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SHORT CUTS



Amazon becoming COVID distributor

WASHINGTON (PAI) – New data forced out of the giant retailer Amazon shows 19,816 of its workers, principally in its warehouses, have tested positive for the coronavirus in the last six months. That's 1.46 percent of its workers, and it did not say how many have died.

But advocates for workers, including the United Food and Commercial Workers union, say that number may be low. That's because Amazon, notoriously anti-union, has fired at least seven whistleblowers about the virus threat, intimidating others, and because its worker count does not include 85,000 drivers for subcontractors.

It also comes after three of the fired whistleblower workers, all Somali natives who toiled at Amazon's Shakopee, Minn., warehouse, sued the firm in June. And on Sept. 24, a non-profit investigatory firm, KKS, issued a report, *Covid-19 & Inequality: A Test Of Corporate Purpose*, ranking Amazon in the bottom quarter of all large companies in handling the pandemic's outbreaks among workers.

And KKS noted that while Amazon reported 400 workers tested positive for the virus from March through mid-May, before Amazon stopped releasing cumulative figures, combining through local data and reports yielded a 900-person virus total by that same date.

Amazon's own figures were posted on Facebook and picked up by CNBC and other media. It also claimed it met testing standards for the coronavirus, which has killed 207,816 people in the U.S., beginning on March 13, when the pandemic was declared, through 8:30 am Oct. 2. And 7.27 million have tested positive.

"The pandemic...is bringing out the worst in companies like Amazon that are willfully choosing to ignore their responsibility to keep workers and their communities safe," said UFCW President Marc Perrone. "Amazon's belief that workers are machines, and the company's ruthless obsession with speed, is forcing these men and women to run around stores and completely ignore the safeguards essential to protecting them and preventing another COVID-19 outbreak."

Get registered, then vote!

Still not registered to vote? It's not too late to register to vote in Michigan – in fact, it won't be too late to vote at your local city or township clerk's office until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

To register in person at your clerk's office, according to the Michigan Secretary of State, you must show proof of where you live. Documents must have your name and current address. You can show a digital copy of any document.

Acceptable documents include: Michigan driver's license or state ID card; a current utility bill, a bank statement; a paycheck or government check, or other government document.

After registering, you can vote an absent voter ballot at the clerk's office or you can vote at your polling place on Election Day.

Quotable

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826

50 ways to leave U.S. workers in the lurch –

Trump sustains long record of appeasing his corporate partners

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The Trump Administration "has systematically promoted the interests of corporate executives and shareholders over those of working people and failed to protect workers' safety, wages, and rights," said Celine McNicholas, the Economic Policy Institute's director of government affairs and labor counsel.

That's the first broadside from McNicholas, part of a trio of co-authors of a report by the labor-backed policy group, EPI. Is-

sued last month, it's titled *50 ways the Trump Administration has eroded workers' rights while bolstering corporate power.*

The EPI authors, who also include Margaret Poydock and Lynn Rhinehart, said Trump's most recent affront against workers is an error of omission, refusing to adequately address the coronavirus pandemic and its economic shock. The Trump administration has vehemently opposed the exten-

sion of the \$600 increase of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits – which will cost 5.1 million jobs – and additional aid to state and local governments, which will cost 5.3 million jobs. This is at a time when more than 20 million jobs evaporated during the COVID crisis.

"President Trump claimed he would fight for workers, but his actions and policies have cost workers wages, undermined their right to organize unions, and failed to protect their health and safety on the job," said Rhinehart,

EPI's senior fellow. "This report shows the real record and exposes Trump's repeated attacks on workers."

Without space for listing all 50, some of the lowlights in the report include preventing millions of workers from receiving overtime by lowering the overtime threshold, proposing a rule to allow employers to capture workers' tips which would cost workers more than \$700 million annually, and denying workers a minimum wage increase.

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WE ASKED THIS GROUP of electricians at the end of their shift to stand next to an original "boiler skin" inside the former Shaw Lane Power Plant on the Michigan State University campus. A portion of the first-floor boiler works, dating to when the plant was in service from 1947-75, will be retained as part of the plant's renovation and expansion. The IBEW Local 665 electricians include (l-r) Allen Lepard, Mitch Frankovich and Tom Densmore. They're employed by Hayes Electric.

New MSU STEM building rises from old power plant shell

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

EAST LANSING – Born and raised as a coal-burning powerhouse to serve Michigan State University, the long-shuttered Shaw Lane Power Plant is getting new life, with its structure being incorporated into a campus hub for the school's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curricula.

The renovated power plant, which was in service from 1947 to 1975, is being renovated with modern additions on its north and south sides. Slated to be complete in February, the repurposed plant and its expanded space will retain and display numerous original artifacts from the original plant, as well as bring in a number of new architectural features that will make the plant one of a kind.

"As this project has moved along, you see the condition of elements of the existing plant that will be kept exposed," said Nestor DeOcampo, with MSU's Office of Planning and Budget. "The steel isn't being taken down to raw metal, sealed and painted, we're leaving it. The shell of the boiler will remain. It's going to make for a unique building. The whole damn thing is cool."

We last visited the project a year ago. The schedule took a hit earlier this year, when the COVID crisis shut the project down for two months, pushing the completion date into next year. Managed by Granger Construction, Senior Project Manager Matthew Bort said in recent weeks, "nearly every aspect of construction has

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AT WORK IN THE south annex of the STEM project at Michigan State University are (l-r) Ken Stevenson and Jeremiah Ramsey of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by Gunthorpe, working near a lattice of engineered, exposed, old-growth timber that will add a tremendous amount of character to interior.



FLANKED BY ITS NORTH AND SOUTH annex additions, the original brick 1947 Shaw Lane coal-burning power plant on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing is undergoing an unlikely, and remarkable renovation into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) hub for the school.

U.S. construction spending, jobs remain lackluster

U.S. construction spending increased a bit in August, up 1.4 percent from the previous month, but the modest gain was mostly buoyed by residential construction. Meanwhile, the latest federal numbers show that construction employment in West Michigan continues at a healthy clip, while the rest of the state is continuing to slide backward after an

impressive period of post-COVID shutdown activity in the early summer.

"The August spending report shows a stark divide between housing and nonresidential markets that appears likely to widen over the coming months," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist, releasing their new analysis

of Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers on Oct. 1. "With steadily rising business closures and worker layoffs, and growing budget gaps for state and local governments, project cancellations are likely to mount and new starts will dwindle."

The AGC said U.S. construction spending in August totaled \$1.41 trillion at a seasonally ad-

justed annual rate, an increase of 1.4 percent from July's upwardly revised total. Residential spending jumped by 3.7 percent, while private and public nonresidential spending inched down by a combined 0.1 percent.

Demand for nonresidential construction was being negatively impacted by broader economic

(Continued on Page 13)

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Studies finds dips in construction wages: Wisconsin, -6%; Indiana, -8.5% Michigan, ?

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

There haven't yet been any studies released on the effect of repealing Michigan's Prevailing Wage Act, an action taken by a Republican-dominated Legislature in June 2018.

But there has been plenty of chatter by our neighboring states, in the form of studies which have shown what unions have maintained all along: that prevailing wage repeal drives down construction workers' wages and makes it more difficult for local contractors to compete for jobs.

The latest evidence comes from the Dairy State, where the left-leaning Midwest Economic Policy Institute on Oct. 2 released *The Effects of Repealing Prevailing Wage in Wisconsin: Impacts on Ten Construction Market Outcomes.*

In 2017, the study said, an effort led by Wisconsin's Republican lawmakers "repealed the state's prevailing wage laws, which established minimum wages for skilled construction workers employed on public con-

struction projects. Repeal of the state's prevailing wage laws has led to a host of consequences for workers and the construction industry – including lower incomes and more inequality – while failing to deliver any meaningful cost savings or increased bid competition."

Prevailing wage in Wisconsin was repealed for projects funded by local governments effective Jan. 1, 2017, and for

(Continued on Page 13)

U.S. employment numbers reveal a struggling economy

On Oct. 2 the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported an increase of 661,000 U.S. jobs in September, "representing a notable slowdown in regaining the massive amount of jobs lost during the coronavirus pandemic," said Elise Gould of the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute.

The jobs recovery has been declining: the economy added 4.8 million jobs in June, followed by 1.8 million in July and 1.5 million in August.

And while the the national unemployment rate declined to 7.9 percent in September, "the U.S. economy is still down 10.7 million jobs from where it was in February, before the pandemic hit," Gould said.

The pre-pandemic U.S. unemployment rate in February 2020 was 3.5 percent.

President Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, at press time, had not reached an agreement on additional economic stimulus to help the unemployed.

"At this pace of slowing job growth, it will take years to return to the pre-pandemic labor market," Gould said.

Vote in the statewide
Michigan General Election.
For Building Trades Endorsements: See Page 4

AFL-CIO has endorsed Biden for President 'Strengthening unions and empowering workers is essential to our recovery'

By Joe Biden and Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO President

(The General Board of the AFL-CIO, and umbrella of 55 unions representing 125 million members, has endorsed Joe Biden for U.S. President).

Fifty-five years ago, in a speech to the convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. laid out with characteristic moral clarity the essential role of unions in American life.

"The labor movement," he explained, "was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress ... (When) the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society. Civilization began to grow in the economic life of man, and a decent life with a sense of security and dignity became a reality rather than a distant dream."

The words of Rev. King are as true today as they were back then – and more urgent now than ever. After generations of sweat and sacrifice, fighting hard to earn the wages and benefits that built and sustained the American middle class, unions are under siege. As workers struggle against a deadly pandemic, a painful recession and deep racial disparities, the labor movement also faces an additional burden: a union-busting president.

When he isn't calling to boycott Goodyear and its thousands of union workers for petty personal reasons, Donald Trump is actively fighting against working people. That's because, like so many CEOs

(Continued on Page 3)

GOP's prevailing wage repeal obsession is costing workers

Studies finds dips in construction wages: Wisconsin, -6%; Indiana, -8.5% Michigan, ?

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Viewpoints



Operators, UBC pick Biden

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC) together represent 900,000 working women and men across North America in a range of industry sectors and are two of the continent's largest construction unions. On Sept. 30 they jointly issued an endorsement of Joe Biden for U.S. President.

"The current public health and economic crisis has laid bare the deficiencies in our national infrastructure system," they said jointly. "Rebuilding our country and creating career opportunities in the building trades will take clear-eyed, bold leadership from the next President. The Carpenters and Operating Engineers believe the best person for that job is Joe Biden."

"Joe Biden has been on the side of working people throughout his entire career in public service. Biden's plan to make America competitive again starts by making real investments in infrastructure, mass transit, broadband and clean drinking water. These priorities, coupled with the type of advanced training and collective bargaining agreements our unions are known for, will put Americans back to work in solid middle-class, family-supporting jobs."

"It is time to put more Americans to work rebuilding our roads and bridges, strengthening our energy grid, and upgrading our water systems. Joe Biden's plan for long-term infrastructure investments, expanding skilled training and apprenticeship, rigorous workplace safety protocols, and retirement security makes him the best choice for working families."

"Construction careers open the door to the middle-class for millions of Americans. As President, we know Joe Biden will stand up for the policies that put us to work and the policies that bring us home safely to our families after a hard day on-the-job."

General President James T. Callahan
International Union of Operating Engineers

"I am pleased to announce that today the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America endorsed Joe Biden for President and Kamala Harris for Vice President of the United States."

"When it comes to Carpenters issues, there really is no question about which candidate stands with our members on the core issues that we share – strong protections for the safety and wages of hard-working people, supporting union apprenticeship programs and investing in our nation's infrastructure."

"Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are by far the better ticket."

"Donald Trump's administration has failed to live up to his promises. He promised that he'd work with unions, but has filled the National Labor Relations Board and courts with anti-union appointees who have systematically eroded workers' rights. He has weakened the enforcement of the Department of Labor by making it easier for employers to misclassify workers as independent contractors and harder for investigators to hold contractors who commit tax fraud accountable. He promised that he would invest \$2 trillion in infrastructure, and he's done nothing."

"Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the President and the Vice President that our nation needs right now. They share our values, have the experience and expertise to fix the problems facing this country and above all else have the temperament and empathy to help our divided nation unify and heal."

"Given all that is at stake, I know I can count on the hard work of each U.S. affiliate to help them win this campaign."

General President Doug McCarron
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Millwrights
Laborers, too

After discussions with our leaders and members, the General Executive Board of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) unanimously, enthusiastically, and proudly endorses Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris for President and Vice President of the United States of America.

Vice President Biden never forgets where he came from; never forgets the value of hard work and those who do it; and never forgets that the greatest asset of our country are its working men and women. During these challenging times, our nation desperately needs the steady hand and strong, inclusive leadership that Joe Biden will provide.

Joe Biden is one of us; he knows, first hand, the trials and tribulations faced by working men and women across this country. For more than 40 years, he has been a strong and steadfast working-class warrior who knows that we can never back up, never back down, never retreat, and never surrender in the ongoing battle for labor rights, civil rights, and human rights. As both a Senator and Vice President, he has been there with us, and for us, time and time again. He is a true friend of both LIUNA and the entire Trade Union Movement, and we know that as President, he will see every issue that crosses his desk, and every decision he must make, through the eyes of working families.

New MSU building rises from power plant

(Continued from Page 1) been going on, except demo." About 150 tradespeople are employed at the site.

The trades are grinding and polishing floors, performing rough-ins in the penthouse, and installing all manner of plumbing, electrical and other mechanical works.

The cool factor of the building doesn't stop at the re-use of a grimy, abandoned power plant – which almost never happens – much less re-purposing the building for an academic setting. The project began with significant demolition and removal of hazardous materials. The 40,000 square feet of renovated space inside the old power plant will creatively retain one of the facility's three dead boilers, which will be reused as part of conference space. Also being kept exposed inside the building as items marking the plant's history are a coal silo, a water tank, structural steel, piping and "artifact walls" that will permanent display mounted valve heads and other power-house hardware.

The entire \$100 million project encompasses 175,000 gross square feet. Space that's being added to the north and south sides of the old power plant are being framed with exposed "mass timber," in addition to 272 tons of structural steel.



THE ARTIFACT wall at the MSU STEM project.

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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PAINTERS Shawn Bartush and Kevin Bartush pause for a photo amid their five-gallon bucket collection while working at the Michigan State University STEM project. The Michigan Painters District Council Local 2553 members are employed by Detroit Spectrum Painting.

The mass-timber product, harvested from Canada, is ideal for its strength and fire-retardant qualities. It is responsibly harvested near the end of its 80-120-year life cycle, and glued together to form structural pieces.

Like most other architectural elements of the building's interior, the lumber will be left exposed. The structural lumber scheme was computer designed and cut using C & C machines. "That's been a good surprise with this project," Bort said. "the lumber fit together so tightly, and is true square. The way it fit together was incredible."

The STEM facility, according to MSU, will house undergraduate teaching laboratories;

project laboratories; and breakout space that will support gateway courses for biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, physics and engineering in a central campus location.

The former power plant, located next to Spartan Stadium, will house student commons and a gallery that connects the STEM Facility addition and gallery. It will also include student studio space, an idea accelerator for faculty and students, a HUB for Innovation in Learning and Technology, a student help center, the Biological Sciences Program offices and the Undergraduate Research office.

"Leaving a lot of the existing conditions exposed inside the building – you can see the

decking, the mechanical, how everything was laid out – to have folks able to see that exposed is going to have a big impact," DeOcampo said. "People will get a sense of how we created our own power in an old power plant, and then see elements of sustainability – where we came from and where we're going."

Work began on the project in September 2018. Bort said through the myriad of challenges of the project – the COVID delay, the unknowns of rehabilitating a long-dead power plant, using an unfamiliar timber framing system, and tying everything together – "the building trades have been really good. It's been a true team effort from everybody."

A boom for whom?

By Jim Hightower

Wow, how about that Dow? The Dow-Jones Average of



corporate stock prices, I mean – the one economic indicator that our nation's establishment watches religiously. They're like ancient priests watching a burbling, hissing volcano to determine if the gods are pleased or angry. Bizarrely, despite the pandemic recession that's knocking down millions of Americans, corporate profits are soaring. So, believers in the infallibility of the Dow exclaim that these are boom times, with the

economy showering shareholder wealth on us like manna from heaven!

But most Americans are asking: A boom for whom? America's real economy is a shambles. Joblessness is still above 10 percent, with a tsunami of new firings coming as airlines, retail chains, the restaurant industry, state and local governments, Main Street businesses, and so many more are now collapsing right in front of us.

Forget the Dow-Jones Average, we need policymakers who give a damn about the Doug Jones Average – how are Doug and Desiree doing? Telling them about the booming stock market is stupid, for the Jones don't share in that wealth. In fact, the number of Americans who own even one share of corporate stock

has plummeted in the past two decades as the rich and super-rich have grabbed the bulk of our nation's wealth. Today, nearly 90 percent of all stocks are in the hands of the richest 10 percent of Americans.

Yet, the menagerie of laissez-faire ideologues and lawmakers now in charge of our economic policy continue genuflecting to the Dow, insisting that the price of stock equates to a high standard of living for all. As Republican Senator Pat Toomey recently proclaimed, "Life is better today than it ever has been for the majority of the American people."

His proof? Toomey pointed to the fact that cars now come equipped with seat warmers. (via www.otherwords.org)

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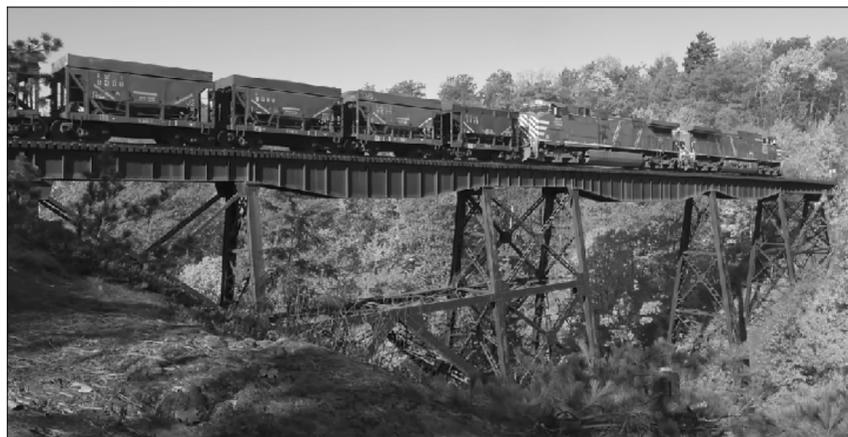
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Michigan's tallest train trestle

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A LAKE SUPERIOR AND ISHPEMING train with iron ore “jenny” hopper cars travels over the Dead River Railroad Bridge in Marquette County. It’s on the way to the ore dock in Marquette, where the iron ore will be transferred to lake freighters. The towering span, 104 feet above the river, was erected in 1916 and is the tallest rail bridge in Michigan.

Photo credit: Thornapple River Rail Series

Part of what makes Michigan’s Upper Peninsula so unique is its topography.

The receding glaciers some 10,000 years ago left the U.P. with a wealth of rivers, waterfalls, gorges and craggy landscapes, as well as the state’s highest point (Mt. Arvon in Baraga County, 1,979 feet).

Mother Earth also left behind a wealth of mineral resources in the Upper Peninsula, including iron, copper, nickel and some gold. But extracting the minerals out of the earth and moving them in an economical manner to where they could produce a profit vexed the early miners – until the railroads came along.

The Upper Peninsula, says *American Rails*, “was once rich with railroads and iron ore that crisscrossed the region to tap its natural resources. The largest names here included the Milwaukee Road, Soo Line, and Chicago & North Western. However, smaller carriers also found a bountiful niche including the Copper Range Railroad, Escanaba & Lake Superior, and Lake Superior & Ishpeming.”

Undoubtedly, the major challenge of the first railway construction engineers was where to route the tracks. Of course, cleared, flat land avoiding water obstacles is preferred – but in reality, obstacles such as the one presented by the yawning gap over the Dead River in Marquette Township tested the skills of not only railway engineers, but that of the still-evolving field of construction metallurgy, and construction teams themselves.

Scores of rail trestles of various lengths and height made railroads possible in both of Michigan’s peninsulas at the height of the rail industry a century ago. Many have been removed, but one of the most impressive structures is still in place, and still in service. The rail trestle over the Dead River in the U.P.’s Marquette County, which continues to serve the Lake Superior & Ishpeming (LS & I) Railroad.

“This extremely unusual bridge can be difficult to understand because its substructure is far more extensive and complicated than the superstructure,” says *Historic Bridges*. “The bridge’s superstructure is merely a series of simple deck plate girder spans, perhaps somewhat unusual because they have a fishbelly style shape to them. The bridge is a high level style bridge, which carries the railroad over not only the Dead River, but the fairly steep and rocky valley cut by the river. The narrow, rocky valley may be why the bridge features an unusual substructure.”

Erected in 1916, the Dead River span is Michigan’s highest railroad bridge. Viewable in the woods just north of Eagle Mills, the bridge’s rails are 104 feet above the river and the entire span is 565 feet long.

“The increased weight of locomotives and cars made the timber trestle built in 1896 at

this location increasingly unsafe and it was replaced in 1916 by this steel girder structure,” says the *Historic American Engineering Record*. The bridge “consists of nine steel girder spans and one reinforced concrete girder span resting on eight steel piers, two concrete piers, and concrete abutments.”

The bridge sits on a melange of foundations, spread out over the river and through the woods. On the west side, wood foundation piles were used under footings which could not be placed on rock. On the east side, the abutment and the footings of the first two piers are built in the end of a large sand fill, on a less-than stable sand fill. The next pier, however, is built into solid rock. Concrete struts at the ground level are placed between the abutment and the intermediate piers, thus bracing them all against the third pier.

About half of the bridge’s weight is supported by the bases of the arches supporting the middle structure.

The bridge is technically classified as a steel arch, but there’s a quite a bit more going on with the entire structure. Its design, manufacture and the erection of the structure were all in the hands of the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Co., Milwaukee. The foundations and concrete work was performed by “railway forces.” All construction was under the supervision of R.C. Young, chief engineer of the Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railway. The structure was built from 1915-16.

Railroad bridge engineers – especially when they’re spanning a gorge in the woods – are almost always going to be going for function over form.

“Needless to say,” said *Historic American Engineering Record*, “this bridge’s design is highly unusual, and the only known one of its kind in Michigan.”

The newly opened span’s function and form – essentially a bridge on top of a bridge – drew attention from two leading national publications of the day, *Railway Age* and the *Engineering News Record*, both writing articles about the impressive structure.

A March 1918 *Railway Age* article noted that the new bridge’s deck, superstructure and foundations had to be erected

around the existing span, which was still in operation, affecting the final appearance of the new bridge.

“Some of the special or novel features of the design were introduced on account of the necessity of keeping clear of the old structure and maintaining the lines open for traffic during erection,” said the *Engineering News Record* in March 1918. “The arch had to be designed to clear the old trestle tower and foundations, and in order to be self-supporting during erection it was built on the cantilever system.

Other features of the structure include a taper bent supporting two girder spans, and the use of concrete struts to brace pier footings in loose ground.” The *ENR* added: “The proportions of the arch are unusual.”

Even with its design being dictated by the topography and working around the existing span, the Dead River Bridge is in fact, “unusual,” as is its longevity as it has continued to support the burden of locomotives and rolling stock owned by the LS & I Railroad.

The Thornapple River Rail Series, which produces video documentaries on the activities of modern Michigan railways, said “it’s hard to do anything but marvel at the bridge’s ingenious design and appreciate how the engineers built it in such a hard-to-reach place. Now over 100 years old, it’s still going strong for its original owner. It has supported the movement of hundreds of millions of tons of iron ore over the Dead River.”

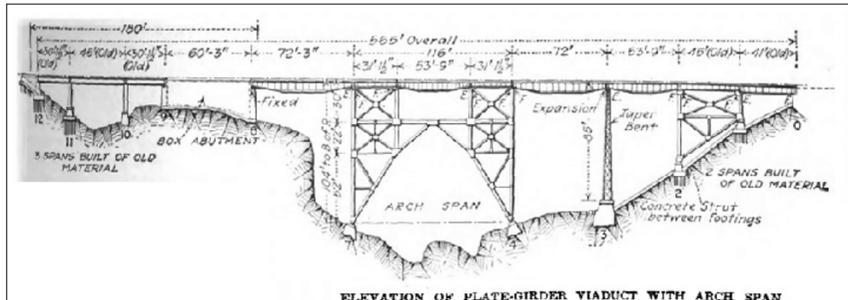
The Lake Superior and Ishpeming was formed in the 1890s, and today is owned by mining giant Cleveland Cliffs.

“The featured point on the line is the striking high trestle over the Dead River Gorge which commands a wonderful view of the river below as well as the hills and forests which surround it,” wrote Ed Oom in *The Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad*.

Today the railroad’s operations are limited to a run from the Tilden iron ore mine south of Ishpeming to the Marquette ore dock. The railroad continues to use ore cars (“jennies”) dating to the 1930s and 1940s, as they were built to fit the spacing on the ore dock in Marquette.



A STEM-POWERED IRON ORE TRAIN crosses the Dead River bridge, date unknown. Photo credit: Bridge Hunter



ELEVATION OF PLATE-GIRDER VIADUCT WITH ARCH SPAN

A DIAGRAM OF the enormously complex Dead River Railroad Bridge, which has 11 separate spans and eight different component designs in order to comport with the landscape. The main supporting structural steel element is essentially a bridge built upon a supporting arched bridge.

Credit: *Engineering News Record, 1918*

50 ways to leave U.S. workers in the lurch

(Continued from Page 1)

The president has actively sought to undermine workers’ collective bargaining rights, has obstructed workers’ right to fair union elections, has sought to take away graduate student workers’ right to organize and bargain, and has put forward a multitude of anti-worker nominees and appointees in the U.S. Supreme Court, Department of Labor, and National Labor Relations Board.

Following are some of the top-50 anti-worker actions by the Trump Administration.

- The centerpiece of the National Labor Relations Act is workers’ right to engage in “protected concerted activity” – for example, to protest, strike, or organize a union – to improve their working conditions. In a series of decisions and actions, the Trump-appointed majority on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has systematically narrowed its interpretation of what counts as protected concerted activity, leaving workers unprotected against employer retaliation when they protest or strike over safety conditions (for example, insufficient protections

from COVID-19).

- Despite the widespread reach of COVID-19 in the workplace, the Trump administration’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has refused to issue any required measures – via an emergency temporary infectious disease standard – to protect workers from the virus. OSHA even rejected a petition by unions representing affected workers and by the AFL-CIO for mandatory rules to protect workers from exposure to the coronavirus on the job.

- The Trump Administration halted all work in 2017 on an overall permanent infectious disease standard that would have protected workers from COVID-19 and mitigated the spread of the disease.

- An understaffed OSHA is also failing to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Act during the pandemic. Despite over 9,000 complaints from workers about unsafe working conditions from COVID-19, the agency had issued only four citations for failure to protect workers as of August.

- The U.S. Chamber of

Commerce’s actually put together a Top-10 wish list, with all manner of rules that would weaken workers’ ability to organize with co-workers to bargain collectively with employers. Result: all 10 were adopted by the Trump Administration, through the NLRB.

- Among the granted wishes: employers are allowed to undermine the bargaining process by unilaterally imposing discretionary discipline without bargaining with the union. Employers are allowed to force employees into arbitration and disallow class or collective claims. Under changes in “management rights” clauses, employers are given more power to make unilateral changes and undermine the collective bargaining process.

- On Feb. 6, 2020, the Democratic-led House of Representatives passed the landmark Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, which would significantly restore workers’ right to organize and bargain collectively. The Trump administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy recommending that President Trump veto the bill if it reaches his desk – and it hasn’t because it won’t pass the Republican Senate.

- During the first three years of the Trump administration, OSHA workplace inspection activity has fallen relative to the previous two administrations. OSHA also currently has the lowest number of inspectors in the history of the agency.

- In a series of decisions, the Trump NLRB gave employers more power to prevent union organizers and off-duty employees from talking with employees about forming a union at the workplace, during non-work time.

- In 2016, the Obama Department of Labor expanded eligibility for the overtime pay from a threshold of \$23,660 to \$47,476 per year, but this update was ultimately blocked in the courts. But instead of defending the 2016 rule – which would have strengthened overtime protections for 12.5 million workers – the Trump administration proceeded with their own proposed rule. Under the 2019 rule, the Trump DOL updated the overtime threshold to \$35,568.73.

- Seats on the NLRB – the agency charged with protecting workers’ workplace rights – has been stacked with corporate lawyers.

- Trump’s OSHA has continued to delay a standard for exposure to silica dust, which can cause silicosis, an incurable and often fatal lung disease.

- In March 2017, President Trump signed a resolution that blocked the implementation of the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces rule, which had been issued during the Obama administration to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not awarded to contractors who cut corners on workplace safety and other labor protections.

- “The pandemic,” the EPI’s Poydock said, “has merely provided the administration another opportunity to continue its attacks on workers’ rights. Instead of instituting policies to protect the nation’s essential workers, the administration has undermined workplace safety standards. It is critical that a new administration work with the same diligence to reverse Trump’s anti-worker policies and also advance a workers’ agenda that provides working people with the rights and protections they need and deserve.”

‘Strengthening unions and empowering workers is essential to our recovery’

(Continued from Page 1)

and Wall Street robber-baron, he knows that if he can diminish union power, he can run the table on every American worker.

Let’s end the war on labor’s house and put power back in workers’ hands. Strengthening unions and empowering workers is essential to our recovery from the devastating challenges Mr. Trump has allowed to fester. We need to finally get serious about defeating the pandemic, digging out from the worst jobs crisis in nearly a century, and healing the long-standing wound of racial injustice. And a big part of meeting those challenges will come from seizing this opportunity to build an economy that serves the dignity of the hardworking people who make it run.

The key to that is to create good-quality jobs with a fair choice to join a union – a choice that nearly 60 million Americans are eager to make if given a chance, according to the latest research. Those jobs are at the heart of the “Build Back Better” plan that will guide our recovery in a Biden-Harris administration.

The plan starts with a transformational \$2 trillion investment to rebuild America’s infrastructure, lead the world in clean energy and position our auto industry for a long, bright future. That investment will revitalize schools, roads and bridges; modernize our communities; and make our airports, seaports and inland waterways the finest in the world. And by finally investing in another form of infrastructure – America’s long-undervalued bedrock of caregivers and educators – millions of people will be freed up to pursue the dignity and security that comes from landing a good job.

Most important, the entirety of those investments will support a “Made in America” future driven by union workers. The materials to rebuild America will be made here at home. The supply chains will run through American towns. The jobs will be well-paying, middle-class union jobs.

Increasing workers’ rights to unionize and collectively bargain will be an essential component of the Biden-Harris administration’s economic recovery plan. That includes enacting the PRO Act, which would dramatically enhance the power of workers to organize without fear of retaliation.

Additionally, bargaining rights for public service and federal workers will be ensured, the practice of misclassifying workers as independent contractors will be ended and corporate executives will be held personally liable if they interfere with workers’ efforts to organize. The National Labor Relations Board will be restored to its original purpose, clearly stated in the 1935 law that created it – not to hamstring, or even merely tolerate unions, but to actively encourage collective bargaining.

There is no question that working people have the capacity to solve the crises we’re facing today – but the only way we’ll emerge from those crises with an economy that works for everyone is by summoning a new wave of worker power. We owe it not only to those who have put in a lifetime of work, but to the next generation of workers who have only known an America of rising inequality and shrinking opportunity. All of us deserve to enjoy America’s promise in full – and our nation’s leaders have a responsibility to deliver it.

The road to get there won’t be easy. But we know the character of union members – the people who built this country, who keep us going through the hard times, and who have never once let our nation down. We can and must build a future that reflects working people’s courage and ambition, and offers not only good jobs – but the dignity, equity, shared prosperity and common purpose due to every single person who lives and works here.

(Former Vice President Joe Biden is the Democratic candidate for president. Richard Trumka is the president of the AFL-CIO).

A man walked into a restaurant with a full-grown ostrich behind him

They sit down and the waitress came over and asked for their orders.

The man says, “I’ll have a hamburger, fries and a Coke.” Then he turns to the ostrich and asks, “What are you having?” “I’ll have the same,” says the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order, then later the check. “That will be \$24.56,” she says. The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day, same thing. The man orders a hamburger, fries and a Coke. The waitress asks the ostrich, “what are you having?”

“I’ll have the same,” the

Just joking

bird says.

When it came time to pay, the man reaches into his pocket and provides exact change.

This became a routine and late one evening, the two entered the restaurant again. “The usual?” asks the waitress. “No, tonight, I will have a steak, baked potato, and salad,” says the man. “Same for me,” says the ostrich.

The waitress returns with the food, then later the bill, and says, “that will be \$44.16.” Once again the man pulls out the exact change.

The waitress couldn’t hold back her curiosity any longer. “Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?”

He answers, “several

years ago I was cleaning the attic and I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there.”

“That’s brilliant!” says the waitress. “Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you’ll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!”

“That’s right,” he said. “Whether it’s buying a gallon of milk or a Tesla, the exact money is always there,” says the man.

The waitress asks, “but what’s up with the ostrich?”

The man sighs, pauses, and answers, “my second wish was for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say.”





Endorsement list

for the Nov. 3 General Election

Updated list is also available at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

U.S. President: Joe Biden
U.S. Senator: Gary Peters

Michigan Supreme Court Justice
Bridget McCormack
Elizabeth Welch

U.S. Congress
District 1 (Negaunee): Dana Ferguson
District 2 (Holland): Bryan Berghoef
District 3 (Grand Rapids): Hillary Scholten
District 5 (Flint): Daniel Kildee
District 7 (Ann Arbor): Gretchen Driskell
District 8 (Holly): Elissa Slotkin
District 9 (Bloomfield Twp.): Andy Levin
District 11 (Birmingham): Haley Stevens
District 12 (Dearborn): Debbie Dingell
District 14 (Southfield): Brenda Lawrence

Michigan State University Board of Trustees: Brian Mossalam
University of Michigan Board of Trustees: Mark Bernstein, Shauna Ryder Diggs

State Representative
District 2 (Detroit): Joe Tate
District 4 (Hamtramck): Abraham Aiyash
District 8 (Detroit): Stephanie Young
District 10 (Detroit): Kevin Harris
District 19 (Livonia): Laurie Pohutsky
District 20 (Plymouth): Matt Koleszar
District 21 (Canton): Ranjeev Puri
District 22 (Roseville): Richard Steenland
District 25 (Sterling Hts.): Nate Shannon
District 29 (Pontiac): Brenda Carter
District 31 (Clinton Twp.): Bill Sowerby
District 34 (Flint): Cynthia Neely
District 37 (Farmington Hills): Samantha Steckloff
District 38 (Novi): Kelly Breen
District 39 (Commerce): Julia Pulver
District 40 (Birmingham): Mari Manoogian
District 43 (Clarkston): Nicole Breadon
District 44 (Milford): Denise Forrest
District 45 (Rochester Hills): Barb Anness
District 46 (Oxford): Jody Lamacchia
District 49 (Flint): John Cherry
District 50 (Burton): Tim Sneller
District 52 (Ann Arbor): Donna Lasinski
District 54 (Ypsilanti): Ronnie Dean Peterson
District 55 (Ann Arbor): Felicia Brabec
District 60 (Kalamazoo): Julie Rogers
District 61 (Kalamazoo): Christine Morse
District 62 (Battle Creek): Jim Haadsma
District 65 (Jackson): Nancy Smith
District 72 (Grand Rapids): Lily Cheng-Schulting
District 73 (Grand Rapids): Bill Saxton
District 74 (Rockford): Meagan Hintz
District 75 (Grand Rapids): David LaGrand
District 77 (Byron Center): Bob Smith
District 78 (Niles): Dan VendenHeede
District 86 (Grand Rapids): Sue Hayes
District 91 (Muskegon): Terry Sabo
District 95 (Saginaw): Amos O'Neal
District 96 (Bay City): Brian Elder
District 101 (Whitehall): Brian Hosticka
District 104 (Traverse City): Dan O'Neil
District 108 (Escanaba): Renee Richer
District 109 (Marquette): Sara Cambensy
District 110 (Houghton): Janet Metsa

Greater Detroit Building Trades Macomb County
Sheriff: Anthony Wickersham
Clerk/Register of Deeds: Fred Miller
Treasurer: Lorie Barnwell
Macomb County Probate Judge: Kathryn A. George

Board of Commissioners
District 3: (Eastpointe): Veronica Klinefelt
District 4 (Sterling Hts.): Carole Chi
District 5 (Sterling Hts.): Robert Mijac
District 10 (Harrison Twp.): Robert Leonetti
District 11 (Roseville): Harold Haugh
District 12 (Clinton Twp.): Julie Matuzak
Macomb Community College Trustee: Maria Mijac, Sarah Gielegem
Clinton Twp. Trustee: Paul Gielegem, Laura Cardamone, Mike Keys, Tammy Patton

Chesterfield Twp. Board of Trustees: Linda Hartman
Chesterfield Twp. Clerk: Wendy Jones

Harrison Twp. L'Anse Creuse Board of Education Trustee: Jeff Cyprus

Utica Board of Education Trustee: Steve Meyer

Wayne County
Prosecutor: Kym Worthy
Sheriff: Benny Napoleon
Treasurer: Eric Sabree

Board of Commissioners
District 4 (Lincoln Park): Ilona Varga
District 5 (Detroit): Irma Clark-Coleman
District 8 (Dearborn Hts.): David Knezek
District 10 (Plymouth): Melissa Daub
District 11 (Wayne): Al Haidous
District 12 (Westland): Glenn Anderson
District 15 (Grosse Ile): Joseph Palamara

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge: Nicholas John Hathaway
3rd Circuit Judge: Edward Joseph

District Court Judge
District 28 (Southgate): John Graziani
District 31 (Hamtramck): Alexis Krot
District 32A (Harper Woods): Daniel S. Palmer
District 34 (Van Buren Twp.): Lisa Martin
District 38: (Eastpointe): Michael Klinefelt
District 45 (Oak Park): Jaimie Powell Horowitz

Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees: Brian Broderick, Joan Gephart, Terry Gilligan

Canton Twp. Supervisor: Ann Marie Graham-Hudak
Treasurer: Dian Slavens
City Clerk: Michael Siegrist
Trustee: Kate Borninski, Sommer Foster, Tania Ganguly, Steve Sneideman

Detroit Board of Education Trustee: Sherry Gay Dagnogo

Grosse Pointe Schools Board of Education Trustee: Shareef Simaika

Huron Twp./New Boston Supervisor: Kelly Trombly

Livonia Board of Education Trustee: Dan Centers

Redford Twp. Supervisor: Pat McRae
Treasurer: Lily Cavanagh
Trustee: Elizabeth Kangas

Plymouth Twp. Supervisor: Mary Starr



On this page are candidates endorsed for the Tuesday, Nov. 3, statewide general election by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its local affiliate councils. Some councils did not endorse or had limited endorsements, and some only endorse if they get a request from candidates to do so. Please vote early, and feel free to use Michigan's option for obtaining a no-reason absentee ballot. And, as always, please take the time to research and to vote for candidates who support the health, safety and incomes of working people.

Van Buren Twp. Trustee: Kevin Martin

New Boston Huron School Dist. Board of Education Trustee: Joshua Monte

Oakland County
Supervisor: Dave Coulter
Prosecutor: Karen McDonald
Sheriff: Michael Bouchard
Treasurer: Robert Wittenberg
6th Circuit Judge (non-incumbent): Lorie Savin

Board of Commissioners
District 2 (Highland): James Williams
District 5 (Waterford Twp.): Kristen Nelson
District 6 (White Lake Twp.): Jeffrey Long
District 7 (Commerce): Karen Adams
District 9 (Novi): Gwen Markham
District 11 (Troy): Tim Burns
District 12 (Birmingham): Kelly Dillaha
District 13 (Farmington Hills): Marcia Gershenson
District 14 (Farmington): William Miller
District 16 (Clawson): Penny Luebs
District 17 (Southfield): Yolanda Charles
District 18 (Ferndale): Charlie Cavell
District 19 (Royal Oak): Dave Woodward
District 20 (Madison Hts.): Gary McGillivray
District 21 (Southfield): Janet Jackson
43rd District Court Judge (Madison Hts.): Brian Hartwell

Royal Oak Board of Education Trustee: Tim Ciechorski

Milford Twp. Supervisor: Don Green

Waterford Twp. Supervisor: John Paul Torres
Treasurer: Eric Lindemier
Clerk: Justin Clark
Trustee: Matt McClure, Mary Craite, Jason Herr, Cynthia Atiemo

St. Clair County City of St. Clair City Council 3rd Ward: William Lieman

West Michigan Kent County Board of Commissioners
District 1 (Grand Rapids): Deb Havens
District 2 (Rockford): Jerry Berta
District 3 (Gowen): G. Scott Schuiling
District 4 (Rockford): Karl Smith
District 5 (Grand Rapids): Mark Neville
District 6 (Walker): Danielle Storey
District 7 (Grandville): Jane Newton
District 8 (Wyoming): Sarah Chatterley
District 9 (Wyoming): Keith Courtade
District 10 (Caledonia): Robert Sames
District 11 (Grand Rapids): Justin Sheldon
District 12 (Kentwood): Monica Sparks
District 13 (Kentwood): Michelle McCloud
District 14 (Grand Rapids): Carol Hennessy
District 15 (Grand Rapids): Melissa LaGrand
District 16 (Grand Rapids): David Bulkowski
District 17 (Grand Rapids): Robert Womack
District 18 (Grand Rapids): Stephen Wooden
District 19 (East Grand Rapids): Phil Skaggs
Drain Commissioner: Elaine Isely



Manistee County Board of Commissioners
District 2 (Kaleva): Allan O'Shea
District 3 (Brethren): Gene Lagerquist
District 4 (Manistee): Rolf Wucherer
District 6 (Manistee): Karen Goodman
District 7 (Manistee): Margaret Batzer

Muskegon County Sheriff: Michael Poulin
Prosecutor: D.J. Hilson
Board of Commissioners
District 2 (Muskegon): Marcia Hovey-Wright
District 4 (Norton Shores): Mary Valentine
District 5 (Muskegon): Ashley Podein
District 6 (Muskegon): Charles Nash
District 7 (Whitehall): Kimon Kotos
District 8 (Montague): Kenneth Mahoney

Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
District 3 (Holland): Doug Zylstra

Southwest Michigan Building Trades Kellogg Community College Trustee: Jon Bird
Oshtemo Citizens for Clean Water initiative Albion Mayor: Joedy Brown



Abatement Workers Local 207
TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late fall early winter so be prepared for work during a time when traditionally work is slowing down. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic. The General Office still has a ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume. Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Fall outages in all areas in the region are on the horizon so make sure if you can travel that you make sure to get licensed as soon as possible. With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic, filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for November so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.

KEVIN MEAGHER

Abatement Workers Local 207
TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late fall early winter so be prepared for work during a time when traditionally work is slowing down. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic. The General Office still has a ban on Union Meeting and Elections. Our current election process is still on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election can resume. Work in other areas of the region have been picking up over the last couple of weeks in Ohio and West Virginia. Fall outages in all areas in the region are on the horizon so make sure if you can travel that you make sure to get licensed as soon as possible. With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic, filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. We are looking at scheduling a new initial class for November so please if you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class.



Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – Local 47 Lansing Office, 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, Michigan 48933. 517-708-0665
ELECTION NOTICE: The International General Executive Board has passed a resolution to allow mail-in nominating of candidates for the upcoming election. A letter from President Walter Wilson has been mailed out explaining this procedure. Be sure to completely fill out the Nomination Form and to communicate with the member you wish to nominate as they'll need to completely fill out the Candidate Acceptance Form. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the office.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

Any retirees wanting to go to work, please call the office.

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79-hour rule. All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665

Per the Rules and Procedures:
•Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed.
•Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

OSHA 10: Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

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

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

Anyone interested in joining the newly formed Breath Of Life Committee is asked to please call the Local Union Office.
Pension and Health Welfare: Larry Tolbert (269-345-8944), Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275.

Toll Free : (800) 323-8079
Phone No.: (517) 321-7502
Fax : (517) 321-7508

Larry Tolbert will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Larry is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (269) 345-8944, or by mail at: P.O. Box 19541, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one
(Continued next column)



Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD – REMINDER: We continue to be under the directive of the International Union and pursuant to that directive, the NOVEMBER 2020 UNION MEETING has been cancelled. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

WEBSITE: The new website is up and running. It can be located at: <https://heatfrostinsulators.org>.

APPAREL: New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. The only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remains current and correct is to call the Office – (248) 352-1850.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

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

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

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

Local 47, continued

will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)
Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

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

Good and Welfare: Get well to all our sick and injured members.



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

****REMINDER**** Meetings are no longer held at the Plumbers Hall and are now held at Local 80's Union Hall.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for **Oct. 27, 2020** at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI

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

RETIREE MEETINGS SCHEDULE: All remaining meetings and activities have been cancelled for 2020. We will inform you at a later date what we will be doing for 2021. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

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



TIM MULLIGAN

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: David Collar, Mike Boyle, Mike Jones, Eric McGaugh, Kyle Biron, Eric Matthews, Jason Wagner, Kevin Halterman, Louis Velarde Jr., Michael Wilson, Steven Herr, John Sajewski, James Pfeifle & Andrew Abke.

ANNIVERSARY: We would like to wish Retiree William Nelson and his wife Eleanor a happy 50th wedding anniversary. William and Eleanor will be celebrating 50 years on Oct. 16.

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go out to the family of retiree Dennis A. Mattice. Dennis passes away Oct. 3, 2020 after a long battle with lung cancer.

Our condolences also go out to the family of Michael Foley. Mike was a retired member from Local 80 and just recently received a 60 year pin. He passed away on August 27, 2020.

SMART INTERNATIONAL has announced that they will be endorsing Presidential candidate Joe Biden for the 2020 election. To find a full list of who Local 80 is endorsing please head to our website www.smw80.org

LAWN SIGNS: Biden for President signs are now available for members to pick up at the hall, stop in if you would like some.

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

READY TO WORK: SMANCA Detroit and Local 80 are in progress of developing a mobile smart app which will allow access to the Ready to Work program from your smart phone. The app is in development for both Apple and Android systems; once it is completed (est. early November) an announcement will be emailed, hard mailed and shared with you at your union meetings as well as published in the Bldg. Trades newspaper.

In complement, for the 2020 Ready to Work stipend requirement you will only need to download the app on your smart phone, review and confirm your contact information (email, mailing address, employer, list of your accomplished training).

When you download the app and review your contact information, the program will inform SMACNA Detroit of your interaction and this part of the stipend requirement will be completed. There will be no custom Ready to Work modules required for the 2020 stipend.

In the meanwhile of receiving notice the Ready to Work app is available, it is important to make sure you have all other stipend requirements completed, these are still the same: Current MUST Drug Test; Current MUST 18 Safety Modules; OSHA 30; Current FA CPR certification. Deadline for stipend requirements is December 31, 2020. For members who do not have a smart phone, contact Support and accommodations will be made for you.

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

ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Members who have their dues paid in advance (prior to the month of the accident) are eligible for accidental death and dismemberment benefits up to \$7,500. This benefit comes as a dues paying member of SMART International.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: Saturday and Sunday work assignments. Please remember that when performing work on a Saturday or Sunday the steward must report it to the hall, give each member's name and obtain a form for signatures. Each member must sign the form along with the number of hours they worked. The completed form must be sent back to by hall by the end of the day on the following Monday. Weekend work assignments must be called or emailed into the hall **prior to 3:00 pm on Friday.**

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

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

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

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within seven days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits.

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

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

MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and

(Continued next column)



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be held December 2, 2020 at 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI at 6:00 p.m.

- *Zone 1-December 10th -6:00 p.m. (in person mask required)
- *Zone 2 –December 1st -6:00 p.m. (in person mask required)
- *Zone 3- (Saginaw) – Dec. 9th -6:00 p.m. (in person mask required)
- *Zone 3- (TCity) December 3rd - 6:00 p.m. (in person mask required)
- *Zone 4- December 8th - 6:00 p.m. (in person mask required)
- *Zone 5 –December 5th 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Meeting (mask required)

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2020. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

****Attention Certified Welders from Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5****

Starting April 1st, 2020 all welding certification renewals will change to a twice a year schedule. The new renewal deadlines for all Certified Welders will be April 1st and October 1st. In order to keep your certification from expiring you will be required to submit a **Welder Maintenance Form** to the Training Center dated **no more than 5 days prior** to April 1 or Oct. 1. You will no longer be required to submit a **\$10 Filing Fee** with your renewal paperwork. If

needed, you can request a maintenance form from the Training Center. ***IF YOU FAIL TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM BY THE DEADLINE YOUR CERTIFICATION WILL EXPIRE.** Feel free to contact Training Coordinator Darek Scarlavai @ (231)288-6325 if you have any questions.

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

ZONE 1 Info: Any Zone 1 apprentice that is laid off should notify Kevin at the school. Any Zone 1 Journeyman that is out of work should contact your agent. There is travel work available, so if you are interested please contact James or Eric. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, please contact your agent or BeneSys at (866) 288-7037. Apprentices should be in contact with Instructors to make sure you don't fall behind. If you are interested in Fire Life Safety Training and Certification, CAD or Welding, please contact the Zone 1 Training Coordinator Kevin Dowdy at (269) 781-7183 or by email at kdowdysmw7@gmail.com.

–In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 is going along as it has been with a few slow downs.

Please call 616-299-3752 if you are off so you can be on the list for future jobs or out of town work. Our December meeting is still up in the air, will let you know in later updates. **Thanks Dave**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Zone 3 is steady, a few nice jobs being bid. Hopefully everyone is staying safe and healthy. **Thank you, Wayne Stover**

Zone 3 Info: Our next meeting (Holiday Meeting) will be December 3. Please watch the Trades Paper for more details to come. The next Retiree Breakfast will be Friday, November 6th at 9:00AM at Willie's Rear Restaurant in Traverse City. We still need a couple more people to have a CAD class in Traverse City. If interested please call to sign up. **Thank you, Travis Eastman**

ZONE 4 Work in zone 4 has slowed down a bit with a handful of members laid off at this time. We have a few decent projects in size coming up, with Fall upon us and Winter slowly coming the work load will be slow. Good luck to all the hunters this season! **Your Brother Larry Kinzie**

ZONE 5 Info: I hope all is well with everyone. Looks like some work will be picking up around the U.P. this fall into winter along with other projects being bid. If you are off please make sure I have you on the out of work list as there are calls in other areas looking for help. Reminder, if you need an MSHA 8 hour refresher please contact Ann Lakenen at (906)-226-6511 EXT 4. These will be offered via Zoom and the dates are as follows; October 17th, November 7th and November 21st. There is a maximum of 20 per class so sign up soon.

–Respectfully Greg Faust

CONDOLENCES: to the family and friends of Thomas Heltunen (80), who passed away on September 29, 2020 and Raymond Young (75), he passed away on September 30, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Micah and Carly Johnson on the birth of their daughter Audrey born on September 21, 2020.

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: Underemployment – Filing for period 2020-A is from July 1 through Oct. 1, 2020. Eligible members who worked less than 650 hours from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 may receive an underemployment benefit. Health and welfare benefits paid on your behalf will be deducted from your benefit. NOTE: Members who received an Emergency Advance Benefit must file for Underemployment to receive the remainder of that benefit for the stabilization period.

For information or applications, contact Travis Eastman at 231-943-5150.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

James Callahan (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-342-8842

David Rutz (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-458-2313

Wayne Stover (Saginaw) 989-692-0002

Travis Eastman (Traverse City) 231-943-5150

Larry Kinzie (Agent-Flint) 810-785-6831

Greg Faust (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

Local 80 cont'd

drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help you with your needs. They can also help you with legal issues, financial concerns, elder care referrals and child care resources. Contact them at 1-800-448-8326 or www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com. **Make sure you mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when calling and not the contractor you are working for.**



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **November 11, 2020.**

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

The **E-Board/Stewards** meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

****Per the CDC guidelines, masks must be worn and social distancing must be followed during all meetings.**

ELECTION FOR TWO (2) VACANT EXECUTIVE BOARD SEATS:

During nominations at the October 14, 2020, membership meeting, if only two (2) persons are nominated for the vacant Executive Board seats, an election will not take place.

In the event that more than two (2) persons are nominated for the vacant Executive Board seats, an election will be conducted at the date, time, and place indicated below: **Thursday, October 29, 2020, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,** Knights of Columbus, 870 N. Main St. Clawson, MI 48017.

Any member in good standing will be eligible to vote. Members will be asked to present a current Local 292 Dues receipt and driver's license, or some other form of identification at the polls.

The term of office will run from the Regular Membership Meeting Nov. 11 through the first Regular Membership Meeting in June 2023.

To be eligible for election on Oct. 29, 2020, dues for the month of October must be paid in advance, that is, on or before Sept. 30, 2020.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions limiting large gatherings, the Local 292 Charity committee believes, first and foremost, in order to continue to do our part in keeping everyone safe and healthy, it is in the best interests of our membership and their families to cancel the party for this year. We look forward to 2021 when we can resume this wonderful event.

RETIRES NOTICE: Due to Covid-19 and restrictions placed for social gatherings, as well as the health and safety of our retirees and their families, the retirees' luncheons have been cancelled for the rest of 2020. We will notify when luncheons will resume. Stay healthy and safe.

Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_e1@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

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. Members please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact Laura or Lee Ann at the Union Hall. With the amount of upcoming in-town work, all current Journeymen and Apprentices should ensure they have **18 safety mods completed and drug test should be current.**

*****The NMA addendum for most of the upcoming projects states:** 1) Prior to, but within thirty (30) days of referral for employment to the project site, all craft persons will: A) Attend a Project Specific Orientation facilitated by the Contractor at mutually agreed upon times and locations; B) Before being admitted to the job site, all contractors and subcontractor employees having active involvement in job site construction activity, must be current and maintain a current MUST or equivalent status regarding the Substance Abuse Program. Prior to the start of work on the project the employee must provide confirmation of negative results to a MUST Substance Abuse Test or equivalent test within the last 30 days.

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

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

DUES: Membership dues are required to be **paid in advance of the month for which they are due.** The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are **60 days late.** To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by **4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month.** Payments received after **4:00 p.m.** on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

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

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

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

FACEBOOK & TWITTER: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 and Twitter - @SMW292, for updates and information.

NOTARY PUBLIC: For your convenience, we now have a Notary Public on site at the union hall. Notary services are free of charge to our members.

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 certs) with the 4 Plus logo, along with hard hat stickers and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390 (Dave)** or Quintin **248.495.6764.**

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class October 24th. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain a AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone that 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 scheduled in the class.



Local 370
Plumbers &
Pipe Fitters

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370 FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00pm. We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 cases in Genesee County and decide if this meeting will be held. You will be notified.

All in person apprentice and journeyman classes are continuing as scheduled. We are requiring adherence to CDC guidelines, social distancing and masks.

Please note that we have moved to our new Union Hall/ Training Center located at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI. and will no longer be at our Pierson Rd. location.

Committee and Board meetings are cancelled until further notice.

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.

Sub Pay: Remember to qualify for sub pay when you are laid off, you must sign the out of work list. You can also collect when you are on Jury Duty and miss work. If you are traveling, call Karla to see if you need to make sub-fund self-payments. All members were sent a Sub-Pay manual in 2018. If you did not receive one, please call TIC at (517) 321-7502 and ask for the 370 Sub Pay Fund Summary Plan Description (SPD)

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Members present must have dues paid to date to claim award. Monthly award is \$150.

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

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

ALL GM Work requires Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTB SAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any GM site 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.

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

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

Plumbing, Mechanical and Residential Code Books are now available at the hall. The books are \$75.00 each.

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

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, Dan (Continued next column)



Local 190
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: The next regular union is scheduled for Monday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m. Due to the current indoor gathering restrictions, more information will follow regarding how members will be able to join in for this in person or online meeting. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

UNION HALL CLOSED FOR AN UPCOMING HOLIDAY: For the Thanksgiving holiday the office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th, and Friday November 27th. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

THE 2020 CHRISTMAS PARTY HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID!

Currently Local 190 is not accepting any apprenticeship applications. A note will be put in the paper when this current status changes.

MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN ENTERING THE UNION HALL BUILDING AND TRAINING CENTER DUE TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN WELDERS: Please remember it is very important to keep your continuity forms up to date.

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

OFFICE HOURS: Effective Monday, February 3rd, the Union Hall office hours are as follows: Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The office will be closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. 2020 - MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY!!! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union hall and pick up a copy of the instructions.

UA LOCAL 190 WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the “Members Only” section using your last name and UA card number. *****NEW ON THE WEBSITE***:** Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: VISION PROGRAM – EYEMED – IMPORTANT INFORMATION: EyeMed benefit cards are not necessary to access benefits, however, you may print a card from the EyeMed website. Vision providers should be provided the following information at the time of the appointment; 1) Carrier Name -(EyeMed), 2) Member Name 3) Member Birthdate

EyeMed Customer Service Call: 888-581-3648
In Network Provider Listings Call: 866-804-0982
EyeMed Website: www.eyemed.com

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: Attention all members, you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation of benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM**

REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: On the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month a representative will be available to meet with members from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the union hall. Please feel free to come in for any information you may need on Health and Welfare funds, Met Life Insurance Policies and miscellaneous.

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

CLASS INFORMATION – TRAINING CENTER- OFFICE PHONE: 734-426-3700

TRAINING CENTER IS OPENED BACK UP TO MEMBERS WISHING TO UPDATE ANY CERTIFICATIONS, LICENSES OR QUALIFICATIONS.

PLEASE NOTE: We are following the State and CDC guidelines. You must wear a face mask inside the building.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hours): Monday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. This is an in-person class, at the Training Center. To register please contact Retha 734-426-3700.

WELDING LAB: Starting the first week of September, the welding lab will be back to open labs on Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Weld tests dates are determined as participants show they have the skills.

CONFINED SPACE (4 HRS): Still looking to put on a confined space class. Minimum of four to put class on. Call training center to get put on the list for the next class.

ICRA CERTIFICATION (16 HRS): Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. Next class possible in-person at the training center. Minimum of four to put a class on. Call training center to get put on the list for the next class.

APPRENTICES PLEASE NOTE: Make sure your e-mail and phone number are updated at the training center. Please call and dial EXT. 2

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to the following members!!! Best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy, and relaxing retirement in 2020.

| | Initiation Date: | Retirement Date: |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert Briggs II | January 10, 2002 | September 1 st |
| Gary Marinich | March 14, 2006 | September 1 st |
| Dennis VanWasshnova | November 12, 1984 | September 1 st |
| James Grishaber | November 4, 2002 | October 1 st |
| Kris Shenefeld | July 12, 1999 | October 1 st |

CONDOLENCES: We are deeply saddened by the news our lifetime member Marvin Fraker passed away on October 5th. Marvin initiated April 26, 1954, retired August 1, 1993 and became a lifetime member April 26, 2004. To all family members and friends may our condolences bring you consolation and peace during this painful time.

RETIREE MEETINGS – **SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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.

UA Local 370, continued

Gaudet for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to www.shopunionmade.com.

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



MOVING MATERIALS through a corridor at the Michigan State University STEM project is Reuben Hall of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. He’s employed by Gunthorpe.



Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Brothers and Sisters, Happy autumn to you and your families.

MEETINGS. The next Union Meeting will be **Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 pm next door at the Food Worker’s Hall.** If the Food Worker’s Hall is unavailable we will be moving the meeting to a virtual platform. Please note we are back to our normal meeting time. For virtual meetings we will follow the same rituals and officer reports as usual. Some sensitive information such as organizing campaigns may not be discussed virtually, the confidentiality of our business matters has to be our priority. At September’s Special Called Meeting we ratified the 2020 allocations. All distributed allocations are posted on our UA Local 98 web page (UALocal98.com) and went into effect the first week of June 2020.

Retiree Meetings are still cancelled until further notice. E-Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. If you need to contact or see the board please call V.P. Jim Cools at 734-307-9841.

ELECTIONS. If you would like a Biden/Harris lawn sign and haven’t received one, you can contact the Office Administrator, Kristina, at klodovisi98@ua.local98.org or 248-331-7232.

Are you registered to vote? You can check your voting status by logging on to the Secretary of State website mivc.sos.state.mi.us.

We have finished our final round of endorsement interview for political candidates. Check out our website for the most current endorsed list. The list can be found under the **About** section under **Political Action** on our webpage. Local 98 will continue backing both party’s candidates who have proven to be true Union supporters. If you do not see your candidate it may be possible they have not requested a letter of support or are running in an uncontested race.

If you are voting by mail and haven’t mailed in your ballot yet, please do so ASAP. We encourage you to mail your ballot today to ensure your ballot makes it to your clerk’s office. Or, better yet, drop it at your county clerk’s office. Visit the **Political Action** webpage for a link to find your nearest drop box.

If for some reason you may not agree that Joe is the proper choice as president, please remember our Senators and Representatives as well as Judges all the way to clerks. Remember the Associated Builders and Contractors Association, a.k.a. ABC Contractors, (those are the guys that don’t like us in case you didn’t know) have backed the other guy, to get a national Right to Work Law passed in this country.

COVID-19. Anyone who knows of a Local 98 member or spouse who has died of Covid-19, please have the surviving partner or family member contact the Union hall as the U.A. has an extra bereavement fund to assist unfortunate families in their time of need. Due to HIPPA laws we cannot make first contact with the families ourselves. So please help out our member’s families.

Any concerns with COVID-19 safety protocols or lack of PPE contact the **Business agent in the area or the Union Hall.**

Michigan residents have access to **free with no copay required** COVID-19 testing. You can find the testing sight nearest to you by going to www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/ and clicking the **Find a Test Sight** button.

UNION HALL. The Union Hall is open to essential foot traffic only and the West doors will continue as our main entrance. Masks are required and you need to make an appointment to visit. There is a COVID-19 questionnaire that **MUST** be filled out by everyone entering the Union Hall. Remember, the Training Center can be used.

SUBAPPS/OOW Changes. SUB Pay is still closed until our travelers or job calls slow down. Please fill out SUB Apps electronically now. This can be found on the web page under the **OOWL** section. If you’re still having unemployment issues call BAs Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams. For any member issues dealing with benefits contact Jon DeRoo. If you are less than a year from retiring, please set a meeting with Jon today.

LICENSE RENEWAL. For all continuing education opportunities call Training Coordinator Paul Baker, 248-585-1435. BAs Gary Glaser and Tom McWilliams are admins on the Must/Most program, contact them if you need help.

IN MEMORIAM. Our deepest sympathies go out to the friends and family of Brother Jonas Zgorski, who passed away on September 19, 2020.

Good/Welfare. Please look to the training section for upcoming classes

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire. If you know anyone working Non-Union or is a past member that may be interested, have them call Organizer Rob Moses, 248-763-2187.

In Brotherhood, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

TRAINING CENTER NEWS Phone #248-585-1435

Check out The Training Center’s website www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further notice.

The Training Center is open and adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. Please call Paul Baker at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 if you have any questions.

ASSE Winter Backflow Tester Certification - Class begins 11/2/2020. Call the Training Center for full schedule. Pre-pay by check only to hold your spot before the deadline 10/16/2020 or if class fills up, whichever is first.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification exams are scheduled quarterly. Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. For those who are eligible, please call the Training Center to register and pre-pay by check only before the deadline Dec. 18, 2020. The next scheduled recertification class is **Jan. 26 & 27, 2020.**

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING** Tests will be Sat-



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11th at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M. Please note masks will be required for entry to the meeting.

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.

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

NFPAAII Access is available for all 704 members. Please contact the Local 704 Training Center for username and password. Phone numbers to remember: NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

Continuing education classes are being formed. Please reach out to the training center for further information or future classes you would like to see added.

Local 98, con’t

urday, Nov. 7, 2020. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class.

The next **BRAZING Cert Sessions** will be Friday, Nov. 6, 2020. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

2020 Course Hour reimbursement forms are now available at the Training Center. You **must have 8 hours** (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020 to be eligible for the \$80 reimbursement.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as an online class for \$25 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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

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

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TEAMSTERS LOCAL 28M



WORKING ON PIPING at the Michigan State University STEM project in East Lansing are apprentice Jim Hodge (on the left) and journeyman Steve Savage of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. They're employed by Gunthorpe.

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Local 671

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111 UPPER PENINSULA – Both the Escanaba and Marquette halls have been closed to walk-in members until further notice. Please call either hall for any assistance you may need.

The next union meeting will be **Oct. 29**, at the Escanaba hall @ 7:30 p.m. EST. **This is a special called meeting for nominations of all elected positions.**

We will be following ALL state mandates of the Michigan Executive order by the Governor. Masks will be required so if you plan on attending please wear a mask.

Thank you to the membership for your patience during this process due to the current situation of the COVID-19 mandates of gatherings. Any questions please call Business Manager, Dean Gutzman and stay safe.

Condolences: To the family of Brian Andersen who passed away Oct. 3, 2020. Also, to the family of Bill "Lumpy" Isaacson who passed away Oct. 3, 2020.

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

Important Information: Contact the hall with any changes with any of the following: E-Mail, address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death. For those of you who have an email address that we do not yet have on record, please call and give it to April or Ann.

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

2020 Upgrade Certification Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

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

2020 BTA Class Schedule has been posted to Local 111 web-site (lu111.com).

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

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

MSHA Training: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Ann at (906) 226-6511 ext. 4 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174 COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: ALL-IN-PERSON UNION MEETINGS AND RETIREE BREAKFASTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. We will continue to do monthly virtual meetings through the members only Facebook group the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

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

Condolences: Local #174 would like to offer our condolences to the families of Brian Finch (41), Harold Peterman (91), Ernie Baldini (90) and Keith Meinema (82). Please keep the families in your thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace.

Thank You Volunteers: Thank you to all the apprentices who came out to help at Brian Finch's house. The Finch family really appreciates all your help.

McCormack/Welch for Supreme Court Justice: Brothers and sisters, please don't forget to vote your entire ballot including the non-partisan portion on the back. We hope you will consider supporting Bridget Mary McCormack and Elizabeth Welch for Supreme Court Justices.

UA for Biden: The UA and General President McManus assembled a UA Political Engagement Committee (PEC) to directly engage members across the country in the political process. The PEC is made up of Business Managers, Business Agents, Journeymen and Journeywomen, and Apprentices from all UA trades. That committee examined the two presidential candidates and their positions as related to: Union rights, energy, infrastructure, and retirement security. After several virtual meetings, the committee voted unanimously to endorse Joe Biden for President. Find more info on the process, the issues, and other endorsed candidates at uagetinvolved.org/

Endorsements: You can find AFL-CIO endorsed candidates at mialficio.vote.

VOTE: Mail ballots are going out in mid-September and the campaigning is ramping up. Remember in Michigan you can now vote absentee for no reason. You can apply for an absentee ballot and register to vote at www.mvic.sos.state.mi.us/avaplication

Fundraiser for Marc Vernick: OCTOBER IS THE LAST MONTH TO ORDER. Cami will be running a fundraiser for Marc Vernick beginning September 1st and running thru the month of October. Back Packs and Duffle Bags are available for purchase thru Cami and can be personalized with "UA LOCAL #174". 100% of commissions is being donated to help Marc with medical and living expenses. Please contact Cami at (616) 837-0222, ext. 10 or email cburris@ua174.org for more details.

401K Withdrawal: The recently enacted CARES Act allows the 401k Plan to adopt a special in-service distribution for participants who are diagnosed with COVID-19, whose spouse or child is diagnosed with COVID-19, or who are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic. This distribution can be up to \$100k, is not subject to the ordinary 10% excise tax, and the income tax from the distribution can be spread out over a 3-year period.

Individuals receiving such a distribution may also repay the distribution over 3-year period, in which case they will not be subject to income tax on what they repay. Unlike other hardships, this distribution only requires that the member self-certify the need.

The Fund is not required to independently corroborate the participant's certification with medical documentation or other types of documentation. The distribution is a one-time event

only and must be taken in 2020. Make sure you specify that you are taking a COVID withdrawal.

Sub-Pay: The board of trustees voted to temporarily raise the maximum sub pay credit from \$130 to \$260 from March 23rd until the end of April. To file for sub-pay, fill out a sub-pay form. You can find a form on the members only section of the website under the "forms" tab on the left hand side, or you can call the Union office and we'll mail or email you some. Mail or fax the completed form along with verification that you received an unemployment payment to TIC. If you prefer to email the forms, please email them to Cami@cburris@ua174.org and she will submit them to TIC.

PAC Cards: Since the elimination of prevailing wage, the race to the bottom on wages and benefits for publicly funded projects has begun. Our political focus over the years to come will be electing people who support prevailing wage and wage standards in general. To do that we need to raise our PAC card participation. We currently have less than half of the local contributing to our PAC. Your PAC contribution DOES NOT COME OFF YOUR CHECK. When you sign the PAC card it allows us to move money from your working dues over to our PAC. Please call Cami today and find out if you have current PAC card on file.

Medicare Retirees: Effective January 1st you are now enrolled in a Humana Medicare Advantage Plan administered by Labor First. If you have any questions about premium payments contact TIC. All other questions should be directed to Labor First.

Short Term Disability: The Local #174 Board of Trustees recently voted to increase the short-term disability amount from \$300 per week to \$400 per week. This increase will be effective September 30th, 2019.

Dispatch: We will be splitting 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: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

New insurance carriers: Active and NON Medicare Retirees
Aetna: (888)290-7241
Save-Rx: (800)228-3108
Medicare Retirees
Labor First: (616) 345-0788

Organizing Update: Please contact Chris Pelton if you know of any jobsites with a non-union plumbing or mechanical contractor or if you are interested in actively assisting with our organizing efforts. There are plenty of opportunities available, ranging from a one-day ride-along with a Business Agent or Organizer all the way up to full blown salting.

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 that you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events, such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

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

Contact Info: Please make sure we have your updated contact information. Check your info on the website or by calling Cami at the Union office.

Retiree Breakfast: The sta-

tus of the August Retiree Breakfast is **CANCELLED**. If you are a retiree and in need of assistance, please contact the Local Union Office.

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3rd Wednesday of the month / Labor Temple 918 Benjamin / 5:30pm

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (TIC)

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No. 174 Fringe Benefit Funds
625 Centurion Drive
Lansing, MI 48917-9275
(517) 321-7502 Phone
(855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free
(517) 321-7508 Fax

BENEFITS WEBSITE: westmichiganplumbers.org is the TIC website where you can check your contributions and benefit information. Click on benefit inquiry. Your username is your social security number. The password for first time users is K4GHB39 (case sensitive). You will then be prompted to create a permanent password.

Forms: The forms for Dollar Bank Reimbursement and Sub Pay are on the www.ua174.org website under the Members Only section and Forms and Links tab.

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Section 18.5 states, "...employees...shall be required to maintain the following Safety Training Certifications: First Aid/CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and OSHA 10." Please make sure you follow our agreement.

Out of work list: Please remember to call extension 17 when you are laid off. You must call line 17 to be put on the available to work list. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

Union Hall extension numbers: Ryan Bennett Business Manager ext. 12, Nathan Phillips Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch Business Agent ext. 14, Chris Pelton Organizer ext. 15, Lisa Johnson Accounting Manager 11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Shumaker ext. 30.

Training News. FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held on Thursday, November 12, and Thursday, December 10, 2020.

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

The Training Center has started scheduling night classes and will continue to slowly add more to the schedule. We will continue to follow the CDC Guidelines and the Governor's mandate to wear masks while in the building. We are actively monitoring changes due to COVID-19

(Continued next column)

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333 LANSING – Two Special Call meetings are scheduled for Nov. 18, 2020, and Dec. 16, 2020.

Both meetings will be held at the Lansing Center located at 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI. 48933 and will begin at 6:00pm.

All members are being mailed additional details for both meetings.

Please call Business Manager Price Dobernick if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Brother Deshon Leak who was recently hired by the Michigan Building Trades Council to work as a Representative for SE Michigan.

Weld Classes will start up in September.

If you're interested in taking the weld class please sign up at www.ua333.org or call Trent or Diana at 517-323-0333. There is a \$25.00 fee, please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

Lansing: September 1st (Tuesday's & Thursday's) Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: September 1st (Tuesday's & Thursday's) 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek: September 14th (Monday's & Thursday's) (KCC) RMTc, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Weld Tests are the second Tuesday of each month beginning September 8th at 4:00 at the Lansing Training Center.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed; between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

If your Med-Gas Installer is going to expire within the next few months please sign up on our website to take the renewal class.

Med-Gas new certification: Please sign up online on our website or contact the training center.

Long sleeve and short sleeve t-shirts available. Long sleeve are \$25. Short sleeve tees are \$20. We have a large assortment of colors and sizes. Zip hoodies are available also.

Local 174, con't

and schedules are subject to change based on group restrictions indoors. Masks are required while in the Training Center.

Attention: The CSD-1 Class Scheduled to start on September 28th has been cancelled due to the instructor from Boiler Risk Management being injured in an accident. We will reschedule this class as soon as he is able to return to work. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions regarding this cancellation, please contact Jeff Rumsey in the Training Office.

Open Welding will resume on Wednesday nights from 5pm – 9pm starting on 9/16/2020. Due to class size limits, you will need to call the Training Office to register so we can limit the number of participants to follow the State mandated guidelines.

ASSE BACKFLOW RE-PAIRER: Class will begin on Monday, Nov. 2 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: The class dates are as follows: 11/2, 11/4, 11/9, 11/11 & 11/12 (Exam). The cost for the exam is \$120 and is due when the class begins. If taking this class within 12 months of successful completion of the ASSE Tester, the exam cost is \$75.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole to sign up for classes or if you have questions. Call the training office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30.

Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

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

Pipe Fitters Local 636
DETROIT – The October Union Meeting will be held on October 20, 2020 and will be at a NEW LOCATION. Burton Manor in Livonia. 27777 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia 48150. Masks required to enter. Meeting starts at 7 pm. Temperatures will be taken at the door.

The Hall is now open to all foot traffic. Masks are REQUIRED. Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is mapri1@pipefitters636.org.

Any member interested in volunteering to Lit Drop (contactless), phone banks (text), post card writing, etc. For our Labor Friendly Politicians for the upcoming General Election, please call Business Agent Sam Cadena @ 248-939-8636.

The Pipefitters would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Brother Johnnie Rye on the passing of his wife Sylvia Rye. Sylvia passed away on Oct. 9, 2020. To the family of Brothers Charlie and John Larkin on the passing of their Mother Agnes Larkin-Jones. Agnes passed away on October 10, 2020. And to the family of Retiree Brother William "Bill" Jamieson whose wife Sandy Jamieson passed away on October 8, 2020. She was also the mother in law to Brother Steve Cooper and Aunt to Brother Mike Kovak III and Brother Thomas Kovak.

Pipefitters Local 636 would like to extend our warm thoughts and healing prayers to Retiree Brother Don Wheeler who is still home recovering from surgery. Also healing prayers for Brother John Hayward who was recently in a car accident and is at home recovering.

CJ Harrison would like all our members to know that she is still available by phone during these uncertain times, she is working from home doing phone conferences which is still beneficial to all our members and their families. You can contact her @ 313-580-6887

The Retiree Association Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The election has also been postponed until further notice. – President David Evans

UA password good thru December 31, 2020: Vote

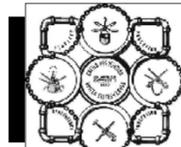
Any member that is Retiring, contact Benesys @ 248-813-9800 for your retirement paperwork or if you want to meet with the Financial Secretary Treasurer, please give him a 7 to 10 day notice so that he can get all of your paperwork in order.

Dues: If you do not pay your Dues by the end of each quarter. After 2 quarters go unpaid you will then be Expelled and have to be Re-Initiated and pay a \$200 Re-Initiation fee.

Defined Contribution Pension Plan: For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The new number for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526.

You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's website. Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys. All inquiries.

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** (Continued next column)



Local 357
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: All Union Meetings are cancelled until further notice. The Finance Committee and Executive Board will conduct their regularly scheduled monthly meetings in person. We will conduct an **Informational Zoom Meeting** in place of a face to face membership meeting starting at 6:30 pm on November 10th, 2020.

There will be an email with instructions on how to participate in advance of October's union meeting. You can only receive this email if you have given us permission to send you emails. Please call Lori at the Hall, (269) 679-2570, to confirm your email address and/or consent to us sending you emails.

POLITICAL INFORMATION: The following candidates have been endorsed by Local 357.

State House seats
60th District - Julie Rogers
61st District - Christine Morse
63rd District- Luke Howell LU 357 Member
66th District - Abigail Wheeler Fiancée to LU 357 Member

78th District - Dan VandeHeed

79th Chokwe Pitchford

Kalamazoo County

Marshall Killian LU 357

Member for Kalamazoo School Board: Note: you will need to write his name in on your ballot

Meredith Place for Clerk and Register of Deeds

Jason Weirsma for Drain Commissioner

Rick Fuller for Sheriff

Jeff Getting for Prosecutor

County Commissioners

Zack Bauer Dist. 2

Tracy Hall Dist. 3

Veronica McKissack Dist. 5

Local 636 cont'd

YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.

Financial Planning: Call Jason May at Morgan Stanley 248-258-1750 for assistance and consultation relating to your Defined Contribution Investments. He will help with a total financial plan if requested. Services are paid for by the Defined Contribution Pension Fund.

Recovery Support Group: Pipe Dreamers, a Peer Support Recovery group for ongoing recovery from substance abuse and addiction meets the **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at **4:30pm** at the office of "Work Life Strategies" 26789 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3105, Huntington Woods 48070. Call 248-545-8301 for details or any questions you may have.

Also, a Relations/Divorce Support Group meet on the **second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm.**

Worker Assistance Program: Work Life Strategies, LLC are available to our members and their families to provide personal counseling services and when needed, referral to other professionals. Call 248-545-8301 to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol and or drug addiction, bankruptcy, financial management, marital, depression, legal and family counseling. Consultations with Work Life Strategies are a service paid for by the Insurance Fund. Referrals to outside professionals, if needed, will be paid for according to the current health care plan benefits.

Training Center News. Call Kim at the training center for first aid online class. Please send all emails and weld continuities to info@pipefitters636tc.org

WELDING - 4pm to 8pm. Regular night welding from 4 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, and Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hours. Downhill Welding- 6 Saturdays, call Kurt to sign up, cost \$75

GMAW Welding- 4 Saturdays, Call Mike to sign up, cost \$50

Starting the week of Nov. 9th Call Kim to sign up, all classes cost \$50:

Certified Rigging/Signal person- Monday and Thursday Nights from 4 to 8

CSD 1- Monday night from 5 to 8

REVIT Thursday night from 4 to 8.

DDC 2 and Chiller Basics Wed. nights 5-8
HDPE class Nov. 14th.
Orbital class Oct 31st.

Jen Aniano Dist. 6
Anthony Bates Dist. 7
Keshia Dickason Dist. 9
Mike Quinn Dist. 10
Oshtemo Township
Libby Heiny-Cogswell for Supervisor
Dusty Farmer for Clerk
Zak Ford for Trustee
Cheri Bell for Trustee
Kizzy Bradford for Trustee
Kristen Cole for Trustee
Van Buren County
Susan Zuiderveer for Prosecuting Attorney

Thomas Imus LU 357 Member for Paw Paw School Board
Jon Hoadley for 6th Congressional District

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International provides a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at 1-888-281-3461. If you are not satisfied with the service you have received, please call me, Ken Willcutt at (269) 569-3492.

FROMKEN WILLCUTT: I have taken several questions about our optical insurance plan in the last few weeks and there seems to be some misconception as to who administers our optical plan. Local 357's optical insurance plan is administered by VSP not UMR or RX-Optical. If you need assistance you can call VSP at 800.877.7195. You can also go to their website at https://www.vsp.com. VSP does not issue membership cards for you to carry. If you want a membership card you will need to access your account through VSP online services and print one off for yourself. When you go to your provider for service you will need to tell them you have insurance coverage through VSP. Your provider will then verify your benefits by accessing VSP online. As for RX-Optical, they are not the administrator of Local 357's optical insurance program. RX-Optical is a participating provider with VSP and provides Local 357's members with an additional discount program. If you need additional information on this subject feel free to call me at the office or on my cell.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information. Here, then click on TIC International Corporation and then Register. This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and Create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box.

Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

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

There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorces. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification) Time limits apply for reporting status changes so let the hall know ASAP!

MISCELLANEOUS: Congratulations to Cory London on his recent marriage.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of retired brother, James Wilkey, on his recent passing.



UA LOCAL 85
SAGINAW, MI
Local 85

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – We are now in our new building, open for all normal union business. From this point forward, unless otherwise specified, all meetings, gatherings and trust fund business will be preformed at 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603.

Please listen to the new telephone prompts as all extensions have changed. All mail should be sent to 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603. Thank you for your support and patience through this move. As always, cell phones can be reached anytime.

We encourage members to do as much of their business as they can by phone, email and fax. We will adhere to social distancing practices. SUB checks will continue to be mailed ONLY. We will be available by phone and email anytime for your convenience. Please utilize the phone numbers and email addresses listed below.

ALL NON-CRITICAL INTERACTIONS is cancelled until further notice. Please utilize email and phone calls whenever possible. Below is a list of main contacts for the hall:

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

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

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

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteale@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

Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8510
freige@ualocal85.org

The next **North Meeting** is postponed until further notice.

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

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin or Feather at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511 or 8510.

The **new Facebook** page is live. If you are currently on the Local Eighty-Five Facebook account, invites were sent to have you join the new site. UA Local 85 page is our public Facebook account. UA Local 85 Members Group is our new members only Facebook. On this page, we will have important messages and reminders specific to our membership. Please like both and let us know what you think.

GODBLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

Training Center News:
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 (Continued next column)



Local 514
Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

MADISON HTS. – The next membership meeting that was scheduled for October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom has been cancelled. Please feel free to call the office (248) 548-0800 or any agent with any questions.

We are asking all members to contact the Local with their email addresses, it will be a more efficient way of contacting everyone.

We are now accepting applications for Organizer, resumes must be received by November 6, 2020. Please mail to: OPCMIA Local 514, 1154 E. Lincoln Ave., Madison Hgts, MI 48071, Attn: Henry Williams.

Lance Ryan is now the new Plasterer Business Agent, if you have any questions for him please call (586) 615-1564.

2020 is a very important election year! We are encouraging every member who has not registered to vote to do so. You can register at any Secretary of State office.

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

Lawrence Nemeth is now the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313) 350-0389.

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplastertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions." You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

Effective September, 2018 every member in Good Standing will only be allowed to use the Hall twice per year, also effective January, 2019 there will be a \$100.00 refundable deposit required for any cleaning and/or damages that may incur.

Miller Cohen PLC is extending an invitation to our members to participate in free Estate Planning Seminar. Learn about Wills, Trust, Durable Power of Attor (Continued on Page 9)

Local 85, con't

and you will receive a W-2 at the end of the year. If you want taxes withheld from your SUB Fund Check, please indicate the dollar amount for Federal and State on each SUB submittal.

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Email Addresses: Please email freige@ualocal85.org to update email addresses.

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up to date information.

CONDOLENCES: We extend our condolences to the family of Herbert Mathis Sr. who passed away on October 7, 2020.

We extend our condolences to the family of Robert Kotulionus who passed away on October 8, 2020.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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



LOCAL 2
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. So,



CHUCK KUKAWKA please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office at (517) 886-9781.

The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is our highest priority. Please visit our website for updates: www.bricklayers.org

OCTOBER 2020 CHAPTER MEETINGS

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Post #35, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Jarvis Overbeek** (Bricklayer) who passed away on September 21, 2020. Brother Overbeek had been a member for 57 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Frank Tolson** (Bricklayer, Cement Mason & PCC) who passed away on September 28, 2020. Brother Tolson had been a member for 22 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Richard Tripp** (Bricklayer) who passed away on September 22, 2020. Brother Tripp had been a member for 61 years.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED: If you are available for work, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We are looking for experienced Craftworkers in all of our trades: Bricklayers, Caulkers, Masonry Restoration Workers, Cement Masons, Tile, Marble and Terrazzo Workers. Those who are interested should contact either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781. Tell anyone who is doing our work, that we are looking for craftworkers!

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors for at least a month. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get a **Finders Referral Bonus** for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781, or go to https://bit.ly/BAC-2-MI-2000-Signing-Bonus.

ASPEEYD 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.

IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

UPDATE - BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers have reopened to our members but **visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment.** Please contact our Training Centers at the numbers listed below for an appointment for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS (Continued on Page 9)



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25
NOVI – Work is Available!
We are in need of manpower. If you or someone you know is off, please call Dispatch or a Business Agent. We must fill our jobs in order to protect them!

Dispatch is OPEN. Please call 248-305-9282: Monday through Friday 7 am to 10 am. If you happen to get voicemail, just leave your name, book number and phone number. Local 25 Active Members, Apprentices and Probationary should call each day you are out of work. OR use our website to sign up for the out of work list: www.ironworkers25.org

IT'S MANDATORY TO WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU VISIT ANY OF THE UNION OFFICES OR UNION HALLS.

The last day to request an early VACATION draw is Wednesday, November 4, 2020. PLEASE NOTE.

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

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days.

BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE: Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days. A Marriage certificate will be required.

The Next Zoom Union Meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm. If you have not yet signed up for Notifications please sign up as Notifications will go out via the APP. To participate in the Zoom Union meeting is very easy ... just be sure you have downloaded our APP or signed up for our emails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We are leaning toward communication through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS – Please download the APP if you haven't done so yet!! Again, via our website!

Unfortunately Steward Meetings are still cancelled until further notice as we adhere to the Governor's revised Executive Orders.

Stewards' Notes: 1) The Electronic Steward Reporting forms are online, www.ironworkers25.org. Log in with your book number, and the password is the last 4 of your social. **2)** PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING

3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current.

Apprentices: Fill out your monthlies online at the website or mobile app located under the apprenticeship tab "Monthly Report Sign-In," this gives you the ability to electronically submit your monthlies. Also located under the apprenticeship tab you will find "Evaluation Form" Journeyman/Supervision can use this to submit apprentice evaluations using computer/cell phone and submit electronically. **Please also note, you must check your email on a regular basis; we now email your annual MUST drug screen paperwork and your pay raise slips.**

The Local 25 Apprentice School will be closed Tuesday, November 3 for Election Day.

Classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School have started up again, please go to the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule; we are practicing social distancing protocols, etc.

First Aid/CPRE/AED November 10, SubPart R - November 12 and **Qualified Rigger/Crane Signaler**- December 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17 – textbooks must be purchased and homework completed before class starts.

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, print the application, gather documentation then phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom

Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130.

Welder online Verification: For an accurate and quick review of welder certifications please visit www.welderscertification.org On the homepage click "login" and type "read only" as both your username and password. Once logged on, type the member's book number in the column on the left marked "advanced search," click the "go" button, wait until the name pops up, and then click on the welders first or last name.

On the next screen, click "list certifications." Every welding certification the welder has will be available for viewing and you can see that if it has been renewed; it is good until the year 2021. The site also allows you to print out a copy of the welder WPQR if needed. Click on "list test results." Click on the actual test code you want to see and you will see the test details. On that page click "Printable Form" (WPQR) and you can print the WPQR. If you read this please contact the Training Center for meeting credit.

Pay union dues with credit-debit card 24/7 by calling 888-386-8173 and follow the prompts. OR PAY at www.ironworkers25.org Any member payment for multiple members, fines, suspensions, withdrawal deposits, SHOULD NOT use this process. Whenever possible we are emailing you, your dues receipt.

Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. PLEASE include your book number on the face of the check/money order. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash). After-hours use the outdoor-dues-collection box.

Pay a year's dues or more (\$429.00 Journeyman) (\$426.00 Apprentice) and you will get a (1) one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13th month free). This is intended to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner. The one month will be credited in the month AFTER your actual 12-month payment.

ELECTION DAY IS Tuesday Nov. 3, 2020

More than 6 million Americans have already voted! We encourage our members to vote and please watch for the endorsement list just mailed to Michigan Members. When you receive your Ballot we encourage you to fill it out, sign the back of the return envelope, and as soon as possible hand-deliver them to their clerk's office or ballot drop box. Clerk office and drop box locations can be found at Michigan.gov/Vote

Registration deadlines: Online: Oct. 19; By mail: Post-marked by Oct. 19; In person: Nov. 3.

Voter Registration – Alternately ironworkers can visit ironworkersvote.org to check their voter registration status, register to vote, and request a mail ballot. This is a service from the national Building Trades and works in every state, so our Members can use it and share it with their Family Members also!

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." – PLATO.

The International Association (IABSORIW) has endorsed Joe Biden for president of the United States of America.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Danny Crawford #990728** who tumbled out of a tree recently. He is home recuperating after surgery!

ATTENTION RETIREES: The Novi Retirees Board of Directors meets "in person" Thursday **November 5, 2020.**

The Novi Retirees regular meeting is "in person" **October 20, 2020** at 10:00am. Social distancing, face masks and good hygiene will be observed. There will be no luncheons in the near future, coffee and cake will be provided however.

Watch for updates at (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching "Iron Workers Local 25" to stay informed on union matters.

Diversified Members Credit Union: Located at 25880 Novi Rd. Phone: 248-344-2560 - CALL FOR HOURS. Services available: (Continued next column)



Local 8 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 8
Tim Roman
Business Representative

UPPER PENINSULA – **WELD CERTIFICATIONS:** Weld certifications are being held on a as needed basis. Please contact Rich Hanson at the Apprenticeship office for more information. 414-476-9372.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The Membership Meeting will take place by video conference on October 28th, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Members can gain access to the meeting at <https://meeting.iwl8.org> on the afternoon of the meeting.

MINE SAFETY TRAINING: A Mine Safety Refresher Class will be held on November 7th, 2020, 8:30 a.m., via Zoom. To sign up for this class, and provide your email address, please contact Ann Lakenen at Pipefitters #111, 906-226-6511.

If you sign up for MSHA classes and do not attend or cancel, you will be charged a fee of \$30.00 and will be suspended from any further Mine Safety classes until the fee is paid.

JOURNEYMAN UPGRADE TRAINING: Journeyman Iron Workers will have until the end of October 2020 to turn in your Journeyman upgrade training.

Local 25 cont'd

debit or credit cards, interest bearing checking accounts, IRAs, CDs, Benefits Plus program, **HOME MORTGAGES**, vehicle loans, low interest loans and part of Co-Op Shared Branching. We have other branch locations in Detroit and Clawson.

Home Mortgages for Union Families: Learn more about the unique benefits available to union members, their parents and children. **CALL 866-802-7307**, M-F 8am - 10pm EST, Sat 9am - 5:30pm EST www.unionplus.org

Those who have passed: Willie Rochon II passed away awhile back on January 16, 2019 at the age of 45. He was a Rigger #1271020, formerly with L-575 and withdrew his membership in 2011. Jack B. Kierdorf #486332 passed away September 26th, 2020 at the age of 95. He was a 68-year member and lived in Tennessee. Ross Fruin #1214854 passed away October 7, 2020 at the age of 60. He was a 25-year member who started his career with Local 340. Leo Colburn # 787642 passed October 5, 2020 at the age of 79. He was a 45-year member who also started with Local 340.

Our deep condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!

To all Union Members: Thank you for all you continue to do to support each other during this pandemic response. We hope you and your family stay safe and healthy!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (10/12/2020 2:00 pm E.S.T.).

"Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting."
–Princess Elizabeth Asquith Bibesco

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."
–Voltaire (1694 - 1778)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

(Continued from Page 8)

ney, and Medical Power of Attorney, and Guardian Designation. Contact the Union Hall if interested and a date will be scheduled for the free Seminar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS: You can track your annuity fund status at the Wells Fargo website. You may do so by logging on to: www.retirement.wellsfargo.com or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-6550 with related questions.

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS It is your responsibility to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the Local 514 area. This will ensure that your hours are sent back to your home fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact the Local. 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 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.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

(Continued from Page 8)
and other services.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER: To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Tom Ward directly at (734) 552-7066.

TMT RTI CLASSES RESUME WITH REDUCED CAPACITY DUE TO COVID-19; REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register visit detroittroweltrades.org and click Calendar. Classes are filled on a first registered first served basis and will be held on the following Saturdays from 7:00am – 3:30pm: Oct: 24th Nov: 7th and 14th Dec: 12th and 19th

Apprentices, remember that Related Training Instruction (RTI) classes are a requirement of your Apprenticeship, failure to attend will delay your apprenticeship and raises. Additional classes will be added as necessary to accommodate all apprentices. Feel free to contact your BAC field representative or the Apprentice Coordinator should you have any questions.

METRO DETROIT APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD: Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Metro Detroit Apprentice Worksheets are available for download at http://bit.ly/Apprentice_Worksheets. If you do not have a printer you can pick them up during our monthly meeting or contact Tom Ward at (586) 757-6668 to request them by mail. For more information on the Detroit Training Center visit: detroittroweltrades.org

LANSING TRAINING CENTER: To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Lansing Apprenticeship and Training website and register future 2020 online training classes.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: During this COVID-19 pandemic, 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 <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday – Friday 8 am – 8 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."

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. In an effort to accomplish this please submit your address by sending an e-mail to information@bricklayers.org and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

BAC 2 MI Texting Program. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by - texting **2MI** to **877877**

- You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member no. (IU#) - Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION: Bricklayers Metro Detroit Local Pension Fund (248) 641-4954. Detroit & Vicinity Health Insurance (Brick, Cement and TMT) (800) 435-4080 or (248) 828-6000 (dvtt.org)

MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244 (outstate funds, michiganbac.org)
Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)
CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund)
International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement and TMT) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (dvtt.org)

Benesys welcomes 2 new hires

BeneSys Inc., a leading third-party administrator of benefit plans for Taft-Hartley multi-employer trust funds, including many among Michigan's building trades unions, announced on Sept. 29 that Jeff Spires joined the company as chief information officer on Sept. 14.

Then on Oct. 7, they announced the hiring of Jayson Welter as the firm's compliance officer.

Spires "brings a strong and varied background to us with significant experience in both IT infrastructure and software development," said CEO Edward S. Wolyniec. "With technology at the heart of the services we provide to clients, I am pleased that we have Jeff in the critical CIO position."

With more than 25 years of experience, Spires most recently served as director of software engineering for Ontario Systems in Muncie, Indiana, where he was responsible for leading the engineering in the development of SaaS solutions for the receivables management and payment processing industry.

Welter joined the company as compliance officer on Sept. 28. "Jayson brings a diverse background with an understanding of how compliance affects operations, gained from firsthand experience in plan administration," said Matthew Morbello, chief compliance officer and in-house counsel. "We feel fortunate that he's stepping into this critical position and already consider him a valuable member of the team." A member of the State Bar of Michigan, Welter brings nearly two decades of health plan administration and compliance experience to BeneSys.

BeneSys has been providing Taft-Hartley trust fund administration and IT services since 1979. With more than 220 clients representing over 480 multi-employer trust funds across the U.S., BeneSys serves more than 500,000 plan participants and their dependents.



Over 40 years of quality
Administrative Services

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

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- VEBA Administration
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With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Plan Participants. BeneSys has clients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

| | | |
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| Des Moines, IA | Portland, OR | Washington, DC |
| Hagerstown, MD | Riverport, MO | West Covina, CA |
| Las Vegas, NV | San Jose, CA | Youngstown, OH |
| Louisville, KY | Salt Lake City, UT | |



IBEW 58
DETROIT—GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 20, 2020. We are limited to 120 SEATS IN-DOORS (first come - first seated). All others are welcome to stay in their car and tune in to the designated radio station which you will receive that night. All persons are required to wear a mask outside of their vehicles. We will make accommodations for everyone that wishes to speak. You will receive further information on meeting night.

VACATION FUND: Disbursement from the Vacation Fund is anticipated to be transferred to your PNC Bank Stored Value Card or if you elected, direct deposited into your checking or savings accounts, on or around Nov. 23, 2020. Please check the listed contributions from your employers with your pay records for accuracy. A list of contributions may be obtained from the Benefit Office Website, www.ewjbt.org by logging into your personal information and clicking My Benefits then Vacation Benefits. If you require a paper statement, please contact the Benefit Office for a printout. If there is an error, contact the Benefit Office at (586) 575-9200 ext. 212.

ATTENTION - TO UPDATE BANKING INFORMATION THE FUND OFFICE MUST RECEIVE CHANGES BY Oct. 23, 2020. You may check your Stored Value utilization history by logging on to www.pncpaycard.com and by entering your 16-digit card number listed on the front of the card and the last four digits of your Social Security Number, also referred to as your Account Access Code (or AAC for short). Customer Service can be reached by phone, (866) 453-5071.

ATTN: ELECTRICAL WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND PARTICIPANTS: As a reminder, to take advantage of the Annual Opt-Out window of the Plan for Jan. 1, 2021, the Benefit Office must receive the form no later than Nov. 25. The Form can be found at www.ewjbt.org/Documents/Health_Care_Documents. Please feel free to contact the Benefit Office at (586) 575-9200 with any questions.

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

Local 58 Dues Information: Dues are due by the first day of the quarter. You can now pay your dues with an APP. Go to Apple/Google Play and download the IBEW 58 APP. In the APP go to My Profile, My Member Tools and that's where you find the information to pay. You can also pay by phone with credit/debit or mail a check. At this time we are not taking cash transactions. Dues for the quarter are \$124.50 without PAC and \$128.50 with PAC.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 3, 5 pm. Join in on the "Cooler of Cheer Raffle." Hosted by the Benevolent Fund, tickets are \$10 each. The drawing will be held on Oct. 20 at 6 pm. Winner need not be present at the drawing.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020 at 5 PM. The Committee has started working at McCrest homeless shelter in downtown Mt. Clemens installing temporary and demo of the old electrical system in the building. The Committee will keep the membership updated as to when volunteers will be needed to continue with this project The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2nd and 4th Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union hall.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday, Nov. 10 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5 pm.

IBEW Local 58 will be having a Trunk or Treat and family movie night on Saturday, Oct. 31-2020, from 1-5 pm, movie at 6:30 pm, rain or shine at the Union Hall. Come dressed up in your favorite Halloween costume. Pizza, snacks and cider will be provided. Please remember to practice social distancing and face masks are required. Outdoor restroom facilities will be available. This is a free event for all members and families. Please RSVP on the Local 58 App.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – A BIG SHOUT OUT to all who were able to help out at the PAL field project. It is just one more opportunity for us to make our presence more visible in the community. Thank you to all of those who are attending our Zoom meetings as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times. The next meeting of the chapter will be on Monday, Oct. 19 at 5:30pm. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. During this election season we will be participating where needed to try to get candidates who have our best interests as their agenda elected to office. Also, please submit your census data and encourage others to do the same. We do not want our community to be underrepresented for the next TEN YEARS. More information can be found on the website at www.ibew-ewmc.com.

We will be participating with all committees doing a Trunk or Treat/Movie Night event here at the hall. Please RSVP on the Local 58 APP. We will need volunteers to help out.

Please continue to stay safe at work, home, and in the community. #ibewstrong

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m.

The Veterans Committee will now be meeting monthly immediately after the Safety committee meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) meets the 1st Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). We want to thank all the members who have taken the time to vote in the General election already! We hope that you and your families take the time to support our labor friendly, union-supported candidates. PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall You can contribute more than the \$4 dollars that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction cut our resources in half, and we would like to assist local candidates and our members looking to run for office. Thank you for taking our Get out the Vote calls, and let's finish strong in November!

Local 58's Women's Committee- The next meeting will be Oct. 22 at 6. We will continue having our regular monthly meetings on ZOOM as needed. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon. If there are any retirees that need help with getting groceries or other essentials during this pandemic, please reach out, we are here for you. You can email us. Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org. Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: Board meeting and luncheons have been cancelled until further notice. Please keep your contact information up to date with our Group and with the Union Hall. Send those email addresses to 58Retirees@ibewlocal58.org. With C-19 being a part of our daily lives, it is still not possible to resume the social functions that we Retirees enjoy. With the cooler weather approaching and more of our activities going indoors, why not take the time to reach out to some of our fellow retirees, with a phone call or a note. Perhaps a walk around the block or a ride to take in the fall colors will brighten our days. It's important we stay in touch and continue to be safe and healthy. If you haven't paid your 2020 dues, please send them to Ray Owen, 428 Welch Road, Northville MI 48167. Dues are \$8 per person, per year.

As of 09/30/2020, the following members have lapsed membership: Baldwin, DeMarco M.; Ballard, Joel R.; Beckman, Mark A.; Beresford, John S.; Burmeister, Jason B.; Cotter, Daniel P.; Crump,

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next General Membership meeting will be Nov. 2nd, 2020 at 6 p.m. The next **Executive Board Meeting** will be Oct. 19th, at 5 p.m.

Due to the Governor's current executive order, we ask that those coming to the Local Union to conduct business, please wear a face covering.

Work Outlook: The work outlook is strong. We expect to have a busier than usual fall continuing into the winter. If you are aware of interested electricians, working in our jurisdiction, please have them visit www.poweringkalamazoo.com or call the office.

The LMCC has launched a new website www.poweringkalamazoo.com. This website will be used to highlight local signatory contractors and used as an organizing tool. Follow us on Facebook @poweringkalamazoo, Twitter @PoweringKzoo, Instagram @poweringkalamazoo, and LinkedIn @poweringkalamazoo. Please feel free to share the wage calculator feature of this site.

If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone no., please email Christine, cbhms@ibew131.com

Dues pricing - The price for dues in 2020 is \$40/month. If you're unsure about your balance, please call the Hall for the exact amount or email Christine. If your dues ticket reads paid through, August 2020 your dues are not current; please call the Hall.

We have finalized our automated dues reminders, these reminders will be sent ahead of possible late dues. You may receive a message via text or email if you have not tendered your most current I.O. Dues payments. Dues payments can also be made online, to log in use your Last Name and Card Number.

Life events happen, and we'd always like to make sure you have updated beneficiary forms. If you're questioning whether yours is up to date, stop on down to the Hall to get new forms.

If you're interested in receiving updates from the Hall, please email Christine at cbhms@ibew131.com to get your email address added.

Retirements: Congratulations to the following retiring members: Adrian DiVisser, July 2020. Michael Chaddock, May 2020. John Magnan Jr., May 2020. Robert S. Davis, June 2020. Roger Clark, March 2020. Patrick Klocke, May 2020. Keith Moore, April 2020. William Slater, July 2020.

(Continued next column)

IBEW 58, con't

Scott M.; Diederich, Chad R.; Fletcher, William A.; Grabarkiewicz Jr, Michael A.; Green, Randall; Higbee II, Charles L.; Hooker, Justin; Jacovetti, Jacob W.; Jones Jr, Jwan M.; Klee, Anthony V.; Klinkenberger, Paul A.; Ligons Sr, Dujan H.; Mills, Michael W.; Mittelbrun III, Thomas; Moore, Aaron J.; Proctor, Matthew S.; Smith, Christian K.; Steel, Corey D.; Turner, Anthony G.; Turner, Darin L.; Watkins Jr, Louis L.; Wilhelm, Wayne S.; Williams, Derrick; Wiseman, Daniel J.

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone no., address, and email.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Craig S. Giroux, William S. Regiani II.

Members that have Passed Away: Raymond Bentley, Maintenance Electrician; Fernando Fornelli, pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; Bernice Frede, Mother to JIW Thomas Frede, Sister-in-law to the late pension members Donald & Kenneth Frede, Grandmother to JIW Eric Frede; Frank Giammanco, pension member, 47 year IBEW membership; Donald L. Goscicki, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Ronald Harlow, pension member, 48 year IBEW membership; Sandra Kerwin, Wife to pension member James Kerwin; John Kuehne Jr., pension member, 73 year IBEW membership; James McCleary, pension member, 53 year IBEW membership; Gerald Soma, pension member, 65 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



IBEW Local 445
BATTLE CREEK – The General Membership Meeting is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5 p.m. at the Hall. Please make sure to wear your masks.

Attention: The Executive Board is now accepting Letter of Interest for the E-board Alternate position.

There are **political yard signs** available at the Hall and also at the Democratic Headquarters at 36 E. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek. Please pick up yours today! Every vote counts!

The **4th Quarter Dues** were due by Sept. 1, 2020. Just a Friendly Reminder!

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

PLEASE HELP! – The Hall is asking each member to verify their address, phone no. and email address that we have on file. We are looking into a texting and email service, and if you would like to be included in those correspondences, we need your current information. Thank you!

Local Website - Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. IBEW445.com.

IBEW 131, con't

Thomas Vrobel, August 2020. Peter Spreitzer, August 2017.

Condolences: With a heavy heart, Local 131 announces the following members passing: Brother Dale Bothwell passed away on April 23, 2020. Brother Charles Krull passed away on May 3, 2020. Brother John Ingram passed May 2020. Brother Josh Batten passed away on July 24, 2020. Brother Lawrence Shearer passed away on July 18, 2020. Brother William Cook passed away on Sept. 24, 2020.

All Memorials and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab.

FROM THE APPRENTICE-SHIP:

Journeyman Upgrade Classes:

- Fall 2020-Winter 2021
- 1. Welding T, Sept. 8 to Nov. 10, 2020
- 2. Code Update 2020 S/S, Nov. 21 and 22, 2020
- 3. State Exam Prep W, Jan. 6 to March 3, 2021
- 4. Motor Controls W, Feb. 10 to April 14, 2021
- 5. CPR S Feb. 13, 2021
- 6. Foreman Training W March 10, to May 12, 2021
- 7. CPR S March 13, 2021
- 8. CPR S April 10, 2021

****Code Update Classes:** it is now required for Journeyman to pay in advance to hold your spot in the Code Update Class. We require 48 hours' notice for cancellations if you need to re-schedule for another available Code Update Course.**

Please visit our website www.kalamazoojate.com or stop in to sign up for the Code Update Class. Sept. 3, 2020. Call Nicole at 269-388-4434 with any questions.

Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2work4you.com. It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to pick it up, please email Nicole and request your form to be emailed to you. nwolf@ibew131.com.

Organizing: As much technology, as we use to track non-union electricians in our jurisdiction, often, our best resources are you the members. If you see a non-signatory in the area working at a location, please let the Hall know.

Politics: The Michigan AFL-CIO has launched an endorsements page for the 2020 Election Cycle. Visit www.miafl-cio.vote and input your address to view the endorse candidates from the State Federation of Labor. This endorsement list will be specific to your address and will include State Wide and Local endorse officials.

"The basic goal of labor will not change. It is – as it has always been, and I am sure always will be – to better the standards of life for all who work for wages and to seek decency and justice and dignity for all Americans."

—George Meany
Brian O'Donnell
*Business Manager/
 Financial Secretary*



IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: We are looking at options for the upcoming winter month membership meetings. Please monitor our local website page & Facebook page for updates.

UPCOMING ELECTION: Anyone interested in volunteering for upcoming election please contact Hall.

VOTING: Please make every effort to vote in the upcoming November 3rd general election.

Local 252 Website & App: The Local's website www.ibew252.org is up and running. There is also a Local 252 App available to download. Search "IBEW 252" in the app store. You must create a new login and password to access the Members Only section. Your login for the old website is no longer valid.

SERVICE PINS: If you would like your service year pin please call the hall to make arrangements to receive it.

TRAINING CLASSES 2020: ALL CLASSES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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

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

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.

Retirees' Breakfast: The retiree's breakfast is cancelled until further notice.

Christmas Party: The Local's annual Christmas party has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

Condolences: The Local sends our sincere condolences to Brother Bob Koebler for the passing of his wife Annette, who passed away on September 29, 2020.

NOTICE TO RETIREES: If your 50-year commemorative watch stops working for any reason please contact the Union Hall. Do not attempt to have it serviced yourself.

UNION DUES FOR 2021: Effective Jan. 1, 2021 union dues for "A" members will remain \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will remain \$61.80 per quarter.

CREDIT CARDS: The Local is now accepting credit cards to pay union dues. We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover. There is a fee of 3.5% to use your card.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 9/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2020. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2020. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your fourth quarter dues (Oct. through Dec.) are due now. **Payments for fourth quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, December 31, 2020.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

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IBEW Local 906

UPPER PENINSULA-MEETINGS.

MARQUETTE UNIT-First Tuesday

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT-Second Tuesday

ESCANABA UNIT-Second Wednesday

PLEASE PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS BY KEEPING 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DISTANCE. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ON HAND WASHING AND WIPING DOWN SURFACES. BE SMART, BE SAFE.

The following members received Years of Service pins:

5 Year Pins. Jacob Carlson, Dejian Dean, Collin Fleury, Eric Carlson, William Choudhry, Kaleb Collins, Riley Pajmich, Ryan Proctor, Derek Smith, Erin Lakenen, Greg McDonald, Daniel Menard, Kevin Pratt, Mitchell Richer.

10 Year Pins. Michael Rasmussen, Ramsey Winters

15 Year Pins. Chad Laurent, Joel Smith

20 Year Pins. Tedd Collins, Bruce Caudill, Peter Anderson, Eugene Vassar, Andrew Bailey, Steven Becker, Anthony Guliani, Daymen Lippens, Randall Makela, Anthony Nertoli, Lee Seaman, Kenneth Seppanen.

Congratulations to these members. We thank you for your service.

The next MSHA class will be via Zoom on Oct. 17, Nov. 7 and 21st. To sign up for any MSHA class please call Ann at 906-226-6511 ext 4. Class size is limited to 20 persons so if you need to renew your certificate make the call now and reserve your spot in the class. We expect some sizeable work at the mines this winter.

The electrical bids are in on two major projects. The Soo Locks and the Island Resort. The bids are being review by the General Contractor and the winners should be announced later this month.

The Health Plan sent out the Summary Plan Description booklets recently. We encourage you to keep this booklet handy. It provides an easy to follow description of what the Plan covers under different topics and also what the Plan does not cover. Please take some time to review the services you use the most to get a better understanding of what will or will not be covered.

The Executive Board will oversee the swearing in of two new apprentices at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The apprentices are Garrett Ackland (Red Electric) and Gardner Bess (Soucy Electric). We welcome these new Brothers to IBEW Local Union 906.

VOTE. Be informed, look at the facts and vote for the candidate who supports Labor.

A reminder that the monthly dues are \$40.00. We have received some at the old rate of \$39.00 and a few members are overpaying. This makes the bookwork difficult. Please if you have a service that pays your dues monthly inform them of the correct amount.

Please remember that address changes and phone changes along with new additions to the families need to be passed on to the Hall and the Pension and Health Plans.

If you have any information you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. ibew906@gmail.com

"The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory."

- Paul Fix

"Fortune favors the bold."

-Virgil (70 BC - 19 BC)

"All of us want to do well. But if we do not do good, too, then doing well will never be enough."

-Anna Quindlen (1953 -)

"Be to her virtues very kind. Be to her faults a little blind."

-Matthew Prior (1664 - 1721)



IBEW Local 948

FLINT - Our October Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26th, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Union Hall.

The November Retiree Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Union Hall.

Reminder - Absentee ballots are now available, please remember to vote.

Please remember to fill out the US Census - <https://2020census.gov/>

Don't forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.com.

You can pay over the phone with debit or credit card. You can

also stop by the Hall during business hours (7am-noon/ 1-4pm) and pay by cash, check, debit or credit card. **Don't wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

2020 - Monthly Dues - Journeyman \$43.70 a month - Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

2019 - Monthly Dues - Journeyman \$42.70 a month - Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$39.70 a month

If you are unfamiliar with our referral procedure please refer to our website @ http://local948.org/job_referrals/

Don't forget after 3 turn-downs on the out of work list you must come down to the Union Hall to resign.

Gregory Remington Business Manager

E-mail and Re-signs: If the Hall does not have your e-mail address it would be a good idea to send us an e-mail to jwallace@local948.org so we can add you to the e-mail list. This is a great way to keep up with the latest information on job calls and other information sent from the Hall.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY - Union Meeting. Please note the start time for the meetings has been moved to 6pm. The next regular membership meeting will be **Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6pm.**

Executive Board Meeting. The next E-board meeting will be **Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6pm.**

Merchandise. We have new stickers at the hall and are currently looking into fall / winter clothing options.

Message from the Business Manager. Please note: at the September 14, 2020 monthly membership meeting, it was voted on by the membership to move the meeting start time to 6pm. Moving forward, beginning with the October 5, 2020 meeting, all regular monthly membership meetings will begin at 6pm.

Following the governor's orders, monthly membership meetings will continue to be held outside, weather permitting. Masks will be required at all times by anyone coming or going into the union hall. There will also be strict guidelines to adhere to with social distancing. Please do your part, brothers and sisters to protect each other. If we all do our own little part life will hopefully return to normal sooner than later.

After careful consideration, I have decided that it is time to add another organizer to assist Brother Klele in his duties. Brother Brendon Baranek will come on starting September 21st. These two will not only be organizing new members, but also working to secure work for our unemployed brothers and sisters. We have a jurisdiction of 19 counties and adding another body will definitely help to make sure we are covering all areas equally.

Work Report. Master Electric is putting the final touches on electrical construction at the Costco Wholesale Warehouse with the project expected to be completed in the next few weeks. The wind turbine project (grounding and bonding) located in and around the Rosebush area continues to have calls for manpower shared between us and 275, as the project is taking place in both jurisdictions.

Conti Electric, along with Newkirk, have work on the Consumers Energy dams along the Ausable River. Newkirk Electric has also just begun their project at Bay City Powertrain. John's Electric out of Alpena has been awarded the Alpena Library project. Hardies Electric has a nice project at the Atlanta Schools. Most other school work is winding down. Both Dodge and also CAM construction reporting systems have shown few electrical projects to be bid as of late in our jurisdiction. Work remains very good in Detroit, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, and also Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

Please stay safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters.

Union Dues. Dues can be paid in person, via phone, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. We also accept payments via credit/debit card. *Please note to use the credit card machine to process payments, there will be a 2% charge applied.*

Monthly dues can also be paid on-line from the 692 website. Visit ibew692.net and log into the member section.

2020 Dues (Effective January 1, 2020): Monthly \$41.20; Quarterly \$123.60; 6 months \$247.20; Yearly \$494.40

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

Retirees Lunch. All retirees' lunches have been postponed.

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

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

Organizing. Brothers and Sisters, as we slowly open the state back up amid a global pandemic, getting out onto job sites to make contact with unrepresented workers continues to be a struggle. However, we have made some great additions lately to Local 692 through our organizing campaign. Sometimes it just takes one guy to jump from the merit shop for his co-workers to see that they have been lied to for years from contractors.

Our members are the biggest tool we have when it comes to organizing. Talk to that neighbor or family friend that has been working non-union. Tell him or her about the benefits of the IBEW and what we have to offer. You, the membership, is the greatest tool this local has to build those relationships.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me when you see a non-signatory contractor doing work in your neighborhood. Our jurisdiction is huge and impossible for me to try and tackle this task alone. Don't hesitate to pass my phone number along. Thank you. Brian Klele (989) 252 9225

Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Important links & numbers

IBEW Local 692 989-684-4510; www.ibew692.org

Health Plan 517-321-7502, www.mielectricalhealth.org

Michigan Pension Fund, 517-321-7502 www.michiganelectrical.org

First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"

NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300, IO Pension: 202-833-7000

"Some people will never learn anything because they understand everything too soon."

-Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744)



IBEW Local 557

SAGINAW - MONTHLY MEETINGS- The November Membership meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10 due to election day. The location of this meeting has yet to be determined. Please continue to monitor emails and the Local's Facebook page for updates on the location to comply with the most current State guidelines for gatherings. Everyone should continue to do their part to slow the spread of the virus by practicing proper social distancing and wearing a mask in public to protect you and those around you. Proper PPE should be worn on job sites and safety policies should be followed as well.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- The Union Hall continues to be open for in-person transactions. If you will be coming into the Hall for business, a mask is mandatory due to the DHHS orders. I urge all that come in for in-person transactions to also adhere to social distancing and the utilization of the service window in the main entry way if you can. Please try to take care of business remotely as much as possible to cut down on visitors to the Hall. James Lamb is continuing organizing duties during at this time as well and if you have any useful information for him regarding work or new members please feel free to pass it along. He can be reached at 989-529-5943.

BOOK SIGNING- Out of work lists can be signed for other Locals through fax or email. This is to continue to cut down on as many in-person transactions as possible. Contact your home local and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing.

NEW WEBSITE - Local 557's website recently received a refresh and will continue to be updated.

2020 ELECTION- Make your plan to vote and execute it. We need EVERYONE to vote this year and to vote for Labor friendly candidates. Support candidates that support working families. The Local's endorsed candidate list was mailed to the membership last week and can also be viewed on the Local's webpage.

If you do not have a plan to vote yet, make one today. Verify you are registered and request a mail-in ballot to ensure your vote counts. Early voting has begun and can be accomplished through your local Township Clerk. October 19 is the last day to register to vote online or by mail. Don't delay in doing this, time is running out.

This November, we have the opportunity to elect a President who will fight with us and restore a country ravaged by and ongoing pandemic and economic devastation. Joe Biden has a plan to restore America. Joe Biden has a plan which will involve significant input from our IBEW leadership, giving us a seat at the table. Joe Biden recognizes that it is working families such as us who will once again build America back stronger than ever before. Your vote for Joe Biden is a vote for brotherhood, unity, recovery, and optimism for the future.

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER- We need many volunteers to help out with various election related events this year. Please make time to help out with the election. The Saginaw County Democratic Party and the Michigan AFL-CIO have phone banking opportunities set up for all to do. This can now be done in the comfort of your own home. These opportunities are easy to do and an effective way to make contact with other voters. Due to COVID, in person activities are not as available as in the past. Contact the Hall today to set up your times to help get the word out.

HEALTH CARE- The Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan continues to cover 100% of the costs related to testing for COVID-19. During this pandemic, remote care is encouraged and Blue Cross members can call the 24-Hour Nurse Line at 800-117-BLUE. You may also want to inquire if your primary care provider offers telemedicine. The Health Plan continues to meet regularly via teleconferences to stay on top of the pandemic and update coverage as necessary.

As you know, the Michigan no-fault insurance law changed effective July 1. Notifications were sent to each member from the Michigan Electrical Employee's Health Plan. This letter encouraged members to purchase unlimited PIP to ensure proper protection for themselves and their family. The Health Plan will not offer Qualified Health Coverage and therefore members must purchase PIP coverage. You should discuss PIP coverage and other auto coverage with your insurance agent.

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

WEX APP- Search for the "TIC HRA" app in Google or Apple and download it today. Utilization of this app will give you access to account balances, receipt reviews and submittals, barcode scanning for covered items, other helpful services. This is a great tool to accompany your Health Care benefits.

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.**

STAY CURRENT ON DUES - Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use this service. Credit card payments to pay dues can also be accepted over the phone to ensure you are current.

CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (517) 321-7502 or (855) 633-4584. Fax (517) 321-7508, website mielectricalhealth.org

Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY - Meetings.

Regular E Board- will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm, in-person meeting.

MEETING- The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 at 7 p.m.**

Election year for state and federal elections- This is an important year for local, state and national elections as well as our local union elections, it is important for your voice to be heard in all of these elections to support organized labor. The State of MI now has absentee voting for everyone who is a registered voter. Please visit the State of MI website or visit your local Secretary of State office to get registered to vote in the upcoming primary elections and general elections in November.

JATC - Congratulations to Josh Brown and Travis Marks on completing the Apprenticeship Program.

PLC Class- Will be scheduled in late winter. There are 5 seats available. If you would like one please call the hall.

OFFICE HELPUPDATE- Local 498 has hired Laurie Thybault on staff for 3 months. She will be contacting non-union apprentices and journeymen in the northern half of 498's jurisdiction. This is a short time frame that I can see the need for more workers on Mackinac Island and the Petoskey area.

SWEATSHIRT ORDER - It was mentioned after the last union meeting about taking orders for sweatshirts. If you would like one please call the hall and we will start a list. They did not appropriate funds for them but if you wanted one and paid ahead of time, we should be able to do that. It will depend on if we have a large enough order to make it feasible. At the last meeting we laid over funds to order more tee shirts. If you want a different design please attend the meeting to voice your opinion.

Covid 19 office hours- For your information the hall is open to limited walk in traffic. To follow state guidelines there is a 6-foot distance rule in effect, so if there is more than 1 person at a time in the hallway outside of Caroline's window the second person should wait outside or in the meeting room until their turn at the window. Masks are available at the hall for personal use as well as hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to be able to sanitize the restroom after you use it if needed.

For extended stays or business needs at the hall you will be asked to fill out a health questionnaire and take a temperature reading just like apprentices do for class or applicants do for interviews, again to try and follow State of MI safety guidelines.

PAYPAL - PAY PAL is now up and running!!! Please look into setting up a personal PayPal account. The Pay Pal option to use for paying your dues is "pay someone you trust", if a different option is used it will deduct the (Continued on Page 12)

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Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular **Membership Meeting** was planned for **Monday, Oct. 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm**, as of this printing we are having a meeting in the parking lot only, we are seeking alternate ways to communicate if the weather does not cooperate or an venue to accommodate us. Any changes in this schedule or venue will be included in future Building Tradesman articles and emails. The Local requests your email so we may inform you on any last-minute changes or the possibility of virtual meetings.

Attention, our NEBA contract will be expiring July 9th of 2022 so we will be having **Nominations** for the Delegates for the 32nd General Convention at our Dec. 28 meeting, per the International Constitution and By-laws. Any **Resolutions** for the next contract shall be turned into the Hall as per our Local Constitution and By-laws before our Feb. 22, 2021 meeting.

Attention All Apprentices, Apprentices should be accessing your classes on the NEIEP website. Check your NEIEP email address for additional information frequently. NEIEP is continuing this semester with the format of online classes and it is your responsibility to stay current. Apprentices who have completed their classes will soon receive their invite for the Mechanic's Exam, check your home page at NEIEP. **Monthly OJT Forms** are still required of **ALL APPRENTICES!** Have your forms into the Hall before the fourth Wednesday of Oct. 28 or expect an invite to the next JAC meeting. **This is a requirement of the Department of Labor.** Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill your responsibility.

Attention All Members, Check your pay stubs regularly. There have been issues with multiple Employers with improper payments. The hours you are paid should match hours toward vacation, benefits and expenses submitted. All may request a copy of the time you submit, according to Article XI, Par 2, of our CBA. Any changes made to your time are to be documented and given to you, Article XI, Par 1. We recommend all request a copy as issue with payrolls seem to be rising. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information.

All Members, Local 36 is working with Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPFF are holding classes on Monday nights, 6-8 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes. Contact the Hall if you are interested. The link will be sent to you for either online or phone participation. The better you understand the codes, the better you can protect your customers, your work and yourself. Knowledge is key.

Reminder, Please keep your State of Michigan and City of Detroit licenses current.

We regret to inform all members on a fatality on the job in Local 91 New Haven CT. Brother Daniel Kelly Jr lost his life on the job. Please keep this Brother and his Family in your thoughts.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Keep safe and healthy. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong to. Prepare now for the coming election, your vote counts!

Be safe and be healthy!

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"The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It's the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and science. Whoever does not know it can no longer wonder, no longer marvel, is as good as dead, and his eyes are dimmed."

— Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)



Local 1191 Laborers

Laborers Local 1191

DETROIT – Due to COVID-19, Laborers' Local 1191 is making every effort to keep our members and staff safe during this time by limiting person-to-person contact at the Local Union Hall.

The next membership meeting will be on Nov. 6, 2020, at the Union Hall 7pm. (NOTE there will be limited seating.)

Thanking you in advance for complying with the above conditions and please follow the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.

Members can now Pay Dues on line 24/7 on our website!!! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions ...

Check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org. Important information about your Local Union. Also, on Facebook!

Dues: Beginning **Jan. 1, 2020** regular monthly dues are **\$35** for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.

NOTICE: The Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11 a.m. at the Union Hall, at 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.must.org to see how many modules you have. **Members are reminded to get your 18 modules and keep them up to date also a current Drug Test.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training school by calling (734) 729-7005 or 517-625-4919 website www.mltai.org. You can also contact the Local 313-894-2241.

Also, check out the training classes available to you at no cost. **Note: classes & certifications contractors have been asking for are, OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors License, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, Gps Location,** all are available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 p.m. and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by this Local Union.

Also be advised: Per the out of work list rules, all members on the list must re-register your availability for work every quarter and do so within the first five days of the following months **March, June, September and December (Roll Call).**

Save Time & Money: no more checks or money orders to mail no more worry if it gets here on time, **monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check** and sent direct to the Local. Please stop by the office to get one of the forms or you may call the office (313-894-2241) to have one mailed to you.

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

NOVEMBER 3rd ELECTION DAY! Members you will receive a mailer in the month of October which will contain the **Pro Labor Candidate Endorsement List.** This list contains all screened pro-labor candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building Trades Unions for the state of Michigan.

Please use this list for your information and convenience for absentee voting, early voting, or election day voting.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP. Painters DC 1M is pleased to announce its all new APP. For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

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

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!
OUT OF WORK/BACK TO WORK: To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 810-232-0005.
New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.
Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

(Continued from Page 11)
credit card fees out of what is sent to the local for your dues. This leaves your dues short as we are a not for profit business and have no way to absorb those costs. If you need help with this you can call Caroline at the Union hall.

JB Webb East and West- Our next Union Management meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. We will again have the informational meeting at the Little Traverse Townhall right after work at 3:30 pm. I hope to have more information on work and layoffs.

Email – Please get an email address to the hall so we can get info out easier and faster, thanks. You can email your address to the hall at ibew@local498.net. Please put your name in the subject.

Dues 2021 – There is no Union Dues increase for 2021. Effective Jan. 2021 the rate will remain \$140.10 per quarter.
Volunteer – We will need people to volunteer for events coming up. Contact the hall and let George know.

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

DUES RATES- Jan 1, 2020 - \$140.10/Quarter
Jan 1, 2021 - No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter
Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 3#



INSTALLING WINDOWS at the Michigan State University STEM project are Clayton McGuirt and Jeremy Skowronek of Glaziers and Glassworkers Local 826. They're employed by Lansing Glass.



Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members, Please make sure that your family and as well as yourself are registered to vote. Voting is one of our most important rights as an American. If we want to effect change in our state and country we must- **GET OUT and VOTE on NOVEMBER 3rd!**

DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m
DC 1M UNION CARDS*

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

ROBERT WARREN Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
GONZALEZ Freeland Office: (989)695-6888

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Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

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Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

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District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez
Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933
Local Union 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin
Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053
Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529
Local Union 845

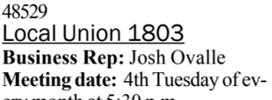
Business Rep – Fred Frederickson
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933
Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529
Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.
Local Union 2352

Business Rep: John Sape
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: Keith Anderson
Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



Local 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Nov. 3, 2020 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call John

"Do not condemn the judgement of another because it differs from your own. You may both be wrong."
– Dandemis



Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be Monday, Nov. 2nd at 6pm. Even if the restrictions are limited for indoor meetings, we will meet outside in the parking lot out around back or the hall. Dress for it.

Work looks to be remaining steady in the area. Please keep your certifications current, along with your MUST and drug screen.

Apprenticeship school has resumed, as of Monday Aug. 17. Please contact Jeff Flynn, or Rich Oakey if you have questions on the schedule, make up classes, raise letters, or anything else related to school.

The Governor has let construction resume. This being said please follow the specific guidelines required on each project. It will take some get used to, the new ppe required, but it is necessary to keep each other safe, and our families safe.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call John

Sape at 586-899-8082, or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.

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

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

Any questions on local union issues, please call John

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mcnicholsscrap.com
(313) 365-6100

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

GOP's prevailing wage repeal obsession is costing workers

(Continued from Page 1)

projects funded by the state government effective Sept. 23, 2017. The study said economic data reveal that:

1. Since repeal, blue-collar construction worker earnings in Wisconsin have dropped by 6 percent, on average.
2. Repeal was associated with a 4 percent decrease in employer-provided health insurance coverage for blue-collar construction workers.
3. Since repeal, the total annual incomes of construction industry CEOs in Wisconsin have increased by an average of 54 percent, contributing to greater inequality in construction.
4. Repeal had no impact on racial diversity but resulted in less gender diversity in Wisconsin's construction workforce.
5. The number of active apprentices and the number of graduates from apprenticeship programs have grown slower in Wisconsin than in neighboring Illinois and Minnesota following repeal.
6. Total construction worker turnover increased by 8 percent in Wisconsin's heavy and highway construction sector after repeal.
7. The average number of bidders on Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects was 3.5 before repeal and 2.9 after repeal, a 16 percent decrease in bid competition.
8. There was a 60 percent increase in new Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects being awarded to out-of-state contractors following repeal.
9. Repeal had no statistical impact on the average cost per mile of resurfacing or maintaining roads in Wisconsin.
10. There has been no discernible difference in Wisconsin Department of Transportation projects coming in under budget following repeal.

The study corroborates the findings of a nonpartisan Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau report, which found that "the evidence on prevailing wage effects, generally range from relatively small effects to no statistically significant effects."

And the Midwest institute's latest work is in concert with a long line of studies and papers that calls into question the motives – and rationality – of prevailing wage repealers. Similar findings questioning the benefits of prevailing wage repeal mirror those of researchers from Michigan State University, the University of Utah, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Missouri-Kansas City – among others – that have uniformly found zero benefits to taxpayers when prevailing wage laws are repealed, while wages for workers drop.

The Wisconsin report builds on similar findings from another Michigan neighbor, Indiana, where then-Gov. Mike Pence signed Republican-backed legislation to repeal prevailing wage in the Hoosier State in 2015. The repeal of what they call the "Common Construction Wage" in Indiana – aka prevailing wage – was pushed as a way to save taxpayers dollars, and free up more money to spend on school, road and municipal construction.

"Repeal has had negative consequences for Indiana," says a report released Feb. 1, 2018, also by the Midwest Economic Policy Institute. "Blue-collar construction worker wages have been cut and lesser-educated individuals have replaced high-skilled workers, contributing to higher turnover rates and lower per-worker productivity levels. Contractor competition has not increased for bids on public construction projects and public school construction costs have not decreased. Ultimately, repeal of Common Construction Wage has not saved taxpayers any money and, in fact, has had negative effects on construction market outcomes in Indiana."

The report found that prevailing wage repeal in Indiana decreased the wages of blue-collar construction workers by 8.5 percent, on average; had no statistical impact on the average cost per public school project; decreased the wages of the lowest-paid construction workers by 15.1 percent, and lessened construction worker productivity growth by 5.3 percent following repeal vs. neighboring Midwest states.

Construction spending, jobs remain lackluster

(Continued from Page 1)

challenges brought about by the coronavirus, the AGC said. "These challenges are impacting demand for many commercial projects while also impacting state and local construction budgets," the association said. They urged lawmakers and the White House to work together to enact new recovery measures to help boost economic activity and demand for construction.

"One of the biggest challenges facing the construction industry is the lack of demand for many new types of commercial and local infrastructure projects, especially after the current crop of projects is completed," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. "Washington officials can give a needed boost to construction demand and employment by boosting infrastructure and putting in place liability protections for firms that are protecting workers from the coronavirus."

In Michigan, metropolitan areas in the west and southwest part of the Lower Peninsula are showing the strongest construction employment, the AGC reported Sept. 30. In fact, the "Niles-Benton Harbor" region led the nation in percentage construction gains from August 2019 to August 2020, rising 16 percent. Although, that relatively small area represented an increase of just 400 construction jobs.

Also faring on the plus side were the Muskegon area (No. 14 in the U.S., +8 percent); Grand Rapids/Wyoming (No. 18, +7 percent), and Kalamazoo/Portage (No. 67, +1 percent). Every other region in Michigan was flat or lost jobs from August 2019 to August 2020.

Construction spending during that 12-month period increased in only 88 of the 358 designated metro areas across the U.S. Conversely, in May and June 2020, emerging from the COVID-related shutdown of many construction projects, nearly every region of Michigan was a hotspot for construction spending.

Now, areas like Ann Arbor, Detroit, Lansing, Monroe and Saginaw are all in the bottom third among U.S. metropolitan areas, seeing construction employment dropping 10 percent or more during that 12-year period.

"The coronavirus and efforts to mitigate its spread have left our economy deeply wounded, depressing demand for many types of commercial construction projects," Sandherr said.



WIRING LIGHTS at the Michigan State University STEM project on the second floor of the east lab annex of the project are electricians Bob Butler, Mallory Gerstler and Chris Weatherwax. The IBEW Local 665 members are employed by Summit Electric.

Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – The union meeting will be held in Area One on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020 at 8pm at the union hall – 1755 Fairlane Dr, Allen Park, MI 48101.



The union hall accepts Visa, Master Card, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the hall and over the phone. **OSHA 10 and OSHA 30** safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more information.

A list of candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building Trades and Boilermakers Local 169 can be found in this edition or on our website at: www.boilermakerslocal169.com. Please do your part by voting in all elections.

Training Center: The Boilermakers Local 169 Training center in Allen Park is open and operating under the current CDC guidelines. Journeymen are encouraged to update their skills. We are currently experiencing a high demand for stainless steel, Inconel, and RMD certified welders. Having these skills will increase your opportunities for employment and boost Boilermaker manhours overall.

Apprentices: Apprentices are reminded to call your Area Agent at 8 am the following business day after layoff. Failure to call in at the required time may result in disciplinary action. In addition, calling in late places you further down the out of work list and affects future work opportunities.

Common Arc: Boilermakers Local 169 is working with our Welding Committee to schedule a Common Arc test that will adhere to the CDC guidelines. Further details will be provided when they are available.

I would like to thank all the members who participated in our recent election. Congratulations to all the newly elected members of our Executive Board. I would also like to thank the members of the Election Committee – Don Schultz, Clark Tagger, Jason Dodson, and Mike Waskiewicz – for their service to our Local. Please continue to work safe and plan to attend your next regularly scheduled Union Meeting.

Retired member, Ray Gollach, passed away on Oct. 9, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this difficult time.



Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journey workers 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 Rick Baird at the Training Center, 810-687-1368, or rickenbaird81@gmail.com to make arrangements.

New Website for announcements, news, and updates: www.rooferslocal149.com

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. Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

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

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tue., Jan 12, 2021 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Local 149 Roofers and Waterproofers

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journey workers 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 Rick Baird at the Training Center, 810-687-1368, or rickenbaird81@gmail.com to make arrangements.

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

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–Gertrude Stein (1874 - 1946)

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Outdoors

I want to ride my bicycle



Arctic Grayling fish reintroduced in Michigan

By Brad Parsons
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan's nonmotorized trails system has more than 3,000 miles dedicated to paved, gravel and off-road single-track trails for bicyclists to enjoy 365 days a year.

These public trails are situated in every region of Michigan at state parks, recreation areas, pathways, forests and rail trails.

Michigan's natural terrain, along with varied seasons and access to public trails, provides a unique experience for all cyclists.

As a Michigan Department of Natural Resources videographer, I have the privilege to help document and promote this recreation activity across the state.

What I've learned is that nonmotorized bicycle trails can dramatically influence personal connection to the outdoors, build communities and strengthen local economies.

More than a year ago, in August 2019, I was assigned to film a promotional action video of the Waterloo State Recreation Area's DTE Energy Foundation mountain bike trail system in Chelsea, Michigan.

At that time, my knowledge of mountain biking was minimal. I didn't even own a bicycle.

So, what is mountain biking? It's best described as riding a bicycle off-road, on trails specifically designed for bicycle use, over varied terrain. Two common types of mountain bike trails are flow and cross-country (or backcountry).

The DTE trail is classified as a flow trail – built with a special machine that carved berms, hills and unique features into the pre-existing natural terrain on public land.

Backcountry mountain bike trails feature existing natural terrain, including roots, rocks and other obstacles found in the forest. These trails can sometimes be more technically challenging. Both types of trails are available on Michigan public land.



MOUNTAIN BIKERS set out along a Michigan backcountry trail.

MDNR photo

While I was capturing video clips of mountain bikers at the DTE trail, one rider decided to stop and introduce himself. It was Jason Aric Jones, creator of the trail.

My encounter with Jason was inspiring. He encouraged me to bring a bicycle with me next time I visited the trail. In response to this experience, I went to my local bike shop three days later and purchased my first mountain bike.

I then found myself back at the DTE trail for a follow-up video assignment, recording the trail with a 360-degree video camera mounted to my bike helmet.

Long story short, I discovered the joy of mountain biking through a work assignment and inspiration from the amazing community of Michigan bicyclists.

The bicycle has transformed my life and given me a new appreciation for Michigan trails and the mountain biking community.

Mountain biking in Michigan became an accepted recreation activity in the late 1980s.

A few of Michigan's top destinations for mountain biking include Copper Harbor and Marquette in the Upper Peninsula, the Chelsea/Pinckney area near Detroit, Augusta and Rockford in the western Lower Peninsula and the Traverse City region

in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Each of these destinations provides a unique type of terrain and challenges, and they welcome all mountain bikers, regardless of skill level. That is the best part about trails in Michigan – they are approachable for novice or less-experienced riders.

And when the snow arrives in Michigan, recent production of fat-tire bicycles enables enthusiasts to experience groomed trails year-round.

A lot of progress has been made in popularizing the sport during the past 40 years with the help of mountain biking advocacy groups, volunteers and the holding of special events. Advocacy groups help influence policies and rules and create or introduce new trail systems in partnership with the DNR.

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association, the state's largest organization dedicated to the pastime, coordinates local and regional groups like the Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association in southeastern Michigan. Members of these groups provide financial support and volunteer their time to maintain mountain bike trails.

Development, management and maintenance of mountain biking trails on state land is often a

partnership between the DNR and mountain biking organizations. The DNR, as the land manager, works to balance use and preservation of public natural resources, while allowing for great trail opportunities.

Local mountain bike groups perform the majority of on the ground trail work and maintenance of the trails with the help of many dedicated volunteers.

In addition to managing the land, the DNR also works with local groups to permit special events hosted at state parks and recreation areas. These events are vital to communities and to introducing the activity to new users.

Mountain biking events also strengthen local economies, especially via increased patronage of bike shops and restaurants.

In my personal experience, local bike shops are the heart of every bicycle community. Not only have I purchased all my bikes through a local shop, I've learned about maintenance and other important information, like biking safety and etiquette, from friendly staff. If I have a question about anything related to the bicycle, I call my local shop for help.

Bike shops also provide jobs and maintenance service to the community by repairing old bikes (Continued next column)

Sept. 17 was a big day for the state's fisheries, and another crucial step toward reintroducing Arctic Grayling to Michigan waters.

The first year-class (a group of young fish produced during one year) of future broodstock was transferred from an isolated rearing facility at Oden State Fish Hatchery near Petoskey to Marquette State Fish Hatchery. Approximately 4,000 fish, averaging 6.5 inches long, made the trip to Marquette.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative – a collaborative effort to bring this native fish back to the Great Lakes State.

Before the northern Lower Peninsula was heavily lumbered in the mid- to late 1800s, Arctic grayling was the dominant species of salmonids – belonging to the salmon family – found in cold-water streams. They disappeared from Michigan due to over-fishing, habitat loss from the timber practices of the day and competing with and being preyed on by introduced species like brown trout.

"This is a really exciting day for the initiative," said DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. "A lot of planning and work has gone into this program, and it's great to see it moving forward."

Roughly 10,000 eggs collected from Chena River, a tributary to Alaska's Yukon River, were brought to Michigan in spring 2019. Because the eggs originated from outside of the Great Lakes basin, they had to be quarantined.

Growing Arctic grayling need water temperatures that change with the season, and the water source for the Marquette hatchery mimics their natural environment. Now that the fish have arrived at Marquette State Fish Hatchery, staff will care for this group of grayling until the fish are ready to begin producing eggs, usually when they are 4-6 years old.

Ride my bicycle, continued

that have been in storage for years or with monthly tune-ups for avid cyclists.

In my opinion, bike shops provide a product, service and knowledge necessary for mountain biking to flourish in every community in Michigan.

I would encourage all bicyclists to get involved with their local biking community via a trail organization, biking events and bike shops, or to participate in volunteer trail maintenance workdays.

Riders should be good trail stewards and not ride when trails are wet after rains or during muddy spring conditions after the ground thaws.

"Riders should ride safely and respectfully when using trails during the COVID-19 restrictions, including spreading out to observe social distancing and being patient with other riders," said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division.

Although Michigan is not known for mountainous terrain like the western United States, there is a tremendous wealth of fun to explore while riding a mountain bike in "The Trails State."

To learn more about how to get involved and discover mountain biking, visit Michigan.gov/DNRTrails.

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