building Trades Locals at the Annual Detroit Labor Day Parade. We had a great turnout this year. We celebrated our holiday, shared a delicious BBQ lunch prepared by Huron River BBQ, and enjoyed the beautiful weather.



PAUL
GUALDONI

BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1: The Board of Trustees of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Supplemental Unemployment Fund is pleased to announce the following benefit improvements effective June 1, 2026.

Journeyman/Apprentice: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from \$225 to \$275.

Classified A/B: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from \$102 to \$124

Classified C: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from \$30 to \$37

Please note that all existing credits will also be increased.

HRA BENNY CARD APP: We want to share an important update regarding your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and your Benny Card. Effective June 8, 2026, your HRA will move to a new platform designed to make managing your benefits easier, faster, and more convenient. To access the Mobile App, search for the **BeneSys Member Reimbursement** app in your app store. Our Member Services team is still here for you. If you have questions or need help during the transition, please don't hesitate to contact the Fund Office at 248-641-4992

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

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance.

UNION EAP. Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. Beyond wellness, they offer expert assistance with legal consultations and financial planning to ensure you have the support you need for every part of your life, all completely confidential. Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. If you haven't already done so, you must create an account to access your information. If you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on Sept 19 and Sept 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24 and Oct. 3. 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 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 and 3 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 are scheduled for the class.



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 (Special Order of Business)** will be held in **Lansing, MI at 4931 Contec Drive at 6 p.m. will**



SAM
FULLER

be held on October 8, 2026. *Installation of Officer will take place.

Regular Area MEETINGS are as follows:

Zone 1 – (December 9, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at

1612 Brooks Drive/Marshall

Zone 2 – (Dec.

8, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at VFW 5209 Grand Haven Rd., Norton Shores

Zone 3/Sag – (December 2, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at Xmas mgt Back Orchard Barn 11001 Wilkinston Rd Freeland

Zone 4 – (Dec. 1, 2026) – 6 p.m., 4070 Dolan Drive/Flint

Zone 5 – (Oct. 3, 2026) – 10 a.m. held at 511 Avenue D Gwinn

Zone 3/TC – (Oct. 1, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at 406 Hyde St Kalkaska Traverse City

Business Manager. Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16 Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information.

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. Once you are registered it must be approved to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

ZONE 1 Info: Work in Zone 1 has slowed down a bit as we head into fall but still looks to remain strong. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric and Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with Unemployment, ESTA, Insurance, or Pensions, please contact Eric or Vance for assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in any upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Zone 1 Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested.)

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

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains steady and looks good into the fall. Thank you to all who came out to the Zone 2 meeting on the 15th. It was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the new Journeyman that was sworn in that night. Keep me informed of any address or phone number changes. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. Archery deer season starts soon. Good luck to all of the hunters and be safe while you are out there in the woods. Shoot straight and aim small. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: Work in the area remains steady. Make sure to contact me if you are out of work, there is travel work available. Be sure to check your dues receipt to make sure you are current; dues are due before the first of every month.

Please contact the Lansing office if your address or phone numbers have changed.

The next Zone 3 membership meeting is December 2 at the Back Orchard Barn at 6pm.

Next Zone 3 Retiree meeting is September 22nd at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson (Traverse City Info).** Work is starting to slow down in the area with schoolwork, wrapping up. Please keep your phone and address updated with the Hall and BeneSys. Contact me if you get laid off so I can I can put you on the out of work list. Good luck on the upcoming bow season. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work is starting to slow a bit in Zone 4

there are some talks of picking up closer to fall. We had the local 7 golf outing this past Saturday, we had a great turnout and a lot of fun thank you for all of you came and helped and golfed. Please contact Kurt at the training if you need upgrade classes. We are still in the process of purchasing the new training building in Clio, everything is still on track please keep your fingers crossed **.Thanks Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP is holding steady. Don't forget to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. The next retiree breakfast will be Oct. 14 at 10 am at The Summer Place in Republic. Thank you to all the people that walked and celebrated Labor Day at the parades this year. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

We would like to thank all who participated in our 36th Annual DAD's Local 7 Golf Outing. A special thanks to all of our contributors for their generous donations.

Platinum Sponsors: SMAC-NA, Youth to Youth Zone 1, SMART Local 292, Ventcon, Hurst Mechanical, S & Z Sheet Metal

Gold Sponsors: Michigan Building Trades, West Michigan Building Cont.

Silver Sponsors: Applegate, Dee Cramer

Bronze Sponsors: Warren Systems, Mall City Mechanical, Youth to Youth Zone 3, Northern MI Building Trades.

Visit our website at www.smwlu7.org to view pictures of the outing!

NEWS: Local 7 – **Union Hoodies/ T-Shirts** will be available soon through the Lansing office.

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

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

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

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI 48910– **517-882-4064** or visit us online at www.smwlu7.org.

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

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

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

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

Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) **989-225-0095**

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

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

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



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield. We will be voting for a Warden at this union meeting.



JASON
GRUNENWALD

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Oct. 19 (annual party) & Dec. 21. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE Perry Hopkins, Thomas Kozak, Shane Marinkovich, Kenneth Schaffhauser, Lawrence Kettler, Thomas Haggerty, Tyler Warner, Matthew Ward, Samuel Velez, Paul DeMercurio, Paul Boughner, Tyler Donner, Tim Robins, Brenden Pitcher, Leif Bourbeau, Zachary Zuziak, Nicholas Juliano, Joshua Randall, Richard Saharchuk, Jarrett Hill, Gabriel Saylor, Steve Harvey, Lance Bally, Drew Jarrell, Nicholas Witt, Louis Velarde, Ethan Falconer, Michael Shea, Ronald Ingalls and Donte Clinkscales.

SEPTEMBER RE-REGISTRATION: If you are laid off prior to Sept. 1 and do not have a work assignment you will need to re-register to keep your spot on the out of work list by Sept. 21. You may do so at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. If you send an email or fax please include your name, current address, current phone number and your membership number. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to member Mikel Ogden on the birth of his son Jameson. Jameson Mikel Ogden was born on Aug. 27, 2026 at 11:57 am weighing 9lbs 6 oz and was 20 inches long.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply:

Complete the SUB application at the hall. Provide a pay stub for the week.

The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

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

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IBEW LOCAL 275 MEMBERS at the Muskegon Labor Day festivities.



PLUMBERS LOCAL 98 members walk behind their banner on Labor Day in Detroit.



PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS Local 111 members walk behind their banner in the Negaunee Labor Day Parade.



ROOFERS Local 149 members walk in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



IBEW LOCAL 948 MEMBERS participate in the Flint Labor Day celebration on Sept. 7.



PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS Local 370 members stand behind their banner in the Flint Labor Day celebration on Sept. 7.



PIPE FITTERS Local 636 members walk in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



SHEET METAL WORKERS Local 292 members in the Detroit Labor Day Parade.



IBEW LOCAL 58 members march along Michigan Avenue in Detroit's 2026 Labor Day Parade.



LABORERS LOCAL 1191 members take part in the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 7.

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By Andy Henion
Michigan Department
of Natural Resources

One early morning in May, as the residents of Carleton slept, a black bear wandered through their yards in the dark, its hulking image picked up by a trail camera.

Not a big deal for many Michigan communities, particularly in the northern part of the state, but this bear happened to be roaming around Monroe and Wayne counties.

And folks in metro Detroit just aren't used to seeing bears. Police urged caution. News reporters flocked to the area. Concerned residents lit up social media. "This may be the farthest southeast a black bear sighting has been confirmed in Michigan," said Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Zach Cooley, who verified the bear's May 10 visit from camera images. "At this point we are not certain how it made its way here. We assume it is probably a young male, wandering."

The rare appearance of a black bear in heavily populated southeast Michigan reflects a new reality for a state attempting to live harmoniously with the iconic species.

While bears once occupied the entire state, unregulated killing of the species and development in the early 20th century cut their numbers dramatically, particularly in the Lower Peninsula.

Establishing hunting regulations helped the species recover in many places, and today Michigan has a vibrant black bear population of 12,862 animals, according to the DNR's latest estimate. That's one of the top 15 bear populations in the U.S.

In the Upper Peninsula, bears are abundant, with an estimated density of one bear every 2 square miles. More than 85 percent of the state's bear population lives in the U.P., and the peninsula's state-managed harvest nets about 1,500 bears every year.

In the northern Lower Peninsula, where bear hunting is also legal, the bear population has increased in recent years as residents become more accustomed to the animal's presence.

Outdoors

Living with black bears



A HUNGRY BLACK BEAR invites itself to dinner at a bird feeding station in Marquette County. (Photo courtesy of John Pepin)

Still, in fast-growing and tourist-heavy areas like Grand Traverse County, bears can cause quite a bit of excitement. In the past six years, the DNR has logged 178 bear complaint reports from Grand Traverse County, by far the most of any county in the northern Lower Peninsula.

And then there's southern Michigan: home to the state's largest cities, including Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint and Kalamazoo. Millions of people. Hundreds of miles of crisscrossing highways. Towering buildings. Manufacturing plants.

Bear hunting is not allowed in the bottom half of the Lower Peninsula, and bear complaints generally get rarer the farther south you go. In fact, some southern Michigan counties have never logged a bear complaint with the DNR, or at least since records have been kept starting in 2003.

So, it can be a surprise when a bear shows up.

Resident reaction can run the gamut, illustrated by these two social media responses to the Carleton bear:

"Why hasn't the bear been caught yet?" said one user. "This is a public safety concern."

"That bear is not going to approach anyone," responded another. "Let it be. This is their land."

The DNR's Wildlife Division strives to strike a balance between these two disparate lines of thinking. In other words: Maintain a sustainable bear population throughout Michigan while minimizing bear-related conflicts.

Jared Duquette, the DNR's human-wildlife interaction specialist, said bears typically have greater acceptance in communities with long-established bear populations, such as those in the U.P. and areas of the northern Lower Peninsula.

"Acceptance depends on several factors, though, such as familiarity with bear behavior, frequency of sightings and how much control people feel they have in interactions with bears," Duquette said. "In areas where bears are rare, community culture and media coverage can often sway acceptance of bears by sensationalizing their presence and perceived danger."

Duquette said managing social perceptions and the extent people and bears become habituated with each other are keys to enhancing human-bear coexistence, especially in areas where bears are expanding.

"Communities with increasing bear sightings should consider proactive communication and strategies to empower residents

in safely coexisting with bears," he said. "Visiting the BearWise website is a great place to start."

Adaptable creatures. The DNR's approach to bears is driven by the agency's black bear management plan. The plan was developed in 2008 using the best available science and significant input from bear stakeholder groups and the public.

The plan references a survey showing that a majority of Lower Peninsula residents value the existence of black bears and their important role in nature.

As large omnivores, bears benefit the ecosystem by spreading plant and berry seeds in their droppings and being important predators of insects, deer fawns and other species.

When it comes to southern Michigan, the DNR's strategy is to allow the bear population to expand naturally into the region to the extent social acceptance allows.

That last clause – "to the extent social acceptance allows" – is the tricky part. What's socially acceptable for one southern Michigan community may not be for another – at least in the early stages.

When the bear appeared in metro Detroit, many residents unaccustomed to seeing the animal expressed shock and fear.

Compare that to areas like Grand Rapids and Lansing, where bear sightings are more common, and reactions generally have become more tempered.

"Bears are likely to become more socially acceptable as they expand south in Michigan," Duquette said. "However, acceptability will take time and depend on communities building a local culture that understands basic bear behavior and is accepting of bears. Community members should understand that bears are naturally afraid of us and pose little threat to people and pets."

Black bears – Michigan's only bear species – are solitary animals, and male bears roam vast areas, with young males dispersing up to 100 miles to find new, unoccupied territory. While bears thrive in large hardwood and conifer forests with dense underbrush and wetlands, they also seem to be adapting to less woody settings around the state.

"We've been seeing over time that bears continue to survive and persist in habitats that we would not have thought were suitable previously," said Cody Norton, DNR bear and furbearer specialist. "Bears are extremely adaptable creatures – they are generalists and can make use of a variety of food sources. We've been seeing them persist in areas that have very few trees – it may be a little woodlot next to cornfields, for example."

Norton said it appears a few bears have dened over winter in the Grand Rapids and Lansing areas. Both areas have forested river corridors that bears like to travel along. Bears have also showed up in the Flint area only to be hit and killed by vehicles.

"There can be extremely high mortality when bears show up in these older urban environments that are heavily developed with highways running through them," Norton said.

As for the bear first spotted in Carleton on May 10, the animal was caught on a security camera in nearby Flat Rock the next night and again the following week in South Rockwood, where it raided a resident's beehives at night.

After still another sighting near Carleton, Cooley said he has received no further reports of the animal's whereabouts.

So, could a bear – or multiple bears – persist in Metro Detroit?

"Southeast Michigan contains some of the state's least-suitable habitat for bears – much of the area is flat and lacks the woodlots and river corridors they favor," Norton said. "Could there be pockets in southeast Michigan that if multiple bears made it to, they could persist? Yes, there might be, but I think until we see bears do that, it's really hard for us to predict whether it's truly suitable."

Coexisting with bears. From Marquette to Mio to Muskegon, coexisting with black bears in Michigan means accepting two fundamental facts:

1) Black bears are wild, powerful animals that should be appreciated from a distance. They may defend themselves when surprised, threatened or protecting their cubs.

2) Black bears are naturally timid, cautious animals. They view humans as a threat to avoid rather than as a food source.

As many communities with established black bear populations have learned, living with bears takes a certain amount of sacrifice from just about everyone, including bird lovers and pet owners.

Here are some basics:

- Spotting a bear on your trail camera or wandering through your backyard is no reason to panic. You do not need to call local authorities or the DNR. This is natural bear behavior. You can scare the bear off by yelling, blowing an air horn or banging pots and pans.

- Bears are drawn to birdfeeders loaded with birdseed or suet, as well as grease-splattered grills and outdoor pet food. They can literally smell the stuff from a mile away. So, you'll need to remove the temptation – and, once you do, give it a good two weeks for the bear to stop coming around.

- Use electric fencing around chicken coops and apiaries.

- Bears love garbage. Consider waiting to put your garbage cans out until the day of pickup. Folks in high-density bear areas should consider using bear-resistant trash bins or trash lid straps.

- You may need to educate your neighbors. If they have birdfeeders or other out-door food sources, the bear will be traipsing through everyone else's yard to get to them. The more available food sources in the neighborhood, the harder it will be to get rid of the bear.

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