



THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades unions

VOL. 71, NO. 4 February 25, 2022



SHORT CUTS

Charge it: Michigan in line for \$110M

LANSING – The State of Michigan is expected to receive \$110 million over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. It is Michigan's share of some \$5 billion in federal funding made possible by passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Michigan is expected "to build up electric vehicle charging infrastructure and help the state continue leading the future of mobility and electrification," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who announced the windfall on Feb. 10. "And make no mistake, we plan to go after every competitive grant we can to ensure Michigan remains at the forefront of EV infrastructure and manufacturing."

The first \$16.2 million of that funding will arrive in Michigan's coffers in this funding year. The money is directed at states, "to procure and install electric vehicle chargers, with the goal of building a national network of electric vehicle chargers and to support charging in communities where people live, work, and shop," the governor's office said.

The program targets the installation of charging systems along corridors, and a secondary federal grant program will ensure charger deployment reaches rural, disadvantaged, and other hard-to-reach communities.

"The federal support for electric vehicles comes at a very good time for Michigan as our department works with other state agencies and private-sector interests to develop a charging network with neighboring states through the Lake Michigan EV Circuit," said Michigan Department of Transportation Director Paul Ajegba. "Even more exciting, this comes on the heels of the governor's announcement of an MDOT partnership with Electreon to deploy wireless charging on a state route."

Money still moving to fix state's roads

LANSING – "Fixing the damn roads" is still on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's agenda.

The governor earlier in her term pledged to move on floating a \$3.5 billion bond to pay for repairing the state's roads and bridges, after the state Legislature continued to be unwilling to come up with a long-term, sustainable plan to increase gas taxes, registration fees or any funding source to pay for the work.

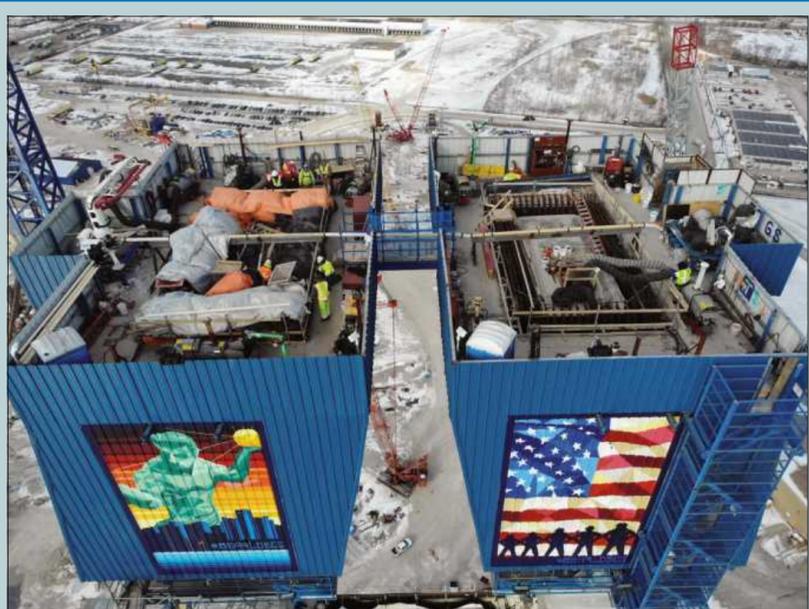
So far about \$1.6 billion in bonded funding has been issued to pay for road projects, and state Republican lawmakers questioned the need to borrow more money when Michigan is set to receive \$5 billion to \$6 billion in federal Infrastructure Act dollars.

Indeed, the entire \$3.5 billion that was proposed may not have to be bonded, MDOT Finance Director Patrick McCarthy told the House Appropriations Subcommittee this month, according to the news service MIRS, with Michigan getting more money than anticipated from federal and tax sources.

Quotable

"My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging."

—Henry Aaron (1934-2021)



WORKING INSIDE "jump forms" at the Gordie Howe Bridge project, a group of trades people on the Detroit side prepare for the next delivery of concrete that will increase the height of the two legs, which will meet higher up and then support the span. The art work on the temporary forms' exterior are different in both countries, here representing the Spirit of Detroit statue and an American flag. At regular intervals, concrete is pumped up from the ground, filled by a continuous line of concrete trucks. An exterior elevator on one of the legs move Hardhats up and down to their task, and access to the opposite leg is made by a scaffold from one leg to another in an ever-narrowing gap.

Going up: the Gordie Howe Bridge

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – To date, the most prominent aspects of what will be the Gordie Howe Bridge are staring at each other on the span's Detroit and Windsor sides: twin concrete towers that are .53 miles apart and currently facing each other 419 feet high over the Detroit River.

On their way up to 722 feet, the concrete-encased towers are supported by 12 shafts anchored 118 feet down into bedrock. Each of the shafts is filled with about 69,000 gallons of concrete and connected with 5,250 feet of post-tensioning cables.

They will support the longest main span of any cable-stayed bridge in North America. And upon the anticipated completion of the span at the end of 2024, it will fifth longest of its type in the world. The bridge will have three lanes of traffic in both directions, plus a single "multi-use path" lane.

(Continued on Page 2)



WITHIN THE FORMS at the top of the legs, according to *Construction Connect*, concrete is poured through rebar, with a total of about 130 cubic yards for a typical "lift" or segment. The forms then "climb" to the next level through a series of support brackets and screw jacks, powered by electric motors.

Photo credits: Bridging North America

'No letup' for material price hikes

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Ouch.

Construction material costs rose 20 percent for the 12 months leading up to January 2021, as contractors are now making it a point to pass along, and not absorb, cost increases, while trying to keep up with the hikes as they bid for projects.

An analysis released Feb. 15 by the Associated General Contractors was part of the group's Construction Inflation Alert, a report to inform project owners, officials, and others about the challenges volatile materials costs, supply chain disruptions, and labor shortages are posing for construction firms.

"Unfortunately, there has been no letup early this year in (Continued on Page 5)

ing to a report by Dodge Construction Network issued Feb. 16. Compared to one year ago, total construction was 8 percent higher in January 2022 than in January 2021.

"Construction starts continue to climb, mostly unimpeded by rising materials prices and (Continued on Page 5)

Covid-free surveys skew fatality stats

By Nick Fox
Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

Along with Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) injury and illness data, the annual release of worker fatality data has historically been one of the best measurements of worker safety and health on the job. The BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported that in 2020 (the numbers take a year to compile), worker fatalities declined almost 11 percent, from 5,333 in 2019 to 4,764.

Taken by itself, that seems like great news, but it comes with one very big caveat – the BLS fatality data doesn't include any deaths from COVID-19. As noted in its press release, "CFOI reports fatal workplace injuries only. ... CFOI does not report any illness related information, including COVID-19."

Unfortunately, that means the thousands of health care workers and other essential workers who died from COVID-19 in 2020 due to exposures in the workplace aren't being counted by the BLS. This is a longstanding weak-

ness of the CFOI data, which is only set up to count acute injuries.

"The occupational safety and health community has been pointing out this problem for years. COVID-19 is just the latest example where there's a failure to show the relationship between occupational illness, worker health and workplace fatalities," says Walter Jones, the LHSFNA's Director of Occupational Safety and Health. "The same issue happens with work-related deaths caused by silica, asbestos and

other hazardous substances. This is a continuation of the inaccurate belief that if it isn't an acute fatality, it's not work-related."

If there's any upside to COVID-19 deaths not being included in the BLS data, it's the opportunity to make year-over-year comparisons that are much closer to apples to apples than they would be otherwise. At a time when employers and workers were largely focused on COVID-19, we can see how worker safety and health fared in other areas. (Continued on Page 5)

Construction union leaders laud Biden's pro-PLA executive order

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

Construction union leaders hailed President Joe Biden's Feb. 7 executive order to mandate federally funded construction projects worth at least \$35 million must be built by unionists using Project Labor Agreements.

"Just remember, it ain't labor – it's unions" that built the country and will do so again, Biden declared to a union crowd at the Ironworkers Local 5 hall in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Sean McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions, spoke for the others – including Local 5 members at Biden's signing ceremony – in declaring how Biden's order would improve workers' wages, working conditions and health and safety.

"Project labor agreements are often effective in preventing problems from developing" on construction sites "because they provide structure and stability to large-scale construction projects," Biden's order explains.

That's "welcome news for all workers, union and nonunion," McGarvey pointed out. "Project labor agreements address labor supply, secure workers' classification, set good wages, promote strong health and safety standards, and ensure large-scale projects are completed on time, with the highest degree of quality, efficiency, and safety."

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, an Electrical Worker, added in an e-mail: "President Biden's signing of an executive order requiring project labor agreements for all federal construction projects over \$35 mil-

lion ensures the \$262 billion in federal construction contracting will use high skilled union labor, create a more efficient approach to the work and will use our tax dollars to create high quality jobs. Thanks to this agreement, 200,000 (Continued on Page 15)

PLA order will help labor 'win more work with fair wages and benefits'

Viewpoint

By Mark McManus

(The writer is the General President of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Sprinkler Fitters. This is from a letter sent to UA-affiliated union leaders).

President Biden's Executive Order on the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for federal construction projects requires the use of the agreements on federal construction contracts above \$35 million and directs the Departments of Defense and Labor to lead a training strategy for the nearly 40,000 members of the federal contracting workforce to implement this order. This executive order, affecting \$262 billion in federal spending on construction projects, will help ensure projects are completed on time and on budget.

For the United Association, this executive order will help our members win more work with fair (Continued on Page 5)

ABC, GOP aren't exactly fans of project labor agreements

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The surest sign that a policy is on the right track for construction labor unions is that it is opposed by the Associated Builders and Contractors and other anti-union groups.

So we direct your attention to the pushback to President Biden's Feb. 7 executive order calling for the use of project labor agreements on federally funded construction projects. Biden signed the order at an iron workers union hall in Maryland, so

from the get-go that didn't bode well for the anti-union ABC and a coalition of like-minded contractor groups.

"I promised you, you'd have a pro-union president, and I am," Biden said during the signing.

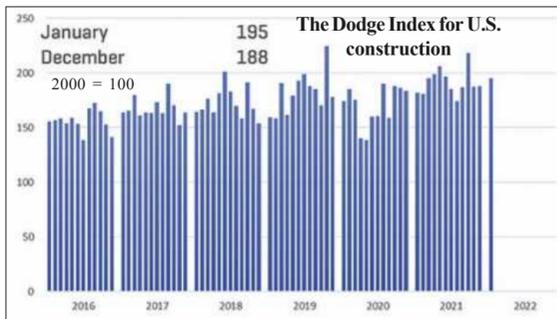
On Feb. 16, the ABC and other organizations submitted a letter of protest to Biden, highlighting their concerns.

"We applaud the administration's leadership to improve and build new roads, bridges, schools, affordable housing and communications, water, energy and transportation systems in urgent need of public and private investment in order to keep America competitive in a global economy," the coalition wrote.

But: "The administration's flawed rationale justifying pro-PLA policies ignores marketplace realities and broad opposition to government-mandated PLAs within the construction industry. Hardworking taxpayers are getting less and paying more when PLAs are encouraged or mandated by the government on federal and federally assisted construction projects."

While project labor agreements generally make bidding for a project union-friendly, they don't make them "union-only." The ABC and their ilk generally call PLAs "exclusionary," because PLAs often include things like wage standards for workers as well as documented safety, training, and drug and alcohol protocols as pre-employment requirements.

Contractors and owners who use them – often insisting on them – also appreciate PLAs for assuring a ready, trained workforce, no-strike, no-lockout (Continued on Page 5)



Viewpoints



A shortage of good-wage jobs

The January jobs report from the Labor Department is heightening fears that a so-called “tight” labor market is fueling inflation, and therefore the Fed must put on the brakes by raising interest rates.

This line of reasoning is totally wrong.

Among the biggest job gains in January were workers who are normally temporary and paid low wages (leisure and hospitality, retail, transport and warehousing). This January employers cut fewer of these low-wage temp workers than in most years, because of rising customer demand and the difficulties of hiring during Omicron. Due to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’s “seasonal adjustment,” cutting fewer workers than usual for this time of year appears as “adding lots of jobs.”

Fed policymakers are poised to raise interest rates at their March meeting and then continue raising them, in order to slow the economy. They fear that a labor shortage is pushing up wages, which in turn are pushing up prices – and that this wage-price spiral could get out of control.

It’s a huge mistake. Higher interest rates will harm millions of workers who will be involuntarily drafted into the inflation fight by losing jobs or long-overdue pay raises. There’s no “labor shortage” pushing up wages. There’s a shortage of good jobs paying adequate wages to support working families. Raising interest rates will worsen this shortage.

There’s no “wage-price spiral,” either (even though Fed chief Jerome Powell has expressed concern about wage hikes pushing up prices). To the contrary, workers’ real wages have dropped because of inflation. Even though overall wages have climbed, they’ve failed to keep up with price increases – making most workers worse off in terms of the purchasing power of their dollars.

Wage-price spirals used to be a problem. Remember when John F. Kennedy “jawboned” steel executives and the United Steel Workers to keep a lid on wages and prices? But such spirals are no longer a problem. That’s because the typical worker today has little or no bargaining power. Only 6 percent of private-sector workers are now unionized. A half-century ago, more than a third were. Today, corporations can increase output by outsourcing just about anything anywhere because capital is global. A half-century ago, corporations needing more output had to bargain with their own workers to get it.

These changes have shifted power from labor to capital – increasing the share of the economic pie going to profits and shrinking the share going to wages. This power shift ended wage-price spirals. Slowing the economy won’t remedy either of the two real causes of today’s inflation – continuing worldwide bottlenecks in the supply of goods, and the ease with which big corporations (with record profits) are passing these costs to customers in higher prices.

Supply bottlenecks are all around us. (Just take a look at all the ships with billions of dollars of cargo idling outside the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, through which 40 percent of all U.S. seaborne imports flow.)

Big corporations have no incentive to absorb the rising costs of such supplies – even with profit margins at their highest level in 70 years. They have enough market power to pass these costs on to consumers, sometimes using inflation to justify even bigger price hikes. “A little bit of inflation is always good in our business,” the CEO of Kroger said last June. “What we are very good at, is pricing,” the CEO of Colgate-Palmolive added in October.

In fact, the Fed’s plan to slow the economy is the opposite of what’s needed now or in the foreseeable future. COVID is still with us. Even in its wake, we’ll be dealing with its damaging consequences for years – everything from long-term COVID, to school children months or years behind.

The January jobs report shows that the U.S. economy is still 2.9 million jobs below what it had in February 2020. Given the growth of the U.S. population, it’s 4.5 million short of what it would have by now had there been no pandemic.

Consumers are almost tapped out. Not only are real (inflation-adjusted) incomes down, but pandemic assistance has ended. Extra jobless benefits are gone. Child tax credits have expired. Rent moratoriums are over. Small wonder consumer spending fell 0.6 percent in December, the first decrease since last February.

Many people are understandably gloomy about the future. The University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey plummeted in January to its lowest level since late 2011, back when the economy was trying to recover from the global financial crisis. The Conference Board’s index of confidence also dropped in January.

Given all this, the last thing average working people need is for the Fed to raise interest rates and slow the economy further. The problem most people face isn’t inflation. It’s a lack of good jobs.

Robert Reich

Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley

To the Editor,

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency is horribly broken! Who cares?

The Michigan Employment Act of 1936, (421.2, Sec.2.(1): “Economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of the state. Involuntary unemployment is a subject of general interest and concern which requires action by the Legislature to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which so often falls with crushing force upon the unemployed worker and his or her family, to the detriment of the welfare of the people of the state.”

Since I joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1994, getting paid benefits on a legitimate claim has gotten increasingly more difficult to the point where now I am one of some 10,000 out of work Michiganders that are getting no unemployment benefits at all. Keep in mind that in the middle of a pandemic, in the middle of winter, with price inflation increases faster and high than the last 40 years.. This is while unemployment in Michigan has dropped to something like 5.3 percent.

In recent weeks a class action lawsuit was filed as a result of the agencies erroneously accused a large number of workers of being overpaid benefits. This results in collections, ruined credit, repossessions, bankruptcies, increased crime, and even some suicides

Then there is the \$8.5 billion in fraudulent claims that were paid out during the pandemic. Who is accountable? Where did that money come from?

In the eight years of the previous governor’s administration, there were seven different directors. So far in this administration Julia Dale is the third. She took her position in October of 2021, and still no sign of any changes or improvements. Certainly, the situation will not be improved by just developing a new web page.

In my 28 years in this trade, I frequently apply for unemployment benefits, sometimes numerous times in a year. I have drawn unemployment in Indiana, Ohio, and even what was called an “international claim” through Massachusetts. Michigan unemployment is the worst by a very large amount. In other states they don’t fabricate reasons to stop benefits and then force you to go through a long drawn out process of appeal/protest and review, before getting any hope of benefits.

Why is Gov. Whither ignoring these issues? Why is she allowing the MI UIA to do harm, destroying families instead of assisting them? She seemingly is quick to act when Big Business is bothered. Look how quickly she responded to the trucker protest on the bridge from Detroit to Canada. Why is there no mention of this in any major news outlet? We get updates on the pandemic at every turn. We get the weather four times in a half hour.

Unless you’re one of the affected, you might not even be aware that if you need unemployment benefits, it’s not likely that you will receive them problem-free – if at all.

Christopher R. Courter
Battle Creek, Mich.

Going up: the Gordie Howe Bridge

(Continued from Page 1)

With construction managed by the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), the \$4.4 billion bridge is more than just the towers and the 1.5-mile-long span it supports – the project on the American side includes work on 1.8 miles of I-75, including four new road bridges, five new pedestrian bridges, and four new interchange ramps connecting the freeway to the U.S. Point of Entry, which itself encompasses 167 acres in Southwest Detroit.

Bridging North America, which is the WDBA’s private-sector partner and is responsible to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Canadian and U.S. points of entry. The groups said in a construction update last month that the project is progressing to Phase II of interchange work, and will include the opening of the Springwells and Livernois Street road bridges over I-75, the closure and demolition of the Green, Dragoon and Waterman street road bridges and the closure of the north and southbound freeway service drives.

Construction of the Main Operations and Secondary Inspections Buildings that are part of the U.S. Point of Entry are under way.

A RENDERING of the Gordie Howe Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, which at 1.5 miles long will be the longest cable-stay span in North America.

Image credits: Bridging North America



A LAND MASS OF 167 acres in Southwest Detroit has been cleared to accommodate the construction of the Gordie Howe Bridge, including what will be the U.S. Point of Entry in the foreground.

Say it...Medicare for all

By Jim Hightower

We might expect that corporate billionaires and Koch-funded Republican right-wingers would be howl-at-the-moon opponents of a wealth tax, Medicare-for-All, and other big, progressive ideas to help improve the circumstances of America’s workaday majority. But... Democrats?

Unfortunately, yes. Not grassroots Dems, but a gaggle of don’t-rock-the-corporate-boat, Fraidy-cat Democrats. These

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 –

By mail: Building Tradesman Editor
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216
e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

The Building Tradesman

ISSN-007-3717
is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Patrick Devlin
Secretary-Treasurer
Steve Claywell
President



The Building Tradesman is published bi-weekly (every other Friday) by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office. 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop
Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.

The Building Tradesman
1640 Porter St.
Detroit, MI 48216
Phone: (313) 961-3800
Fax: (313) 961-2467

Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.

Editor/Photographer
Marty Mulcahy
E-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

Advertising Director
Joe Hoshaw
E-mail: btads@ameritech.net
(734) 558-6955

Subscription Rate \$15 annually (group rate for unions)
Visit our website:
www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

naysayers are the party’s old-line pols, lobbyists, and other insider elites who’re now screeching that Democratic candidates must back off those big proposals. Why?

Because, they squawk, being so bold, so progressive, so – well, so Democratic – will scare voters. As one meekly put it: “When you say Medicare for All, it’s a risk. It makes people afraid.”

Excuse me, but in my speeches and writings I say “Medicare for All” a lot – and far from cowering, people stand up and cheer! In fact, the *New York Times* has just reported that 81 percent of Democrats (and two-thirds of independents) support Medicare for All. Even apple pie doesn’t scare that high! It’s simply a lie that the people are “afraid” of the idea of everyone getting public-financed health care.

So who really fears it? Three special-interest groups: Insurance company profiteers, Big Pharma price gougers – and the political insiders who’re hooked on funding from those corporations.

Not only is it a pusillanimous fabrication to claim that the people oppose any changes stronger than corporate minimalism, it’s also political folly. If the Democratic Party won’t stand up for the transformative structural changes that America’s middle and low-income majority clearly wants and needs, why would those people stand up for Democrats? As the 2016 presidential election taught us so painfully, a whole lot of the working class Democrats the Party counts on... won’t. (via www.otherwords.org)

“Keeping score of old scores and scars, getting even and one-upping, always make you less than you are.”

–Malcolm Forbes (1919 - 1990)

“If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry.”

–African Proverb

“Truth indeed rather alleviates than hurts, and will always bear up against falsehood, as oil does above water.”

–Miguel de Cervantes (1547 - 1616)

“In taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy; but in passing it over, he is superior.”

–Sir Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)

“The greatest way to live with honor in this world is to be what we pretend to be.”

–Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)

“Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all – the apathy of human beings.”

–Helen Keller (1880 - 1968),

“When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.”

– Japanese Proverb

“The height of cleverness is to be able to conceal it.”

– Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

Reference Based Pricing Higher Standards, Lower Costs



800-732-3412 | varipro.com

AIELLO LAW GROUP PLLC

Construction Injury Specialists

Representing Trades Workers and their families over 25 years

**WORKERS' COMP
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT LITIGATION
ESTATE PLANNING - ELDER LAW**



Mark Aiello

Our associates also handle:
**UNEMPLOYMENT - ANY INJURY CASE
ASBESTOS/TOXIC EXPOSURES**

3031 W. Grand Blvd, Suite 440, Detroit 48202

(313) 964-4900 - (800) 881-8896

www.aiellolawgroup.com email: maa@aiellolawgroup.com

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION • VALIDATED PARKING

BRICKLAYERS WANTED

\$35.54 HR \$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS

PLUS HEALTH & PENSION

BRICKLAYERS.ORG

Bricklayers and Allied

Craftworkers Local 2 members:

\$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers!

BAC Local 2- Michigan is offering up to a \$2,000 Signing Bonus for Skilled Journeyman Bricklayers and Masonry Restoration Workers who join now and who stay working for our contractors!

Our Members who refer these new members will get the same bonus as well!

Journeyman Bricklayers in the Metro Detroit Area get \$35.54 an hour, plus fully paid Health Insurance, and 2 Pensions. Our Contractors have immediate opening for Skilled Bricklayers, and Masonry Restoration Workers.

For more information go to: bricklayers.org

Henry Ford's rich legacy of still-standing iconic buildings and complexes in Michigan ranges from the company town of L'Anse in the Upper Peninsula, where his workers shaped lumber into Model T parts, to the comparatively tiny Piquette Plant in Detroit where the assembly line was born, to the massive Rouge complex in Dearborn.

Ford had eclectic interests, in lumber, rubber, soybean growing, power production, steel making, aircraft, and auto assembly.

He also had ownership in big Great Lakes freighters to move raw materials, parts and finished products, so we shouldn't be surprised that for about a decade, he also ran his own railroad for that same purpose

"In July of 1920," says the article *Henry Ford's Arches*, from *Downriver History and Facts*, "following a three-year U.S. takeover of the railroad system, automotive pioneer Henry Ford purchased the local Detroit, Toledo and Ironton (DT&I) railroad spur, in the hopes of extending the line into his burgeoning Rouge factory complex. Most factory goods were being shipped to Rouge by rail, and Mr. Ford disliked the high fees the various railroad companies would charge for freight distribution.

"Mr. Ford was branching out into other areas of interest beyond automobiles, possessing a vision of redefining how railroads would operate; including but not limited to: reducing shipper's tariffs significantly, cutting labor costs, eliminating many work rules, and eliminating the majority of the lawyers working in conjunction with the railways. His enthusiasm was evident, but his practical experience in the rail industry was lacking, and he would eventually sell out his interest within a decade," in 1929.

Left behind by Ford's foray into railroading are numerous "cantenary arches" over electrified portions of the track, which were placed at regular intervals for about 40 miles south of Detroit to Flat Rock, then west through the towns of Carleton and Maybee. The total DT&I line extended to the southern Ohio border town of Ironton, on the Ohio River, near the West Virginia and Kentucky state lines.

The Detroit, Toledo and

BUILDING MICHIGAN: Henry Ford's cantenary arches HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy



HENRY FORD'S vision for an electrified railroad was short-lived, but in one way its legacy is still lasting in the Downriver area. Here we see concrete "cantenary arches" along the Detroit-Toledo and Ironton Railroad on Sept. 30, 1929, which were in place to hold electric lines that would supply power to the locomotives. Most of the arches are still in place – they're not in the way, and they proved way too costly and labor intensive to remove. "These arches were made to last," said *Henry Ford's Electric Railroad*. "It took a large crew two days to remove just one of them. Most of the arches are still in place between the Rouge Plant in Dearborn and just beyond Flat Rock, Michigan." The use of cantenary arches is common with electrified railways, but Ford (over-)built them to support only a simple system of high-voltage electric wires.

Photo credit: The Henry Ford

Ironton Railroad had been established for decades, but was described as "decrepit" by the time Ford bought it for \$5 million in 1920. "Henry Ford," says a history prepared by *The Henry Ford*, "used its 378-mile mainline – between Detroit and Ironton, Ohio – as a giant conveyor belt, hauling coal from Ford-owned mines to the Rouge in Dearborn. Ford spent \$15 million improving DT&I's track."

But Ford also used his improved rail line as a major opportunity to expand and streamline his supply chain.

"Thus the modest little road," said *Mac's Motor City Garage* of the DT&I, "had a connection with every major rail line crossing the Midwest, allowing Ford to negotiate more economical through-rates for his own cargo to and from his giant plants in Dearborn and Highland Park, and to his regional Model T assembly plants across the country."

Ford went all-in with his new railroad, and created a clean, efficient and enviable system. Ever on the lookout to eliminate waste and increase efficiency,

Ford saw an opportunity to use excess electrical capacity from his Highland Park plant's powerhouse to power much of the southern Michigan trackage of the DT&I. Later the Rouge plant powerhouse came online and was tapped when more power was needed.

"Ford announced on July 1, 1923, that he would convert the DT&I from steam locomotion to electrical power," said *Henry Ford's Electric Railroad - The DT&I*. "The steam locomotives Ford Motor Co. bought in the acquisition were slow, dirty, loud, and required continual maintenance. The rolling stock acquired was in disrepair after two-and-a-half years of neglect at the end of World War I, so Ford engineers were set to the task of improving the rail line from stem to stern."

Electrified locomotion eliminated the need for regularly placed water and coaling towers that would have fed steam locomotives along the line. But it required an entirely different column of infrastructure.

"His solution... was to elec-

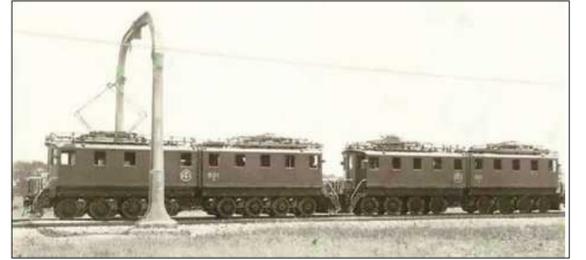
trify the railway with electricity produced at his factory complex, eliminating the need for more expensive steam," said *Henry Ford's Arches*. "It would be part of a larger plan to eventually electrify the entire route, which he would then link to railways through Charleston, West Virginia and on to Newport News, Virginia."

That expansion never happened. Ford's more limited rail-



MODERN RAIL TRAFFIC still runs under the tall cantenary arches. This photo is from 1979, showing north and southbound trains on the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton line. The DTI was later absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railroad.

Photo credit: Mark Hinsdale, via Industrial Scenery



ELECTRIC-POWERED locomotives, with substation-like equipment on their roofs, are shown in service under a cantenary arch on Ford's Detroit, Toledo and Ironton line on July 29, 1928.

Photo credit: Industrial Scenery

road electrification effort along the 40 miles in Michigan depended on the arches to carry the centrally produced high-voltage power, which negated any subsequent need to erect power substations along the route to help keep voltage steady. Instead, a substation-like structure atop the locomotives were used to step down the voltage and convert it to DC power.

The first electrified locomotives that were used on the line began running in 1927.

The concrete arches carrying the power line were built at the Fordson concrete plant within the Rouge complex. They were in active use until March 1, 1930. Each arch was built with 95 cubic feet of Ford concrete and 257 feet of re-bar made at the Rouge steelworks.

"The arches were completed from the Rouge complex to the village of Carleton," said *Henry Ford's Arches*. "Foundations were built to continue the arches further to the rail junction at Diann (near Dundee) Michigan, but they were never

completed."

The system, and Ford's interest in it, proved to be short-lived. The DT&I was profitable, but Ford was frustrated with interference and regulation from the Interstate Commerce Commission. On paper, Ford made a \$31 million profit when he decided to sell the railroad to the Pennroad Corp. in 1929, although he had spent a fortune in capital upgrading the line.

The Pennroad Corp, a year after it purchased the line from Ford, pulled the electrically driven locomotives from service. Ironically an analysis by Pennroad found that operating costs could be reduced by converting the line back to steam-driven locomotives.

"The arches have lasted and have become Downriver landmarks due to their impervious construction: a total of 190 cubic yards of concrete were used just to create the bases for each arch," said *Henry Ford's Arches*. "Demolition crews soon gave up the insurmountable task of removing them, so they stand as reminders today of both an early industry, and proof that even the most noted inventors' ideas don't always meet with instant success."

CALL THE LAW OFFICES OF SERLING & ABRAMSON P.C. MESOTHELIOMA • LUNG CANCER

Our Michigan-based law firm filed the first asbestos case in Michigan in 1975 and has specialized in representing victims of asbestos disease for nearly 50 years. Our attorneys have over 100 years of combined experience in asbestos disease cases.

"From the very first conversation, we knew that the Serling firm would be honest, hardworking and compassionate. We felt so comfortable and protected with the Serling firm."

-Widow of Chrysler Engineer

Experience • Results • Michigan Attorneys • Asbestos Product Experts

Insulators • Pipefitters • Bricklayers • Plumbers • Boilermakers
Electricians • Iron Workers • Steel and Auto Workers • Other Trades

MICHIGAN'S
FIRST & FINEST



Visit us online at
www.serlinglawpc.com

CALL for a **FREE** consultation
and we will review your claim

(248) 647-6966

(800) 995-6991



THERE IS **NO FEE** UNLESS YOU RECOVER DAMAGES!



Serling & Abramson, P.C.

280 N. Old Woodward Avenue Suite 406

Birmingham, MI. 48009

Offices in Birmingham and Allen Park



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022 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 March 15, 2022 at 5:00 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 MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2022 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: April 18, 2022, June 20, 2022, August 15, 2022, October 17, 2022 (annual party) and Dec. 19, 2022. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance.

All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

SUB CHANGES: As of May 1, 2021 the Sub fund has been raised to \$250 per credit for building trades journeyman. Bereavement & Jury Duty is now \$500 but you must be off 2 days.

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

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: There will now be a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available on Tuesdays from 12-4pm (appointment only) and 12-5:30pm (walk-ins) on union meeting nights. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact LaShone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

MARCH RE-REGISTRATION IS COMING! If you are laid off prior to March 1st you need to re-register to keep your spot on the out of work list. You may re-register at the hall, by email registerlocal80@gmail.com or fax 248-557-0297. You CANNOT re-register over the phone. Please call the hall with any questions. Re-registration does not start until March 1st

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to RSVP 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

CONDOLENCES: We are saddened by the passing of member **Derek Tsoukalas**. Derek passed away on February 16, 2022 at the age of 52.

Our thoughts go out to the family of retiree **Malcom McNeil**. Malcom passed away on February 2, 2022 and was a member of local 80 for 59 years!

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Brandon Misiak, Patrick Karl, Chris Cosgrove, Jeff Schmidt, James Callahan, Kevin Marinkovich, David Clay, Mark Kapala, Vicki Thomas, Jerry Roland, Robert Kelly-McFarland & Paul Grimm.

DUES GIFT: As of October 1, 2021 current, active members who pay for a year of dues at a time will receive a gift from the union hall.

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

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

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall which includes the Tradesman paper. You will need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 and update your address with them as well, that is not done through the hall.

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

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: 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 members 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.

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

Training Center News.

Part-Time Instructor Opportunities. The Joint Apprenticeship Committee is accepting applications for part-time instructors to teach upgrading classes in the evening. Ideal candidates should have an interest in helping Local 80 members improve their skills along with the following subject-specific experience:

Trade Math Instructor - A strong understanding of mathematics and experience in using it in the sheet metal trade.

AutoCAD Instructor - Experience as a Detailer, with strong knowledge of a recent version of AutoCAD.

Reading Plans & Specifications Instructor - Experience using prints, submittals and job specifications, along with personal field measurements, to create shop drawings.

Interested Local 80 members can submit their resume to the "Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 Joint Apprenticeship Committee" by email at info@smw80jac.org, as well as in-person or by mail to the Training Center at 32700 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48092.

LAYOFF 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.

(Continued next column)



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 292

TROY – ANNUITY EDUCATION: You are invited to attend an educational seminar given by representatives of Morgan Stanley on **March 9 @ 5:15 p.m.**, this will be prior to the regular membership meeting. Representatives will be available to answer questions regarding our annuity accounts, investment advice and long or short term retirement goals. Appointments can also be made for personal consultations at this time.

MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **March 9, 2022.**

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 **March 22, 2022** at 6:00 pm at the Union Hall.

Local 292 online store: We are excited to announce our brand-new merchandise online store. Purchased items will be shipped directly to you. Access through Sheetmetal292.com at the online store tab or <https://sheetmetalworkers292.itemorder.com/sale>. **Check it out!**

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

RETIREES NOTICE: What a wonderful time it's been visiting and catching up with everyone. For all those traveling to places warmer, please stay safe in your travels. Everyone staying put here in Michigan, please stay warm! Looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

Please contact Gary Simon at jesimon49@comcast.net 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 has hard copies for members who want one.

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

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 classes February 26th, March 5th, 19th, 26th. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

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

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

Local 80 continued

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

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

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

(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, April 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1- March 10th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 -March 15th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3- March 9th -6:00 p.m. (Saginaw)

*Zone 3- March 17th -6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4- March 8th -6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 -April 7th -6:00 p.m.

NEWS: Local No. 7 – **Union Hoodies** available through the Lansing office for \$44.00/each (While Supplies last). Hoodies are Red with White logo. *Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.*

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2022. 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.

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.labelitcanireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

ZONE 1 Info. Now accepting applications for Local 7 zone 1 JATC Instructor position. Job description available upon request. Contact James Callahan with any questions. Please send resumes to jealsmw7@gmail.com or by mail to: Local 7 Zone 1 JATC attn: James Callahan PO Box 689 Comstock, MI 49041-0689 Application deadline is March 25, 2022 Trustee position available for Zone 1 Health & Welfare Fund. Must be a current Zone 1 Journeyman. Please email a letter of interest to efarringtonsmw7@gmail.com (Eric Farrington) by March 11.

Zone 1 Retiree monthly meetings: 1st Wednesday 8:30 am at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202.

2nd Tuesday 1:00 pm at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202.

In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains steady. Please keep me informed of your employment status and also make sure your dues are paid by the first of the month. The next Zone 2 meeting is March 15th and will be held at VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores, MI. 49441 @ 6:00 pm. **Thank You, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the Zone 3 area is still slow at this time. We will be having nomination and voting for are Zone 3 Youth to Youth committee at our March 9th meeting in Freeland if anyone is interested in joining the committee. If anyone is interested in travel work please contact me. If anyone is interested in getting MSHA (mine safety) or taking the 8 hour refresher contact myself or the training center as there may be some work coming that will require it. Also if anyone is interested in getting some welding certs contact me or the training center, if there is enough interest we will set up a Saturday for testing. If you changed your phone number or your address contact me or the Lansing office to make those changes. **Thank you, Joe Dotson**

ZONE 3 NOTICE: At the next regular membership meeting in Freeland on March 9th anyone interested in the Youth to Youth Committee for Zone 3, there will be nominations and an election at that meeting so please be in attendance if you are interested.

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next meeting will be at the Mill Pond event center on March 17 at 6pm. The next retirees breakfast at Willie's will be on March 4th at 9am. Please check your dues and make sure they are current. We have a few changes coming up in our health plan, call me if you have any questions. **Regards, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 is steady with a few members off and 6 traveling. Spring is almost here, and with that work will be rapidly picking up. We have lots of smaller projects coming up and our contractors are going to be busy. Our next meeting is March 8th at 6 pm, hope to see you there. **Your Brother, Larry Kinzie**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the U.P. is slowing down at the moment so if you are off please contact me to be put on the out of work list. Upgrade classes are available through the training center for basic service, AutoCAD, OSHA 30, first aid/cpr training, welding certification, plangrid/procore and trimble total station. If you are interested in any of these classes contact me. **Thank you, Greg Faust**

SASMI Information – Zone 3 and 5: Underemployment – Filing for period 2021-B is from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. Eligible members who worked less than 700 hours from July 1, 2021, through Dec. 31, 2021, 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.

In addition, you must provide copies of all W-2 forms for the entire year of 2021.

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) 269-569-9200

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

Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112

Larry Kinzie (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552

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

LOCAL 80 MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: If you are experiencing problems in your family, marriage or relationships, stress or emotional difficulties, grief or loss issues or problems with alcohol and drug use please contact our assistance program. Ulliance is there to help. 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.**

2022 SAVE THE DATES: •Local 80 Golf Outing – July 16th

•Local 80 Picnic – August 13th

'No letup' for construction material price hikes

(Continued from Page 1)

the extreme cost run up that contractors endured in 2021," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "They are apparently passing on more of those costs but will have a continuing challenge in getting timely deliveries and finding enough workers."

The producer price index for inputs to new nonresidential construction—the prices charged by goods producers and service providers such as distributors and transportation firms — increased by 2.6 percent from December to January and 20.3 percent over the prior 12 months.

The index for new nonresidential construction — a measure of what contractors say they would charge to erect five types of nonresidential buildings — climbed by 3.8 percent for the month and 16.5 percent from a year earlier.

A wide range of inputs contributed to the more than 20 percent jump in the cost index, the AGC said. Over that 12-month period there were increases in:

- Steel mill products, up 112.7 percent
- Plastic construction products, up 35 percent
- Diesel fuel, up 56.5 percent
- Aluminum mill shapes, up 32.7 percent
- Copper and brass mill shapes, up 24.8 percent
- Lumber and plywood, up 21.1 percent
- Insulation, up 19.2 percent
- Trucking transportation, up 18.3 percent
- Construction machinery and equipment, up 11.4 percent.
- Paint, up 9.0 percent.

The price hikes were significantly higher than the historically high 7 percent Consumer Price Index in the U.S. at the end of last year.

"Spiking materials prices are making it challenging for most firms to profit from any increases in demand for new construction projects," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGC's chief executive officer. "Left unabated, these price increases will undermine the economic case for many development projects and limit the positive impacts of the new infrastructure bill."

Mortgage lender Fannie Mae offered some tempered good news, predicting a continued 7 percent inflation rate in the first quarter of 2022, before decelerating to 3.8 percent by the end of 2022.

"Accelerating inflation and both market and policymaker responses to it pose a significant risk to our outlook," Fannie Mae said in a statement. "Price gains are now likely weighing on consumer spending and are expected to prompt a more aggressive pace of Federal Reserve tightening. Rate uncertainty is therefore a major risk."

Just joking

A man was brought to Mercy Hospital and taken in for emergency coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy, who was waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," said the nun, gently patting his hand. "We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely.

"Can you pay in cash?" asked the nun.

"I'm afraid I cannot, Sister."

"Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun asked.

"Just my sister in New Mexico," he volunteered. "But she's a humble, spinster nun."

"Oh, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not 'spinsters.' They are married to God, she replied."

"Wonderful," said Smith.

"In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law!"

"We may not imagine how our lives could be more frustrating and complex — but Congress can."

—Cullen Hightower

ABC, GOP aren't exactly fans of PLAs

(Continued from Page 1)

provisions, and the ability to bid projects with standard wage, fringe benefit and overtime levels for workers.

The ABC, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the National Association of Home Builders and the National Black Chamber of Commerce were among the 15 organizations signing on to the letter opposing PLAs.

"In addition," the coalition's letter continued, "PLA requirements will exacerbate the construction industry's skilled labor shortage of nearly 500,000 workers, reduce competition from experienced contractors and undermine the Biden administration's ability to meet its infrastructure, affordable housing and clean energy agenda without strong participation from businesses and construction workers directly harmed by anti-competitive and costly pro-PLA policies."

There is a ton of independent academic research on the universal benefits of project labor agreements, and they're used extensively in Michigan and elsewhere by major utilities, universities and private companies like automakers for their construction projects. The labor backed Economic Policy Institute synthesized many of those academic findings in a report issued Feb. 9.

"PLAs are effective mechanisms for controlling construction costs, ensuring efficient completion of projects, and establishing fair wages and benefits for all workers," the institute said. "PLAs also help ensure worker health and safety protections while providing a unique opportunity for workforce development. These agreements can be written to engage local populations, provide jobs for underrepresented groups, and develop experience for apprentices."

And perhaps most importantly the EPI said: "Project labor agreements don't raise construction costs."

A prior statement from House Education and Labor Committee Republican Leader Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said project labor agreements and prevailing wage requirements "discourage non-union contractors from bidding on taxpayer-funded construction contracts and will drive up construction costs by more than 20 percent. This is far from a win for the American people. Rather, it's another win for union bosses."

The EPI cited existing research by academics at the University of Utah, Berkeley Labor Center and Cornell University to bolster its case that in fact, costs do not increase with the use of PLAs. The EPI said: "A report from Cornell University adds that public-sector PLA bidding is 'open and fair and cannot discriminate against nonunion contractors' because only the public interest is protected when securing 'the best work for the money.' In other words, the PLA process includes a competitive bidding process that eliminates the risk of increased costs while also allowing laborers to come from a pool of both union and nonunion workers."

In recent years, PLA use among presidential administrations has predictably tracked with the party of the president in office. The George W. Bush Administration barred the use of PLAs on federal projects. President Obama signed an executive order that "encouraged" their use on federal projects exceeding \$25 million. President Trump did not rescind that order, but there was no sign of the use of a PLA during his presidency, the *Engineering News Record* said.

Construction industry chugging along, despite headwinds

(Continued from Page 1)

shortages of labor and key materials," said Richard Branch, chief economist for the Dodge Construction Network. "The number of projects in the planning pipeline suggests that the rising trend in construction should continue for the time being and will be spread across more sectors than last year. While the outlook is positive, the many challenges facing the sector will limit upside potential."

Over the past 12 months, nonresidential starts were 14 percent higher, residential starts gained 19 percent, and non-building (usually infrastructure) starts were up 3 percent.

As construction starts jumped, building industry employment in the U.S. dipped slightly, by 5,000 jobs, or less than 1 percent, in the month between December and January even though hourly pay rose at a record pace during 2021. That's according to a Feb. 4 report issued by the Associated General Contractors, who said future job gains are at risk from several factors that are slowing projects.

And, even though starts increased, the Dodge Momentum Index for U.S. construction declined 7 percent in January to a four-month low of 152.9 (2000=100), from the revised December reading of 163.7.

The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Construction Network, is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year.

"The Dodge Momentum Index had a stellar 2021," the group said in releasing its report on Feb. 8, "rising 23 percent from 2020 and reaching levels not seen in nearly 14 years. The recent string of declines, however, may be blamed on rising costs, logistical problems and shortages of skilled labor. Still, even as it has decreased, the dollar value of projects in planning remains exceptionally strong, especially for education, warehouse and healthcare projects."

Since the nation emerged from the Great Recession in 2009, the construction index has taken on a sawtooth pattern, but has moved in a generally positive direction.

"Many of the challenges facing construction in 2022 will be similar to those in 2021, dampening expectations for robust growth," Dodge said. "However, the volume of projects in planning provides hope not only for a continuing recovery, but for it to be more evenly dispersed than last year."

AGC Chief Economist Ken Simonson said the slight loss of jobs in the industry despite higher pay is a sign that "contractors are struggling to fill positions as potential workers opt out of the labor market or choose other industries. In addition, soaring materials costs and unpredictable delivery times are delaying projects and holding back employment gains."

Simonson noted that average hourly earnings in the U.S. construction industry increased 5.1 percent from January 2021 to January 2022 — the steepest 12-month increase in the 15-year history of the series. The industry average of \$33.80 per hour exceeded the private sector average by nearly 7 percent. However, competition for workers has intensified as other industries have hiked starting pay and offered working conditions that are not possible in construction, such as flexible hours or work from home.

Overall, since January 2021, the industry has added 163,000 employees despite the decline last month. But the number of unemployed jobseekers among former construction workers shrank by 229,000 over that time, indicating workers are leaving the workforce altogether or taking jobs in other sectors, Simonson added.

Construction employment in the U.S. totaled 7,523,000 last month, which was 101,000 jobs or 1.3 percent less than in pre-pandemic peak month of February 2020. However, the totals mask large differences between residential and nonresidential segments of the industry, Simonson said.

Nonresidential construction firms — general building contractors, specialty trade contractors, and heavy and civil engineering construction firms — lost 9,000 employees in January. (Nonresidential employment remains 213,000 below the pre-pandemic peak set in February 2020). In contrast, employment in residential construction — comprising homebuilding and remodeling firms — edged up by 4,400 jobs in January and topped the February 2020 level by 112,000.

AGC officials said the Construction Hiring and Business Outlook survey that it released in January showed most contractors expect to add employees in 2022 but overwhelmingly find it difficult to find qualified workers.



Bridge's back story

CONSTRUCTION IS ONGOING in the sprawling "back span" area looking away from the Detroit River. It shows gradually lower supports for the Gordie Howe Bridge as the new span will eventually tie into I-75 and surface streets in Southwest Detroit.

Photo credit: Bridging North America

PLA order will help labor 'win more work with fair wages and benefits'

(Continued from Page 1)

wages and benefits. In addition, the executive order will:

•**Ensure a level playing field during the bidding process.** As you all know, the use of PLAs helps create a fair bidding process for all contractors involved, instead of a process which rewards unscrupulous contractors that cut corners and underpay their workers. Now, federal projects will follow the same rules as our other projects — meaning United Association members can win more work as we rebuild our nation's infrastructure.

•**Raise quality and safety standards on federal construction projects.** The members of the United Association are the best trained and most highly skilled craftspeople in the industry. As such, our end-users are guaranteed the highest standards of quality and safety on the jobsite when we use PLAs. Now, that includes the federal government and its infrastructure projects.

•**Streamline coordination on large, multi-trade projects.** These large federal projects often involve many different employers and trades. The use of PLAs helps to create a more streamlined process for all aspects of the jobsite — which is critical to completing the project on time and on budget, and efficiently resolving any disputes that may arise.

•**Require fair wages and benefits, and opportunities for apprentices.** With the terms of employment agreed upon before construction begins, our members will earn fair wages and benefits on a safe jobsite. In addition, PLAs will give new and existing apprentices from all walks of life opportunities to "earn while they learn" the trade on federal projects and build a rewarding and family-supporting career in our industry.

Bottom line: This executive order requires the federal government to follow the same guidelines as our members and signatory contractors on projects above \$35 million. That means more work for the Brothers and Sisters of the United Association with fair wages and benefits.

When the United Association and the Political Engagement Committee decided to endorse Joe Biden for President, we did so knowing that he would be the most pro-worker president in generations.

This executive order is further proof that President Biden is committed to his word; that he will continue to put federal policies in place designed to not only ensure equal footing throughout the bidding process, but to ensure more Americans have a fair shot at success.

When we get involved in elections, we seek out candidates who will stay true to their word and help United Association members prosper. This executive order is a concrete result of our ability to engage elected officials at the highest levels of government to put our members first.

Covid-free surveys skew fatality stats

(Continued from Page 1)

For example, we can examine whether deaths from workplace violence, which were spiking even prior to the pandemic, rose further in 2020 or stabilized.

Fatalities in the construction industry. In the construction industry, the total number of fatalities dropped five percent, from 1,061 in 2019 to 1,008 in 2020. To put this in context, however, we have to look at the total number of hours worked. The construction industry was less impacted by COVID-19 than many other businesses across the U.S., but the total number of work hours in 2020 still decreased nine percent from 2019 levels.

With the percentage of hours worked dropping more than the percentage of worker deaths, the result is a 2020 fatality rate for construction workers that actually went up, from 12.9 to 13.5. Looking specifically at construction laborers, the jump in fatality rate was even steeper, going from 15 in 2019 to 18.1 in 2020 (an increase of 17 percent).

So while the total number of construction workers killed on the job did decline between 2019 and 2020, that's not a sign of the construction industry being any safer for workers.

The percentages for each of these categories are almost identical to the 2019 breakdown. For example, falls, slips and trips fell from 38.3 percent to 36.5 percent, while transportation incidents rose from 23.7 percent to 25.5 percent.

These results seem to indicate that the increased awareness on COVID-19 precautions on construction jobsites — including hand hygiene, social distancing and facial coverings — didn't lead to improvements in other areas of safety and health. If anything, it's possible that the time, energy and effort spent training workers to stop the spread of COVID-19 left safety managers and other safety personnel with less time to devote to other ongoing hazards. Another possible culprit is that in 2020, many contractors were dealing with reduced crew sizes due to workers being sick or exposed to COVID-19. Risk increases when there aren't enough workers for the task being performed, especially if there's no one to fill key safety roles such as having a spotter when vehicles are backing.

Ensuring all worker fatalities get counted. The lack of COVID-19 fatality data in this year's BLS release highlights one of several weaknesses in how worker deaths are treated here in

the U.S. The CFOI system's narrow focus on only acute injuries means disease-related deaths don't get counted. Meanwhile, this year's BLS injury and illness report does include COVID-19 infections, creating a clear data discrepancy between infections and deaths within the agency.

We have CDC and state health department data on the number of people who died from COVID-19, but that data doesn't include a person's occupation. With COVID-19 and other diseases, the difficulty has always been determining to what extent the exposure was work-related. That very complicated question remains, but the fact is that right now, the BLS and CDC aren't even asking those questions. It's time for the BLS to start collecting and reporting on all types of workplace deaths, even if they aren't caused by acute injuries.

Every single worker who dies from COVID-19 or another work-related disease deserves to be counted. To create practices and interventions that successfully prevent worker deaths, we have to understand how workers are losing their lives on the job.

"Oh for a book and a shady nook..."

—John Wilson (1785 - 1854)

"If I had my life to live over... I'd dare to make more mistakes next time."

—Nadine Stair

"To refuse awards is another way of accepting them with more noise than is normal."

—Peter Ustinov (1921 - 2004)

"On the whole human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time."

—George Orwell (1903 - 1950)

"One should as a rule respect public opinion in so far as is necessary to avoid starvation and to keep out of prison, but anything that goes beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny, and is likely to interfere with happiness in all kinds of ways."

—Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

"Rest is the sweet sauce of labor."

—Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD)

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

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

ALL TYPES of NONFERROUS and FERROUS SCRAP METAL

- ALUMINUM • BRASS • COPPER • STAINLESS STEEL
- EXOTIC ALLOYS • CATALYTIC CONVERTERS
- CARBIDE • HIGH SPEED STEEL • AUTO RADIATORS

COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL
INDUSTRIAL

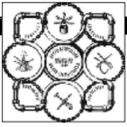
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 A.M.-5 P.M.
SATURDAY 8 A.M.-NOON

(248) 960-1200

MANN METALS CORP.
 1011 DECKER ROAD • P.O. BOX 711 • WALLED LAKE 48390

CONTAINERIZED
SERVICE

PICKUPS
AVAILABLE



Local 357
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 8** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30.

TAX PREP INFORMATION: Dollar amounts are available for 2021 withholdings & dues paid. If you sign up for the e-mail on the website, you do not need to call the Hall for your deductions because you can view and print out your own information. The information that we have is what the contractors have reported on the fringes. If you think there is a discrepancy, then you should check your own pay stubs.

NOTE: HEALTH INSURANCE IS PAID BY THE CONTRACTORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

RETIREE MEETINGS (NO MARCH): Traveler Café will be closed during the week of March 1. There will be no Retiree Meeting Lunch for March and we will resume on April 1 and from then on the first Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Café, at 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 775-1775.

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International and Labor First provide 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 (888) 281-3461. For Medicare Retirees – Contact Labor First at (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

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 Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information 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).

CASH – ONLINE PAYMENTS: Cash is now accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.ualocal357.com. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site. ... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Levi Franco on the birth of a son, Lincoln.



Plumbers
Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Brothers and Sisters, Have you checked out our website? Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits the Training Center, and more can be found there. Go to UALOCAL98.COM to see what's happening.

Plumbing License. The State of Michigan renewal notices have gone out for Journeyman and Apprentices. It has moved to online for renewal, go to <https://aca3.accela.com/LARA> this site may not be compatible with some mobile devices. If needed you can receive help at the training center or the Union Hall (make sure to bring all your information).

MEETINGS & Union Hall. The next Union Meeting will be a Special-Called Meeting for the State of the Union held on Thursday, March 10th at 7:00 pm. We will also have a guest speaker, Jason May of Merrill Lynch who will give an update on the defined contribution plan. The meeting will take place indoors at our Union Hall and all Covid restrictions in place will be adhered to. Masks are required **WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE VACCINATED.**

Retiree Meetings. THE RETIREE MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY CANCELLED. Your Retiree Association Board will reassess in the spring to decide when they can safely restart the meetings.

UA New Contractor Seminar. On March 23 & 24 at 8 am the UA will be holding a New Contractor Seminar at Local 98's Union Hall for current UA members who are interested in becoming signatory contractors in the future. You must be vaccinated to attend in person or there is an option to attend virtually. You can RSVP by sending an email to jlewis@uanet.org.

Education Opportunities. For continuing education opportunities or classes, you can contact Training Center Coordinator Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435.

COVID-19 Information – Vaccine – Tests. We thank all of you for helping each other out and doing the best you can. We have many, many companies outside of the healthcare industry who have implemented their own rules and guidelines that include vaccination. DTE has recently joined the fray with a hurdle to get on site. It is still your choice; all I can suggest is contact your doctor and educate yourself. I can assure you there will be another variant of this latest one so “we together” are in this for the long haul. The less this thing spreads the sooner it will stop mutating into new variants.

You can now get 4 free at home COVID-19 tests per residential address. Go to COVIDtests.gov to request yours today.

Please visit ualocal98.com/covid-update-3 for the most current COVID-19 updates.

SUB Apps/OOW/Benefits. You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB app. Once you have proof of unemployment, please send that to the hall at SUB@ua-local98.org so we can set you up in the SUB system. We are now able to offer Direct Deposit on SUB Pay. You should have received a letter in the mail with the form for Direct Deposit on SUB Pay. Please return that to the hall and note that it takes 30-60 days to set up. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List.

Make sure your contact information is up to date as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702 and hopefully they can help you get that resolved.

Dues. You can pay your dues online, over the phone, or by mailing in a check. You can also set up auto payments. If you have questions or want to pay your dues by phone, please call the hall at (248) 307-9800.

NOTE ON DISABILITY/RETIREMENT. If you are filing for Social Security Disability you will need to file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time in order to make sure you get all of your pension checks. Social Security normally takes at least a year and sometimes a lot

longer. If you file for your Local 98 Disability Pension at the same time, when you receive your award from Social Security, we will be able to pay you all the retro money owed. If you are less than a year from retirement, we suggest you set up a meeting with Jon DeRoo prior to your retirement date.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. All of the information regarding the scholarships available through Local 98 and the UA can be found on our website, ualocal98.com/scholarship. These scholarships are open to the dependents of our members who are seeking a higher education. Please note, the UA scholarship deadline is **June 9, 2022**. The deadline for the Local 98 Scholarship is **June 30, 2022**, but it is best to get your application submitted sooner rather than later.

In Memoriam. Our deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of Brother Eugene Bear who passed away on February 3, 2022. Eugene was the father of Brother Donald Bear.

Good/Welfare. We are currently looking for Residential and Service Plumbers. 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 at 248-763-2187.

In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98 TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone# 248-585-1435

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently closed.

The Training Center is open. The mask mandate has been lifted. We are asking that people still practice social distancing while in the building. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PLUMBING LICENSE. The State of Michigan is sending out renewal notices. The renewal process is online. All State of Michigan plumbing licenses are renewable at this time **without** a code update. If any member needs help renewing, with the online system, please call the Training Center and we will assist you. **There are not any code updates offered at this time.** Once 2018 code update classes are available, we will offer them at the Training Center.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2022. All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.

6010 Medical Gas Installer Recertification- *All current Med Gas certification holders are required to take this update. **Final class scheduled in April \$130.00**

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): Fall Class: September 1st – November 10th Deadline is August 12th 2026

Monthly Code Class – Next class is March 16, 2022 at 4:30 pm. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly: \$75
4 hour recert class April 26 & 27 **Deadline is March 25th**
4 hour recert class July 26th and 27th **Deadline is June 24th**
4 hour recert class October 25th and 26th **Deadline is September 23rd**

ASSE Tester (Full 40 hour): Fall Class: August 30th – November 8th **Deadline is August 5th**

ASSE Repairer: * Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification** Spring Class: March 9th – April 13th. **Deadline is February 25th \$75**

ASSE Repairer: * Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification** Fall Class: August 31st – October 5th, **Deadline is August 12th \$75**

(Continued next column)



**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians, Gas Distribution**

Local 190

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, March 14th and will start 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

IMPORTANT ALLOCATION MEETING – MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION: The Michigan Gas Distribution allocation union meeting will take place on Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The location of this meeting will be at Bucks Run Golf Club Conference Center, 1559 S. Chippewa Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Please make every effort to attend this very important meeting.

AT THE 40TH GENERAL U.A. CONVENTION THAT WAS HELD AUGUST 2021 IT WAS VOTED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022: Members who achieve 40 years of continuous membership in the UA and who have retired will be required to pay \$8.00 in per capita tax to the UA (monthly union dues)

****This does not apply to Lifetime members. **Forty-year members must be in good standing in order to receive this reduced rate. The reduced per capita tax rate will be applied the month the member achieves 40-year status.**

Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions or need to check your dues balance.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING SCHOOL: Will begin Tuesday, Jan. 4 and run for 2 months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this school as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding school.** Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

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

ROBO CALLS: We are sending out Robo calls to keep you updated and informed, if you are NOT receiving these messages it means we do not have a current phone number on file for you, please contact the hall to update.

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION

Local 98, con't

***OPEN WELDING* - Our welding shop is currently closed for a new ventilation system.** We are still available to help. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 for any welding related inquiries.

If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **WELDING Tests** will be pending until shop is complete. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the class. The next **BRAZING Cert Session** will be Friday, March 4th, 2022. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

2022 Course Hour reimbursement forms are 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 January 1 - December 31, 2022 to be eligible for the \$80.00 reimbursement. ****2021 forms** must be submitted by deadline of March 31, 2022 for reimbursement.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as on 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.

BUTION 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.

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.

ATTENTION MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION & OHIO GAS DISTRIBUTION & BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS - UA LOCAL 190 WEBSITE: If you have not already done so, please log in and look at our 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.

LAI D 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. Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.

PLEASE NOTE: All Members can now go to the website under “members only” and fill out a “back to work” form or “laid off” form.

INFORMATION -FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:

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**

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE WILL BE AT THE UNION HALL: A representative will be at the union hall each month on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesday of each month. Members will be able to meet with Bernadette from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. You can reach the benefits office Monday through Friday by calling 888-390-7473.

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

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

Masks are no longer required in the training center, at this time. Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!

Michigan Plumbing Code update classes: The State of Michigan has not issued guidance to the State instructors as to what needs to be taught. Please check UA Local 190's website for any updates.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): 2022 Schedule - Mondays - April 4, 2022, July 18, 2022 and Oct 3, 2022. All classes start at 5:00pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): 2022 Schedule - Mon-

days - April 18, 2022, July 25, 2022 and Oct 17, 2022. All classes start at 5:00pm.

Welding Lab: The welding lab is now open. The schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30pm-8:30pm, until May 5, 2022. Weld tests will be scheduled as needed. The welding lab will be closed on Union meeting days.

Pipefitter Class (32hrs): This class will show participants how to properly set up torches, cut, bevel, and fit-up pipe. You will also be taught how to read welding procedures, proper flange tightening procedures, how to figure offsets, change in direction offsets and rolling offsets. This course will start on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 5pm. It will run for 8 weeks from 5pm-9pm. Class size is limited to 8 participants.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110).

2022 Schedule: Next course starts Sept 13, 2022 at 5:00pm. Course runs on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call Retha to secure your spot.

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2022 Schedule:** The last scheduled course is Oct 18 - 19, 2022. Courses are on Tue. and Wed. and start at 5:00 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Check your expiration date and call Retha to be put in the appropriate course.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry.

2022 Schedule: 1st course starts Mar 8, 2022 at 5:00 pm. 2nd course starts on Aug 23, 2022 at 5:00 pm. Courses run for 5 weeks on Tue and Thu. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call Retha to secure your spot.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): Call Retha to be put into the next class.

2022 Schedule: 1st course April 19 & 21 at 5:00 pm. 2nd course Sept 27 & 29 at 5:00 pm. Courses are on Tue. and Thu. and are limited to 24 participants. Call Retha to be placed in the course that keeps your certification current.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Call Retha to sign up for this class. Once we have enough to put it on, we will schedule it.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Class will be 2 days and then the written exam. Call Retha to put on the list for the next class.

ICRA Certification (16hrs): Looking to put on another ICRA certification class. Class is limited to 12 participants. Call Training Center to get put on the list for the next class.

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Gary Moore, passed away on February 7th. Gary initiated June 26, 1967, retired April 1, 2006, and became a lifetime member June 1, 2017. To all family members and friends our thoughts are with all of you during these difficult times.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, March 3rd, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries and a warm cup of coffee.

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

CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

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

<p>McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mcnicholscrap.com (313) 365-6100</p>	<p>Detroit Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100</p>
--	---



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

Pipe Fitters 636

DETROIT – Hopefully we are over the worst part of Covid so we can start having events again. Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- Local 636 Golf Outing** – June 18, 2022
- Local 636 Picnic** – August 27, 2022
- Labor Day Parade** – September 5, 2022

We will report on these events as they get closer to the dates. Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of Retirees Robert Kivimaki and Michael Epley on their passing.

Local 636 Journeyman, Brian Mierendorf, has had a catastrophic accident on the job working on a refrigeration system. Brian, is currently in U of M Burn Unit. Brian is in bad shape and has lost several fingers and is not sure what his future holds. There is a Go Fund Me Page set up-please let's help Brian and his family out in supporting this GoFundMe. <https://gofund.me/031644ca> Or Google Brian Mierendorf to help support him.

A special Congratulations to Apprentice Ryan Seltz on the birth of his son, Welsey. Mother Kristina Miklos and son are doing well.

Also, a special Congratulations goes out to our recent retirees especially, your paid officers that retired January 1, 2022-Marty Elwart, Gary Granger and Steven Spurlock, may all of you enjoy your retirement.

Please find the direct phone numbers and email addresses for the current Local 636 Officers:

Business Manager- Sam Cadena: 248-939-8636 email: scadena@pipefitters636.org

Financial Secretary-Treasurer- Theresa Danko: 248-939-5636 email: tdanko@pipefitters636.org

New Business Agent Contact information is as follows:

Larry Krisniski: Western Wayne County & Downriver Area 248-939-7636 email: lkrisniski@pipefitters636.org

Jake Regits: Macomb, St. Clair & Sanilac Counties 248-939-6636 email: jregits@pipefitters636.org

Tony Sievert: Oakland County 248-939-3636 email: asievert@pipefitters636.org

Bill Holsomback: Service Members 248-939-9636 email: bholsomback@pipefitters636.org

Rick Fast: Eastern Wayne County & Detroit Area 248-939-2636 email: rfast@pipefitters636.org

REMINDER: Please email all sub pay requests to subpay@pipefitters636.org

The Next Union Meeting will be held on March 15, 2022 at St Georges Romanian Cultural Center located at 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. Southfield MI 48075. Meeting starts at 7:00pm.

Please contact Kim at the Pipefitters Local 636 Training Center 248-585-0636 for upcoming classes or look on their website www.pipefitters636tc.org for information.

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

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

Any member that is Retiring contact Benesys at those numbers as well for your Retirement paperwork or if you want to meet with, Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary Treasurer, please give her a 7-to-10-day notice so that he can get all of your paperwork in order.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number 248-655-4048 or email him at jason.may@ml.com

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.

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 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. 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.

A Stewards Training Course will be held at the Union Hall on March 9 and 10, 2022 from 5pm-7pm. If you are interested contact Business Agents Larry Krisniski (lkrisniski@pipefitters636.org) or Rick Fast (rfast@pipefitters636.org) to register. Registration deadline is February 28, 2022. Stewards that are currently serving are encouraged to attend to be updated on current information.

On behalf of the Pipefitters Softball Team, they would like to thank everyone that supported and purchased tickets for their Softball Fundraiser Gun Raffle.

Reminder to all Local 636 Members – Local 636 does not have a sanctioned Facebook and/or any other social media sites. We are working on putting together a social media site. If you require information regarding Local 636, please refer to our website www.pipefitters636.org or any paid officer for further information.

Training Center News. Training Center News. Call Kim at the training center for FIRST AID online class @ 248-585-0636.

Please send all emails and weld continuities to info@pipefitters636tc.org

WELDING 4 PM TO 8 PM on Mondays & Thursdays. Cost is \$50 for 40 hrs.

DOWNHILL WELDING–Call Kurt to sign up. 6 Saturdays, cost is \$75.00.

GMAW-Sat's Call Mike to sign up, cost \$50.

ORBITAL- 3 Sat's Call Mike to sign up, \$50.

Starting the week of Mar.21, the following night classes will be offered:

Call Kim now to sign up, cost is \$50 each.

Controls- Monday, 5 weeks

Brazing Class: Mon. and Thur. 2 weeks

Tube bending: Mon. and Thur. 2 weeks

Rigging Re-Cert: 2 nights, call for details.

HDPE Cert. Class- 2 Saturdays

RIGGING/Signal-Thursdays 5 weeks

CWI: 5 Saturdays beginning Mar 5th

"Shut out all of your past except that which will help you weather your tomorrows."

–Sir William Osler (1849 - 1919)

"The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

–Marcel Proust (1871 - 1922)



Local 671
Plumbers &
Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE – The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for **March 3rd, 2022 at 7 p.m. The Executive Board will also meet in person on March 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. If any Member wishes to see them, please contact the Hall prior to the meeting.**

Until further notice due to the rise in Covid-19 cases, apprentices are NOT required to attend union meetings

Until further notice all members attending the Union Meeting will be required to wear a face mask.

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

Training: There will be UA New Business Seminar with Tom Bigley, the UA Director of Plumbing, hosted by Local 98 Detroit on March 23rd and 24th. If any member is considering opening your own business, this class has a lot of great information on how to get started. If anyone is interested, please contact Mike or Vinnie at the Union Hall so we can get you signed up. All members attending this seminar MUST be fully vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated and still wish to participate, we are making arrangements to attend virtually.

Retirees: We still have ongoing issues with our new insurance. If you are a Medicare retiree and are having any issues with United Healthcare and its coverage; Please contact Mike or Carly at the Union Hall or Labor First on the help line (734-234-6496).

Hearing Aid benefits through our retirees' insurance must be re-deemed through United Health Care. You cannot go just anywhere and expect the free hearing aid. If you have questions contact Labor First, 734-234-6496.

Union Promotion: We now have Local 671 hats at the Hall for \$22. We also have Hi-Vis long and short sleeve shirts and black short sleeve shirts as well.

The 2022 UA National Softball Tournament is scheduled for June 24, 25 and 26 in Cincinnati. We traditionally send a team down every year and we hope to do that this year. If you are interested, please contact the Hall or Nate Schneider. This is a UA sanctioned event and you MUST BE fully VACCINATED to participate. I hope to see you in Cincinnati.

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is just your book number.

In Closing: We are beginning negotiations with our Contractors. The five year contract we are currently in will expire June 30, 2022 at Midnight. If anyone has any suggestions, concerns or input please feel free to contact me or submit a request to my email (mike@ualocal671.com).

With the help of our negotiation committee, we hope to bring you another good contract and continue growing and improving Local 671. God Bless Union Labor.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.com

Vinnie Fenech: Cell (734) 693-4082 email: vinnie@ualocal671.com

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

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692



Local 333
Plumbers &
Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333

LANSING – **March's union meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906, at 7:30pm.

April's union meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at the Lansing Hall 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911, at 7:30pm. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served to celebrate the completion of the Lansing Hall.

Effective January 1, 2022, Retiree's dues will be \$10 a month.

PLEASE NOTE: For all General Motors work you must be current on your MUST Safety Modules and drug test. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Lansing office. (517) 393-5480

Weld Classes: Weld classes will begin January 3, 2022. 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: (Tuesday's & Thursday's) Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

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

Battle Creek: (Monday's & Thursday's) (KCC) RMTTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Weld Tests are the second Tuesday of each month at the Lansing Training Center.

Masters test prep is Monday's and Wednesday's every week at the Lansing Training Center.

If you are interested in signing up for classes please go to our website at www.ua333.org or call the Training Center (517) 323-0333.

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.

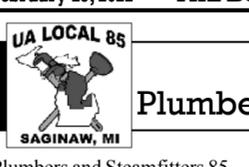
Ultimately it's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

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.

Local 333 would like to welcome our new contractor Brandon Fuller who started his plumbing business BT Piping Services. We are excited to have his new business as a part of our local and wish him many years of success.

Congratulations to Battle Creek member Robert Pierce who became a Life Member, February 8, 2022. Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333.

New hooded sweatshirts and knives are available at all three halls.



Local 85
Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – The Next Union Meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at the Union Hall located at 3535 Bay Road starting at 7:00 PM.

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

ALL NON-CRITICAL INTERACTIONS is cancelled until further notice. Please utilize email and phone calls whenever possible.

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 csteele@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

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

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.

JATC News: Congratulations to our newest Journeymen: Clint Peruski!

Plumbing Code Updates will be offered as soon as the information and material are available. You should renew your Michigan State Plumbing license as normal and plan on attending the update class as soon as offered.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back 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: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Steven Schwarz who passed away on February 12, 2022.

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

"Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash."
–George S. Patton (1885 - 1945)

"It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating."
–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

"Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say and not giving a damn."
–Gore Vidal (1925 - 2012)

"You're never as good as everyone tells you when you win, and you're never as bad as they say when you lose."
–Lou Holtz (1937-)

"Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting."
–Princess Elizabeth Asquith Bibesco (1897-1945)



Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services

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

THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR

- Health and Welfare Plans
- Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Defined Contribution Pension Plans
- Claims Processing
- Supplemental Unemployment Plans
- HRA's, HSA's, FSA's
- Vacation Plans
- Eligibility Processing
- Trust Fund Accounting
- VEBA Administration
- Web Applications
- COBRA Administration
- HIPAA Compliance

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.

Boston, MA	Milwaukee, WI	San Diego, CA
Bridgeton, MO	Omaha, NE	San Ramon, CA
Columbia, MD	Phoenix, AZ	Seattle, WA
Denver, CO	Pleasanton, CA	Troy, MI
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	

www.benesys.com | (877) 923-6379 | info@benesys.com



Bridging Detroit and Windsor

THE GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE'S "tower legs" dominate the scene in Southwest Detroit, looking across the Detroit River at Windsor. The tower legs have reached 419 feet in height, on their way to 722 feet high. The legs will support a cable-stay bridge that will be .53 miles in length over the river, with the entire span being 1.5 miles in length.

Photo credit: Bridging North America



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE—Meeting Notice: Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st. The meeting will take place in the Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville at 7pm. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

Contract Negotiations: Our current CBA is set to expire June 30, 2022. Our bargaining committee will begin contract negotiations in the coming months. We will be gathering feedback on our current CBA at every monthly meeting from now until the new agreement is in place. Please attend the Union meetings and join in the discussions.

Wild Game Dinner: Hello brothers and sisters, it is once again time for the Wild Game Dinner. The event is being held at The Community Hub in Muskegon on May 5th. Doors open at 6pm Sharp! We are in need of wild game donations. If you have any to game to donate please contact Jason Finch at the Union Hall. We have tickets available at the Hall. There will be gun raffles, outdoor camping equipment raffles, silent auction items and more. Come out have some great food and try to win one of our fabulous prizes.

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

Jimbo Loyselle Award Winner: Congratulations to Brother Eddie Bouchard on being named the 2021 Jimbo Loyselle Volunteer of the Year Award Winner. Brother Bouchard has a history of volunteering and recently served as President of the Apprentice Student Council.

Aetna/Trinity: Aetna and Trinity Health have reached a new multi-year agreement. Trinity will remain an "in network" provider with Aetna.

Covid Test Reimbursement: If you purchase an at home COVID Test please save your receipt. Effective January 15th the health fund will reimburse the cost of up to 8 tests per month. We are still working on setting up the reimbursement arrangement. Once that process is in place you will receive a letter with instruction on how to obtain reimbursement. You can order four free tests per household at www.covidtests.gov.

New Contractor Seminar: The Michigan Pipe Trades is hosting a New Contractor Seminar for any members interested in learning more about starting their own business. The seminar will take place on March 23rd and March 24th at Local 98's office 555 Horace Brown Dr #1 Madison Heights, MI 48071. There will also be a virtual option to attend remotely. The members voted to reimburse expenses (hotel, meals, mileage) for any Journeyman members who attend both days of the conference in person. There is no cost for the training, but space is limited. All attendees must prove that they are fully vaccinated. Please contact Cami at the Local for more info and to sign up.

Retiree Breakfast: The re-

tiree breakfast will be held on March 3rd at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Member Update: Business Manager Ryan Bennett will host a member update on the Facebook members group on Thursday, March 3rd at 5pm. Brother Bennett will provide a recap of the Union meeting and answer questions.

COVID Vaccine Incentive: Local #174 Health Fund will provide a \$50 Visa gift card for any member who gets their COVID vaccine or provides a doctor's letter saying they cannot get the COVID vaccine. This is for working participants only, not family members. Please provide that information to Cami in person or via email to cburris@ua174.org. Cami will submit a list weekly to TIC and TIC will mail out the gift cards.

DHE Plumbing and Mechanical: We would like to talk to DHE's workers. If you know of a jobsite where they're working please contact Chris Pelton.

Contact Information: If you have a change in contact information or to verify your contact info PLEASE CONTACT CAMI so we can keep our system up to date.

TIC, Aetna, Labor First: If you have issues with any of our fund service providers please contact Ryan Bennett at rbennett@ua174.org. Please try to remember who you spoke with, this will help the company fix the problem.

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 2021 your insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 12.5%. New rates are as follows:
Single Medicare \$262.55
Retiree and Spouse Medicare \$525.09
Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse \$677.55

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 ac-

tively 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.

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, 6525 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.

(Continued next column)



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111
UPPER PENINSULA - The next Union Meeting will be in Marquette on March 31, 2022 @ 7:30 p.m. EST.

MRA CARD: Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill with receipt of payment. Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

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

Swag: Don't forget to pick up your Hoodies, T-shirts, hats,



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT - The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9 at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

At the March membership meeting, there will be a third and final reading of By-Law proposals. A vote will take place immediately after the readings.

COVID-19 vaccinations may become mandatory on certain jobsites in the Detroit area. No company can compel a member to receive the vaccine, it is completely a member's choice. Just be aware that if you choose not to get vaccinated, you will not be allowed on sites that mandate this stipulation.

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.

NFPA All 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.

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

Jason May (Merrill Lynch): 248-655-4048 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

A speedy recovery to all of our sick and injured members.

Local 174, continued

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 ext. 11, Cami Burris Administrative Assistant ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Schumaker 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 Thursday, March 10, 2022 and Thursday, April 14, 2022.

ASSE BACKFLOW: Backflow Repairer class is scheduled to begin on Wed, March 9, 2022 @ 5p-9p. The class dates are as follows: Mar 9, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 (Exam). Saturday classes are scheduled for 8a-4p.

WELDING: The next weld test event will be Saturday, March 12, 2022 @ 8:00am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 5p-9p. Please call and sign up if you plan to test. Open Welding on Wednesday nights is currently cancelled until further notice.

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

Please contact Jeff Rumsey or Nicole Schumaker 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.

"Be a good listener. Your ears will never get you in trouble."
-Frank Tyger

"I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts."
-John Locke (1632 - 1704)

"Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over."
-F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)

"Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity."
-Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC)

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, it is because we do not dare that things are difficult."
-Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
-W. B. Yeats

"As we grow old...the beauty steals inward."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

knife or flashlight in stock now at either hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MSHA Training: The 2022 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. To register for an MSHA class please go to **Upconstruction.org** and go to the **MSHA calendar** to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also. MSHA expires in one year.



Local 370 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

FLINT - The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 8, 2022, at 7:00pm.** and has been designated a refreshment meeting.

Sub Pay Unemployment Sub Pay has increased to \$150 a week. Remember to qualify for Sub Pay when you are laid off, you must sign the out of work list and be receiving Unemployment Benefits from the state. 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. 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)

Upcoming Night Class Schedule

MedGas. Jan 17 - March 3, every Monday and Thursday @ 4:30 pm - \$85 book fee

BackFlow. March 7 - April 21, every Monday and Thursday @ pm 4:30 pm

First Aid/CPR. Wednesday, March 16 @ 4:30 pm

Welding C. March 14 - April 13, every Monday and Wednesday @ 4:30 pm

To sign up for night classes call Kaytlin at 810-720-5243 ext. 15. If there is a book fee, bring a check on the first day of class made out to "Local 370 JATC."

Weld Test Schedule. Members can sign up for **UA welding tests** by calling Kaytlin at the hall extension 15.

Members must have a current UA weld cert or have made a pre-qualifier weld to be eligible to test. Weld tests begin at 7:00 am on the following **Saturdays: 3-12-22, 4-16-22**

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 4:00pm

FMR Committee - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 4:00pm

PAC committee - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:00pm

Executive Board - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:00pm

Building Committee - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:00pm

Finance Committee - Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:15pm

JATC Committee - Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 3:30pm

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

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

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

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. 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.



Bridge construction goes down, too

A KEY PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION related to the Gordie Howe Bridge in Detroit is the re-routing of an existing major sewer drain, or "siphon," located at a site near Junction and Fort Street. The 103-year-old, 12-foot-diameter, concrete-encased pipe is buried some 36 feet deep, and part of it had to be re-routed to accommodate construction of the U.S. Point of Entry to the bridge.

Photo credit: Bridging North America

U.S. labor movement's future is grim, but not hopeless, new book suggests

By Lawrence Wittner
Professor of History, Emeritus
State University of
New York-Albany

During 2021, there were signs of growing militancy in America's union movement, as thousands of workers went out on strike at John Deere, Kellogg's, Nabisco, Frito-Lay, Volvo, Frontier Communications, New York University, and Columbia University, as did thousands more from the ranks of hospital workers, airport workers, coal miners and others.

Even so, William Scheuerman argues in this groundbreaking book, *A New American Labor Movement The Decline Of Collective Bargaining And The Rise Of Direct Action*, U.S. unions are in deep trouble and, acting alone, "cannot deliver a resurgent labor movement."

Scheuerman is well-qualified to deal with labor issues. Besides his academic credentials as professor emeritus of political science at the State University of New York-Oswego, he was president of United University Professors – the largest higher education union in the nation – for 14 years and as president of the AFL-CIO's National Labor College for two more.

The grim picture of U.S. unions painted by Scheuerman in *A New American Labor Movement* is one many union activists privately acknowledge. Union density has sharply fallen over the years, dropping from 34.8 percent of the workforce in 1954 to 10.3 percent in 2021. Furthermore, the recent upsurge of strike activity comes as a surprise only because it counters the long-term decline in the number of strikes and strikers in the nation. Rather than being on a march to power, most U.S. unions are engaged in a struggle for survival.

Why has this occurred? Scheuerman argues persuasively that "big business and its cronies are waging an all-out war against organized labor as the last bastion of resistance against corporate hegemony." In this war, corporations prevailed by closing U.S. factories and investing overseas, fiercely resisting union organizing drives, firing union activists, vastly outspending unions in politics, turning labor law against unions, and creating a gig economy.

Nor does Scheuerman let unions off the hook. Frequently, he charges, they have been led by bureaucratic, out-of-touch leaders, who competed with one another for new members, and fallen short of the solidarity they praise.

But unions' fundamental problem, he argues, is that, given the corporate-government assault upon them, their "organizational structure no longer serves the mission of the labor movement."

Even so, Scheuerman contends, all is not lost in the struggle for workers' rights, for a variety of pro-labor social movements have begun successful operations outside traditional union structures. In this detailed, convincing study, he shows how these movements, frequently working in alliance with unions, are laying the groundwork for a more flexible, dynamic, and effective labor movement.

The new social movements have made particularly impressive gains among the nation's 2.4 million farmworkers – long plagued by pathetic wages, wage theft, terrible working conditions, miserable housing, and physical

Book Review: William
Scheuerman's *A New
American Labor Movement*

and sexual abuse. Deliberately omitted from coverage by the National Labor Relations Act and labor laws in most states, these workers, often immigrants and migrant laborers, have faced enormous difficulties forming unions.

The most recent breakthroughs for farmworkers' rights, Scheuerman notes, resulted from campaigns outside the union movement.

Recognizing farm growers' pathetic payments to workers often reflected the low price for tomatoes set by major fast food chains, The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) launched a very effective boycott campaign against Taco Bell, McDonald's, and other major tomato purchasers. In this fashion, the CIW eventually secured a Fair Food Program that covered 90 percent of Florida-grown tomatoes and significantly improved farmworkers' wages and lives.

If the CIW had been a union, Scheuerman points out, this would not have been possible, for labor law, weakened by the GOP-enacted Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, prohibits unions from conducting secondary boycotts.

Scheuerman also emphasizes the importance of the rise of worker centers – community-based, nonprofit organizations that, unlike unions, do not bargain with employers but, instead, serve as support hubs for low wage, unorganized workers. Their number has now soared past 200. Thanks to the decline of unions and corporate America's increasing reliance on employing workers lacking a permanent job status, worker centers have become hotbeds of organizing among these new gig workers.

In California, Uber and Lyft rideshare drivers, angry about low wages, working conditions, and classification as independent contractors, created "virtual" worker centers that facilitated demonstrations, strikes, and protests. Thanks to their spirited campaign, the California legislature passed a law reclassifying them as employees, and thus eligible for the rights guaranteed to workers, including collective bargaining.

But Uber and Lyft, drawing upon their vast financial resources, spent more than \$200 million to push through a referendum that scrapped the legislation. Even so, Scheuerman contends, the strategy and the mobilization the drivers demonstrated indicates the potential power of new approaches to worker organizing and political action.

One of the largest of the new worker centers is the Freelancers Union. Although it is in fact not a union – the group has substantial appeal to the growing number of independent workers in the nation's gig economy, and today claims half a million members. The Freelancers simply provides them, at a cut rate, with services they lack and need, such as health insurance.

The Freelancers won a major legislative victory in New York City, where a 2017 ordinance gives them the right to written contracts, timely payment, and freedom from retaliation.

The daring struggles of fast food workers are more in line with traditional norms of workers' col-

lective action. In November 2012, hundreds of underpaid fast food workers from about 40 New York City stores walked off their jobs and took to the streets, demanding \$15 an hour and union rights.

The Fight for \$15, as Scheuerman notes, "soon became a tsunami spreading across the country to more than 300 cities." Not only were the wages of these workers abysmally low, but they suffered from unpredictable scheduling, wage theft, arbitrary firings, and sexual harassment.

Although considerable union money went into the campaign – most notably, \$70 million from the Service Employees – it continues to be almost impossible to organize significant numbers of fast food workers into unions.

Nevertheless, their one-day strikes, civil disobedience actions, and flamboyant public campaigns led to substantial wage gains, thanks to state government or corporate action, and also helped convince most Americans to support a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

Observing these labor upsurges occurred in industries where unions found it nearly impossible to organize on a workplace-by-workplace basis, Scheuerman suggests the use of sectoral bargaining, common in European democracies.

Sectoral bargaining, he notes, encourages firms to compete by increasing productivity rather than by cutting wages and benefits in a race to the bottom. Local "shop floor" concerns such as work rules, due process, and steps for promotion, can be handled by worker centers.

Scheuerman has other recommendations. Through legislative action, he maintains, the nation should create a strong social safety net and reform American labor laws to "open the door to union membership for the millions who want it." Furthermore, the labor movement should turn to "visionary leaders who will put the interests of workers before the interests of their own organizations," encourage rank-and-file participation in union governance and activities, and work closely – rather than in competition – with other unions.

This is an ambitious agenda, and it is far from clear it can be realized. A number of questions spring to mind.

For example, as union support has often been crucial to the success of the new, pro-labor, direct action social movements, can these movements survive if unions continue to decline in membership, resources, and political clout? Also, what if the federal and state governments, in response to corporate pressure, crack down on the new social movements as effectively as they have done on the unions?

Finally, given the global mobility of capital through banks and multinational corporations, doesn't the successful defense of workers' interests necessitate moving beyond a national labor movement to an international one?

Nevertheless, despite these potential pitfalls, this creative, thoughtful, and well-researched study of the U.S. labor movement gets to the heart of its major problems and potential. In this time of growing corporate domination of the United States and of the world, *A New American Labor Movement* illuminates a useful path forward in the long and difficult struggle for workers' rights.



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25
SOUTHFIELD-UNION
MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033. This Meeting will be special called for nominations of Local 25's 4th Convention Delegate. The election will follow in April. This meeting is mandatory for all apprentices.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We are currently accepting applications for the Apprenticeship Program. Please find all the necessary information on our website: heatfrostinsulators.org under the apprenticeship tab.

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

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.

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

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

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 fifty dollar 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.

SUB FUND 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 thirty (30) days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the thirty (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.

"Great deeds are usually wrought at great risks."
—Herodotus (484 BC - 430 BC)

"He that climbs the tall tree has won right to the fruit."
— Sir Walter Scott (1771 - 1832)



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47
LANSING – The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the J.A.T.C. Training Center, located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933.

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 no.: 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. 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.

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.

The JATC will be hiring two new Instructors for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are interested please send a letter to the Local 47 office by Friday, March 11, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the JATC Instructor position please contact Phil Wilson, (616) 466-8736.

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

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

Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502

Fax Number: (517) 321-7508

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

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

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 days from the end of the current work week."

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

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES
BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com



IBEW 58
DETROIT – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30. All COVID protocols will be in place. You must wear a mask and have your temperature taken. If you have not filled out a liability waiver form, you must fill one out to attend.

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

Local 58 Dues Information: Dues can be paid on the APP/Website. If you have not enrolled in the new dues payment system – you will need to do so before you can pay. You can call the hall and pay over the phone if you choose to or mail in a check.

Local 58 Motorcycle Group: Group meetings have moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the Month @5pm in the basement classroom before the General Membership Mtg. Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. Visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Anthony Anderanin @ aanderanin@gmail.com or Grace Trudell, 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 5 p.m.

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund's 19th Annual Ken Fitzhenry Party – The Benevolent fund would like to thank all the trades and brothers and sisters for their continued support. Unfortunately, we were unable to host our amazing Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday, but still had our raffle. We look forward to seeing everyone next year. Prize winners are listed below. Look for more details on our upcoming events for the Walleye tournament Saturday May 7th and the Gaudi Golf Open Friday June 3rd.

Winners are as listed: GRAND PRIZE – Recliner & 65" TV Gen-Co LLC; 2nd PRIZE – 55" TV Matt Demers; 3rd PRIZE – 55" TV Esteban Huerta; 4th PRIZE – 43" TV Andy Dunbar; 5th PRIZE – 43" TV Mitchell Brockway; 6th PRIZE – 43" TV William Kunes; 7th PRIZE – Projector Dennis Cullom; 8th PRIZE – Projector Jeff Patricca; 9th PRIZE – Projector Bill Green; 10th PRIZE – Projector Tom Kryclan; 11th PRIZE – Sound Bar Kevin Kulick; 12th PRIZE – Sound Bar Paul VanOss; 13th PRIZE – Sound Bar David Wolf. Congratulations to all of the winners! All prizes are provided by ABC Warehouse in Canton. For a discounted price call Larry Reid at (734) 981-7780. All Tradesmen and families are welcome to receive this building trade discount.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 5:30 PM. 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 8:00 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. Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963.2130 for further information to volunteer or participate.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? Please be sure to fill out the 2022 EWMC Virtual National Education Conference Survey if you were a delegate. We are preparing for our upcoming March Reading month project with DPSCD on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Everyone should know their assignment by now. You should have already gotten your volunteer clearance and chosen the books that you want to read. If not, please contact Byron Osborn or Andre Crook as soon as possible.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

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). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 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.

Local 58's Women's Committee-. Our next regular meeting is Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Please watch for emails with further updates and zoom info.

We still have some of the 2nd coin in our "She needed a hero" set available. Hurry and get yours before they are all gone! They are \$25 a piece, funds raised are for the ARC Scholarship. The 3rd coin in the set will be released very soon! You can Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org, or call committee chairs Angela Panicucci (586) 291-8014 or Kayla Pauli with any questions. Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook Local 58 Women's Committee

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: As of January 3, 2022 the Union Hall is closed and will only be open for job referrals. We are returning to the original Covid Protocol from March of 2020, which means that ALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Luncheons will also be suspended for the time being. With the high cases of covid variant cases, this is the best decision to keep all members, employees and their families as safe as possible. If you have any union business, call the hall at 313 963-3120 for further information. With all of us staying home again, this is a great time to contact fellow retirees and check on them. Winter can be a time of isolation because of the weather and with this spike in Covid cases keeping us indoors, it can be daunting, so why not pick up the phone, text or email one another to check on how everyone is doing. Consider reaching out, an unexpected call or letter can be a welcome surprise. If you haven't gotten your vaccination yet, get that done! If you just need your booster, get that done too!

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and email.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: John Jenereaux, Leon Niewoit, and Alan Zielke.

Members that have Passed Away: John Callan, pension member, 22 year IBEW membership; Harold McCloud, pension member, 55 year IBEW membership; James Penn, pension member, 76 IBEW membership; Richard Prusinowski, Father to JIW Timothy Prusinowski, Brother to pension member Marvin Prusinowski; Brian Pullen I, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Lucille Rau, Wife to the late Technician I Richard Rau, Mother to JIW Dennis Heuwagen; William "Bill" Regiani III, pension member, 44 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.



IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on March 7th, 2022 at 6 p.m.

The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on Feb. 21st, at 5 p.m.

Mark your calendars! The fifth year class of IBEW Local 131 is hosting a golf outing May 14th 2022 at Pine View golf course in School Craft. More information to follow. Contact Eddie Leboeuf with any questions e.leboeuf.1985@gmail.com 269-580-0767

Work Outlook: Pfizer Maps Project will begin to start having boots on the ground near the end of March to first part of April. Abbott Labs is seeking RFP's for a new dryer tower to be constructed sometime this year. We will need additional help from late spring into summer. 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 number, please email Christine at cbhms@ibew131.com

Dues pricing – The price for dues in 2022 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 Jan. 2022, your dues are not current; please contact the Hall.

At the January General Membership meeting a motion was made and passed to publish the names of members more than three months in arrears on counter dues. As an additional form of communication to members who have lapsed dues, effective in the March Building Trades Publications, those names will be listed here. Additionally, in March the names of those individuals will be listed in the members only section of the website.

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.

We have also now integrated Death Benefit and Retirement payments into the online portal, you should expect to start seeing them accounted for in your month dues payments, both at the window and in the form of online payments.

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 documents.

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

Condolences: Brother James Stewart passed on January 17th, 2021. Brother Gary Yack passed on January 31st, 2021. Brother Wes Smith passed on March 29th, 2021. Brother Adam Russell passed on April 22nd, 2021. Brother James Wynn, passed on April 14th, 2021. Brother Wenford Abbs March, 11th, 2021. Brother Thomas Morgan passed on May 10th, 2021. Brother Russell Pomeroy passed on May, 31st 2021. Brother Chris Mortimore passed on August 30th, 2021.

All Memorials (members and members families) and full obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab.

FROM THE APPRENTICE-SHIP: **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 (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Our March Union Meeting will be held on Monday March 14th, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Our February Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 28th, 2022, at 4:30pm.

The Retiree Club Meetings – ATTENTION: Retirees will be suspending all meetings for the winter. We will be resuming with our first meeting on March 1st at 9am. Have a great and healthy winter, see everyone in the spring!

Do not 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. **Do not wait till you owe a reinstatement fee (4 months behind).**

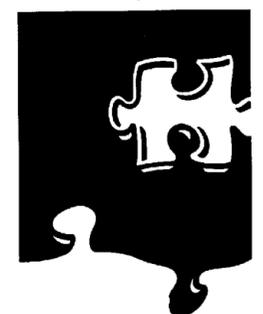
2022 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

2021 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$43.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$40.70 a month

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

You Are the Missing Piece.



Attend Your Union Meetings!

Local 131, con't

cancellations if you need to re-schedule for another available Code Update Course.**

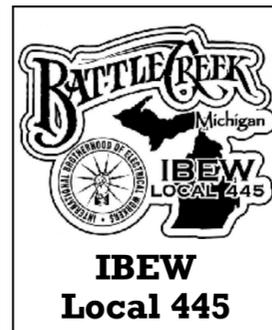
Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2work4you.com. It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to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

Retirees: We are working on updating the Retirees' List for Julius, if you believe we do not have a good phone number for you please call the hall and contact us.

Retiree Lunches all start at 11 A.M. at the following Locations:
 Jan 19th, Rooster Call, 6056 Gull Rd.
 Feb. 16th, Café Melee', 5200 Portage Rd.
 March 16th, Buckey's Café, 8675 Portage Rd.
 April 20th, La Rue's, 6375 Stadium Drive

Brian O'Donnell Business Manager/Financial Secretary



IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – Help Needed! On March 5, 2022, at 9am we need Volunteers to move the Hall's belongings to the new building. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend so that we can make quick work of this job. All assistance is greatly ap-

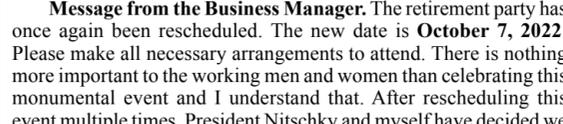
preciated! Please contact the Hall if you have any questions! Thank you in advance!

General Membership Meeting: is the second Monday of each month and starts at 5:00 p.m. at the Hall. **The March 14, 2022, Meeting** will be held at the new building located at: 4071 W. Dickman Rd, Springfield, MI 49037.

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

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

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



IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The March monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 7, 2022.** Please be prepared to socially distance and also bring a mask.

Executive Board Meeting. The March Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, March 21, 2022.**

Message from the Business Manager. The retirement party has once again been rescheduled. The new date is **October 7, 2022.** Please make all necessary arrangements to attend. There is nothing more important to the working men and women than celebrating this monumental event and I understand that. After rescheduling this event multiple times, President Nitschky and myself have decided we have rescheduled it for the last time. We will be celebrating this fall!

Work Report. The jobs our signatory contractors are performing in our jurisdiction are as follows:
 Work on the two Bay City bridges is ongoing with a large-scale remodel of the Liberty bridge followed by the construction of a new Independence Bridge in the spring. Clements has secured the Liberty Bridge. Master Electric is finishing up the new Meijer store in West Branch and will begin the new Isabella County Jail located in Mt. Pleasant later this year. The new jail is seeing some delays, we will keep you posted. Master continues work at Wise Guy Farms in Loomis. Ted's Electric was awarded the Bay County lift station project.

John's Electric in Alpena has slowed considerably and is now waiting for summer school work. Countyline is continuing their work at the Cheboygan Wastewater Plant. Consumer's Energy has awarded the re-lighting project at the service center on Wilder Rd to Escon Group. Consumers is also continuing with some dam work. Northern Valley Electrical has the LaFarge PLC upgrade and will need manpower for a spring shutdown. J Ranck has also secured a nice project in the Lafarge cement plant. Nelson Electric out of Local 557 has secured a nice project at two of the high rises in Bay City. Wilkinson Mineral and SK Siltron both have large projects coming up in the local with J. Ranck securing a large portion of that work. Ranck is on site at SK Siltron with rumors that Escon may also have a piece of work out there. As soon as we have an update on manpower for these projects, we will let you know.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Work remains good in Detroit, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. 692's Organizing team continues to reach out to unrepresented workers in our jurisdiction about the benefits of joining the IBEW. Zone 2 continues to be a priority as we anticipate larger-scale projects coming to the area over the next few years. The ability to provide adequate manpower to these projects will only strengthen our contractors' chances of securing this work.

Bay City commissioners recently adopted a Responsible Contracting ordinance that will ensure projects funded by taxpayers are completed by reputable firms. Responsible Contracting language prioritizes criteria such as workplace safety, the utilization of a local workforce, and adhering to licensing and permitting requirements when awarding contracts on larger-scale construction projects and city contracts. No longer will cost be the only criteria when considering contractors looking to secure work in the city.

IBEW organizers in the State of Michigan are currently involved in a campaign against United Electrical Contractors, a large merit shop based in Lansing. A Federal EEO lawsuit has been filed by six former United employees due to the unfair treatment, discriminatory and blatantly racist behavior they experienced at the hands of management. The IBEW stands in solidarity with the United Six and all other working people who demand accountability from employers who fail to respect their human rights. Local 692 led a protest at the Associated Builders and Contractors training facility in Midland to demand contractor accountability and promote dignity for all working people within our industry. Please follow the Justice for the United Six campaign on Facebook, and do everything in your power to keep our jobsites safe, inclusive, and free from discrimination.

Please continue to let us know if you have any questions about upcoming work or if you notice any projects that you think we should be aware of.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131
Union Dues. Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*

2022 Dues: 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.

Local 692 Retirement Party. This year's party scheduled for **Friday, March 11, 2022 has been rescheduled to Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.** It will be located at the DoubleTree in Bay City. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this great event to honor our retirees!

Renew. It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their local union. If you are a member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in 692's RENEW committee, please contact Jacob (989.316.6811) or Cody (989.600.4643) for more information.

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

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

Important links & numbers
 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



IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated it needs to be updated at BOTH.

UPCOMING VDV NEGOTIATIONS: The Inside Sound and Communication Agreement is expiring on May 31, 2022. Any VDV members with contract requests or suggestions please submit them to info@ibew252.org or contact the Hall.

TRAINING CLASSES 2022: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 P.M.

1. CPR/FIRST AID: **Tuesdays, March 1 & 8, June 7 & 14**
2. Motor Control: **Ten Weeks, Mondays, March 7 thru May 9.**
3. OSHA 30: **Mondays, March 21 thru May 16. GOOD FOR 30 BICSI CEU's!**

There will not be a code update required in 2022. We will offer classes as soon as the state adopts a new NEC 2020 or 2023. There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register. **Masks must be worn at all times in school.**

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

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

Winter Gathering: The Winter Gathering will once again be held in Lakeland, Florida at the Golden Corral, located at 4705 Hwy 98 North, on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. (NEW TIME). If you have any questions, call Ed Allen (734) 883-9429.

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 number: (517) 306-0144.

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

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.

RETIREMENT: The NEBF and IBEW Pension Benefit Fund applications can take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork AT LEAST 3 months before your planned retirement date.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Pinckney native Jake Vedder, who competed in the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing in Snowboard Cross (Continued next column)



IBEW Local 906
UPPER PENINSULA—MEETINGS

MARQUETTE UNIT—First Tuesday
IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT—Second Tuesday
ESCANABA UNIT—Second Wednesday

The Labor Management Committee has met on the Residential Agreement and has increased the Apprentice rates for the first three punches. Details will be announced at the Unit meetings.

There were several successful bids recently across the U.P. The Northern University Center went to JP Electric followed by the Jacobetti renovation (\$20 million) where S&T won the bid. This project is over budget and under review. Masters Electric is the apparent low bidder on the aluminum extrusion project at K.I. Sawyer. Several other jobs are out there but no details on awards yet.

A thank you to Darren Gauthier and Jamie Collins who accepted the important task of Election judges. Both members have been sent to the election judge school being held in Chicago.

The ERTS system seminar was very informative. \$953 million was transferred through this system on behalf of traveling Brothers to their home funds. Other parts of the seminar covered financial investments for pension and health plans. Locally the Board of Trustees approved 16.9% payout on the annuity portion of the pension. Well done Brothers.

The Labor Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on May 14 at NMU. The Local has purchased some tickets if any members wish to attend. This is a great learning experience for our younger members. Find out what those who came before you experienced and how they handled it. There are two well deserving inductees, Mike Thibault and Kathleen Carlson, Ironworkers and AFSCME respectfully. Congrats to both of these hard working folks.

Nominations of officers will be held in May with the election in June. If you intend to run for an office please send in a letter accepting the nomination. This is protection for you in the event you cannot make the meeting (Covid, sickness, car accident etc.) More detailed information will come in a mailing and will be discussed at upcoming Unit meetings.

A reminder that the monthly dues are \$40. 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. lbew906@gmail.com

Local 252 cont'd

for Team USA. Jake ranked 6th in Men's Snowboard Cross and 9th in Mixed Team Snowboard Cross. Jake is the grandson to 252 retiree Robert Vedder (Vedder Electric) and son to 252 member Rob Vedder (Vedder Voltage).

DUES PAYMENTS—Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2021, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2022. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2022. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January-March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 31.**



IBEW Local 498
"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY—Meetings.

Regular E Board—The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Friday, March 11, 2022 @ 6pm.

Regular Meeting—Schedule is 7pm, Friday March 11, 2022. Currently, the Solidarity Picnic before the Regular meeting is on hold for now due to Covid.

Email—First trial run of email notification to members. FYI Caroline sent out our first mass email notification Friday Feb 4, 2022. It was an update on the cancellation status of the Regular Union Meeting for February. If you didn't receive an email from ibew@local498.net please check your spam folder, as it is a mass email your spam filter may have blocked it.

We only have a short list of current members and retirees that we need an updated or current email address from. Please call the hall and update your email address 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.

Negotiations—We are still currently in negotiations and we have met two times and have a third meeting time scheduled. If and when we come to a tentative agreement we will call for a special called ratification meeting. The notice for this meeting will be the LAST postcard notification. All other notifications will be published in the tradesman and by email. Please update your email if you haven't already done so.

Resale Items—A new order of Local 498 shirts are in now. Stop by to get one while we still have your size! We also have Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing. I am working on getting challenge coins ordered that will also be available for resale when they get here.

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

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

Made in America Websites—www.theunionbootpro.com - 100% American made/union made. Union member discounts 27% off. Use this code when ordering. Be0498mD or order toll free 1-800-723-5384.

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book: MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508
MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-517-321-7502
(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)
TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917
NEBF 1-301-556-4300
NEAP 1-301-556-4300
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000
DUES RATES

Jan 1, 2021 - No increase. Still remains \$140.10/Quarter

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

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

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 3#



IBEW Local 557
SAGINAW – Union News-

Hello brothers and sisters! Thank you to all who were able to attend the ABC rally in Lansing supporting The United Six. They cannot ignore our message or actions forever!

Also, we still have hockey tickets available at the Hall for February 25th and March 11th game. Show your Saginaw pride! Also, apprenticeship applications have a deadline of March 18. If you know of anyone looking to apply, please have them do so then. Apprentices should be on the lookout for new policy changes. Apprentices will need to buckle down on their school work and have all book payments and homework done and abide by all school policies.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS—Our next meeting will be March 1st at 5:30pm. Masks are suggested but not required. We would like to send out a friendly reminder that **if you are feeling ill, please keep your brothers and sisters safe and stay home. It seems a gentle reminder is in need to those members who are experiencing symptoms.** We have recently had to make some changes to our attendance policy for apprentices. Meetings are no longer required, so we can help stop the spread of Covid. This is an effort to keep our membership healthy since now there is no fear of discipline on the part of the apprentices.

MICHIGAN INITIATIVE—Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues you see or have. If our members have any questions or work tips they can reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS—If you have any questions or issues, our Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.
BOOK SIGNING—Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. If you are a Saginaw member and receive a layoff, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person.

WORK OUTLOOK—Currently Leddy Electric is the low bidder for the first phase of work on Swan Valley schools. Van Herweg Electric is the low bidder on the new Handley school, which is the first big piece of the city of Saginaw to bid. Our local will work hard to secure the rest of the projects. Thanks to all those making an effort to secure Saginaw Schools work!

ELECTIONS—2022 brings with it Election time! If you would like to stay informed and contribute to labor friendly candidates, please visit www.ibew.org/IBEWPAAC. It's going to take all of us to contribute to labor friendly candidates so please do your part to ensure our future yields labor positive results.

HEALTH CARE—We would like to inform our members that **any purchased at-home Covid test is now reimbursable through the Health Plan and Blue Cross.** 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. Also, if you use Express-scripts for your RX needs, BCBS has opted to use Optum RX in its place. This mainly applies to members who have their RX delivered to their homes. You may need to contact Optum to make sure the change is seamless. This is also part of the reason we were issued new BCBS cards in January.

Don't forget to schedule your annual physical with your doctor. By completing your annual physical, you could catch a health concern early and also help keep the cost of health care down. Registering on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit www.bcbsm.com. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 275

COOPERSVILLE—Dear Brothers and Sisters: The job outlook for the Local remains slow to steady with no large layoffs projected. We have had sporadic calls coming in, so please call the recorder every night if you are interested in getting back out to work. If you are interested in traveling for work, please call the Hall for up to date traveling info. If you are interested in salting, contact Geoff or Walt for more info.

The 2022 United Sportsman's Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday May, 5 at the Community Hub in Muskegon. If you are interested in getting tickets for this year's event, please reach out to Sue to reserve them before they're gone! Also, if you have extra venison or other wild game in your freezers, please consider donating it for the dinner. You can contact Walt at the Hall if you have donations.

You should have received new Delta Dental Insurance cards in the mail recently. If you have any questions regarding the new cards and coverage, please call Walt at the Union Hall.

Please remember that re-sign is the 10th through the 16th of each month. If your re-sign is not in by the 16th, you will be rolled off the Book. You may contact Geoff at the Hall if you need assistance.

The next regular membership meeting is set for Tuesday, March 15, 6 pm at the Union Hall.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm at the Union Hall in Coopersville and/or via zoom. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three months or more behind in dues: **Joanna Gunneth, Brandon Kiander, Andrew Holmes, Robby Englesman, and Antonio Zizumbo Jr.**

Dues for 2022 are \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through the mail and automatic bank payments.



A "JUSTICE FOR THE UNITED SIX" march and rally met outside of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan offices in Lansing on Feb. 17. Photo credit: Michigan Laborers District Council

Rally seeks justice for 6 electricians

LANSING—A coalition of labor supporters participated in a "Justice for the United Six" march and rally on Feb. 17 that

ended in front of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan offices. The effort supported a group of electricians formerly employed by United Electric Contractors, a member of the ABC. In a lawsuit filed last month, the group alleges that UEC maintained a retaliatory and hostile work environment where racial slurs and discrimination against Black and Brown workers were commonplace.

A statement from Lansing IBEW Local 665 said "over the last year Local 665 and other locals throughout the State of Michigan have been actively trying to organize the United Electrical Contractors," which they said employ about 120 electricians in mid-Michigan. "After communicating with current and former workers, some of which are now your brothers and sisters, we found that the UEC has committed unspeakable acts of racial discrimination and wage theft of its employees," including racial slurs on a daily basis.

Local 665 also charged the UEC has committed numerous violations of the National Labor Relations Act. UEC management has "swept under the rug" the allegations," Local 665 said.

ABC of Michigan President Jimmy Greene defended the UEC, which prompted the group being targeted by the ralliers. He told media outlets that the lawsuits filed by the six are "without foundation."

In support of the United Six and the protests, the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus issued the following statement:

"We are profoundly disturbed by these allegations. Those who engaged in these appalling behaviors, encouraged them or just sat by and allowed them to happen must face severe consequences. These protests are a reminder of just how far we have to go in protecting the rights of workers.

"We are going to continue to fight in the Legislature to end workplace discrimination and protect the rights of workers, including those who courageously speak out."

STAY CURRENT ON DUES—Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards and also E-checks. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee to use either service. Both payment methods to pay dues can also be accomplished 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.mielectrical-health.org.

In Solidarity, Breanna DePottety Press Secretary

FOR SALE
Retiree has electrical construction equipment for sale. Please inquire by text message at 313-330-1842 or email at DavidBrandon44@live.com



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers Local 149

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

Regular Membership Meeting. The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., March 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Condolences.

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brothers.

Brother Chester Cavins, 72 years old and a 41-year member. Brother Cavins past on 12/10/2021

Brother Robert Bennett, 79 years old and a 43-year member. Brother Bennett past on 12/20/2021

Brother Dan Lopez, 49 years old and a 6-year member. Brother Lopez past on 12/25/2021

Brother John Ortuist, 72 years old and a 39-year member. Brother Ortuist past on 12/30/2021

Brother Maxwell Campbell, 66 years old and a 44d-year member. Brother Campbell past on 1/5/2022

Brother George Velasco, 87 years old and a 37-year member. Brother Velasco past on 1/10/2022

Brother Gary Miner, 66 years old and a 36-year member. Brother Miner past on 1/12/2022

Rest in Peace Brothers

International Union Burial Benefit Plan. To be eligible for burial benefits, a member must be in continuous good standing. For all members who are in good standing the following burial benefits shall be paid:

a. To a member in continuous good standing for more than six full months, but not to exceed twelve full months, the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00).

b. To a member in continuous good standing for more than twelve months, but not to exceed eighteen full months, the sum of One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00).

c. To a member in continuous good standing for more than eighteen full months, but not to exceed twenty-four full months, the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00).

d. To a member in continuous good standing for more than twenty-four full months, but not to exceed thirty-six full months, the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

e. To a member in continuous good standing for more than thirty-six full months, but not to exceed sixty full months, the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00).

f. To a member in continuous good standing for more than sixty full months, the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

In the event of the death of a member, not more than one of the amounts specified above shall be paid.

It is the duty of the International Secretary-Treasurer to see that the funeral expenses are paid with the money provided for by these benefits. If the funeral director's bill for services has not been paid, the burial benefits will be made payable to the funeral director. This burial benefit shall first be paid to the person or persons who paid the funeral director's bill, in the amount of the bill only. All money remaining after the funeral director's bill has been paid shall be paid to the next of kin of the deceased in the following order:

1. to the spouse of the deceased.
2. to the child or children of the deceased.
3. to the parents of the deceased.
4. to the brothers and sisters of the deceased.
5. to the estate of the deceased.

Please share this vitally important information with your close family and friends.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members will have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account starting with the April 2022 payout. This includes all 3 contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall. The Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information: Routing No., Account No., name of Financial Institution, address, and telephone number.

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standings. You can pay dues at the Hall with a cash, money order, credit, or debit card. Union dues can be paid over the phone with a credit or debit card. Monthly dues can be taken out of your vacation check by filling out a form at the Hall (active Members only). The mailbox is only to be used for checks and money orders, do not put cash in the mailbox. To be eligible for the International Union Burial Benefit, a member must be in continuous good standing.

If you have any questions please call the Hall at 313-961-6093

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money. To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone who's dues are paid up to 12/31/2022 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2022 dues in full by February 28, 2022.

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847, or Tjaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

SHAME ON THE CARPENTER'S UNION LEADERSHIP! The Carpenter's Union (UBC) has targeted the Roofer's & Waterproofer's Union and other union trades in an attempt to destabilize and bypass the jurisdiction of not just our industry, but other unionized construction trades as well, to raid our Pension Funds.

If you are on a jobsite and any RAT Carpenter Agent approaches you or anyone in your crew about monopolizing the Roofer's & Waterproofer's Union, PLEASE NOTIFY THE UNION IMMEDIATELY at 313-961-6093! Tell the RAT Carpenter to go out and organize the carpentry market that is currently unrepresented.

We stand in solidarity with all sincere Trade Unions and with the Rank and File members of the Carpenters Union, who should openly condemn these heinous actions by their leadership in their name.

Website for announcements, news, and updates. www.rooferslocal149.com

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

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

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 scheduled for Tue., April 12, 2022 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Notice of Election – Mid-Michigan Negotiating Committee

The following members are running for the committee: Robert Coats, Jesse Wangler, Frank Ostrander, Douglas Heyd. Three to be elected.

(Continued next column)



Laborers 1191

DETROIT — **Monthly Membership Meetings: Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays). The next membership meeting will on the March, 4th 2022.**

Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard Detroit Michigan 48208.

Union Dues For 2022: Effective January 1, 2022 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

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

Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org!!! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions... Please also check out our website and "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

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.

Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union. Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you.

Members who sign up for Vacation monthly dues deduction and pay six months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.

Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction Authorization: Members may revoke vacation monthly dues authorization at any time by signing a vacation deduction cancellation form. This cancellation form must be sent to the Local Union 1191 office, however understand that Local 1191 needs to have this form on file at least 60 days before the next vacation checks are distributed for the months of May or November.

Vacation Check Direct Deposit: If your mail delivery is slow or your mail is getting lost, then it is highly recommended to get your vacation check direct deposited into your bank checkings or savings account. A Payee Deposit Agreement must be completed and signed, and the member must return the payee deposit agreement at least 60 days before the following vacation distribution for the month of May, or November to Michigan Laborers Vacation Fund, 6525 Centurion Dr. Lansing Michigan 48917.

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

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

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeyman and apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at https://lms.mltai.org. Types of training you can take include: Asbestos Awareness-Silica Awareness-Infectious Disease Awareness-Respirator Awareness-Hazard Communication-Blood borne Pathogens Awareness-Covid-19 Awareness-Lead Awareness.

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 Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, Gps Location. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm 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 the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following months March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. *Example: If your name is on the list in April and or May and you don't re-register by June 5th your name will be removed from the list.

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

CONTACT NUMBERS

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

Telephone: (877) 645-2267

Fax: (517) 321-7508

Website: www.michiganlaborers.org

Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

Telephone: (248) 641-4942

Fax: (248) 813-9898

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)

Telephone: (800) 228 0048

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Vacation)

Telephone: (877) 645-2267

Web Site: Www.metrodetroitlaborers.org

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

Scholarships. LIUNA members can apply for scholarships for university, college, trade school and technical trainings through Union Plus. Learn more information about Union Plus scholarships at www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships.

Roofers 149, continued

The election will take place at the Mid-Michigan Union Hall, 810 Tacoma Ct., Clio, MI 48420, on April 12, 2022, from 4pm thru 6pm. You must be a member in good standing to cast a ballot.

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 the Union Hall/



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – BY-LAW(S) Proposals will be due in the Novi Union Hall ON OR BEFORE 4:00 pm February 28, 2022. If you plan to mail in a proposal, please make sure it arrives several days earlier than Monday 2/28/2022. We've noticed mail has been slow in Michigan, so please be aware!

February's Union meeting will be Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm. (in-person & via Zoom).

This union meeting will be the first Reading of any proposed by law(s). PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.

The second Reading of any proposed by law(s) will be during March's Union meeting Monday, March 28, 2022. The third Reading will be during April's Union meeting Monday April 25, 2022.

The 2022 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available. ALL COMPLETED applications must be turned in by March 15, 2022. Call the Novi Union Hall 248-344-9494 to get one mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

The 2022 John H. Lyons Sr. Scholarship and/or The Eric S. Waterman Scholarship is available online from the International Website www.ironworkers.org Complete information & rules online and the deadline is May 15, 2022.

Steward meeting(s): The Lansing Hall Steward Meeting will be Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The Flint Hall Steward Meeting will be March 16, 2022 at 5:30 pm. The Saginaw Hall Steward Meeting will be March 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome

Travel Service Dues: Doby increased to \$10.00 per week effective January 1, 2022 for all IW Unions. This is per the International Circular Letter No. 873 and per the 44th Convention of the International.

Stewards' Notes:

1) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website www.ironworkers25.org. LOG-IN DIRECTIONS will follow once you click the link that reads "Electronic Steward Reports." These forms are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so.

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.

Ironworkers Local 25 APP – Sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS – download the APP if you haven't done so yet!

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

WE ARE STILL TRYING TO BE SAFE & A FACE MASK IS NECESSARY IF YOU ARE STILL NOT VACCINATED & VISIT ANY UNION OFFICE OR UNION HALL.

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; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

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

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, 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

Congratulations to Jacob Koveck for winning the AGC Apprentice of the Year award 2021!

Apprentices: Mandatory Apprentice Meeting (CHANGE), Saturday, March 12, 2022 @ 10:00 am at the Novi union hall. 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 for your pay raise slips.

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule. The 2022 Raising Gang Training schedule has been added to the website. Please call the school to make up days.... Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Novi Chapter Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 9:00 am. The Retirees meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome.

The Retiree Club Scholarship Fund applications are available. Contact John Miller for rules, application, and deadline 734-812-8036 or email jlmillertime 50@yahoo.com

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Future meetings scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

The Bay City Chapter Retirees quarterly meeting will be Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Friday, March 18, 2022 at 9:00 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. Future meetings scheduled for the third Friday of each month. All are welcome.

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.

A celebration of Mac's (D. Craig MacIntyre's) life is scheduled to take place at 5073 Conklin Rd., Lowell, MI on May 14, 2022 from 1PM - 5PM. Friends of Mac invited and bring along "Mac stories and memories" to share. Members of The International Iron Workers will also commemorate Mac's life at the annual Festival at Mackinaw City the second weekend in August.

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (2/21/2022 12:00 pm E.S.T.).

Training Center, 810-687-1368, or midmichroofers149@g-mail.com to make arrangements.

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

The publication above is as 2/21/2022, 2:00p.m.
In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149



Michigan Painters District Council



Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m
DC 1M UNION CARDS*



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

ACCIDENT, SICKNESS and DEATH. It is with a heavy heart we announce the following: Local 2352 Israel Barajas passed away. Please keep his family in your Thoughts and Prayers.

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

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

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

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888.

New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Our next scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday March 7th, 2022 at 6pm.

This is a carded "special-called meeting." At this meeting we will hold Local 357 officers nominations. Also at this meeting we will be discussing upcoming negotiations, and be taking a strike authorization vote. Please attend.

We will be holding a CPR/1st Aid class on Wednesday, March 2nd. The class will be held at the Union Hall at 5pm. Please call, or text Don Stepp to RSVP. 586-335-6480.

Apprentice School classes have resumed. If you have a question on a class night, or an assignment please contact your instructor.

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

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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

-Business Rep- Don Stepp



Local 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 1 at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

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



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – MARCH 2022 CHAPTER MEETINGS
METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 01, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 01, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 02, 2022 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Mack Brown** (Bricklayer) who passed away on February 07, 2022. Brother Brown had been a member for 55 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Joe Zuccato** (Tile Layer) who passed away on December 10, 2021. Brother Zuccato had been a member for 67 years.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Congratulations to Tim Etter and Brian Lantto, who both received honorable mentions at the 2020 – 2021 U.P. Apprentice of the Year event that was held on January 8th, 2022.

2022 – BAC LOCAL 2 SCHOLARSHIP. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local 2 Michigan is proud to announce the 2022 BAC Local 2 Scholarship. This scholarship is open to ALL dependents of good standing members, statewide, from all of the trades. In order to be eligible, the following information must be submitted to the **BAC Local 2 WARREN office** located at **21031 Ryan Road, Warren MI 48091** and received by **12:00pm on Friday, March 18, 2022:**

1. Applicant must be a legal dependent of a good standing **ACTIVE** member. The member must have their dues paid up to date. They may also be a dependent of a recently deceased, formally working member, who has passed away after January 1, 2020. A dependent will be defined according to the guidelines of that member's insurance fund summary plan description.

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

3. Applicant must be a **full-time student**, enrolled in 12 or more credits, during the **Winter 2022 Semester.** A copy of the **Class Schedule** showing full time status must be submitted. **NOTE: Classes listed on the Official Transcript will not be considered as a class schedule.** A class schedule lists the classes, dates, times, instructor and location where the class meets. Student's name, semester and the name of the college/university must be on the schedule.

4. Applicant must submit an **Official Transcript**, showing their grades from the Fall 2021 Semester. An Official Transcript comes directly from the registrar's office in a **sealed envelope.** Please allow ample time for the registrar's office to prepare and mail the official transcript; to be received at BAC Local 2 by March 18, 2022. If your institution participates with the National Student Clearinghouse Transcript service, transcripts may be sent to: colleen@bricklayers.org.

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

6. All information must be submitted by **12:00pm on Friday, March 18, 2022** to the **BAC Local 2 Warren office: 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.**

7. Incomplete or late applications will **not** be considered for this scholarship. We are not responsible for late, missing or lost documents. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all documents are received by 12:00pm on Friday, March 18, 2022.

The winners will be selected by the BAC Local 2 Management Committee and announced at the April 2022 Detroit Chapter Meeting.

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

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS: Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as 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. You can view the full Signing Bonus policy on our website.

ASPEEDY 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 are open to our members. Please contact our Training Centers at the numbers listed below for an appointment for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS and other services.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER. To schedule appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

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 Howard Hipes at (517) 749-1102 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 for future 2021 (Continued next column)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. We will practice social distancing for everybody's safety. Masks will be required.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the retirees that you all are safe and well.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations!

Vincent Broughton-25 Years; Mark Reich-30 Years

Please Welcome Parrish Hill our new Business Representative! His number is 313-220-7840 and can be reached by email: parrishhill514@yahoo.com

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 the 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.

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

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

Please refer to website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a

BAC Local 2, continued

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.

Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. 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 number (IU#)
- Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800

Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)

CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund)

International Pension/Annuity Fund for Metro Detroit Brick, Cement and TMT – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PLASTERERS AND DETROIT COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS: You 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 any 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.

"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."

–Herman Melville (1819 - 1891)

"The chief obstacle to the progress of the human race is the human race."

–Don Marquis (1878 - 1937)

"I could not at any age be content to take my place in a corner by the fireside and simply look on."

–Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

"A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck."

–James A. Garfield (1831 - 1881)

"Mediocrity does not see higher than itself. But talent instantly recognizes the genius."

–Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

"No idea is so antiquated that it was not once modern; no idea is so modern that it will not someday be antiquated."

–Ellen Glasgow (1873 - 1945)

"The only completely consistent people are the dead."

–Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

"Truth is shorter than fiction."

–Irving Cohen



IN YOUR CORNER...



FROM OUR CORNER.

At the intersection of Congress and Griswold, on the 26th floor of the iconic Buhl Building, Ven Johnson Law is investing in Detroit — on behalf of hard workers like you. From our recently renovated offices, we're fighting the good fight on behalf of labor unions throughout Michigan with decades of experience in personal injury cases, vehicle crash cases, product liability and more. So if you find yourself backed into a corner, remember you're not alone. **KNOW JUSTICE. KNOW PEACE.**

DETROIT • FLINT • GRAND RAPIDS • NATIONWIDE



JOHNSON LAW, PLC / **1.855.VENFIGHTS** / **VENFIGHTS.COM**



THE CREATION of a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie – a multi-year, \$1.5 billion project that’s ongoing during the warmer months – will proceed under a federal project labor agreement, according to the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department. In the photo rendering, a new lock will be created at left to twin the existing Poe Lock, center, and provide the vital facility a lock and a spare in case of a malfunction to accommodate passage of ships that are greater than 1,000 feet in length.

Image credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Construction union leaders laud Biden’s pro-PLA executive order

‘I tell you who built America: The middle class. And the people who built the middle class are organized labor – unions. Unions did it.’

–President Joe Biden

(Continued from Page 1)
 union members will make sure America’s infrastructure is built.”
 McGarvey added PLAs not only create well-paying jobs for construction workers, but promote local hiring, increase well-trained – union-trained – apprentices and can let “women, people of color and veterans access construction career pathways. As a result, these agreements are proven to boost local economies, address inequities and uplift marginalized communities, and achieve substantial, direct cost savings by standardizing contract terms among various crafts,” he said.

Biden’s order stressed the benefits of PLAs. They “avoid disruptions on projects by using dispute-resolution processes to resolve worksite disputes and by prohibiting work stoppages, including strikes and lockouts. They secure commitment of all stakeholders on a construction site the project will proceed efficiently without unnecessary interruptions.”

In return for higher wages and guaranteed due process on the job to workers, contractors get stability and quality work that lasts, the president said at the ceremony.

“I tell you who built America: The middle class,” he explained. “And the people who built the middle class are organized labor – unions. Unions did it,” he declared, to applause. “That’s not hyperbole. That’s a fact. That’s a straight fact.”

Biden said his order will “help ensure we build a better America, we build it right, and we build it on time, and we build it cheaper than it would have been otherwise.”

“You know, the executive order is making sure federal construction projects get completed on time and under budget, saving taxpayers money, clearing construction zones quickly, and ensuring everything the federal government signs to contract to build is built to last.”

Biden’s order covers not just work on roads, bridges, subways and airports, but all types of infrastructure. He specifically singled out improving U.S. ports and waterways.

Such maritime improvements, in the “hard” infrastructure law Biden signed in December, include at least two which PLAs would cover, according to a recent statement from the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department: Among them: A new larger Soo Lock in Michigan, costing \$1.5 billion.

Biden’s order has some limited exceptions, but even when agencies want to invoke them to avoid PLAs, a “senior official” must sign off on that decision, and justify the exception.

The limited exceptions include projects of short duration, that use only one construction craft, that are “of compelling urgency that...makes a project labor agreement impractical” or those where a PLA requirement would “substantially reduce the number of potential bidders so as to frustrate full and open competition.”

Numerous studies have pointed out the benefits of PLAs in the real world, disclosing how those projects come in on time and often under budget. That hasn’t stopped the ABC and its right-wing allies from trying to destroy unions and their workers’ wages, by outlawing PLAs. North America’s Building Trades Unions, working with lawmakers of both parties, have beaten back such moves in Congress. Given gridlock on Capitol Hill – on worker issues as well as everything else – Biden’s being proactive, instead.

Union leaders and Rep. Donald Norcross, D-N.J., an IBEW member, applauded. Biden’s order “shows what the American worker has to gain by having a pro-labor president in the White House,” said Norcross, who is also a former president of the South Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council.

“PLAs also help ensure the responsible stewardship of tax dollars by pre-negotiating wages and benefits—meaning workers can spend more time working and less time haggling over work conditions. Additionally, workers under a PLA are more likely to have health care, a benefit that has always been important in demanding construction jobs but even more so during the pandemic.”

PLAs “standardize working conditions across a project and ensure that all working people receive fair wages, benefits, and safe working conditions,” Painters President Jimmy Williams Jr., said. Biden’s order “will unquestionably raise standards within our industry” open up apprenticeships, aid workers “in disadvantaged and marginalized communities, and improve the construction market by standardizing labor conditions.”

“PLAs were utilized when Operating Engineers built the Grand Coulee Dam, the interstate highway system,” and space facilities, added IUOE President James Callahan. “As we embark upon building modern and more resilient infrastructure for our future, these agreements will help employ thousands of skilled tradespeople and pay wages that sustain families and lift local economies.”

Local 36
Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors 36
 DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular Membership Meeting will be special-called due to the tentative agreement of our contract, and is planned for Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:30 pm. The April Meeting will have nominations for Officers of the Local, per Article XI of the Local’s Constitution and By-Laws. As of this printing we are having a Radio meeting at the hall, with only Officers in the building. Keep watching your email for possible changes!

Attention all Apprentices, monthly OJL forms are now online at NEIEP which must be completed before the 9th day of the next month. If you are working out of our jurisdiction, laid off or are a probationary, OJT forms must be filled out and turned into the Hall. This is a requirement of the Department of Labor.

Reminder to All that the NEIEP website is available to All interested in Reviewing and Continuing Education. Any apprenticeship certifications missed, or non-current can be retaken if we can build a class as part of continuing education program through NEIEP.

CPR/First-aid OSHA, Scaffolding, are available to all members though some classes may require fees. Go to the NEIEP website for the status of your apprenticeship. Continue to watch your NEIEP and personal emails for further information, this is a responsibility of your apprenticeship. The Local is seeking Instructors for NEIEP, anyone interested please contact the Hall.

Attention all Members, a Motion was made to have a picnic this summer at our October meeting and was passed by the body at the November meeting, save the date of July 30th, 2022. There is a need for members to assist with the Picnic from start to finish as this will help all enjoy the time with families and friends. The Local also has some committees that NEED members to run/assist: Safety, Organizing, Golf outing and Picnic, please call the hall! Local elections are coming in the new year, members’ participation keeps the Local moving in a positive direction.

The Locals Constitution and By-Laws has changes that will be read starting at our February meeting with 3 consecutive reading at Monthly meetings. Per Article XIX (Amendments) of the Locals Constitution and By-Laws.

All should have received their W2s from your companies, be advised the Local has sent out the Locals W2 statement and letter. Your next quarter card and W2s must be taken care of before the 1st day of the second quarter Per Article XIV in the Locals Constitution and By-laws.

All Testing must be done according to Code and your Companies Maintenance Control Program. Document all tests that are due and only tasks you have completed. Keep all job logs current with this information. When you need assistance, technical or for safety, request, receive and document. Check your paystubs weekly, are you getting what you put in? Paper copies can be requested as stated in Article XI, Par. 2. Forms are available at the Hall. Check your recent pay stubs for proper Holiday pay and hours.

All Members, Local 36, Local 85 and the EIWPFF are holding outreach sessions on Monday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 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. We are holding code book layout sessions monthly, call the hall if interested. Maintenance Control Programs (MCP) reference the Codes, are you being Code compliant? Know what the MCP is referencing for you the Licensed Journeyperson. If anyone is interested in a class for QEI training, please call the Hall so we can build a potential class list.

Reminder, Keep your State of Michigan, and City of Detroit licenses current. Sign up to receive Safety Alerts at IUEC.org for safety and product alerts to your phone. All Construction and Modernization work is Teamwork. Cab work complete is the work of our Elevator Constructors, Article IV Par. 2(j), cross the threshold and it’s our work! Keep the hall informed of all jobs and have permit as required before starting. Per Article X par. 2 of the NEBA agreement all jobs shall be manned in accordance with this Article, any discrepancies with this ratio you must inform the Hall immediately. These are violations of the NEBA Agreement and International Constitution and By-Laws. Inform the hall on any employment status changes as we need to inform the International. When your Company Assignment takes you outside our jurisdiction it is your responsibility to report in to that Local before you start, as stated in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

All Members, you are obligated to keep current with the Local your contact information, including address, phone, and email information, notify any changes including company phone numbers. Your company should take care of all business during regular working hours, after hours phone calls are not acceptable.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Be Safe and Be Healthy!

Local 169
Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
 ALLEN PARK – The next Union meeting will be on Friday, March 11, 2022, in Area 1 at the Boilermaker Union Hall. It is located at 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, Michigan 48101.

Beginning February 1st, 2022, union dues will be \$52.35 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.



BOB HUTSELL
Rouge, Mi.

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

Retirees: Retiree luncheons have resumed. The Area One Retiree luncheon is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

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

The new date for the Boilermaker Dinner Dance is March 26th, 2022, at the Athenium in Detroit, Michigan. I encourage every member to come out for a great night of dinner, drinks, live music, and fellowship with your brother and sister boilermakers. A block of rooms has been reserved at a cost of \$199.00. To reserve a room, call 313-962-2323 or 1-800-772-2323. Valet parking is available for \$12.00. The cutoff date for room reservations is March 1, 2022. The dinner dance is available to all active members and retirees.

To provide a head count for food and beverage, please send a \$50.00 check to the union hall. The check will be returned upon your arrival at the event. It’s been far too long since we got together. I look forward to seeing you there.

Hoodies have been restocked and are available in sizes ranging from medium through 3XL. Cost is \$40.00. Payments can be made with cash, check or credit. If you live out of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

Due to continued demand, the Boilermakers Local 169 Welding Committee will be holding a stainless steel and Inconel weld certification test with B&G Processing. All carbon steel, certified tube welders are encouraged to participate. Boilermaker signatory contractors are seeing an increased demand for these welding skills as we continue working in emerging industries.

As our industry changes, we must continue to develop the skills that make us the best choice for our owners and contractors, just as we have done for over 125 years. Further details will be forthcoming.

Retired member Anthony (Tony) Marquette passed away, please keep his family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

“The radical of one century is the conservative of the next. The radical invents the views. When he has worn them out the conservative adopts them.”
 –Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

“If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.”
 –Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)

“Don’t reserve your best behavior for special occasions. You can’t have two sets of manners, two social codes - one for those you admire and want to impress, another for those whom you consider unimportant. You must be the same to all people.”
 –Lillian Eichler Watson

“It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done.”
 – Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”
 –Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

“The family is one of nature’s masterpieces.”
 –George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

IT’S YOUR PENSION. MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

NEW YORK LIFE
Greater Detroit

Want to learn more about your retirement options and ways to maximize your potential?
 Call me today, and let’s make sure you get the most out of your pension.

Robert Ahrens
New York Life Insurance Company Agent
Cell: 248.421.3339
Email: rahrens@nyl.newyorklife.com

NETA ACCREDITED COMPANY

Utilities Instrumentation Service

Michigan’s #1 Electrical Testing Firm

- Licensed Electricians with the State of Michigan (IBEW-JIW)
- Member of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- Full Member of the InterNational Electrical Testing Association (NETA)
- ISO/IEC 17025 Accredited

Electrical Testing & Commissioning
 Protective Relays • Transformers • Commissioning & Technical Support • Switchgear • Breakers • Infrared & Ultrasonic Survey • Cable Locating • VLF & Tan Delta Testing • Partial Discharge • Meters • Grounding • Generator Controls • ATS • UPS • Battery Systems • Motor Control Centers • Switches • Capacitor Banks

Electrical Studies & Training
 Short Circuit/Device Coordination Studies • Arc Flash/Shock Hazard Studies • Harmonic/Power Factor/Transient Studies & Corrections • Electrical Safety & Troubleshooting • NFPA 70E

Contact UIS
 866-967-9464
 www.teamuis.com

2022 LOGBOOKS ARE HERE

HARD COPY & MOBILE APP VERSIONS

Aiello Law Group has just released our 2022 Construction Worker’s Daily Logbook in both a print and digital version! We have provided logbooks to Michigan’s building trades for over 30 years.

The traditional paper version can be picked up in our office, your union hall, the Building Trades office at 1640 Porter in Detroit, or can be mailed directly to you by giving us a call at (313) 964-4900. The digital version can be found in the App Store for Apple or Google Play for Android. Simply search for “Aiello Daily Logbook.”

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



Outdoors

Back in the saddle



By John Pepin
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

It sounds like a long time ago now, but it really wasn't – just one generation.

Back then, Michigan was blinded by snow dust kicked up by a record number of snowmobiles registered across the state, the highest of any other place in the U.S.

Those 206,000 machines were only the beginning of a meteoric rise in snowmobiling popularity not seen since the sport's 1970s heyday. Michigan ranked third highest in trail mileage.

"If Michigan's 4,900 miles of snowmobile trails were laid end to end, they would stretch farther than the distance from Detroit to Panama City in South America," Jerry Basch, AAA Michigan safety and services manager, told the *Battle Creek Enquirer* for a story kicking off the sledding season in December 1991.

The same article said snowmobilers annually spent between \$150 million and \$200 million on lodging, gas and oil, equipment, food, clothing and more.

Changing conditions. Five years later, Basch told the *Detroit Free Press*, "Snowmobiling is a very important part of our winter wonderland, but it can be dangerous." His caveat signaled several transitions that had taken place or were then occurring.

Among the changes, were those rising numbers of snowmobiles and sledders, many of whom were inexperienced riders. In some places, especially in winters with only limited snowfall, the trails were getting crowded.

To help curb hazards on the trail, law enforcement officers mounted educational, safety and regulation enforcement patrols, urging riders to slow down and ride safely. The state Legislature imposed then-new, stricter penalties on drinking and snowmobiling.

Another thing influencing the sport was the power of greatly improved snowmobiles.



SNOWMOBILERS enjoy an afternoon riding through a snowy woodland along Trail No. 14 in Marquette County. Riders are increasingly hopping back on their sleds. MDNR photo

"People think they can just hop on one of these things, figure out how start and stop it and that's all there is to it," Basch told the newspaper, noting that some models can easily exceed 100 mph. "They get overconfident and go faster and faster, and they suddenly lose control."

These factors coupled with back-to-back winters with record snowfall all created a perfect snowstorm that produced some unintended negative consequences.

Record fatalities. The winter of 1995-96 was the deadliest in state history to that point. A total of 47 snowmobilers were killed amid 700 crashes that occurred in Michigan.

A common fatal crash scenario, all too familiar to law enforcement officers, involved riders traveling too fast around corners, going off the trail and striking trees. By early 2001, the number of registered snowmobiles in Michigan had surpassed 357,000 – still the highest in the country then.

After the winter of 2002-03, when another 46 snowmobiling deaths occurred, sledding fatalities began to drop for several consecutive winters.

In 2010, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reported that since the winter of

1992-93, 578 people had died in Michigan snowmobile crashes.

There was now a hesitancy out there on the trails. "Many people got out of snowmobiling in the 1990s and 2000s due to rough trails, overcrowding, rowdy riders, unsafe conditions and poor mapping," said Ron Yesney, DNR Upper Peninsula trails coordinator.

Lasting effects. Over the time that has passed, snowmobiling in Michigan has changed for the better in several ways. The popularity of side-by-sides and other off-road vehicles has outpaced that of snowmobiles in Michigan. The Great Recession that hit the national economy beginning in 2008-09, and struck Michigan particularly hard, forced many snowmobilers, boaters and recreational vehicle owners to sell their machines. This left a lot of snowmobilers opting to rent a sled rather than own one.

In 2017, Bill Manson, then-executive director of the Michigan Snowmobile Association, told the Capital News Service snowmobiling depends on disposable income, which had decreased since the recession. Manson said that in the late 1990s, sales of new snowmobiles in Michigan had been about 20,000 each year, but dropped to roughly 3,000 by 2008, rebound-

ing to 6,000 by 2016.

New conditions. Today, though Michigan trail mileage has increased to 6,500 miles, the state has slipped to rank sixth nationally in that department.

However, while the number of the state's trail miles has been outpaced by other states, the Michigan DNR and trail groups have worked to improve trail conditions, including bettering grooming efficiency and replacing outdated bridges and other infrastructure.

With 178,109 registered snowmobiles in 2021, Michigan has dropped from first to third behind Wisconsin and Minnesota, according to the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association.

Though a single death is one too many, the number of fatalities over the past couple of winters is significantly lower when compared with those previous high-fatality winter seasons years ago.

Last winter, there was a total of five snowmobile deaths across Michigan and 14 the winter before that. So far this winter, seven people have been killed in snowmobile accidents.

Excessive speed remains the No. 1 cause of snowmobile deaths and serious injuries in Michigan. Alcohol use continues to be a prominent factor in most crashes,

according to DNR crash statistics.

The DNR and trail groups have championed a "Ride Right" safety campaign over the past few years to help keep safety at the forefront of rider reminders. Meanwhile, DNR conservation officers continue to patrol snowmobile trails, enforcing laws and helping to educate riders.

A snowmobiling handbook distributed by the International Snowmobiler Manufacturers Association includes a "Safe Riders Pledge."

Riders taking the pledge promise to never drink and drive, drive within the limits of their machine and their own abilities, obey the rules and laws of the states and provinces they are visiting, treat the outdoors with respect, not litter or damage trees or other vegetation, respect property rights, not snowmobile where prohibited and more.

The pledge is promoted by riders who take the oath and then encourage others to do the same thing.

Results. The declines in Michigan's numbers of sleds, snowmobilers and deaths, along with improved trail availability and riding conditions, have led to a "less is better" circumstance for snowmobiling in Michigan. Many people who previously abandoned their sleds, are now hopping back on.

"Now, we have better grooming equipment, more grooming, fewer riders, an aging and maturing riding population, better maps and flat-out better riding," Yesney said.

The International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association has developed a profile of today's snowmobiler. The average age is 46. Riders spend an average of \$2,000 a year on snowmobile-related recreation.

One sledder's story. Dave Johnson of Marquette rode single-ski Ski-Doo snowmobiles as a kid in the 1970s with friends and neighbors whose parents had snowmobiles and let them "rip around as youngsters out at camp." As a teen, Johnson rode his older brother's Polaris 530 around south Marquette and used to ride trails and an old railroad grade to get to the jack pine barrens of the Sands Plains, about 10 miles south of town.

Late one night, his Polaris "blew up" while he was riding in

a remote part of Alger County. At 2 a.m., he had to call his girlfriend from a local bar to come to pick him up. "I sold the sled to a friend as is, and I was out," Johnson said. "I got married, had kids, work, et cetera. Pretty much gave it up to be a husband and father – rode a bit with a good buddy a couple times because he had two sleds."

Then in 2009, when his youngest daughter was 8 or 9 years old, Johnson came back to snowmobiling when he purchased an older Arctic Cat from a co-worker to take his daughter riding. "I did rides to camp with her, local rides and some rides to Gwinn," Johnson said. "I loved it and she loved it – great father-daughter time – really miss those days."

Johnson bought three sleds after that one and he still rides today, alone sometimes, but mostly with groups. In returning to snowmobiling, he has found improvements, including better trails. "The trail system is very nice and well-maintained throughout the whole Upper Peninsula," he said.

Pandemic waves. With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the shutdowns that followed, many people began to seek respite, physical exercise and solace in the outdoors. The numbers of people getting outdoors to enjoy recreation also affected the habits of snowmobile permit buyers. Numbers of snowmobile permits sold in Michigan totaled 130,366 in 2017. In 2021, numbers of permits rose to 138,870, perhaps signifying a resurgence. Overall, snowmobile permit sales have remained relatively stable during the pandemic.

"ORV licenses are down 13.3 percent and snowmobile permits are up 4.6 percent through December," said Dustin Isenhoff, a DNR Marketing and Outreach Division specialist in a January 2022 sales report to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

These days, snowmobilers are riding better trails, under safer conditions, with fewer sledders, to reach improved destination points across Michigan's winter wonderland.

However, some things remain the same, including the fun of the sport many riders say can promote great outdoor family recreation.

\$1.8 Million Goldberg, Persky and White Verdict Considered **Largest** in History of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.

ASBESTOS

FREE ASBESTOS CLAIM EVALUATION

GOLDBERG PERSKY WHITE P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SAGINAW SOUTHFIELD

ASBESTOS CLAIMS

Evaluation Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Date of Birth: _____

Union : _____ Local No: _____

Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

Have you been exposed to asbestos?

Yes No

Have you been diagnosed with:

Mesothelioma Asbestosis

Lung Cancer Colon Cancer

Do you have shortness of breath?

Yes No

Return this form to:

Goldberg, Persky & White, PC
P.O.Box 5769, Saginaw, Michigan 48603 or

Call 800-799-2234

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as **mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis.**

Many Michigan building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Thousands have developed asbestos disease. Some are not aware they were even exposed.

For more than 30 years, GPW has represented thousands of Michigan union workers in lawsuits against the asbestos industry. We can arrange a **free chest x-ray** review by a NIOSH Certified B-Reader to all qualified building tradesmen with start dates prior to 1980.

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. No recovery-no fee

We are considered the Very Best Mesothelioma Attorneys in Michigan for good reason- our results speak for themselves

Return the form or contact us today:

800-799-2234

www.gpwlaw-mi.com