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Since 1952 • Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trade unions

May 15, 2020

SHORT

The economy is bad. Really, really bad.

Well, at least the construction industry in Michigan has reopened. That's one major drop of glad tidings in a sea of horrible economic news that has emerged in our state and across the nation as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

A number of economic and employment benchmarks were released earlier this month provide the fullest impact yet of the virus on the U.S. economy. Following is a sampling:

•A record 20.5 million U.S. jobs were lost in April as the nation's unemployment rate jumped to 14.7 percent, the Labor Department reported May 8. That's a post-World War II record. And the "real" unemployment rate, which includes workers not looking for jobs and the underemployed, surged to 22.8 percent.

Historically, April's unemployment rate topped the postwar record of 10.8 percent in November 1982 but was short of the Great Depression high estimated at 24.9. percent. During the Great Recession, the jobless peak was 10 percent in October 2009.

Michigan hadn't reported its jobless rate when we went to press earlier this week. But in the first week of May more than 1.3 million Michigan workers had filed for unemployment benefits since mid-March when the state announced its first cases of COVID-19. That would equate to about 26 percent of the state's workers experiencing job disruption.

Michigan earlier this month ranked fourth in the nation for unemployment claims behind California, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas.

•Unemployment insurance checks are being sent out by Michigan and a few other states in excess of \$800 million a week. A May 7 analysis by Lansingbased Anderson Economic Group (AEG) said "we estimate that the effective 'payroll' of state unemployment offices is now in excess of \$16 billion per week." Group Principal and CEO Patrick L. Anderson said "states are quickly becoming one of the largest sources of household income in the country. The scale and magnitude of these benefits is changing the way Americans view work during this coronavirus depression."

The AEG said "multiple states have crushing unemployment as a share of their overall workforce, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington (over 20 percent in mid-April), as well as New Jersey, Massachusetts, and California, and New York (all over 15 percent).

•The U.S. construction industry reported 975,000 jobs lost in April. Worse off were education and health services (-2.5 million), professional and business services (-2.1 million, retail (-2.1 million), manufacturing (-1.3 million) and other service industries (-1.3 million).

•The April U.S. unemployment numbers show a stark contrast to a solid job market for the first 10 weeks of the year. U.S. jobs jumped in February by 230,000 (jobless rate 3.5 percent), part of a string of positive job gains that had gone nearly unabated for the previous decade. Then March's jobless numbers came in: impacted mid-month by the virus, job losses were reported at 870,000.

•Although multiple states are relaxing business openings, more than 60 percent of the U.S. economy still remained under stay-at-home orders earlier this month.

Quotable

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear. –Rosa Parks, 1913-2005

Michigan construction is back open for business

'My biggest fear... that our workforce will get lackadaisical about PPE'

By Marty Mulcahy Editor

DETROIT – Mike Haller is the chief executive officer of De-Walbridge, troit-based Michigan's second largest general contractor and a consistent employer of union crafts. Last week he gave us his take on what the construction industry is looking at as it restarts in a COVID environment.

"The number one issue is the health and safety of our direct employees at Walbridge, and the health and safety of our subcontractors and of our tradespeople," said Haller. "To address that, we have spent a lot of time developing and putting protocols in place for our workforce to deal with the COVID virus. We have spent a

(Continued on Page 3) at the worksite.



are gonna change...

sites must adopt a set of best practices to protect their workers from infection. Those practices include:

•Designating a site supervisor to enforce COVID-19 control

•Conducting daily health screenings for workers. •Creating dedicated entry points, if possible, or issuing stickers or other indicators to assure that all workers are screened every day.

•Identifying choke points and high-risk areas (like hallways,

•Ensuring sufficient hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations



Under Gov. Whitmer's May 1 order, Michigan construction

hoists and elevators, break areas, water stations, and buses) and controlling them to enable social distancing.



WHAT WILL BE THE largest building on the grounds of the former Silverdome, a five-story 3.5 million square-foot warehouse/fulfillment center, goes up on the new Amazon-Pontiac site.

Photo credit: Marty Mulcahy Trades delivering new Amazon campus at Silverdome site

PONTIAC - The former Silverdome stadium site is being replaced with an Amazon distribution center.

A buzz of activity is now going on at the site of the Detroit Lions' demolished stadium, and it will create a \$250 million project that will be used as a warehouse, distribution and fulfillment campus.

hosted the Silverdome and a sea system is expected to be operaparking around it, will be Amazon's first location in the nation to have both a fulfillment center and distribution station.

plans a roughly 3.5 millionsquare-foot, five-story wareby the online retailing behemoth house/fulfillment center, and a Dierdre Waterman said in a single-story, 200,000-square-foot distribution station. Work began

The 127-acre site, which earlier this year The delivery tional later this year and the fulfillment center complete by the third quarter of 2021

'The former Silverdome Seefried Industrial Properties site is an ideal location and Pontiac is poised with a ready workforce," said Pontiac Mayor statement. "Landing Amazon (Continued on Page 13)

COVID evasion measures to be a constant presence on Michigan jobsites

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

LANSING - The headline reads "Michigan construction industry is back open for business." The rest of the story is a bit more complicated – not unlike everything else related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on May 1 issued Executive Order No. 2020-70, which became effective on May 7 and provides for "resumption of some types of work that present a very low risk of infection, including construction, real-estate activities, and work that is traditionally and primarily performed outdoors."

Whitmer made the announcement at a press conference that included representation from the state's labor union leadership and construction contractors. One estimate, from OxBlue, a technology company based in Atlanta, said Michigan saw a nationleading 81 percent drop in construction activity since the governor's order to halt most construction in the state took effect on March 24.

'The data shows that we're ready to lift some of these restrictions while also encouraging Michiganders to continue doing their part under the governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order," said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Chief Medical Executive Dr. Joneigh Khaldun. "The steps the governor is taking today will help ensure protections for workers and their families from COVID-19 while allowing for work in lowerrisk fields to resume. We will keep monitoring the data closely and work with our partners across state government to mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

The governor's original order shutting down construction declared most – but not all – of the industry "nonessential." Some health care construction continued, as did work on power plants and some road work - although, many workers in construction who could have gone to work chose not to because of the threat of being infected by the

Michigan was one of just a handful of states whose governor applied the nonessential tag to most construction. Other gov-

ernors accepted the argument that workers in construction were already accustomed to the use of PPE and social distancing, two important practices in halting the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Leaders in the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, President Steve Claywell and Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin, have maintained that during the COVID crisis, workers should be supported with a fair system of jobless benefits and no fear of employer reprisal if they haven't been working according to the (Continued on Page 3)

It may be a while until normal returns

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

Just because Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has allowed construction to resume in Michigan, it doesn't mean that it will resemble what we would consider "normal" at least not at first.

While the construction industry has moved along with minimal disruption in some states over the past two months, the Associated General Contractors reported that 40 percent of U.S. construction contractors they surveyed last month said their company had experienced layoffs during the COVID crisis.

"Owners are not only halting many current construction projects but are canceling a growing number of projects that have not yet started," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Inevitably, that has caused a growing number of contractors to furlough or terminate jobsite workers.'

In Michigan the coming weeks will determine if jobs will be available for tradespeople who want to return to work (and likely, some won't). For one, material suppliers, assuming they are able, will have to gear up production of hardware like structural steel and masonry products.

And, while shortages of PPE have been alleviated somewhat among medical personnel, acquiring it can still be a challenge in the construction industry. The same survey by the AGC found that 39 percent of contractor-respondents said they had encountered project delays or disruptions due to shortages of personal protective equipment such as masks for jobsite workers, while 23 percent reported shortages of construction materials, equipment or parts.

And importantly, owners are skittish: the AGC survey found that 53 percent of contractors reported that they had been directed to cancel current projects or ones scheduled to start within (Continued on Page 3)

Ventilator arsenal? We can build that

By Marty Mulcahy **Editor**

YPSILANTI – Before you can have an "Arsenal of Democracy," or these days, an "Arsenal of Health," you have to build the

at the Ford Motor Co. Rawsonville Components Plant by Giffen, Conti Mechanical and its union trades workforce. The team answered the call by the col-Co. and GTE Health Care to quickly build a clean space at the

100,000 ventilators by this sum- partnership with the UAW, we mer. The nation's shortage of ventilators has been made painfully evident during the COVID-19 crisis, as health care providers have had to beg, borrow and buy ventilators from around the world to That was the task taken on meet the respiratory needs of critically ill patients.

"The Ford and GE Healthcare teams, working creatively and tirelessly, have found a way to produce this vilaborative effort of Ford Motor tally needed ventilator quickly and in meaningful numbers,' said Jim Hackett, Ford's president plant that would allow for the and CEO. "By producing this now-ongoing production of some ventilator in Michigan, in strong

can help health care workers save lives, and that's our No. 1 priority.'

A Ford banner at the Rawsonville plant declared the project as "Building the Arsenal of Health." While the need for respirators across the nation has dropped, perhaps only temporarily, from the height of demand (Continued on Page 2)

INSTALLINGA COPPER air line at the Ford-Rawsonville plant is John Olmstead of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190. He's employed by Conti.





MASKS, ESPECIALLY in the era of COVID-19, come in all shapes, styles and materials. Some are better than others at stopping the coronavirus.

Behind the mask: what cover is best to stop the coronavirus? protect (and fall short) against breathing).

By Nick Fox Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America

uncertainty during this ongoing pandemic has been over what seems like a relatively simple question: "What should I wear on my face to protect myself from getting COVID-19?"

Answering that question requires understanding some key concepts about how the novel coronavirus (SARs-CoV-2) spreads and how various masks naked eye (e.g., during regular

those transmission methods.

Understanding particles, One of the biggest areas of **droplets and aerosols.** We know the cornonavirus is spread through respiratory droplets expelled by an infected person, such as during a cough or sneeze. Depending on the person and force of their breath, these droplets could be large enough to see (e.g., spittle during a hacking cough) or so tiny that they hang in the air and are invisible to the

Safety and health professionals have a term for these tiny particles that get suspended in the air – aerosols. The consensus is that coronavirus particles can become aerosolized, which is critical to understanding how the virus spreads. That's because gravity forces larger particles to the ground fairly quickly, but smaller, aerosolized particles can linger in the air for much longer. Being suspended in the air makes it much

(Continued on Page 13)

Viewpoints



How 'bout a worker bailout

With the coronavirus pandemic wreaking havoc on the global economy, here's how massive corporations are shafting the rest of us in order to secure billions of dollars of taxpayer-funded bailouts.

The airline industry demanded a massive bailout of nearly \$60 billion in taxpayer dollars, and ended up securing \$50 billion half in loans, half in direct grants that don't need to be paid back.

Airlines don't deserve a cent. The five biggest U.S. airlines spent 96 percent of their free cash flow over the last decade buying back shares of their own stock to boost executive bonuses and please wealthy investors. United was so determined to get its windfall of taxpayer money that it threatened to fire workers if it didn't get its way. Before the Senate bill passed, CEO Oscar Munoz wrote that "if Congress doesn't act on sufficient government support by the end of March, our company will begin to...reduce our payroll....

Airlines could have renegotiated their debts with their lenders outside court, or file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. They've reorganized under bankruptcy many times before. Either way, they'd keep flying.

The hotel industry says it needs \$150 billion. The industry says as many as 4 million workers could lose their jobs in the coming weeks if they don't receive a bailout. Everyone from general managers to housekeepers will be affected. But don't worry the layoffs won't reach the corporate level. Hotel chains don't need a bailout. For years, they've been making record profits while underpaying their workers. Marriott, the largest hotel chain in the world, repurchased \$2.3 billion of its own stock last year, while raking in nearly \$4 billion in profits.

Thankfully, President Trump's hotels and businesses, as well as any of his family members' businesses, are barred from receiving anything from the \$500 billion corporate bailout money. But the bill is full of loopholes that Trump can exploit to benefit himself and his hotels.

Cruise ships also want to be bailed out, and Trump called them a "prime candidate" to receive a government handout. But they don't deserve it either. The three cruise ship corporations controlling 75 percent of the entire global market are incorporated outside of the United States to avoid paying taxes.

They're floating tax shelters, paying an average U.S. tax rate of just 0.8 percent. Democrats secured key provisions stipulating that companies are only eligible for bailout money if they are incorporated in the United States and have a majority of U.S. employees, so the cruise ship industry likely won't see a dime of relief funding. However, Trump has made it clear he still wants to help them.

The justification I've heard about why all these corporations need to be bailed out is they'll keep workers on their payrolls. But why should we believe big corporations will protect their workers right now? The \$500 billion slush fund included in the Senate's emergency relief package doesn't require corporations to keep paying their workers and has dismally weak restrictions on stock buybacks and executive pay.

Even if the bill did provide worker protections, what's going to happen to these corporations' subcontractors and gig workers? What about worker benefits, pensions and health care? How much of this bailout is going to end up in the pockets of executives and big investors?

The record of Big Business isn't comforting. Amazon, one of the richest corporations in the world, which paid almost no taxes last year, is only offering unpaid time off for workers who are sick and just two weeks paid leave for workers who test positive for the virus. Meanwhile, it demands its employees put in mandatory overtime.

Oh, and these corporations made sure they and other companies with more than 500 employees were exempt from the requirement in the first House coronavirus bill that employers provide paid sick leave.

And now, two months into statewide shelter-in-place orders and social-distancing restrictions, Wall Streeters and corporate America's chief executives are calling for supposedly "low-risk" groups to be sent back to work to restart the economy.

They're so concerned about protecting their bottom line that they're willing to let people die to preserve their stock portfolios, all while they continue working from the safety and security of their own homes. It's the most repugnant class warfare you can imagine.

Here's the bottom line: no mega-corporation deserves a cent of bailout money. For decades these companies and their billionaire executives have been dodging taxes, getting tax cuts, shafting workers, and bending the rules to enrich themselves. There's no reason to trust them to do the right thing with billions of dollars in taxpayer money.

Every penny we have needs to go to average Americans who desperately need income support and health care, and to hospitals that need life-saving equipment. It's outrageous that the Senate bill gave corporations nearly four times as much money as hospitals on the front lines. Corporate welfare is bad enough in normal times. Now, in a national emergency, it's morally repugnant. We must stop bailing out corporations. It's time we bail out people.

Robert Reich Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley

Ventilator arsenal? We can build that

(Continued from Page 1)

only a few weeks ago, the shortage prompted the Trump Administration to invoke the Defense Production Act to require a single company, GM, to build the ventilators, even though they were already busy doing so in the design and supply chain process.

Ford and other companies also pitched in with resources to build the ventilators, a pledge echoing the conversion of carmaking resources by the state's automakers into manufacturing sites for vehicles, planes, parts and weapons during World War II. Michigan earned its nickname the Arsenal of Democracy, during the war. The plant where Ford is assembling the ventilators is down the road from the site where it once built B-24s bombers.

A portion of the Rawsonville plant was devoted to ventilator production. Giffen managed the Rawsonville project, and they hired Conti to perform the mechanical work. using building trades electricians and pipe trades workers working with UAW skilled trades to do



PART OF THE GROUP of building trades union workers, Ford, and UAW personnel who managed to convert a portion of the Ford Rawsonville plant in Ypsilanti to ventilator production in just eight days. We have partial identifications on the group, including (l-r) Tony Ratcliff, Phil Lewis, Frank Bennett, John Olmstead (all Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190 members; foreman Jim Ziegler of Plumbers

of a war effort, and we were told

to do everything we had to do to

make this work. It really was a

joint venture, and everybody

came together to make it work. I

was really impressed with the

crew we worked with, I worked

with eight (Plumbers and Pipe

Fitters) Local 190 guys on days

and Bernie worked with six on

nights. We had great hands to

work with, I couldn't have picked

plant to making the ventilators

was akin to hospital-grade con-

struction, Ziegler said, with en-

hanced cleanliness guidelines in

place. The project included the

installation of a bulk oxygen

system, compressors, accumu-

lators, and dryers. Oxygen main

pipes and 132 "air drops" at

work stations allowed for the

clean assembly and testing of the

ventilators as they were being

was to help procure materials for

the project, and the trades in-

stalled two compressors, two ac-

A significant role of Conti's

Converting a portion of the

a better crew.'

the necessary work.

"It was very hectic at first, but it ended up going very well," said Conti day foreman Jim Ziegler, who worked with fellow Plumbers Local 98 night shift

tasked with installing fire alarm foreman Bernie Summers to see the project through to complewiring during their five days on tion. "It was a joint effort with the project. He said eight electrithe UAW, and we were told at cians plus a foreman worked 12the beginning that this was part hour shifts.

'No issues, it was a good job for us, even though it came to us as a last-minute project," Phillips said. "Everybody did their best."

Production of the GE/Airon Model A-E ventilator manufactured at Rawsonville began April 20. Ford said the simplified ventilator design – licensed by GE Healthcare from Florida-based Airon Corp. – is responsive to the needs of most COVID-19 patients, and operates on air pressure without the need for elec-

Adrian Price, Ford's director of global core engineering for vehicle manufacturing who is running the project, told CBS News that Ford is used to building big automotive products. "Scaling to produce something like

a small ventilator requires different sourcing and components and different capability," he said during the start-up process. "There's quite a bit that goes into taking a design that is currently being produced at two-a-day and scaling that to make over 7,000 a week. "Have you learned the lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you,

from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed

98; UAW fitters Greg and Nick, Ford Supt. Matt Niemi, and two project certifiers.

(Not) all in this together

By Jim Hightower

In this horrible time of economic collapse, it is truly touching to see so many corporate chieftains reaching out in solidarity with the hard-hit working class. We know



they're doing this because they keep telling us they are. Practically every brandname giant has been spending

millions of dollars on PR campaigns in recent weeks asserting that they're standing with us, declaring over and over: "We're all in this together."

Except, of course, they're really not standing anywhere near us. While we're waiting in endless lines at food banks and unemployment offices, the elites are still getting fat paychecks and platinum-level health care.

The severity and gross disparity of our country's present economic collapse is not simply caused by a sudden viral outbreak, but by a decades-long plutocratic policy of intentionally maximizing profits for the rich and

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minimizing everyone else's wellbeing. As the eminent economist Joseph Stiglitz rightly put it, "We built an economy with no shock absorbers."

Jobs, once the measure of a family's economic security, have steadily been shriveled to lowwage unreliable work, untethered to a fair share (or any share) of the new wealth that workers create. In a relentless push for exorbitant, short-term profits, today's executives have abandoned any pretense that a corporation is a community of interdependent interests striving to advance the common good.

Instead, while the honchos are richly covered, they're washing their hands of any responsibility for the health, retirement, and other essential needs of their workforce. "Rely on food stamps, Obamacare, and other publiclyfunded programs," they say, even as their lobbyists and for-sale lawmakers slash the public safety nets so rich shareholders and speculators can take evermore

These forces of American greed have shoved millions of working families to the economic precipice – and all it takes is a virus to push them over.

(via www.otherwords.org)

cumulators, and two dryers and an extensive amount of copper piping to keep the oxygen flowing. Work by the trades on the eight-day project wrapped up April 17. Conti electrical Supt. Walt

Phillips (IBEW Local 58) said he and a crew of hometown IBEW Local 252 electricians were

passage with you? -Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

and stood aside for you? Have

you not learned great lessons

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: The Willow Run plant HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy



WORKERS AT THE L-SHAPED Willow Run plant in Ypsilanti were building a B-24 bomber every 63 minutes during the latter stages of World War II. Ford Motor Co. built 6,972 B-24s in 776 days and produced kits for 1,893 more that could be crated and assembled by other manufacturers.

For the guy who invented the automotive assembly line, built the largest industrial complex in the world, paid his workforce an unheard-of \$5 per hour and invented a production, sales and service empire that did more to put America on wheels than anyone, what may have been Henry Ford's greatest triumph had nothing to do with any of those things.

We draw your attention to the Willow Run Assembly Plant, which was located east of the city of Ypsilanti and north of the I-94 freeway – a stretch of road that was originally constructed to service the plant. Henry Ford reluctantly, and urged by his son Edsel – agreed in January 1941 to the audacious plan to erect a massive assembly plant that would eventually employ 42,000 people who built 8,685 B-24 Liberator bombers, which helped win the war in the European and Pacific theatres during World

Douglas Brinkley, a professor of history at Rice University and author of Wheels for the World: Henry Ford, His Company and a Century of Progress. said "other U.S. wartime plants were significant, but what happened at Willow Run was deemed a miracle. The idea that an auto manufacturer could stop making cars and start making planes at the rate they were making them became a perfect symbol of American industrial might. Willow Run became a name to inspire America's fighting men and women.'

In January 1941, Edsel and Ford Motor Co. manufacturing boss Charles Sorensen were invited to Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, with the federal government hoping that Ford could expand its involvement in aircraft production, specifically in the newly designed B-24.

"Sorensen in particular was unimpressed by the methods Consolidated was using to produce its B-24 Liberator bomber," says Willow Run's Glory Days by Don Scherman and Grack Shackman. "There were no blueprints or accurate measuring tools. Major components were custom fit, so each plane was different from the next. Final assembly took place outside in the California sun. In his memoirs Sorensen observed sourly, 'What I saw reminded me of the way we built cars at Ford 35 years ear-

Overnight, Sorensen sketched out plans for the needed plant. Edsel went home to **Dearborn and convinced Henry** to build it on land he already

owned. According to The Henry Ford, "working with architect Albert Kahn, Ford officials envisioned a massive factory with bombers built on a moving line, just like Ford's automobiles. The main building would be more than a mile long with dual, parallel assembly lines. The chosen site was farmland owned by Henry Ford on the eastern edge of Michigan's Washtenaw County, near a creek called Willow Run. Next door, Willow Run airport was also constructed.

"Plant construction started in March 1941. The main building went up in sections, with workers using plywood partitions to seal off finished portions from those still under construction. Five main contractors hurried the project along, and parts of the plant began production in September 1941. Ultimately, more than seven million square feet of floor space were completed for B-24 production at Willow Run."

The Henry Ford said



B-24s, SHOWN in production at Willow Run, cruised at 290 mph and carried a 5,000-pound bomb load for 1,700 miles, giving it a longer range, greater speed, and a bigger payload than its B-17 cousin.

Sorensen and his team "carefully planned the new facility to the last detail. Working with a scale model, they shifted equipment and work stations for maximum efficiency. The main building's 'L' shape prevented its crossing into neighboring Wayne County. It also required the installation of two turntables to turn airplane fuselages 90 degrees near the end of the assembly line.'

Why not go into Wayne County? "Henry Ford had demanded that Willow Run by built L-shaped so that it stayed within the confines of a Republican county (Washtenaw) that voted against Roosevelt in three straight elections," writes Albert Baime in The Arsenal of Democracy, FDR, Detroit and an Epic Quest to Arm America.

The assembly plant would be the largest in the world at the time, including a system with 136 conveyors that would deliver parts where they needed to go in the building that had to be designed for a complex, four-engine bomber for a company whose only experience was building cars. Construction started on the plant in April 1941 and was finished in September 1942.

The next month, the first B-24 bombers built by Ford – with a mostly female workforce of "Rosie the Riveters" - were rolled off the assembly line and were flown to their destination from the runway.

According to Assembly Magazine, "More B-24s were built than any other combat aircraft in U.S. history. Several other plants churned out the airplane, including facilities in Fort Worth, Texas, and San Diego. However, even under optimum conditions, those plants could only build one bomber a day."

By the end of 1943, the Willow Run plant was producing one bomber per hour by the end of

Says Business Insider, "The Ford Motor Company made the audacious promise to build one bomber every hour - a claim that drew derision from the aircraft industry, which doubted an automobile company was capable of such a feat.'

Aviator Charles Lindbergh, who served as a consultant on the Willow Run project, called the \$47 million facility the "Grand Canyon of a mechanized world." The B-24's bombed Germany day and night, halting fuel and armaments production, stopping the delivery of supplies, and eventually helped to win the war in Europe. With action in that theatre over and men and machines shifting to the war with Japan, the last B-24 bomber rolled off the assembly line on June

After the war, production at Willow Run shifted to automotive manufacturing. The federal government actually owned the plant, and when Ford moved out the space was sold to the Kaiser-Frazer Motors Corp. That longdefunct company produced cars in the plant until it moved out in

GM, which had leased Willow Run space from Kaiser-Frazer, bought the facility in 1953 after a disastrous fire at the Livonia Transmission Plant. Only three months later, the Willow Run plant had been refit and retooled to make GM's Hydramatic transmissions. The plant eventually closed in 2010, and was later mostly demolished. Today, only a single hanger remains from the original plant, used by the Yankee Air Musuem to house historic aircraft.



THE WILLOW RUN plant under construction in 1941. Completed with about seven million square feet, some production began at the plant in September 1941.

COVID evasion measures to be a constant presence on jobsites

(Continued from Page 1)

governor's guidelines, And if they are working, they should be supplied with proper personal protection equipment, a safe working environment and a collaborative employer-employee

'My biggest fear... that our workforce will get lackadaisical about PPE'

(Continued from Page 1)

great deal of time planning, developing and putting these protocols into place for the safety and health of everyone involved.

"My biggest fear is that there will be a breakdown in discipline on maintaining those protocols. That our workforce will get lackadaisical about PPE, about social distancing, that masks won't be worn, or there won't be proper hand washing.

"Another fear is the potential angst by craftworkers, and the distraction it may cause on the job site. We tell our workers that their ultimate customer is their family, and we know that workers are worried about them and their family is worried that their loved one is going to bring the virus home. So that's why it's going to be so important to be following the protocols that are in place to keep everyone safe.

Haller said while he couldn't speak for other companies, but for Walbridge, the company already had guidelines in place for shutting down its active construction projects, which happened all over the state on March 24. But the construction industry involves a web of interested parties to see a project to completion, and he said it may take some time for the industry to shake off any rust that formed during the seven weeks of down time. "I worry about our supply chain, our material suppliers, our subcontractors - have they restarted, have they built momentum, do they have available the manpower, materials and equipment that we need?"

While Walbridge is based in Detroit, it runs construction projects around the nation and America. Haller said about 60 percent of Walbridge projects have continued during the COVID crisis. "So on a lot of projects, we never stopped," Haller said. "We have a number of projects out of state, and so we already have familiarity with these PPE standards, protocols and requirements in a COVID world.

"Here in Michigan, I believe that eventually these new protocols are going to be like riding a bike. We have a talented, trained, agile workforce, and they're going to embrace these new safety measures. Six months from now I think you're going to see a safer workforce that has adapted to a post-COVID world. And of course I pray that by then we won't be working relationship.

"We are grateful for the governor's commitment to protecting working people and their families from the spread of COVID-19," said Devlin at the news conference. "Our dedicated building trades men and women are ready to get back to work, and we're glad the governor has taken steps today to help ensure their safety. We can and will do this safely and with partnership with our contractors, our construction managers, our owners.

"We will rise to meet the challenge that COVID-19 brings to the jobsites," Devlin continued. "Make no mistake, we will protect the hard-working men and women of the construction trades, and have them return to work safely, so they can return home safely each night. Michigan construction companies, unionized or not, throughout the state, will be committed to meeting the new PPE standards. This is an important element to keeping the curve flat and getting safely back to work."

The governor's order reopening construction is only the first step toward re-establishing normalcy in the industry. Just like Michigan's citizens."

in the greater population, COVID flare-ups could happen as we move forward. That is why the proper use of PPE temperature testing and screening is important for worksite entry and reentry. There will be increased concern in confined environments where social distancing poses more challenges, like at the Fermi II Nuclear Power Plant near Monroe, which saw a virus-case spike last month and continues to have issues based on the unique challenges of that facility.

With an eye towards Michigan's economic recovery, leadership representing the full spectrum of the construction industry have been working diligently and cooperatively to outline processes and practices that will allow us to safely get back to work," said Ryan Maibach, president & CEO of Michigan's largest general contractor, Barton Malow, and member of the Michigan Economic Recovery Council. "The construction industry is entrenched in a culture of safety, and as we return to work, we are developing and implementing new best practices that further emphasize the well-being of our workers and

It may be a while until normal returns to state construction

(Continued from Page 1)

30 days.

Despite the inevitable hiccups in restarting construction, Whitmer said it can be done safely. "As part of our MI Safe Start Plan," she said May 1, "we are bringing business and labor leaders together to ensure that while we lift some restrictions on the previous Stay Home, Stay Safe order, we are also protecting workers and their families from the spread of this virus. I want to be clear: we must all continue to stay home and stay safe as much as possible. If we all keep doing our part, we can reduce the risk of a second wave and re-engage our economy safely and responsibly.

Whitmer and her team have relied on information from the Michigan Economic Recovery Council (MERC) on how to safely re-engage the economy as the state slows the spread of COVID-19. The group has made several recommendations on how the economy can be opened safely and effectively. According to Barton Malow CEO Ryan Maibach, he and Walbridge CEO Mike Haller canvassed the state's construction industry during April in an effort "to develop practices that would work for the entire spectrum of our industry.' He said they communicated with industry groups, including organized labor, representing more than 20,000 different construction entities and 225,000 industry workers.

The Associated General Contractors - Michigan Chapter said the work of the recovery council is "one of the primary reasons conin Canada, Mexico and South struction is returning to work."

The council declared that its first goal is to put Michigan on a path to full economic recovery as safely and quickly as feasible. Their second goal is to ensure the recovery is staged carefully and in a way that safeguards the health of the state's residents and the health of the state's workforce.

"As we return to work," Maibach said, "we all need to embrace the responsibility we have to adopt these best practices, ensuring the safety of ourselves and those around us. With these measures in place on our projects, we are prepared to get Michigan's construction industry safely back to work.'

The Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, whose contractors employ union road workers, said Whitmer's announcement to reopen the construction industry "is great news for MITA members not working on 'essential infrastructure projects,' which have continued throughout the pandemic.

Several member firms have reached out to MITA to express their desire to get back to work in order to continue to keep their employees working and to support Michigan's economy. This move should open up most construction projects that have been put on hold, including private commercial, residential and other local projects, but communication with owners/primes/subcontractors/suppliers will be vital."

Whitmer eases jobless \$ prerequisite

LANSING – Michigan Gov. possible," Whitmer said. Gretchen Whitmer on May 6 signed an Executive Order that will allow people to get their unemployment benefits more quickly during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The order will allow the state to review only a worker's most recent job separation, which is the cause of the current unemployment, to determine the their benefit entitlement. In turn, the benefit process will be expedited.

'Michiganders everywhere have lost work because of COVID-19, and we must ensure they receive the benefits they're entitled to as quickly and efficiently as

The Executive Order also extends prior Executive Order 2020-57, which: •Expands the state's

more tools to employers to reduce layoffs and restart their business. Extends unemployment ben-

workshare program, offering

efits to workers: •Who have an unanticipated

family care responsibility. Who are sick, quarantined, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family

and medical leave or are laid off. •Extends unemployment benefits to workers who voluntarily left a job after accepting

new employment but were unable to start their new position due to the pandemic.

 Allows anyone with an active unemployment claim to receive up to 26 weeks of benefits.

 Suspends the requirement for individuals seeking unemployment to request a registration and work search waiver from their employer.

Whitmer's latest executive order is a bit ironic, given the woeful record of the Michigan Unemployment Agency in processing jobless claims during the pandemic. More than 1.3 million have filed for unemployment in Michigan over the last seven weeks, overwhelming the UI system.

swore?" asks the amazed priest.

"No, not yet," the man replies. "As the eagle carried the squirrel away, it flew toward the green. As it passed over a clump of trees near the green, the squirrel dropped my ball."

'Did you swear THEN?" asks the now impatient priest.

"No, because as the ball fell it struck a tree, bounced through some bushes, careened off a big rock, and rolled onto the green and stopped within six inches of

The priest sighs, "You missed the putt, didn't you?"

A man goes to the confessional and begins "Forgive me Father, for I have sinned." What your sin, my son?"

the priest asks. 'Well," the man starts, "I used some horrible language this week and I feel absolutely terrible."

"When did you use this horrible language?" asks the priest.

"I was golfing and hit an incredible drive that looked like it was going to go over 250 yards, but it struck a tree branch next to the fairway and fell straight down

Just joking to the ground after going

only about 100 yards." 'Is that when you

"Well, no, Father," says the man. "After that, a squirrel ran out of the bushes and grabbed my ball in his mouth and began to run away.

"Is THAT when you swore?" asks the priest

"Uh, no," says the man. "You see, as the squirrel was running, an eagle came down out of the sky, grabbed the squirrel in his talons and began to fly away!"

"Is THAT when you

the hole.



Local 292 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY-MEETING NOTICE: JUNE MEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.



GUALDONI

The next general membership meeting will be

held on **July 8, 2020**. Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

The E-Board/Stewards meeting for May is still pending. We will keep you updated. FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: Governor Whitmer has signed an Executive Order to reopen Construction and Manufacturing, as of May

11, 2020. (Exec order 2020-70 & 77) Local 292 Contractors are starting back up and will be contacting members directly. We are taking all necessary pre-

cautions to protect members and ensure safety. We ask that you use common sense to protect yourselves and those around you. PPE will be supplied to you. Please continue to use the guidelines recommended by the CDC. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Union Representatives.

-Fraternally yours, Paul Gualdoni, Business Manager/FST **CONDOLENCES**: Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of Retiree members, Gary DePollo who passed away on April 8, 2020 and Martin (Bud) Walters on April 10, 2020. Both were longtime members of our local and we are saddened to hear of these losses. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

ELECTION NOTICE: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Union Election will **not** take place in June. The Election will take place when conditions improve.

RETIREES NOTICE: The retiree's luncheon will be held **Thurs**days at: Tavern on the Main, 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It is located 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street. Looking forward to seeing all retirees, new and old!! Next meeting: **June 4, 2020** at 12:30 pm

2020 meeting dates are as follows: **Aug.** 6th, **Oct.** 1st and **Dec.** 3rd Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_el@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Members please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact Laura or Lee Ann at the Union Hall. With the amount of upcoming in-town work, all current Journeymen and Apprentices should ensure they have 18 safety mods completed and drug test should be current.

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

MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 is now partnering with Ulliance, an employee assistance program designed to assist active members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance, 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. If you have 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 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal 292.com).

UNION HALL HOURS: Although the Union Hall is not open to foot traffic, your Union Reps and Administrative Staff are working to address members' questions and concerns. If you have issues, please call the Hall or your Union Representatives. If you would like to drop off dues or any other paper work, there is a secure drop box located at the front of the Union Hall.

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.

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! Saturday weld classes are cancelled until further notice. These classes would be for members that are ready to try and obtain a AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or just need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone that signs up for a class, must pay a \$40.00 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 scheduled in the class.

APPRENTICE APPLICATION NOTICE, SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 292. APPRENTICE TRUST FUND, 64 PARK ST. TROY, MI 48083-2752. www.smwl292jatc.org.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY. The Apprentice Training Program operated by Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) admits qualified applicants without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, disability (except to the extent that such disability actually affects the applicant's ability to work at the trade or craft), marital status, or other classification protected by (Continued next column)

Local 7 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting is scheduled to be



SAM

are canceled due to COVID 19. The picnic scheduled for FULLER June 20, 2020 is also can-

held June 11,

<u>2020</u> at 4931

Contec Drive/

Lansing, MI at

All meetings

for May 2020

6:00 p.m.

celed. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic please register on our website at sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2020. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

NEWS from the Business Manager, Samual J. Fuller: Please note the cancelations listed above. We are doing everything we can to keep people informed during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please register for our website for the most current information. Dues can be paid on the Local 7 website or by mail. Local 7 is beginning to hold Zoom satellite meetings. The link for these meetings will be on the website under member resources/ zones. I would like to thank the members risking their health that are considered essential workers who have continued to work. Thank you for your patience during these trying times. Please stay safe.

Attention Certified Welders from Zones 2, 3, 4 and 5 Starting April 1st, 2020 all welding certification renewals will change to a twice-a-year schedule. The new renewal deadlines for all Certified Welders will be April 1 and Oct. 1. In order to keep your certification from expiring you will be required to submit a Welder Maintenance Form to the Training Center dated no more than 5 days prior to April 1 or Oct. 1. You will no longer be required to submit a \$10 Filing Fee with your renewal paperwork. If needed, you can request a maintenance form from the Training Center. *IF YOU FAIL TO SUB-MIT YOUR FORM BY THE **DEADLINE YOUR CERTIFI-**CATION WILL EXPIRE. Feel nator Darek Scarlavai @ (231)288-6325 if you have any questions.

ZONE 1 Info: Any Zone 1 apprentice who is laid off should notify Kevin at the school. Any Zone 1 Journeyman that is out of work should contact your agent. There is travel work available, so if you are interested please contact James or Eric. If you are experiencing any trouble with your insurance, contact your agent or BeneSys at (866) 288-7037.

If you are experiencing issues with unemployment, contact your agent. The retiree meetings are currently on hold as the meeting places are shut down until further notice. These are trying and difficult times, please stay safe as much as possible. Thank you to our essential brothers and sisters still working during this difficult time. Apprentices should be in contact with Instructors to make sure you don't fall behind. If you are interested in Fire Life Safety Train-

Local 292, con't

federal, state or local law or ordinance. (You must be 18 years old at the time of application.)

Application must be made in person. No faxes or emailed applications will be accepted!!

Applications for Apprenticeship are accepted all year every business day.

Due to the situation with COVID-19, the test date of May 7, 2020, has been cancelled. We will update with new testing dates as they become available.

All applications must be filed in person at the Training Center and a copy of your High School diploma, or GED certificate, along with a picture ID must be submitted with the application or it will not be accepted. At the time of filing you will be registered for a written test at Macomb Community College, at a cost of \$60 (Non-Members Only) which you must pay at time of testing. Cash only will be accepted. If you have any questions, call Dave at (313) 623-9390 or visit www.smwl292 jatc.org for more information.



Now that the construction industry has resumed, if you have any questions and/or concerns about returning to work, job-site safety or sanitary conditions please contact James Callahan or Eric Farrington." -In Solidarity, James Callahan and Eric Farrington.

ZONE 2 Info: We will be having an informational Zoom meeting on May 19, 2020 at 6pm. Please sign up and or check Local 7 website for information to sign up in the Zone 2 section and login for meeting info. Our Grand Rapids in person meeting is cancelled. Thank you, Dave Rutz

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Zone 3 area has been a little slow, we have a few guys working in the Detroit area on a couple big projects, and it may last up to two years. There is a lot of bidding going out in the Zone 3 area; hopefully we land these projects so we have another busy year. Thank you, Wayne Stover

Zone 3 Info: (TCity) Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 18. This will more than likely be an online zoom meeting. Details to come on how to log into the meeting. If you have any questions about the SASMI Covid Benefit, Unemployment, Insurance eligilibity etc., please give me a call and I will try to help anyway I can. Hopefully we can get everyone back to work soon. Stay Safe, Travis Eastman

ZONE 4 Info Wage disbursements will take place when it is safe for the membership to have a meeting. We have \$1.15 to disburse that as of May first will go directly on the check until a wage disbursement meeting. Due to the stay at home order many members are off and hopefully we all can return to work soon. Please stay safe! Your Brother, Larry Kinzie

ZONE 5 Info I hope everyone is doing well through these times of uncertainty. If you are having issues with your unemployment or the SASMI emergency relief benefit, please give me a call. There is lots of work waiting to start across the UP, once construction is allowed to reopen. To keep up on the latest information as to what is happening check the Local's website. If you are not signed up on the Local 7 website yet you can do so at Sheetmetal7.org.

-Respectfully, Ryan Stern RETIREE MEETINGS: celed until further notice.

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, 517-882-4064 to make your payment.

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064 Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/

Jackson) 517-242-3223

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

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

Wayne Stover (Saginaw) 989-692-0002 Travis Eastman (Traverse City)

231-943-5150 Larry Kinzie (Agent-Flint) 810-

Ryan Stern (Agent-Upper Peninsula): 906-372-9288



MULLIGAN

Local 80 **Sheet Metal Workers**

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

SOUTHFIELD - FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES RE-GARDING COVID-19 PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE SMW80.COM

This paper serves as official notice for all meetings and elections. **REMINDER** Meetings are no longer

held at the Plumbers Hall and are now held at Local 80's Union Hall.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020 at 5:30. At this meeting there will be election nominations and allocation vote. Please refer to the website for updated instructions on how the meeting will take place.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for TIM Tuesday May 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

ELECTION NOTICE: 2020 is a general election year. At the May 26, 2020 general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for the general election. The Election will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at the Local 80 Union hall. You will be voting on the positions of Business Manager, Business Agents (4), Executive Board President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Executive Board Members (5), Warden, Conductor and Trustees (3). In order to be nominated or elected your dues must be paid prior to the first day of the current month. Candidates must have a record of continuous good standing for a minimum of 2 years prior to the nomination, election or appointment. Poll hours are 12 noon until 8:00 pm. An official election notice shall be mailed to the last known home address of each voting member no less than 15 days prior to the election.

RESIDENTAL & SERVICE WAGE ALLOCATION: There will be a wage allocation vote for service and residential on May 27, 2020 at the union hall. The residential vote will be at 4:30 pm and the service vote will be at 5:00 pm.

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: 2020 Meeting Schedule: June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19, and Dec. 21. The meetings begin at 12:30 pm and are held at the Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. Fourth St. Royal Oak. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. We also have applications at the Hall if you would like to apply and we will forward it on to Mr. Murzen.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES AYEAR IN Ruth Vansteel; A. Scott Lewis; Nicholas Yelencich; Brandon Houle; Steven Borsch; Luke Garza; Joshua Bernheisel, Kody Gaffney.

GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available for members only until May 1! Please join us on July 11 at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$90 a ticket for members and \$125 a ticket for non-members. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts & danishes, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar up until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket! If there are any changes to the outing due to COVID-19 we will be sure to update the membership.

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 interna tional benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Building Trades Wage Allocation May 26, 2020 at union meeting Residential Wage Allocation Vote NEW DATE May 27, 4:30pm @ Union

Service Wage Allocation Vote NEW DATE May 27 5pm @ Union Hall **Nominations for General Election** May 26 @ Union Hall General Election Vote June 23 @ Union Hall Golf Outing July 11 @ Cracklewood Golf Course Picnic Aug. 8 @ K of C Picnic Grounds



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING - As of May 07, 2020, the Construction industry is allowed to resume per the Governor's Executive Order



KUKAWKA

2020-70 which includes all the new rules contained in the CDC's Guidelines. All Field Representatives are back to work and can be reached on their cell phones.

We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. So, while we continue to provide services to our members, we are not be able to let anyone into our buildings through May 28, 2020 as a result of the continued statewide shutdown. Any visits to our offices should be scheduled by appointment. If you have any questions, please contact either the Warren office at (586) 754-0888 or the

Lansing office at (517) 886-9781. We continue to monitor the situation and will update you as we work to get through these events with as little disruption of service to BAC members as possible. The health and well-being of our members and their families and continuity of service to our members is

our highest priority. Please visit our website for updates: www.bricklayers.org ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS FOR APRIL HAVE BEEN CAN-CELLED DUE TO COVID-19

DEATHS REPORTED:

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Walter Awdey (Tile Layer) who passed away on April 12, 2020. Brother Awdey had been a member for 68 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Norman Horan (PCC & Bricklayer) who passed away on April 10, 2020. Brother Horan had been a member for 42 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother** Edwin Ramsden (Bricklayer) who passed away on April 15, 2020. Brother Ramsden had been a member for 67 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brother Antonino Rappa (Bricklayer & Cement Mason) who passed away on April 12, 2020. Brother Rappa had been a member for 42 years.

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

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. In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, both Local 2 Training Centers are closed to our members until the Stay Home Order is lifted.

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

TMT RELATED TRAINING CLASSES. ALL TMT RTI CLASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19.

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIPASSISTANCE: 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.lv/MAP-**BAC** and are also available 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 & Al-

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

helping us accomplish this task. PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION:

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

MI BAC Health & Welfare and MI BAC Pension (800) 531-2244

(outstate funds, michiganbac.org) Cement Pension Fund (248) 645-6550 (detroitcementmasons.org)

CALL-A-DOC (800) 835-2362 (D&V Health Fund) International Pension/Annuity Fund (Brick, Cement and TMT) (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (https://bacbenefits.org)

Apprentices Needed!

Free Training for Bricklayers - New Work and Restoration Tile and Cement Masons

12 Week Pre-Apprentice Class

Based on Skill Level and Demand

In preparation for the re-opening our training centers, we are encouraging anyone interested in a Trowel Trades Apprenticeship and able to meet the physical demands of the work to complete the application process.

If you live in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe or St. Clair County, go to detroittroweltrades.org to download the application. If you live outside the above-mentioned counties (outstate), go to michiganbricklayers.org to apply online. Read and follow instructions carefully and completely.

Veterans are given highest priority as a thank you for their service.

Metro Detroit and the Outstate programs differ slightly, below are common minimum requirements for both programs. You will find the complete list of instructions online.

Applicants Must:

- •Remain drug and marijuana free, applicants must pass initial and random testing if accepted into program.
 - •Shall be physically cable of performing the essential func-
- tions of the Apprenticeship program without posing a direct threat to the health or safety of the individual or others.
 - •Have a valid Michigan driver's license.
 - Pass physical evaluation.
 - •High School Graduate or GED, higher education a plus.



Local 514

Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

MADISON HTS. - The monthly membership meeting for May is cancelled. The Apprenticeship training center is closed until further notice. The Local continues to be closed to foot traffic, however we are still providing services to our members during these times. Please call the office (248) 548-0800 or any agent with your questions or concerns. Stay safe!!

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

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

The local is now accepting applications for a Plasterer Business Agent. Please send resumes to: O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514, 1154 E. Lincoln Ave., Madison Hgts., MI 48071. Attn: Henry Williams

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

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

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

Miller Cohen PLC is extending an invitation to our members to participate in free Estate Planning Seminar. Learn about Wills, Trust, Durable Power of Attorney, and Medical Power of Attorney, and Guardian Designation. Contact the Union Hall if interested and a date will be scheduled for the free Seminar.

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

The Local's new website is now up and running!! Please go to www.opcmiami.org.

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

Members working for nonsignatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. 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.must online.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 DE-TROIT COMMERCIAL CE-**MENT MASONS:** You can track your annuity fund status at the

(Continued next column)



Michigan Painters District Council





Painters DC 1M

WARREN - Dear Members, DC1M WEBSITE: www. iupatdc1michigan.org

DC1M FACEBOOK: www. facebook.com/iupat1m



1M UNION CARDS*

D C

ques-Any tions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card GONZALEZ please contact the DC1M of-

fices at: Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

SICKNESS AND DEATH. It is with a heavy heart we announced the passing of: Local **Union 357- Jason Rutherford.** 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 Playstore. Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP.

Username: your member id# Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PAR-TICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 810-232-0005.

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

6550 with any related questions.

Wells Fargo website.

Free or (202) 638-1996.

take the least care of all to acquire.

the Local.

Cement Masons 514, continued

You may do so by logging on to: www.retirement.wellsfargo.com

PLASTERERS AND CEMENT MASONS It is your responsibil-

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any

ROAD BUILDERS can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517)

PLASTERERS'AND COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS can

All Plasterers and Cement Masons can contact (517) 321-7502

For the INTERNATIONAL PENSION Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll

"A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and that which we

or call (866) 640-5138, you can also call the fund office at (248) 645-

ity to fill out reciprocity forms if you plan on working out of the local

514 area. This will insure that your hours are sent back to your home

fund. If you have any questions, or need any forms, please contact

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-

for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan

changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local.

Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan

-François de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

District Council 1M Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933 Local Union 312

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

MI 49053 Local Union 514 Business Rep: Scott Mikulen Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupatlocal514.org.

Local Union 826 Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman **Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Place: 3115 Joyce St.

Burton, MI 48529 Local Union 845 Business Rep – Fred Frederickson Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Place: 419 S. Washington Av-

enue, Lansing, MI 48933 Local Union 1052 **Business Rep** – Jake Fluty Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at

6:30 p.m Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI

Local Union 1803 **Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623

Local Union 2352 Business Rep: John Sape **Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353 Business Rep: Keith Anderson **Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN - Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be subject to announcement.

We will be completing the remainder of this semester of apprenticeship classes online. We are working on building the format and schedule now. The Governor has let con-

struction resume. This being said please follow the specific guidelines required on each project. It will take some get used to, the new ppe required, but it is necessary to keep each other safe, and our families safe.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits. If you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

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

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

-Business Rep- Don Stepp



Sign Pictorial & Display 591 WARREN - ALL MEET-INGS ARE CANCELED UNTIL

FURTHER NOTICE. STAY SAFE. Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work

can have charges preferred against

them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws. Any questions on local union issues, please call John Sape at 586-899-8082, or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958.vour

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 of-

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

"Associate with well-mannered persons and your manners will improve. Run around with decent folk and your own decent instincts will be strengthened."

-Stanley Walker

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Local 1191

Laborers

Laborers 1191

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

Therefore, The Local Union is closed per Executive Order till MAY 28, 2020. Thanking you in advance for complying with the COVID-19 recommendations to stay **safe** and **healthy**.

Check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org. Important information is now on line!

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

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

We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs!

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 in Detroit.

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

Also, check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Note: classes & certifications contractors have been asking for are, OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License . Asbestos Removal Supervisors Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, all are 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, we will help make arrangements for you to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm and put their name on the out-ofwork list. You must have an out-ofwork skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by this Local Union. (Be sure to Check & Update your Skills.)

Also please be advised: Per the out of work list rules, all members on the list must re-register your availability for work every quarter and do so within the first five days of the following months March, June, September and December(Roll Call). 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 5 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. Save Time & Money: no more checks or money orders to mail no more worry if it gets here on time, monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent direct to the Local. Please stop by the office to get one of the forms or you may call the office (313-894-2241) to have one mailed to you. We have forms for both Michigan Laborers and Metropolitan Detroit Laborers.

Also, be sure to keep your current address and phone numbers up to date with Local. Current E- mail address is also very important! Also, we are now accepting credit and debit payments.



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85 SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting is postponed until further notice.

Attention Brothers and Sisters, as you are aware construction work was cleared to resume as of Thursday, May 7, 2020 by Governor Whitmer. The health and safety of our members and their families is still our greatest priority, as you return to work if you do not feel 100% comfortable, please contact a Business Representative immediately.

The UA Local 85 office will remain closed to in-person contact until further notice. SUB checks will continue to be mailed ONLY. We will be available by phone and email anytime for your convenience. I will also try to continue to update you via Facebook video, the last three have been well received. Please utilize the phone numbers and email addresses listed below.

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

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 13 jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 15 jbadour@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 14 tdanielak@ualocal85.org

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

local85.org Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 12,

rjanderson@ualocal85.org Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 11

ktuthill@ualocal85.org Feather Reige, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 10 freige@ualocal85.org

The next Northern Meeting is postponed until further notice.

The health and safety of all members of United Association Local 85 is the most important thing concerning me. In order to keep you safe from any possible spread of the virus, all meetings and events have been postponed and/or canceled. All apprenticeship and night classes have been canceled until further notice.

I truly and sincerely hope all of our UA Local 85 families are healthy and staying well. God Bless Organized Labor.

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

The new website is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any difficulties logging in, please call Kristin or Feather at (989) 799-5261 ext. 11 or 10.

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.

GOD BLESS ORGA-NIZED LABOR AND THE LA-**BOR MOVEMENT!**

Training Center News: Congratulations on our newest Journeymen: Ron Wehrwein and Paul Bobalek!

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

Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, P.O. Box 6547, Saginaw, MI 48608 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 a State benefit per the Plan Docu-

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.

Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261 ext.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (989) 799-5261 ext. 10.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. AL-WAYS 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. (Continued next column)

which you are eligible to receive ments.

> **NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update:** AT WORK AT THE FORD-

Rawsonville ventilator project in Ypsilanti is Frank Bennett of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190. He's employed by Conti.



UA Local 85, continued

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retiree's luncheon is postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up to date infor-

Remember you all are essential to me.

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



Local 636 Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration &

Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters 636

FARMINGTON HILLS - The May Union Meeting has been can-

The Training Center is closed till further notice.

The Union Hall is closed to all foot traffic until further notice. Any Dues payments or SUB transactions can still be done via email or by phone. SUB email is mapril@pipefitters636.org

If there are any Allocation recommendations please submit them before May 12, 2020, by mail to the hall ATTN: Terry Gilligan or you can email them to Terry Gilligan at tgilligan@pipefitters636.org. Please be advised that the May 19, 2020 Union Meeting has been cancelled and the Business Manager has the authority to make the Allocation. So if you have any suggestions please submit them as soon as possible to the email address above.

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Retiree Brother Eugene Machcinski Jr. owner of Seaway Mechanical, who passed away on April 30, 2020. Eugene was the father of Brothers Larry and David Macheinski, and the son of late Retiree Brother Eugene Machcinski Sr. Also to the family of Retiree Brother Robert Richardson who passed away on May 1, 2020. And to the family of Brother Retiree John Galvin whose wife Kathleen Galvin passed away on April 30, 2020.

Pipefitters 636 would like to congratulate Business Agent Sam Cadena on the birth of his new Grandson Wyatt who was born May

The Pipefitters 636 47th Annual Golf Outing will be held Saturday, June 20, 2020 at the Links of Novi. It will be a four man scramble with an 8:00 am shotgun start. Tickets are limited to 216 golfers, firstcome-first-serve basis. Foursomes can be reserved at a cost of \$400. This will include a continental breakfast, range balls, 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch on the turn, soft drinks/beer, prizes and a buffet dinner immediately following completion of play. All ticket orders must be received no later than Friday May 29, 2020. Please contact Lance Pesci for tickets at 248-939-3421.

The Retiree Association meeting for the month of May has been **cancelled**. The election has been postponed until further notice.

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

New Quarterly ending June 30, 2020 UA Password is: USA

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. Click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution website is www.yourplanaccess.com/benesys. All inquiries.

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

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

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

Also, a Relations/Divorce Support Group meet on the second

and fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm.

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



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING: The union meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the

UNION HALL CLOSING: Our office will be closed at noon on Friday, May 22nd and all day Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than July 10. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 7. https://uascholarshipfund.community force.com. Contact the union office at (734) 424-0962 for further information.

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

The office will be closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TO FOOT TRAFFIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. (PHONE CALLS ONLY)

2020 - MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY!!! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union hall and pick up a copy of the instructions.

UALOCAL 190 WEBSITE: www.ua190.org Current members will be able to log into the "Members Only" section using your last name and UA card number. We encourage all of you to check out our website. PLEASE NOTE: Check out "TOP NEWS" for COVID 19 information.

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

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

INFORMATION-FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:

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

EyeMed Customer Service Call: 888-581-3648

In Network Provider Listings Call: 866-804-0982 EveMed Website: www.evemed.com

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

REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Bernadette will be available by phone call only. 1-888-390-7473

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473. TRAINING CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

APPRENTICES PLEASE NOTE: Make sure your e-mail and phone

number are updated at the training center. Please call and dial EXT. 2 **CONDOLENCES:** Our member Roger Dirkse passed away on March 13th. Roger initiated on August 26,1957 and retired December 31, 1991 and became a lifetime member August 26, 2007. To all family members and friends, our deepest condolences.

Our member Doug MacDonald passed away on April 22, 2020. Doug initiated on January 14, 2002. To all family members and friends may all of the fond memories you were able to have comfort all of you during this hard time in your life. We all feel your loss and send our sincere condolences.

RETIREE MEETINGS - ** MAY SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED

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.



When it's tax time, it's time to call Kuderik at 248 835 7755.

- Over 20 years experience in Union worker returns
- Family members over 50 years in Local 636
- Maximize your deductions and returns · Electronic filing for fast refund
- Call today to begin tax planning now



Kuderik and Associates PLLC Certified Public Accountants 32121 Woodward Avenue

Suite 202, Royal Oak MI 48073

www.kuderikcpa.com

Plumbers 98

MADISON HTS. - Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Brothers and Sisters, Some of this may be repetitive but please read the whole article as things are changing by the minute. Your officers and myself are in hope this letter find you and your family safe during these strange times. The Governor has now extended the stay at home order until the end of May. Even though the CDC and our affiliated Governmental agencies have seen the epidemic peak in Michigan it still has a chance for a resurgence, so please stay safe.

At this time, your officers are working together on gathering information on updates to the historic changes, to unemployment and all possible grants to businesses across the country. With their help and yours 98 has donated food to ER's (our contractors are donating with us I will report on this at a later date), handed out food to the needy. Dropped off masks to job sites and police departments. We have dropped off coffee to area hospitals, volunteered our services on anything we can do to help.

Our members are working selflessly along the side of doctors and nurses in our hospitals, we went to work in Detroit returning water to over 100 residents.

•Facebook posts. This may come as a shock to some of you, if you need help on anything job-related, safety conditions, insurance questions, Benesys issues or unemployment problems – please pick up the phone and call any of your officers. We do not police the Facebook page, we cannot help you nor can I dispatch an agent to a job we have zero knowledge of, if you do not notify us directly.

•The return to work guidelines are published on the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic opportunity web site for the State of Michigan. Please take some time to review these before returning

•Many of you are trusting your contractor to report you back to work. They are forgetting to do so, when you return to a job call the hall or any officer to report your status.

•Our auto plants as well as construction sites are starting their work up again. There are many changes now to get entrance to these facilities. If you are asked to do any pre-hire safety training of any type prior to entering the plant on your own time, that is not going to be acceptable, you must be reimbursed for your time.

You will be asked medical questions on your health and your immediate family contacts. You will have your temperature taken before work. The use of 4-10s may be used at first. Shifts may be staggered for a while; watch the start times, as overtime may apply. You will no longer be allowed to leave the plant or job sites, this means going out for lunch or cashing a check and then returning. They will not let you come back the same day. You will need to pack food and water for the hours the plant is working, pack a big lunch, this is the new normal. The 6' rule "when possible" must be adhered too and face masks will be supplied to you as you enter the jobs. Don't be the guy who refuses to wear a mask and the PPE provided, you have no right to endanger your partner, the owner may have you removed for non-compliance.

If you are not supplied any PPE or feel the job is not addressing these issues you have the right to call your agent and leave the job. We have established an anonymous safety hotline call in number for our locals 98, 636 members and our Contractors to investigate any lack of protection or wrong doing by the owners we all work for, the number is 313-340-7339.

This is a chance for the whole Building Trades to fight for a sanitary job site, no one person needs to be the only one bitching of poor conditions of Porta Jon's and a clean place for lunch. All of you need to talk as one voice and help yourselves on this issue.

•Until further notice all E-Board meetings, Union meetings and Retiree meetings, will be cancelled. The Union Hall and our Training Center have been shut down to all foot traffic.

•We are working on a virtual meeting with some basic information for you in the near future.

•In the meantime, any pertinent information can be found on our new web page, yes 98 has a Web Page (not Face Book). Your officers can individually report on upcoming work in their areas or issues and a whole list of information is now available to you under the member only section. https://ualocal98.com

•You now can fill out sub apps electronically, this now can be found on the web page.

•Jon has the new Out of work list available to access there as well, just follow the instructions on the top of the web page. Please be patient as we are working out the bugs on the system.

•Any Must/Most, upgrades, continuities or letters of certifications will still be taken care of by Paul Baker 248-585-1435, our Officers or Jean at 248-307-9800. The school will remain closed until we figure out a black board procedure or the state pulls restrictions. While I am here, I recommend to the apprentices get your classes caught up at Washtenaw Community College, this virus may hamper going to school but not your obligation to the training center.

All 2nd thru 5th year Apprentices should have received a new open enrollment package to change your options on Insurance coverage to a different plan. If you are happy with your current coverage you do not have to do anything. Benesys is still your plan manager, but if you have questions please call Jon, Jean or myself and we can help you. Please check our media outlets like the 98 Web page, Face Book or call the hall to see if there is any new information.

It's that time again for your 2020 Plumbing License Renewal, it can be done ONLINE ONLY! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit www.michigan.gov/bcc. Or call 98's training Center and they will assist you.

Our Local 98 PAC committee has come out in support of past V.P. Joe Biden for President of the United States. With all the twisted things that Washington and our great state has done to the working class and every Local Union in this country, it did not take long to come to this conclusion. That does not mean in any way shape or form we have shut the door on the Republican Party. We will work on a list of candidates your PAC committee is recommending soon on our web page, we will always back anyone who stands with the working people of our state of Michigan and this country just like we have done in the past. You stand with us or against us!

We have currently frozen any new apprentice applications at our Training Center as we try to figure out a potential start date for a new

Superintendents and Foreman, if you have laid off Pre-apprentices, send the information to the agents with a letter pertaining to their work efforts, someday we will get back to normal and to lose these young men and women would be an injustice.

We are looking for Residential and Service Plumbers at this time, when we get the green light to return to work, it will be a great chance to expand and grow again as many members are looking to retire. So, if you know anyone working Non- Union or is a past member that may be interested in us. Have them call 98's Organizer Rob Moses on his cell phone 248-763-2187.

The new U.A. Union cards are available at the hall when you pay your 2020 Union dues, these cards are good for 2020, 2021 and 2022. If by chance you are in arrears and you are struggling financially, please contact the hall and make arrangements. We do not want to fine anyone for something that can be avoided. If you are thinking of retirement or are having any issues relating to SUB, Unemployment or Benesys please contact Jon on his cell phone or at the hall at 248-762-9238.

Sorry to say but we have run into problems with the new UA cards as there is no way to know if a person is current. We have made a second card to be carried to our meetings as well as job sites, this second card can now be stamped monthly or yearly as we have done in the past. Now all of our members and stewards on the jobs will not have to waste time calling the hall to see if another member is current. Our hope is this will not only stop accidental reinstatement fees from occurring but this will help examining board members at union meet-

(Continued next column)



Local 370 Plumbers & **Pipe Fitters**

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 370

FLINT - Our June 9 membership meeting has been cancelled. We will be holding a members only informational meeting on Facebook live. Just sign into your Facebook account and search for "Local 370 Brothers and Sisters." It is a private group so just apply for membership and you will be accepted.

ALL Committee and board meetings are also on hold until fur-

The Union Hall office is temporarily closed. Dan and I are manning the office and conducting regular business by phone. If you get laid off or have any questions, please call the hall at (810)720-5243 and leave a message with your name and number. We will return your calls. You do not need to come to the hall to sign the out of work list. We are putting members on the list in the order they call. Karla is setting everyone up for direct deposit of sub-pay, if you haven't already signed up, email her at KARFAY@comcast.net

Construction jobs have resumed. Follow all CDC protocols and stay safe out there.

Scholarship Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are now available online at our website UALOCAL370.ORG. The applicant must be a son or daughter of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 370. Complete lists of qualifications are available at Local 370

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

Upcoming Night Classes: on hold

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

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

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

Our web site is up and running. Check it out at ualocal 370.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plumbers 98, continued

ings who are at the door checking cards to lessen any confusion. Don't miss out on our agreement with the Detroit Land Bank Authority. Local 98 members can purchase home or building in the Land Banks Holdings for half the list cost. Go to www.buildingdetroit.org to see what this is about or contact the hall for details.

The new Log books and new Contract books are in, so grab only what you need for your job. It figures now that work is slow the new contract books have arrived, agents can distribute to a parking lot or open area if needed.

In Brotherhood, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98

Retiree Meeting. Cancelled.

Northern Retiree Meeting. Cancelled.

Thumb Area Meeting. Cancelled.

Workers Assistance Program, Recovery and Relationship/Di**vorce Support Groups.** This program is not only for medical and/or personal issues, please call C.J. Harrison, Work Life Strategies at 248-545-8301 for an appointment.

Out of Work List Changes/SUB Pay. All working members will be required to complete a SUB application within 48 hours of their lay-off to ensure placement on the Out of Work List. If you are out of work due to Unemployment, Disability or Workers Compensation, please contact Jon DeRoo first at 248-762-9238 first than BeneSys at 248-813-9800 to verify your continued Insurance eligibility.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone #248-585-1435

Check out The Training Center's website www.Plumbers98tc.org The Apprenticeship Application process is closed until further

Coronavirus (COVID19). The Training Center is closed until further notice. All scheduled apprentice, journey plumber update and certification classes have been cancelled. Please call Paul Baker at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 if you have any questions.

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

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as on an online class for \$25 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is **not affili**ated 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.

'We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about."

- Charles Kingsley (1819 - 1875)

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN May 15, 2020



AT WORK IN Ypsilanti at the Ford-Rawsonville plant is Casey Bryson of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 190. Working for Conti, he was helping to set up a portion of the plant for ventilator manufacturing.



Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO – With the cancellation of May's membership meeting we conducted our Finance and Executive board meetings via video and conference call. Let me assure you that your Local's business continues to be conducted in a professional manner. Your elected officials are still performing their duties as best as they can in these unprecedented times. With the financial decisions and practices that have been put in place over the last year Local 357 is financially sound to weather this pandemic. We will continue to monitor our finances closely and adjust if needed with the approval from the Finance and Executive board.

If you have not received or have been denied unemployment benefits, please contact me on my cell phone: 269-569-3492. We can assist you in getting your unemployment benefits.

As of May11th we have put back to work 100 journeyman and 49 apprentices. For those members who are returning to work or have been working, I will say it again, continue to adhere to your jobsite's protocols and the CDC guidelines. Your license, skills and training have deemed you essential personnel, but that does not mean your health and well-being are any less important. Please be cautious as you go about your workday. If your Contractor is requiring you to work without the proper PPE call me.

UNION MEETING: NOTE: MAY'S Union Meeting is CAN-**CELED.** The next Union Meeting will be a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 pm. Note that Tuesday is the correct date – not MONDAY. Other meetings that day will be Finance Committee at 4:30 and Executive Board at 5:30. The allocation of the wage increase will be done at this meeting. The Building Trades Paper serves as the membership's official notice.

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

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the FACEBOOK Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Members Access Your Information Here, then click on TIC International Corp. 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, re-married, 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.

TAX PREP INFORMATION: Dollar amounts WILL BE available February 7th, 2020 for 2019 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 CONTRAC-TORS AND IS NOT DEDUCTIBLE.

The Local will be donating the Hall to the Kalamazoo County Tax Counseling Initiative (KCTI). FREE TAX preparation along with E-filing returns has not been rescheduled yet due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Dates will be provided when they are known. To qualify, your household income MUST BE under \$55,000 along with various other requirements. Information is available by calling KCTI at 2-1-1. Due to limited availability, it is strongly recommended that you make an appointment. Appointment times fill up fast. Please call 2-1-1 to make an appointment. **CONDOLENCES:** Condolences to the family of Walt Tokarchick

on the passing of his mother.

MISCELLANEOUS: We would like to extend a SPEEDY recovery to the entire family of Kevin Weller Get Well Soon!

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

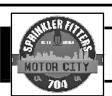
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Sprinkler Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular meeting will be June 10, 2020 at the local union hall at 5:30 P.M. The Executive Board will meet the same night at 4:30 P.M.

As of May 11, 2020, construction has reopened in the State of Michigan. It is the responsibility of Local 704 contractors to supply all safety equipment to its employees.

Reminder: Article V, Section 13 of Local 704's Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order. Any project that falls into the jurisdiction of Local 704 shall be manned by not less than two (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

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 infor-

mation regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions. Continuing education classes are being formed. Please reach out to the training center for further information or future classes you would like to see added.

Keep your information updated with the Local Union Hall. A speedy recovery to all of our sick and injured members.



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333 LANSING - May's union meeting is CANCELLED.

The May Union meeting is cancelled. The June meeting will take place assuming current Executive Orders at that time will permit it. The details for the June meeting will be sent to you directly in the mail as well as in future Building Tradesman editions. It is likely the venue for future meetings will change to allow for social distancing.

THE LOCAL 333 SCHOL-ARSHIP APPLICATION PRO-CESS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR WAS DELAYED ONE MONTH THIS YEAR DUE TO THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK. APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE MAY 1, 2020.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY HAS BEEN EXTENDED. APPLI-CATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY JULY 28, 2020 AND IN THE JACKSON OFFICE BY JULY 31, 2020. MEMBERS MAY REQUEST AN APPLICA-TION MY EMAILING JONI AT jthomas@local333.com OR CALLING 517-784-1106 EXT. #4 AND LEAVING A MESSAGE. APPLICATIONS WILLALSO BE AVAILABLE AT ALL THREE OFFICES WHEN OFFICES RE-

LOCAL 333 RETIREE'S GOLFOUTING IN JUNE IS CAN-CELLED.

LOCAL 333 PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS GOLF OUTING IN AUGUST IS CANCELLED.

If you're interested in taking any classes please sign up at www.ua333.org or call Trent or Diana at 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 contractors, changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

Weld Test (Second Tuesday of the Month) Weld Test are scheduled each month. (Unless lack of participants)

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

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

Lansing Board of Water & **Light Powerhouse:** All members must have their 18 MUST modules and a current drug test on file to get on site. Please call your Business Agent if you need assistance.

Foreman: Any journey member interested in Foreman opportunities please call your Business Agent. We have plenty of opportunities available.

"With the gift of listening comes the gift of healing.' -Catherine de Hueck

"A strong conviction that something must be done is the parent of many bad measures."

-Daniel Webster (1782 -

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 111 UPPER PENINSULA - The next regular scheduled union meeting on May 28, 2020 has been cancelled.

Both the Escanaba and Marquette halls have been closed to walk-in members until further notice. Please call either hall for any assistance you may

Local 111 JATC has cancelled all Apprenticeship classes including open welding at the training center until further notice. Please contact Training Coordinator, Jesse Harvala, with any questions you may have.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MSHA Training: The 2020 MSHA schedule is on our web site & our Facebook page. Call Cindy at (906) 228-6450 to register. MSHA expires in one year.

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it." -Margaret Fuller (1810 -

"It is good to be without vices, but it is not good to be without temptations.'

-Walter Bagehot (1826 -

"People who like this sort of thing will find this the sort of thing they like."

-Abraham Lincoln (1809 -1865), in a book review

'The more you chase money, the harder it is to catch it.' –Mike Tatum

"Temper gets you into trouble. Pride keeps you there.' -Anonymous



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE-Meeting Notice: JUNE'S MEETING CAN-CELLED. The Executive Board and Business Manager have decided to cancel the June meeting. We did not feel that large gatherings would be allowed by June 2. We will temporarily put our \$1.83 raise all on the check. Once we are able to hold a meeting, we will call a special-called meeting to discuss allocation. THE JUNE RETIREE BREAKFAST IS ALSO CANCELLED.

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

PLEASE CALLEXT. 17: If you are laid off, taking a leave or separated from your employer for any other reason, please call extension 17 and put your name on the out of work list. If you do not wish to be called for other jobs please say you'd like to be unavailable during your message. We need to track the number of members who are out of work. If you get called to return to work, please let Nate or Jason know so we can dispatch you in the system.

Dues: The UA and Local #174 are providing monthly dues relief to those members not working due to COVID-19.

·Beginning in April any member working in the trade who works 40 hours or less in the prior month will be given credit for one month's dues.

•Eligibility will be determined off the previous month's employer contribution list.

•Each month you are eligible, one month's dues credit will be added to your account. There will also be no reinstatement fees assessed.

•This program will continue on a month by month basis as determined by the UA.

•You will still be expelled if you are more than 6 months in

401K Withdrawal: The recently enacted CARES Act allows the 401k Plan to adopt a special in-service distribution for participants who are diagnosed with COVID-19, whose spouse or child is diagnosed with COVID -19, or who are experiencing economic hardship as a result of the pandemic.

This distribution can be up to \$100k, is not subject to the ordinary 10% excise tax, and the income tax from the distribution can be spread out over a 3-year period. Individuals receiving such a distribution may also repay the distribution over a 3-year period, in which case they will not be subject to income tax on what they repay.

Unlike other hardships, this particular distribution only requires that the member self-certify the need. The Fund is not required to independently corroborate the participant's certification with medical documentation or other types of documentation. The distribution is a onetime event only and must be taken prior to June 30, 2020. This program applies to only the employer contribution 401k and will begin April 20th, 2020. You will receive an official notice in the mail soon.

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

Unemployment: The Michigan Unemployment system has been overwhelmed for the last two weeks due to the number of filings. The state has released the schedule below in an effort to more effectively serve Michigan citizens filing ONLINE.

Last names A to L: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Last names M to Z: Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday

Saturday: Make up day Members have had the most success filing between the hours of 8pm and 8am.

School Work: Several school districts were successful in passing mileages this fall. We are looking for families who live in the district of, or graduated from the schools below to possibly join us at a school board

meeting or sign a letter of support. For Hudsonville, Ludington, Oakridge contact Ryan. Kent City and Tri-County contact Jason. Rockford and

Lowell contact Nathan. **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. In order 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.

Wild Game Dinner: THE WILDGAME DINNER WILL BE POSTPONED TO A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.

Save the Dates:

Union Picnic, Saturday July 11th 11am-4pm, The Meadows at Millennium Park, 1415 Maynard Ave, Walker

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: Saturday, Aug. 1, 8:30am Shotgun, Falls at Barber

November Union Meeting: MONDAY, Nov. 2nd at 7pm

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

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

Local #174 Gear: We have setup an online store with apparel through Trophy House in Muskegon. You can order and pay online and either pick up the merchandise or pay to have it shipped. There is a link on our website, ua174.org. You can also go to www.trophyhousebrands .com/online-stores/local-174/to order. You can also find a link in the members Facebook group. They will print the apparel once they receive twenty orders and contact you once your order is

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. The dispatch schedule for the next month will be as follows:

Jason Finch (231) 670-4482: 2/24/20 to 3/9/20

Nathan Phillips (616) 916-0667: 3/10/20 to 3/22/20 New insurance carriers:

Active and NON Medicare Retir-

Aetna: (888) 290-7241 Save-Rx: (800)228-3108 Medicare Retirees Labor First: (616) 345-0788

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

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

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

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

Retiree Breakfast: THE

JUNE RETIREE BREAKFAST IS **CANCELLED.** If you are a retiree and in need of assistance please

contact the Local Union Office.

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

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

Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 West-

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 Sect. 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 are in compliance with our agreement.

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

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

Training News:

**ATTENTION: Due to the recent developments related to COVID-19, the Training Center is currently closed until further notice as a proactive measure to help mitigate the transmission of the Coronavirus. This decision was based partly on the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order, the UA cancelling all regional training and adhering to the social distancing guidelines as outlined by the CDC.

All current classes and exams scheduled are postponed and will be rescheduled accordingly. We are actively monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates as more information is obtained in the days to come. When possible, day-to-day business will be conducted by phone or email. Please direct any and ALL

questions to Training Coordinator, Jeff Rumsey. The best way to reach Jeff is to call/text his cell phone (231)923-8140. FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/

BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will (Continued next column)

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

Local 671 Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671 MONROE - The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for June 4th. This meeting could potentially be cancelled. I will get out a notice to all members if we feel that it is still unsafe to meet. There will also be a Special Order

of Business meeting on June 18th

for the appropriation of this

year's contract raise of \$1.65. We

are asking that only voting mem-

bers attend this meeting. All re-

tiree luncheons are cancelled un-

til further notice. Notice: The Union hall is closed to all visitors until further notice in response to Covid-19 and to practice social distancing within the Hall. We are manning the phones and conducting the necessary daily business. If you need to come to the Union office for any reason, please call ahead and we will make arrangements.

If you have any health insurance issues please call the insurance line at (734) 241-6180 and you will be connected with Carly or you can call TIC, our 3rd party administrator at (517) 321-7502.

Apprenticeship Application: The application process ended on March 20th. We will be scheduling testing for the applicants and going through the scoring process. Interviews will follow for those who qualified; they will be notified by registered letter when their interview is scheduled.

Fermi Outage: The Fermi RF20 Outage has been extended and continues to be a challenge with Covid-19. Please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers for a safe and successful completion to this outage.

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for I phone or Android. The Username for Local 671 Members is your last name and your book number (UA Card Number). The Password is your book number. Please download this app so you can keep up on current information that the hall needs to get out.

Health and Welfare: Are next meeting is scheduled for May 20th. This meeting will be conducted telephonically to adhere to social distancing policies. If you have any insurance or RX issues please contact us to help you through them. Carly can be reached directly by using the health line at (734) 241-6180 or you can call the Hall at (734) 242-

In Closing: It has been a long and difficult spring of quarantine. We are not all dealing with this the same. Some people are having a really tough time dealing with the shelter in place order. It may be financial issues, fear of the pandemic, or even mental health. Please reach out to us if you need anything at all. We are all in this together, but we are all not dealing with this the same way. Thoughts and prayers go out to each and everyone of you. Stay safe, Stay healthy, stay home. God Bless

Local 174, con't

be held on Thursday, June 11 and Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Please contact Jeff or Nicole to sign up for classes or if you have questions. Call the training office

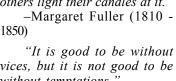
@(616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff)/Nicole @(616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 /Nicole (231)206-4213.

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



Lee Entrekin







Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – 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. Remember that all Union Meetings and Apprenticeship classes have been suspended until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact the Local Union Office at (517) 708-0665.

The International Union is requesting all the names of past and present members that are Veterans of the Armed Forces. This list will be going back to our charter in 1937. We need the name. registration number, military branch and dates served. Please call the office for more informa-

Local 47 Lansing Office, 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301. Lansing, Michigan 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665

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

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed. Members must notify the

office before ANY overtime is worked. Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union

Meeting upon request.

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

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls.

These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

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

Anyone interested in joining the newly formed Breath Of Life Committee is asked to please call the Local Union Office.

Pension and Health Welfare: Larry Tolbert (269-345-8944)

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-

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

The Funds Trustees have reinstated the Seventy-Nine Hours Rule for all Retirees.

A MOTION was made and supported to suspend, for the month of April 2020, the requirement to use banked hours and/or self-payment to maintain eligibility under the Plan for all active members who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 outbreak as of, or after, March 27, 2020. Active members who remain employed during this period will be required to maintain eligibility through the use of earned contri-

butions. Motion carried. Larry Tolbert will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Larry is the Secretary for the Pen-(Continued next column)



Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat and

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD-ALL Union activities have been postponed un-



ternational Union. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates as the situation evolves. MEMBER-

<u>til further no-</u>

tice per the In-

CURT SHIPMEETING:

McGLONE The May 14, 2020 Membership Meeting has been canceled

due to the Covid-19 pandemic. APRIL PER CAPITA: The required Per Capita payment for any member working less than 32 hours in the month of April 2020 has been waived. Any payments already made to the Union Office will be returned.

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 hivis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

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

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.

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.

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

SUB FUND TIME LIMITA-(Continued next column)

Local 47, con't

sion, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (269) 345-8944, or by mail at: P.O. Box 19541, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

Attention all Retirees, Active, and Spouses in our Healthcare plan. On Jan. 1, 2017, the Trustees have implemented Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare Advantage, for all Retirees over 65 with Medicare Advantage. Make sure you are giving your new card to any provider when you check in for office visits, this will update you in the BCBS System. If you are having any problems, please call Larry Tolbert.

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 abovementioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: www.heat frostlocal47benefits.org:

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Phil Wil-

son (616-466-8736) Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call

the Union Office. All Apprenticeship classes have been suspended until further notice.

Good and Welfare: Please take care of your families and yourself!



Abatement Workers Regional Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207 TAYLOR - Hope all members

and their families are safe and avoiding unnecessary contact in the public. The

current work

situation is im-

proving. Since

the auto plants

are re-opening,

some plant work

has also be-

come available.



SOMENAUER

Remember to DAN call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the

tials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic. Last week 2 members were tested positive with Covid 19. So far, both are only on quarantine at home without serious issues. Let us keep them in our thoughts

& prayers that their situation

necessary current job site creden-

does not worsen. The General Office has banned all Union Meetings and Elections until further notice. Our current election process has been put on hold until an ok is given to proceed. All members will be notified by mail when the election will resume.

UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASSES:

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher - Saturday, June 13th,

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher - Saturday, July 11th, 2020

Check with the Office to ensure the classes is still happen-

All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor.

Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

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

Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently

BE SAFE, STAY HEALTHY. & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DIS-TANCING GUIDELINES!

Local 25, con't

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

CONDOLENCES to the family of retired member Ernie Andree on his May 8, 2020 passing. Please keep his son, retired member Larry Andree and their family in your thoughts and

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



Iron Workers 25

NOVI - Cut off for the (Regular) June Vacation check request is before 12:00 noon on Tuesday June 2, 2020 for check pick up after 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at the Novi Union hall.

Otherwise, all checks not scheduled for pick up will be mailed at the end of business day Tuesday June 2, 2020 in order to allow extra mailing time due to the COVID-19. All vacation checks will be stamp dated for June 6th.

Deadline: Turn in completed applications for the 2020 Dennis O'Dowd Scholarship on or before MAY 31, 2020.

Please check our website (www.ironworkers25.org) and "Alerts" on the Local 25 APP to stay informed on union matters and in regard to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which continues to evolve. Local 25 is working with our Contractors on a daily basis.

Download The IRON-WORKERS' APP to your android or smartphone via the APP Store or Google Play (no charge). Simply search "Iron Workers Local 25" Most of the features from our website is available thru the APP!

Local Union Elections: The Mail-in Ballot package has been mailed via United States Postal Service (USPS) on May 11, 2020. The ballot package will provide for ballot secrecy, using a threeenvelope system. Complete voting instructions will be provided for within the ballot package. The ballot package has been mailed to all full dues paying members. Dues must be paid through May 2020 in order to be eligible to vote.

Please plan ahead! Once you have voted; mail your ballot in enough time to arrive into the Novi Michigan PO Box no later than Friday, June 5, 2020 at 4pm EST. In other words, give yourself plenty of time between the time you drop your ballot in the mailbox and when it is actually due! Do not mail your ballot to any of the Union Halls! DO NOT RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY **CERTIFIED MAIL, BECAUSE** CERTIFIED NEEDS A SIGNA-TURE and Judges will not be present at the post office to sign for any certified mail. Please just allow several mailing days prior to the June 5th deadline to ensure your ballot is received timely.

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

www.ironworkers25.org FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100, press 1 for Member access to this

menu: **OUESTION:** Vacation Payout or Balance Inquiry: Option 1. **QUESTION:** Loss of Time, Disability or Death Inquiries or

Claims: Option 2. **QUESTION**: Health & Welfare such as Add or Remove a Dependent, Self-Payment, Enrollment forms, Prescription cover-

ADDRESS Changes: Option 3. QUESTION: To find the status of employer contributions remitted on your behalf: Option 4.

age, Monthly Status, Eligibility,

QUESTION: To update reciprocity information or find the status of reciprocity contributions: Option 4.

QUESTION: Pension or Defined Contributions Information

Iron Workers such as Request an application for retirement or an application for a D.C. distribution. Direct Deposit or tax withholding changes. Request a Pension Verification Letter or you haven't received

Local 25

your pension check: Option 5. **QUESTION**: Blue Cross Health Claims / Customer Service 877-790-2583

OUESTION: Delta Dental Claims / Customer Service 800-482-8915. Benesys office 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.

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.

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

All Union and Steward Meetings are cancelled until further **notice**. The classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School are cancelled. Due to Governor Whitmer's "Stay home, Stay safe" order we anticipate our closing to extend through May 28, 2020. New Apprentice Applications are suspended. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130 - Phone calls only to the school.

The Annual June Ironworker Picnic is CANCELLED this year, DUE to Covid-19. The Local 25 June Apprentice Competition is CANCELLED at this time also.

The July Dennis O'Dowd Annual Golf Outing is CAN-**CELLED** at this time, we may try to hold it in the fall however.

Stewards' Notes:

1) The Electronic Steward Reporting forms are online www.ironworkers25 .org Log in with your book number, and the password is the **last** 4 (four) of your social.

2) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING.

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

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

Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 -P.O. Box 965 - Novi, MI 48376-0965. PLEASE include your book number on the face of the check/ money order. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-

F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash). After-hours use the outdoordues-collection box.

Pay a year's dues or more (\$429 Journeyman) (\$426 Apprentice) and you will get a one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13th month free). This is intended to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner. The one month will be credited in the month AFTER your actual 12-month payment.

The International Association (IABSORIW) has endorsed Joe Biden for president of the United States of America. Due to the passage of the statewide ballot proposal last year, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. Check your voter registration at Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/

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

ATTENTION RETIREES: Due to the COVID-10 pandemic, all retiree meetings across the local's jurisdiction are canceled until further notice. Watch for updates on the locals website (www.ironworkers25.org) or the Local 25 app that you can download by searching "Iron Workers Local 25" to stay informed on union matters.

Diversified Members Credit Union: Located at 25880 Novi Rd. Phone: 248-344-2560 - CALL FOR HOURS. Services available: debit or credit cards, interest bearing checking accounts, IRAs, CDs, Benefits Plus program, **HOME MORTGAGES**, low interest loans and part of Co-Op Shared Branching. We have other branch locations in Detroit and

Those who have passed: Former member Stanley Krus #994622 passed away April 27, 2020 at the age of 76. He was a member from 1978-1984 – he was the owner of Krus Steel and hired a lot of ironworkers in his day as reported by Member John Sanders.

On the Job Death: It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Local 25 Journeyman Paul C. Cryderman on May 8, 2020. Paul passed away from injuries sustained while working on the job May 6, 2020. He was 48 years old. Paul originally began his career as an Apprentice in 1998. After being away from the trade for about five years working his family farm and raising bird dogs; he had just started doing ironwork again in Decem-

As any of us could imagine, this is a very distressing time for Paul's family. We would ask everyone to please keep Paul and his family in their prayers. Please be mindful that we have fellow ironworkers who were working with Paul on May 6th, and they also are dealing with the stressful and traumatic events of that

This also serves as a reminder to look out for your brothers & sisters and please keep our

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

To all Union Members; Please continue to do everything you can to slow the spread of Covid-19. Keep yourself and your families safe!

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (5/11/2020 12:00 pm E.S.T.).



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, ESA's Vacation Plans Eligibility Processing

Trust Fund Accounting VEBA Administration Web Applications **COBRA Administration** HIPAA Compliance

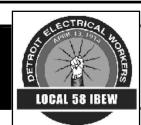
With over 800 experienced and technical professionals on staff, BeneSys stands ready to assist Trustees in providing exceptional service to Flan Participants. BeneSys has dients across the U.S. and 23 regional office locations.

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Louisville, KY

Milwaukee, WI Omaha, NE Phoenix, AZ Pleasanton, CA Por Jand, OR Riverport, MO San Jose, CA Salt Lake City, U⊤ San Diego, CA San Ramon, CA Seattle, WA Troy, MI Washington, DC West Covina,CA Youngstown, OH

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



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW 58

DETROIT - MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Please be advised that the General Membership Meeting scheduled for THURSDAY MAY 28, 2020 is CANCELLED due to the current environment involving the Coronavirus. This decision is in compliance of the extended Stay at Home Order issued by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Please stay tuned to the website and the new mobile app for any updates to the Stay Safe Stay Home rules.

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

Local No. 58 Benevolent Fund: The next Benevolent Fund meeting will be Tuesday, June 2, 2020 5:00 pm.

The Jerry Gaudi Memorial Golf Outing has been postponed for a later date until further notice. The date is TBD as of right now.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM. Every member is invited to attend and to bring their ideas about our Local's involvement in

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting of the Entertainment Committee will be Tuesday June 9, 2020 immediately following the Community Service Committee which starts at 5:00 pm. We will be discussing the annual family picnic.

EWMC of Southeastern MI: Thank you to everyone that was able to attend the Zoom meeting on April 20th. We sincerely appreciate International President Lonnie Stephenson and Sixth District International Representative Joe Davis for taking the time to inform us of the progress and actions being taken at the national and state level of the IBEW. A job well done to those who volunteered with unloading food for families at the Adams Butzel Recreation Center on April 22, 2020. The next monthly meeting for the chapter is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:30. This will probably be a Zoom meeting so please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. Please continue to keep your family safe and to stay safe at work, home, and in the community.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2020 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) meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Local 58's Women's Committee: With the union hall being closed all in person meetings has been postponed we will continue having our regular monthly meetings on ZOOM as needed. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in per-

ARC AWARDS-ASPIRING REAL CHANGE. The IBEW Local 58 ARC-Aspiring Real Change awards have been created by the Women's Committee to recognize the outstanding efforts of Local58 members who inspire, engage and advance growth of the local union.

It takes a strong group of individuals to keep the vision and the mission of Local 58 moving forward and positively impact our membership, the community and the greater good for all working men and women. The ARC Awards seek to recognize outstanding contributions by our members dedicated to embracing the mission of the Women's Committee. All ARC Award recipients are nominated by their peers and have positively impacted both the union and the Brothers & Sisters they work and serve with throughout many areas

The Women's Committee at IBEW Local 58 shares a commitment with our members to equality, diversity and personal growth and is proud to establish the ARC Awards as a tradition of recognizing outstanding achievements for decades to come. The ARC has been postponed until further notice. When everything clears up and we can get back to normal we will be scheduling a new date. We will be choosing the scholarship winners as scheduled and will notify the

Help Wanted - The Women's Committee will be keeping the bid process open for caterers, photographers, band/deejay and other vendors for the ARC Awards until we have a new date. If you know of vendors interested you can contact Angela Panicucci @ 586-291-8014 or Diana Wright @ 734-934-9029 for further information. We are also looking for a few good sisters to continue on with our newsletter and articles. If you have any experience or affinity for writing please reach out. If there are any retirees that need help with getting groceries or other essentials during this pandemic, please reach out, we are here for you. You can email us. Email us at: 58Womenscommittee@ ibewlocal58.org, Follow us on Instagram @ibewomen58; Check us out on Facebook.

The Retirees Association Fall motor coach trip: Local 58 Retirees Association September 2020 bus trip for Charleston, SC. has been cancelled. Due to the existing conditions regarding the ongoing pandemic, and the lack of response for the trip, I feel it is in the best interest of our members to reschedule the same trip for next year. All deposits made for the 2020 trip will be returned ASAP. Thank you for your understanding.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: It is essential for anyone attending any of our activities & luncheons to notify Ray Owen (248) 348-3626 ahead of time. Make checks for all activities payable to "The Retirees Association" Ray Owen, 428 Welch Rd., Northville, MI 48167. Board meetings and Luncheons have been cancelled/postponed, until further notice due to Covid-19. Board Meeting's convene in the "Bill

Luncheons: *Price Increase* Due to rising costs, our luncheons will increase from \$15.00, to \$2000 per person beginning with the June 2020 luncheon. Reservations for luncheons NEED to be confirmed by the Sunday prior to the date of the luncheon please. Please keep your email address updated with the Union hall and the Retiree Association. Send your email address to 58retirees@ibewlocal58.org. This will help communicating within the association and so you don't miss out on events.

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: Jeffrey H. Johnson (May 2020); Robert Murdock (March 2020).

Deaths: Fred Caracciolo, pension member, 68 year IBEW membership, Father to JIW David Caracciolo; Richard Grenier, pension member, 62 year IBEW membership; Eric R. Hall, pension member; Michael Kolomietz, pension member; John R. Stilber, pension member, 56 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

"Don't think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire. I hate a fellow whom pride or cowardice or laziness drives into a corner, and who does nothing when he is there but sit and growl. Let him come out as I do, and bark.

-Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

"Patience is the companion of wisdom." - Saint Augustine (354 AD - 430 AD)

Rushford Room" in the lower level of the Union Hall, at 10 AM.

UNION DUES FOR 2020: Effective January 1, 2020 union dues for "A" members will be \$119.25 per quarter. Union dues for "BA" members will be \$61.80 per quarter.

TRAINING CLASSES 2020: ALL CLASSES CANCELLED UN-TIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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.

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

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.



AT WORK at the Ford-Rawsonville plant in Ypsilanti are IBEW Local 252 members Shaun Brandner and Jason Roth. Employed by Conti, they were helping to convert a portion of the plant to ventilator production to help fight the COVID-19 virus.



IBEW Local 948

FLINT – The Retiree Club Meeting is cancelled till further notice.

Governor Whitmer has ordered a stay at home in place till May 28th, 2020, please see the following link addressing the order. https://www.michigan.gov/ whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499 90705-528460—,00.html

The union hall will be closed but we will be available to members via email and phone.

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

You can pay over the phone

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

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

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

LOCAL

906

UPPER PENINSULA—

MARQUETTE UNIT-First

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT-

ESCANABA UNIT—Sec-

PLEASE PROTECT YOUR-

SELF AND OTHERS BY KEEP-

ING 6 FEET OF PHYSICAL DIS-

TANCE. FOLLOW THE GUIDE-

LINES ON HAND WASHING

AND WIPING DOWN SUR-

FACES. BE SMART, BE SAFE.

currence with International Vice

President Ruhmkorff have can-

celed all May Unit meetings of

IBEW 906. The Board also set

June 6th, 2019 as a General Mem-

bership meeting date. This meet-

ing will be held in Marquette and

will follow the Governor's guide-

lines for meetings. A time and lo-

cation will be announced upon

July 25th for the 35th Annual Golf

Outing. This event will be held at

the Highland Golf Course. If you

are interested in playing on an

IBEW 906 team please contact the

hall and sign up. Of course ev-

erything hinges on the covid

ing to discuss the covid impact

on the Plan. With the down turn

in the market and loss of man

hours during this time we expect

an increase to the Plan hourly

has yet to meet. New meeting

dates have been set for the week

of the 18th and 25th. Again pend-

ing the restrictions by the State.

Rumors abound that some sort

of meeting allowances will be

possible based on social distanc-

ing in place. We will meet on a

football field with bullhorns if

necessary. The neighbors might

enjoy the show and colorful lan-

dress changes and phone

changes along with new addi-

tions to the families need to be

passed on to the Hall and the

you would like to see noted in

this article or something you be-

lieve should be published please

email the Hall with your request.

If you have any information

Please remember that ad-

guage. We will get it done.

Pension and Health Plans.

Ibew906@gmail.com

The negotiations committee

The Health Plan will be meet-

rules in place at that time.

The Building Trades has set

getting the information.

The Executive Board in con-

IBEW LOCAL 906

Second Tuesday

ond Wednesday

MEETINGS

Tuesday

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

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

Gregory Remington Business Manager

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



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252 ANN ARBOR - LOCAL 252 ELECTION: 2020 Official Ballot

of Local 252: President/ Convention Delegate: elect 1 (one); Mike Cox.

Vice-President: elect 1 (one); Doug Sanders, Jason Shuster. **Recording Secretary:** elect 1 (one); M. Lisa Grove. **Treasurer:** elect 1 (one); Erik Kane.

Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Convention Delegate: elect 1 (one); Ryan Husse, Brian Maynard.

Executive Board: elect 6 (six); Mic Brough, Stacie Butler, Jake Church, Ryan Donovan, Harry Hutchison, Josh Johns, Dennis Locks, Geoff Morning, Andrew Neeb, Rick Plisko, Cody Roggero, John H. Salyer II.

Examining Board: elect 3 (three); Gabriel Bakun, Jeff Burdick, Linda Kardia, Jim Martindale, Chris Parks.

Delegate to the Convetion: elect 2 (two); Gabriel Bakun, Daniel Beck, Rick Plisko, John H. Salyer Sr., Doug Sanders, Gary (Homey) Smith.

In order to vote you must have a current dues receipt (paid through March 2020). The election of officers is being conducted exclusively by mail. Ballots have been mailed out. Mail-in ballots for the 2020 Election of Officers are due by 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2020. Ballots received after 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2020 will not be counted. Counting of ballots will be done after 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2020 at the IBEW Local 252 Union Hall, 7920 Jackson Rd., Ste. A, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the ballots are picked up from the Post Office. Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge as soon as possible before the election is certified. Once the election is certified any protests of the election are to be filed in writing with the International Vice-President of the district within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice-President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice-President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor.

NO MEMBER THAT IS MORE THAN THREE MONTHS IN THE ARREARS IN THEIR DUES SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CAST A BALLOT. Please make sure your dues are current.

a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO - Due to the current E.O., the May membership meeting has been canceled. The Executive Board will meet on May **18** to handle the business of the local union. We have issued a wage allocation survey via email; it is also available in the member's section of our new website. Please use your name and card number to login.

The new website is live; we are continuing to work some through minor issues; we hope those will all be resolved shortly. To login to the member's only section, please use your last name and card number.

If you believe we do not have your email address or correct cell phone number, please email Christine at cbohms@ibew 131.com

Dues pricing – The price of dues for 2019 is \$39/month. The price for dues in 2020 will increase to \$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, April 2020 your dues are not current; please call the Hall.

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

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

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

Condolences: With a heavy heart, Local 131 would like to announce the following members passing, Brother Dale Bothwell passed away on April 23, 2020. Brother Charles Krull passed away on May 3, 2020. Brother John Ingram passed May 2020.

All Memorials and full obitu aries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab. FROM THE APPRENTICE-

Drug Test Renewals: Please keep track of your drug test expiration date through www.safe2 work4you.com. It is your responsibility to stay current on your drug test. Please contact Nicole (269) 388-4434 to get your authorization form printed for you to pick up. If you don't want to come to the Hall to pick it up, please email Nicole and request your form to be emailed to you. nwolf@ibew131.com.

Organizing: As much technology, as we use to track nonunion 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.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to disrupt our lives and daily business in ways I could never have imagined. It is crucial in times like these to remember, the intent behind all of the Executive Orders and Social Distancing is to save lives. While many of our members remain on the job, remember to make your safety a priority. If any member feels job site safety is not what it should be, please contact the Hall.

Brian O'Donnell Business Manager/ Financial Secretary

IBEW Local 252, con't

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

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

Condolences: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of Daniel Dorsey, who passed away on May 6, 2020.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2020, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2020. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2020. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April through June) are due now. Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meet-

Regular E Board- will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:30 pm in person meeting.

MEETING -The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 10th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

JATC- classes are still on hold for the time being.

Picnic – this summer the picnic will be on Aug. 29. We need some volunteers for the Entertainment Committee. If you are willing and able to help out please get ahold of the hall and get signed up.

PAYPAL – PAY PAL is now up and running!!! Please look into setting up a personal PayPal account. If you need help with this you can email George Shumar at gshumar.ibew@gmail.com Also keep in mind that George is now on a furlough/lay off to address Covid 19 requirements and is NOT drawing a paycheck, so please be mindful of using his time.

Election of Officers - Nominations took place on May 6th, 2020. the ballots should be in the mail by the end of the second full week of May and should be starting to show up in your last known address at the hall by the beginning of the 3rd week of May. Everything is proceeding as scheduled by the Executive Boards planned schedule. Please read the next item to familiarize yourself with the election process and important dates to be aware of. Your official ballots will also have instructions included to help answer any questions.

dance with Article 16 of the IBEW Constitution and Article 3 of the Local Union #498 Bylaws, there will be a special order of business during the Regular membership meeting of Wednesday May 6, 2020. The purpose of the special order of business is for the nomination of Local Union #498 Officers, Delegate, and Alternate to the International Convention.

Officers will be elected to three-year terms, commencing July 8, 2020 and concluding July 12, 2023. A member must have two years of continuous good standings in the local immediately prior to being nominated and must be present to accept the nomination, or must submit, to Recording Secretary Ryan Lautner, not later than noon of May 6, 2020 their written willingness to be nominated.

The written notice of nomination shall specify a single office that they are willing to be nominated to. No member may be a candidate for more than one office.

No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union as stated in Article III, Section 8 (e) of the Local Union bylaws. Nominations shall include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Board (six to be elected), Examining Board (five to be elected) and Alternate to the IBEW Convention. An election judge and tellers will be appointed at the close of nominations. None of these may be a candidate for any office.

candidate for any office. Ballots are to be mailed on May 15, 2020 and will be picked up for counting at noon on June 10, 2020 from the post office and counted at the union hall. The election results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. In the event a run-off election is required ballots will be mailed no later than June 16, 2020 and will be picked up at noon on July 1, 2020 from the post office and counted at the union hall with the results immediately following. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the Local Union on July 8,

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge within a few days after the ballots are counted. Further protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the 6th district within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Get involved and run for

an office. Even if you only serve one three-year term you will gain a much better understanding of how the Union is run and a much greater appreciation for the members that serve us.

Nominations and Election dates subject to change to address COVID-19 response.

JB Webb East and West- As of this week, there are still many workers off, please watch the Local's Facebook site for updated info on the Covid 19 pandemic and pertinent State and Federal documents that concern the pandemic.

covidence.

COVID-19 response – As you are aware of the issues that we have with the Corona Virus and COVID-19, we are taking steps at the union hall to keep everyone safe, the office will be closed until further notice to walk in traffic as is the JATC. As things progress, we will try to keep members updated the best we can in this article, on Facebook and on the website. Caroline and Dave will be available if you call the hall for questions.

Website – The new website is up and running. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Pay Pal is up and running on the website. There should be no reason for late dues now. Thanks to George for getting this done for the membership!!!!

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

Contracts - We have updated Inside Wireman Contracts available at the hall.

Dues Increase 2020 – The union dues will increase \$1 a month. Effective Jan. 2020 the new rate will be \$140.10 per quarter.

Resale Items – Stickers, pencil & pens are in. New shirts are in. We also have new Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale. Stop in to get yours today! Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

Meeting Cookouts- cook out and drawings will be suspended until further notice.

Volunteer – We will need people to volunteer for events coming up. Contact the hall and let George know.

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 Pen-

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

TIC International Corp., 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, 2020 - \$1.00/month increase New Rate \$140.10/Quarter

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

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.



Local 665

IBEW 665

LANSING – THE MAY 18, 2020 UNION MEETING IS CAN-CELED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

THERE WAS SPECIALTY
CALLED EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING REGARDING THE
ALLOCATION of 2020 TOTAL
PACKAGE WAGE INCREASE—
The purpose of the meeting was
to discuss the allocation of this

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the allocation of this year's total wage package increases for the Inside Wireman and the Inside Sound and Communication Agreements if Governor Whitmer extends her Stay Home/Stay Safe Executive Orders (E.O.'s) past the current deadline of May 15, 2020.

The question before the Executive Board was rather simple but a difficult one. How do we as a Local Union allocate this year's total wage package increase if we are unable to gather as a body to decide.

Local 665 reached out to the **IBEW Sixth District International** Vice-President's (IVP) office seeking guidance as how to best approach the allocation in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Governor's Executive Orders and the fact that we do not yet know what amount if any will be required by the Health and Pension plans. The IBEW 6th District IVP's office offered a few suggestions as to how Local 665 could proceed with the total wage package allocation(s) in light of such things possibly taking place.

After careful review and consideration of the IBEW Sixth District IVP's suggestions, the Executive Board decided it would be in the best interest of IBEW Local 665 and its members that we would proceed as if the May 18, 2020 General Membership/ Union meeting will take place and the allocations would be handled in the manner which they historically have been.

In addition, the Executive Board also decided that if the Governor extends her E.O.'s, the membership is unable to gather, or the May 18, 2020 General Membership/Union Meeting is cancelled, that allocations for the agreements would then be determined by the Executive Board as permitted in Article 17, Section 9 of the IBEW Constitution which reads:

"The Local Union Executive Board shall meet between regular meetings of the Local Union. It shall have the power to take any action that the Local Union can take, and which should be taken prior to the next regular meeting of the Local Union. Matters referred to the Board by the Business Manager, or any of his assistants or the general chairman of a Railroad System Council, shall take precedence over all other matters before the board."

Historically, the allocations for the Inside Wireman Agreement typically takes place during the General Membership/Union Meeting in the month of May and the allocations of the Sound and Communication Agreement typically follows within a week or so of the May meeting.

The Business Manager, along with the Executive Board, wanted to get out in front of this issue before the scheduled May 18, 2020 General Membership/Union Meeting so that you as members are aware ahead of time of what possibly could occur and why. Letters were mailed and emailed out to the members of IBEW Local 665 regarding this year's wage allocations. Please be sure to check you mail.

LOSS OF MEMBERS – It saddens me to report the loss of two IBEW Local 665 members:

Richard Heresy - passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at the age of 84. Richard was initiated into the IBEW in 1960 and retired in 1995. Funeral arrangements were made through Gorsline Runciman Funeral Home Dewitt Chapel. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association in Richard's name. Condolences may be shared with the family at: https://www.dignity memorial.com/obituaries/dewittmi/richard-hersey-9136666

Charles Coil - passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 at the age of 78. Charlie was initiated into the IBEW in 1969 and retired nearly 30 years later. No information regarding Charlie's

funeral or his resting place has been made available to us at this time. Our office did not know Charlie had passed away as no one from the family contacted us. It was only recently that we were informed of Charlie's death when we received notice from the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) fund office in Washington D.C. It is our understanding the nursing home Charlie was residing at in California had notified the plan office and it took nearly five months before it came to our attention. We had a slight challenge in

locating Charlie's family as the contact information we had on file for him was over 20 years old and outdated. I attempted various internet searches and when those didn't turn up anything, I thought I would give Facebook a try as we had the name of Charlie's daughter and his sister. It turns out that Charlie's daughter did have a Facebook account, but it hadn't been used in several years. Scrolling through her friends list, I noticed Charlie's sister was also on Facebook but hadn't posted anything for quite a while as well. I attempted to reach both of them by Facebook private messaging but neither responded. I returned to Charlie's sister's Facebook page in an attempt to find a possible relative in Michigan that might be able to assist us in contacting Charlie's family. It was then that I noticed on Charlie's sister's Facebook page that she had a son (Charlie's nephew) who is a member (Journeyman Inside Wireman) of IBEW Local 477 in San Bernardino, California. I thought, what is the possibility of this happening...I found a fellow IBEW brother and relative that could possibly help us...so I sent a Facebook private message to Charlie's nephew who was somewhat active on Facebook. When I did not hear back from Charlie's nephew, I contacted his union hall...they told me they had just finished speaking with Charlie's nephew and would call him and let him know that a Business Manager from Lansing, MI was attempting to locate the family of Charlie Coil so that they could receive the death benefit(s). It was just a few minutes later I received a phone call from California...it was Charlie's nephew who then put me in contact with Charlie's sister who also lives in California. The family expressed their deepest of gratitude to IBEW Local 665 and its members.

IBEW LOCAL 665 IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC—On Thursday May 07, 2020, Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer extended her Stay Home Stay Safe Order from Friday, May 15, 2020 to May 28, 2020 11:59 p.m. due to the COVID-19 virus.

As a result of the Governors extension, IBEW Local 665's office will continue to remain closed to the Public until such time the Governor lifts her order or at a time of IBEW Local 665's choosing.

Also, as a result of the Governors extension, IBEW Local 665 will continue with the suspension of some of our book registration rules and will continue to allow for initial registration on our books by way of a member's home Local Union. IBEW Local 665 has a specific registration form that needs to be used for this to apply. The form must be completed and sent to IBEW Local 665 from the member's home Local. Registration forms received from other than a member's home local will not be accepted. The suspension of some of IBEW Local 665's book registration rules will continue until the Governor lifts her order or at a time

of IBEW Local 665's choosing.

ANNUAL RETIREE'S DINNER IS CANCELED— Due to
COVID-19 Pandemic, the Annual
Retiree's Dinner that was set for
May 17, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza
Hotel has been canceled. We look
forward to seeing all our retiree's
at next year's dinner.

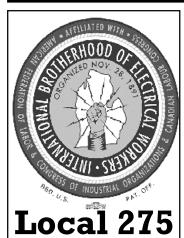
EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETINGS—Due to COVID-19
Pandemic, the Executive Board
will continue to meet via video
conferencing to conduct the
Local's business

Local's business. **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING-**Due to the COVID – 19

Pandemic and the extension of Gov. Whitmer's Stay Home/Stay Safe Executive Order, IBEW Local 665's General Membership/Union meeting for May 18, 2020 has been canceled. Local 665 received approval for the cancellation from the IBEW 6th District's International Vice-President's office on May 08, 2020.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN REPORTEDAS HAVING PASSED AWAY - Bruce Bryan -01/16/2020 – DB 306; Frederick Pardee - 01/31/202 – DB 307; Richard Hersey – 04/15/2020 – DB 308; Charles Coil – Dec. 11, 2019

CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE.



IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – Dear Brothers and Sisters: May's union meeting will be held on the 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hall as scheduled. As May is the annual raise allocation meeting that is usually well attended, we think it is necessary to hold the meeting as planned.

With everything that is happening with the COVID-19 pandemic and the 6 foot social distancing requirement, the Executive Board and I thought our best option is to hold the meeting outside. So, if you plan to attend, please prepare yourself for whatever weather conditions may be present.

As some of us are slowly returning to work, please make sure the contractor is supplying you with all the PPE that is required. This may now include facemasks, face shields and hand sanitizer along with other safety precautions spelled out by the State. As each job site is unique, each situation and requirement may be as well. So please take extra precaution so that you may stay safe on the job and keep your families safe at home.

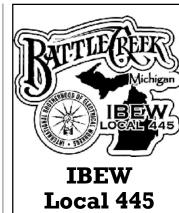
For now on, all resign request will be sent to gyonkers @ibew275.org. The procedures are still the same.

At the time of this writing, the following Members are three or more months behind in dues; Doug Budzynski, Thomas Butler, John Carnes, Warren French, Kevin Gant, Landon Hurst, Shane Huston, Nicandro Iannuccilli, David Irwin, Anthony Kotecki, Adan Lopez, Nate Sterling, Terry Stites, Jeff Wagner, Andrew Wohlfert, Fred Wohlfert and Kevin Wynn.

If you are on this list, please make any and all attempts to get your membership in good standing.

Regular meetings for the EWMC and RENEW committees are every month on the 4th Tuesday @ 6:00pm (except April 2020) at the Union Hall in Coopersville. Both of these are great ways to get involved with the local as well as the community. Currently the EWMC is collecting cans and other dona-

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 445

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

A **Special Called Meeting** for Wage Allocation will be June 1, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Local 445's Officer Elections will be held on June 8, 2020 from 6 a.m. thru 4:45 p.m. You must be a member in good standings to vote. If you would like an absentee ballot, please contact the Hall for that information.

The **Local 445 Golf Outing** date has been set for July 18, 2020 at Binder Park Golf Course with an 8 am start.

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

Local 445's "Night of Baseball" has been approved for Saturday, August 1, 2020 at C.O. Brown Stadium for the Battle Creek Bombers. Additional information will be released closer to the date.

The **Retiree** breakfast is the third Thursday at 9:00 a.m. and is held at the: Lux Cafe, 2587 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek. No reservations are needed to attend.

PLEASE HELP!! – Please make sure you have updated the Hall with your current address and phone number. Also, if you have had any life changes such as a marriage/divorce/new child, please contact the Hall to ensure your benefits are correct.

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

Local Food Pantry - Donations to help fund the Local 445 Food Pantry are still being accepted.

Local 275, con't

tions to help local students pay off lunch debt. Please consider dropping cans or other monetary donations at the Union Hall to help with the effort.

Dues increase for the year 2020 will be \$1.00 per month to \$42.90 per month. Please make adjustments when making payments through mail and automatic bank payments.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 25 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. Bleske and Jannifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience



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

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

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

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

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

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

ONLY SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY CASES

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• OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

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MICHIGAN

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

IBEW 692

BAY CITY - Union Meeting. The next regular membership meeting will be Monday, June 1, 2020 at 7pm.

Executive Board Meeting. The next E-board meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6pm.

Message from the Business **Manager.** As Business Manager, there continues to be difficult decisions being made in regards to the membership and the effect of Covid-19. First and foremost, the health and welfare of our membership is my number one concern. We belong to a Brotherhood and I feel that collectively there is nothing more important than each and every one of us looking out for the greater good of our brothers and sisters.

The allocation of our raise will be handled by the Executive Board this year due to Covid-19 and our inability to hold the monthly membership meeting. \$1.65 will be allocated for the JIW and \$1.25 for the sound and communication tech. Please let your Executive Board or myself know if you have an idea as to how this money should be allocated.

We continue to service the membership on a daily basis; however, the hall is closed to traffic in and out. If there is anything a member needs in person please call and we can set up an in-person meeting. We are here every day answering the phones and returning emails along with carrying on the business of the Brotherhood.

Covid-19 and the pandemic in which it has created is like nothing any of us have ever seen before. Many questions come in on a daily basis pertaining to Covid-19 and its impact on the electrical industry. Our International President has come out with a new working agreement (National Disease Emergency Response Agreement) to protect the health and welfare of the membership. This agreement can be found under the members section of our

Both the State and Federal government have expanded unemployment benefits including an additional \$600 a week for displaced workers. We are starting to see members get the \$600 dollars deposited in their accounts regularly now. If you as a member have any questions about either the NDERA or have an unemployment question that should arise please do not hesitate to contact your union hall. We will do our personal best to help with anything you may need.

We continue to visit and talk with every contact we have to help secure projects for the membership and their families. Please help spread a strong, positive Union message within your com-

Work Report. With Governor Whitmer making the decision to put construction back to work effective May 7, 2020, some work is beginning to break loose. Work continues at both the Pincanna project and the Bay City Meijer's remodel. The new Consumers Energy Service center in East Tawas has started back up again along with the wind project (grounding and bonding) located near the Rosebush area.

Clements Electric has returned to work nearly all the men they had out prior to Covid-19. Work has also begun on Au Gres Schools and also Midland Schools. There should be a few calls starting to roll in for some of these various projects. We received some great news this morning as Master Electric has been awarded the new Midland Costco. This was a project that we worked very hard on. Buist Electric out of Grand Rapids was originally the low bidder. Please stav safe and look out for your fellow brothers and sisters.

COVID-19 Guidance from The Center for Construction Research and Training. In response to the construction industry's questions regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, the following are steps everyone should be taking

•If you are feeling sick do not go to work.

•Don't shake hands when greeting others.

•Try to stay three to six feet away from others in gatherings,

meetings, and training sessions. •Avoid contact with sick

•Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed

•Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

•It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

Construction industry employers should also:

 Provide soap and running water on all jobsites for frequent handwashing.

 Provide hand sanitizer when soap and running water are

Local Union Dues. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, dues payments increased to \$41.20 per month. Please make note of this increase when sending in payments. Also, if you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of this change.

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

NEW: Monthly dues can now be paid on-line from the 692 website! Visit ibew692.net and

log into the member section. 2020 Dues (Effective January

1,2020) Monthly \$41.20 Quarterly \$123.60 6 months \$247.20 Yearly \$494.40

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

Death of Members. We regret to inform you of the death of Brother Lawrence Masse, Card # C89877, who passed away on March 13, 2020. Brother Masse was born on September 16, 1935 (84 years old). He was initiated on March 1, 1955. Lawrence re-

sided in Cedarville, Michigan. **#318.** Local death fund assessment \$5.00 each (due within 30 days) payable to:

IBEW Local 692, Bay City, MI

With the hall doors locked due to Covid-19 and the Governor's Stay at Home Order in place, payments can be made online from our website, taken over the phone, or mailed to the

Retirees Lunch. All retiree's lunches have been postponed.

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

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

Organizing. Brother Brian Klele has been appointed as the new Local 692 Organizer. Brother Klele has served the local in a number of different capacities. He has been elected by the membership to serve on the executive board four different terms, been involved in two separate contract negotiations, and was also elected as President of the local. Finding a member with more qualifications to be Organizer would have been a difficult task.

Brother Klele is a secondgeneration wireman with the IBEW, and to say the IBEW is in his blood would be an understatement.

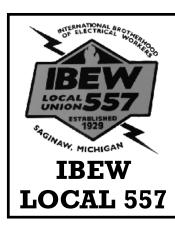
We as a local have done a tremendous job in making sure the principles that the leadership of Local 692 instilled so long ago are still followed today. As we continue to visit jobsites both on a daily and weekly basis, we try to keep these principles in mind while communicating with the unrepresented worker, making sure they have a voice in the labor movement. If you know of a non-signatory contractor doing work in your neighborhood please contact Organizer Brian Klele 989-252-9225.

Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Important links & numbers IBEW Local 692

989-684-4510

(Continued next column)



IBEW 557

SAGINAW- I sincerely hope that everyone and their families are staying safe and healthy these days. The health and safety of the membership is and always will be a top priority of the Local. This pandemic continues to be a real concern. Together, we can all make it through these trying times and continue to prosper in the future.

Construction jobs are beginning to come back and we need to be ready to answer the call to return to work when the time comes. With that said, no members will go to a project where they do not feel safe and protected from harm's way. This is the intent of the National Disease Emergency Response Agree-

MAYMEMBERSHIPMEET-ING CANCELLED – This month's Union Meeting was scheduled for May 5th, but with the continued Stay Home, Stay Safe Order from the Governor we have no choice but to fully cancel. The Local 557 Executive Board met on April 21st.

The May membership meeting along with Wage Allocation was discussed at that meeting. The business of Wage Allocations must take place this month and steps are being taken to carry out this task. Please continue to monitor emails and the Local's Facebook page for important updates regarding this matter. An alternative method to fairly take care of this business will be made available to the membership very

UNION HALL OPERA-**TIONS** – The Union Hall remains CLOSED to foot traffic due to the Governor's Executive Order. Renee and I are here to assist members with any issues they may have, via phones and emails. Renee and I are working hard to keep things running as smoothly and normal as possible. During this time, Renee has been able to make improvements to some of the Local's procedures and documents that will help the Union Hall run more efficiently now and in the future. I thank her for her hard work in these interesting times.

James Lamb is performing organizing duties during this time as well and if you have any useful information for him regarding work please feel free to pass it

BOOK SIGNING – Out of work lists can be signed for other Locals through fax or email. Contact your home local and request a correspondence to be sent to the Local you are interested in signing.

APPRENTICESHIP CLASSES -If you are an apprentice, please continue to monitor your emails regarding class updates. Online classes are up and

You Are the Missing Piece.



Local 692, con't

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

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

running and you should be participating in them. If you are an apprentice and are not receiving emails from the school with updates to classes, call the Training Center today to update this information. That is your responsibility as an apprentice.

2020 ELECTION - The overwhelming majority of Local 557 is registered to vote. If you are not registered you should do so immediately. The 2020 Election will impact us in so many aspects of our lives. As informed IBEW members we cannot afford to sit out this election. I strongly encourage all members to apply to vote via ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Skip the long lines at the precinct in what is expected to be a record year for voter turnout. If you are working on the road or the possibility exists you may be working on the road in November, this is a great way to ensure you get your votes in. Information for this is available at the Union Hall as well as online under the Secretary of State at www.michigan.gov/sos.

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

In the near future, the Health Plan Board of Trustees will be meeting to discuss future plan changes. The costs of health coverage and prescription medication continue to rise and some adjustments may be necessary to the plan in the near future. These factors along with the current COVID-19 outbreak will lead to a rate increase in the near future. This new rate will factor in to how the Local's new Wage Allocation will be formulated.

Help keep the cost of Health Care down. Schedule your annual physical with your doctor today if you have not done so recently. Registering on the Blue Cross/ Blue Shield website is highly recommended. Please take the time to visit <u>www.bcbsm.com</u>. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

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

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

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 p.m. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL (989) 781-0516 option 3.

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

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. Evan Allardyce, **Business Manager**

"Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived. Abraham Lincoln (1809 -1865)

"Although prepared for martyrdom, I preferred that it be postponed.

-Sir Winston Churchill (1874



Boilermakers

ALLEN PARK -All training cen-

ters are closed until further no-

tice. Please see the website or

Facebook group for further de-The 2020 union dues are

\$47.35. The union hall accepts Visa, Master Card, and Discover. Payments can be made both at

BOB the hall and **HUTSELL** over

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

Retired member, James D. Jenkins, passed away on April 1, 2020. Retired member, Lyle "Putter" Reid, passed away on April 8, 2020. Retired member, Joe Jackson, passed away on April 10, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families during this incredibly difficult

From Business Manager, **Bob Hutsell** - To all members, I hope you are all staying safe during the current Covid-19 pandemic. As you know, the Center for Disease Control has issued guidelines to help keep you safe and control the spread of this deadly disease. These instructions can be found on our website at www.boilermakers local169.com.

Together, with the advice from Governor Whitmer, we can make our best effort to ensure that you are protecting, not only yourself, but your loved ones, and your union brothers and sisters. Now is the time to work together and make the sacrifices necessary to defeat this deadly disease.

As some of the restrictions are being relaxed, jobs around our jurisdiction are scheduled to resume at the beginning of May. Boilermakers, and the Boilermaker Industry have always been critical to the safety and well-being of our nation. For this reason, you are, and will remain essential employees, delegated to protecting and servicing the critical infrastructure that keeps our coun-

try alive. I am very proud to represent you and encourage you to follow the safety protocols required at the various job sites around our state. It is the responsibility of every steward, foreman, and rank & file member to make sure that all safety measures are being followed.

With the current "Stay at Home" orders in place, the Union Hall will remain closed to the public. Agents are still working, and Meg is available, but entrance to the hall has been restricted. You can still drop off and pick up items in front of the lobby. The Training Center will remain closed until further notice. All apprentices should complete their lessons as scheduled. Once you have completed your lessons, begin the E.P.R.I Rigging and Torquing exercises. These lessons will be used as classroom credit towards your advancements this Fall. We will be monitoring your initiative on this matter and make determinations regarding your advancement accordingly.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for the sacrifices you are making to support our industry, our brotherhood, and our Local. Please remember, your union dues are vital to the survival of our Local. Recent downturns in our industry, climate change, and the Republican Right to Work agenda have made it increasingly difficult to survive, fortunately, you have risen to the challenge, and we continue to be a vital and strong union. Do not let this disease defeat a local that has existed for 125 years by not doing your part and paying your dues

With these difficult times, we have all had to make sacrifices. Your International has taken a 25% wage reduction and laid off 30 employees. I commend them for this. In order to help protect our Local I have made the difficult decision to reduce all agents pay, as well as my own, by 10 hours per week, saving the Local

(Continued next column)



DETROIT - Main Office -Southeastern Lower Michigan -The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., June 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Notice of Election – Detroit Negotiating Committee. The following members are running for the committee: Joe Gilliam, John Johnson, Joe Zsembery, Gary Johnsen, Tom Jaranowski, Mike Chilcott, Bob Doyle, Rick Fewer, Robert Colston.

The election will take place at the Detroit Union Hall, 1640 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48216, on June 2, 2020, from 2pm thru 7pm. You must be a member in good standing to cast a ballot.

Retirees' Association. The Retirees' Association insurance and social meeting has been can-

If you are a retired 149 member and are interested in joining the Roofers & Waterproofers Local 149 Retirees' Association, please contact Business Manager Brian Gregg at 313-961-6093.

Detroit Training Center Information. The DETRWTC will re-open June 1, 2020 at 5:30 PM rain or shine as paperwork needs completion. Face Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided by the TC along with a Touchless temperature scan and brief questionnaire of individuals entering the building. STAY HOME IF YOU FEEL ILL!!! If there are, any questions and concerns contact Thomas Jaranowski at the TC 248 543 3847. Stay Safe.

Reminder. Members please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not. The Hall needs this information.. Members are reminded to call the Hall (313) 961-6093 to put their name on the out of work list.

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

MID-MICHIGAN AREA-Clio Office. The next Mid-Michigan regular membership meeting is scheduled for Mon., June 1, 2020 at 6 n m at 810 Tacoma Ct Clio MI, 48420

At this meeting, we will be taking proposals to determine what to do with this year's raise. The Mid-Michigan Roofers and Waterproofers Training Center is closed and is tentatively scheduled to reopen Mon., June 1, 2020. For additional information, contact Brother Rick Baird at 810-687-

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.

"Be not afraid of greatness: some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them."

 William Shakespeare (1564) - 1616), 'Twelfth Night'

"In the absence of clearlydefined goals, we become strangely loyal to performing daily trivia until ultimately we become enslaved by it.'

-Robert Heinlein (1907 -

"Never chase a lie. Let it alone, and it will run itself to death.

-Lyman Beecher (1775 -

"I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more impor-

tant than knowledge. Knowl-

edge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.' -Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Boilermakers Local 169, con't

60 hours per week. In addition, I have laid off our receptionist to create additional cost savings for our Local. These changes are temporary and will be monitored moving forward.

Please continue to do your very best to safeguard your Local, your brotherhood, your industry, and your loved ones.



A 200,000 SQUARE-FOOT Amazon distribution center is also being erected at the former Silverdome

Trades delivering new Amazon campus at Silverdome site

(Continued from Page 1)

will bolster Pontiac's continued economic success and further our pipeline of pairing industry with talent." The project could employ as many as 1,500.

Clayco is managing the project. Much of the work over

the past several weeks has involved steel erection, which is being handled by Ideal Steel with its Iron Workers Local 25 workforce. Construction on the project has proceeded during the COVID-19 crisis because it received a carve-out from state tons from 1978-88.

rules as a "distribution center."

Located north of M-59 and west of I-75, the 80,000-seat Silverdome had been abandoned since 2001, and was demolished in 2017. Opened in 1975, it was also the home of the Detroit Pis-

Behind the mask: what cover is best to stop the coronavirus?

(Continued from Page 1) more likely for a virus to be

breathed in, versus being on a surface and needing to be brought to our face by our hands.

The potential for airborne transmission – getting the virus from simply being in a room with an infected person for an extended period of time – is what's driving the recommendations over masks and other facial coverings. So will any of these masks actually protect you from the virus?

Comparing N95s, surgical masks and cloth masks. First, let's be clear that there's no comparison between a correctly worn respirator, such as an N95, and other types of masks and facial coverings. Respirators are designed – and scientifically proven – to filter extremely small particles from the air. N95s and more protective options like elastomeric or half-face respirators are so effective because they form a tight seal to the wearer's face, which forces all the inhaled air to pass through

Unfortunately, this is also why N95s are in such short supply. Knowing that it's not realistic for everyone to wear an N95 respirator, let's take a look at the potential benefits and limitations of other options in more detail.

Surgical Mask. Effective for: The primary purpose of these masks is to protect other people from the wearer's respiratory droplets. These masks also give some barrier protection against larger respiratory droplets from other people.

Limitations: Because there's no facial seal, surgical masks don't reliably filter enough smaller airborne particles to count as respiratory protection. One study found surgical masks can filter about 60 percent of

COVID-19 PROTECTION:

smaller, inhaled particles. (By comparison, an N95 would filter 95 percent of these particles.)

Paper mask. Effective for: These masks are intended to filter larger nuisance dusts from the air, such as pollen or sawdust, which are much larger than virus particles. Like surgical masks, they provide some barrier protection for the wearer and those in close contact with the wearer.

Limitations: Though made of filtering material, they are not designed to filter inhaled particles as small as viruses and don't form a face seal.

Homemade Cloth/Fabric **Mask.** Effective for: Homemade masks provide some barrier protection from large respiratory droplets expelled by other people. Perhaps most importantly, they reduce the spread of respiratory droplets emitted by the wearer. In one study, coughing through a cotton mask significantly reduced the amount of SARs-CoV-2 particles transferred to a test

Limitations: As above, these masks don't form a tight seal to the face and don't reliably filter small inhaled particles. Attempts to measure the effectiveness of cloth masks to filter small particles show a wide range of results: ver bullet. Even an N95 won't cotton I-shirt (seven percent), shop towel (19 percent), coffee filter (49 percent). Material type and thickness (e.g., cotton, denim, canvas), fit to face (e.g., flexible nose bridge) and use of an internal filter (e.g., coffee filter) are just some of the variables that affected filtering efficiency.

Summarizing available mask benefits and limitations. The overall evidence shows that surgical masks, paper masks, cloth masks and other facial coverings all provide the wearer with some protection against SARs-CoV-2. Those benefits include a protective barrier for virus particles to land on instead of our mouth and nose, and a level of particle filtration (even though nothing comes close to an N95 respirator). In short, wearing a mask offers some protection against the virus, but there's a big gap between some protection and effective protection.

While these alternative mask options are far from perfect, we should keep in mind that the biggest benefit of wearing them is likely for the people around you. We know small virus particles can hang in the air, and we know people can spread the virus without ever having symptoms. Any steps we can take to contain our coughs, sneezes and regular breaths behind a mask can help limit how far the virus travels. That alone is reason enough to put on a mask.

While homemade masks are far from a perfect level of protection, the reality is that slowing the spread of SARs-CoV-2 requires us to take advantage of every opportunity we have. We should also remember two other important points. First, no mask is a silprotect you if you touch your face with contaminated hands right after taking it off. That's why masks have to be used in combination with physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and other precautions.

Second, the reason we're wearing homemade masks is so we can hopefully leave N95s and other more protective respirators for the healthcare workers and frontline workers who desperately need them.



Elevator Constructors 36

DETROIT-ALLMEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular Membership Meeting is tentatively planned for Monday, June 22, 2020 providing all Stay at Home restrictions are lifted!

The May meeting would be Monday, May 25, 2020. This is Memorial Day and we do not have time to reschedule or the comply with the possibility of social distancing still being in effect, the meeting has been cancelled. Any changes in this schedule or venue will be included in future Building Tradesmen articles.

All members are reminded that we are working under the MOU-NEBAfinal 3-23-20. This temporary agreement has been extended until June 30th, 2020. Any questions pertaining to this agreement should be directed to the Hall. If you are asked to go into another Local's jurisdiction by your company, make sure you notify the Hall and the Local where you are heading into. Their work situation will be different than ours. This is your responsibility as a member of the IUEC.

Attention All Apprentices, your classes are now online at the NEIEP website, all homework and unit exams must be done by May 29th, 2020. To maintain enrollment and get credit for this semester is your responsibility. Remember, your progression in the program and your raises are based upon you passing your classes. Failure also results in repeating the class and an appearance in front of the Local JAC.

Monthly OJT Forms are still required of ALLAPPRENTICES! You can drop these forms at the hall. This is a requirement of the Department of Labor. Do not put your apprenticeship in jeopardy by failing to fulfill this responsibility. This will also result in your appearance before the Local JAC Committee.

Brothers and Sisters, due to recent conditions, ALL are requested to follow guidelines put out by the CDC, buildings and your companies. Common sense and personal health practices should always be followed. The International is also offering special benefits in response to our current situation. Go to their website at iuec.org where more information is available. While at the iuec.org website register on the my-link members portal. Click on log in and on the next screen, the third box down is where you can register for the members my

link portal. The Local picnic was scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2020. Currently the Picnic Committee and the Local Officers agree that for the safety and health of all members, retirees and families we canceled our picnic for July 2020.

We also have new phones and answering system. All calls will still be answered. No numbers have changed. We are also requesting your email address. If you are not receiving emails,

please confirm your address. During our recent situation we have received updates daily and we want this information at your disposal as soon as possible.

All refund checks have been processed and mailed out. With the delivery of mail being slowed at this time please have patience!

All members are reminded that your company is responsible to deliver material to the jobsite. Use of personal vehicles for delivery of material is for only emergency situations. There are no emergencies in modernization or construction.

All construction, modernization and cab work is TEAM-**WORK**. This is according to our agreement and follows your company's safety policy. A licensed journeyperson must also be onsite while any work is performed. If you are asked or told

differently call the hall immediately. Also, all jobs are to be reported to the HALL, this does include all unloads, crane picks and cab modernizations. This is our work and SHALL be performed by ELEVATOR CON-STRUCTORS!

Local 36

On behalf of the Local, we wish to express our condolences to the families of Joe Lavake on his passing May 10th, 2020 and Honorary retired Brother Fred Pachla April 28^{th,} 2020. We also lost Brother Taylor Lewis Local 63, an on-the-job fatality April 27th, 2020.

Get well wishes are extended to all our Brothers and Sisters who are on our sick list. Keep safe and healthy. Be a Brother to a Brother, regardless of what Local they might belong too. We are all in this and will get through this, together!

"Sit down before fact as a little child, be prepared to give up every preconceived notion... or you shall learn nothing.

-Thomas H. Huxley (1825 - 1895)'

"The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark.

-Barbara Hall

"The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30% of their ice cream.

– Bill Murray (1950 -)

"When Solomon said there was a time and a place for everything he had not encountered the problem of parking his automobile.

–Bob Edwards

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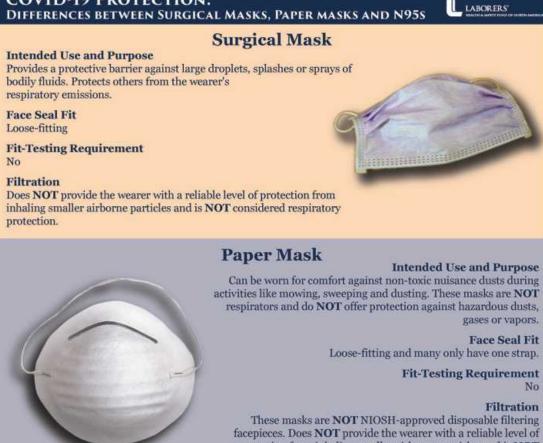
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Outdoors







"Well boys, it's gonna be a biscuits and gravy mornin'!"

That was the phrase I first heard on a duck hunt at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area near Columbia, Missouri in 2006, from a hunter in my party nicknamed "Wild Bill."

That morning was one of the finest days afield I've ever had. We quickly reached our bag limit of 24 ducks – a rare accomplishment in the waterfowl world, especially since we did it before the sun had crested over the bluffs along the Missouri River.

Wearing his "Boonie" hat, Wild Bill let out a war cry when the last duck fell. "Well boys, it's gonna be a biscuits and gravy mornin!"

"A what, Wild Bill?"

He explained to us that, in his 40 years of hunting ducks, there haven't been many times that he can get a limit of ducks, slog out of the field and be back home before his wife is out the door for work so that she can make him a plate of her biscuits and gravy.

That saying is something that has stuck with me ever since.

There haven't been but a couple of outdoor instances where I could let out the Wild Bill war cry to declare a biscuits and gravy morning. One of those times was in springtime 2019.

For years, I have reveled in taking some time to spring turkey hunt. It is one of my favorite times of the year, when you literally get to watch the world come alive before your eyes.

If you go out more than one day in a row, it is incredible to hear the different birds singing in the mornings, watch vegetation sprout that you swore wasn't there yesterday and, if you are really lucky, stumble upon a morel mushroom or two.

However, one thing I never had the best luck at was bagging a turkey on my adventures. There have been lots of close calls, more early mornings than I can count, screw-ups on my part, times I should've been more patient and

Talking turkey hunting



A GROUP OF WILD TURKEYS on a roadside in Mackinac County.

than I deserve.

I believe the last year I had gotten a turkey was 2009, but I have been out every year since.

I had talked to a few folks and told them how much I would like to go hunting with someone who really knows his stuff. The name Brandon Nutt from Ravenna came up a few times.

After getting in touch with him via the Internet far before the sea- no headlamps, just guiding our son opening, it was determined we would head out on some private land that he has and give it a shot on opening day.

In the two weeks leading up to the hunt, Brandon sent me updates frequently.

Pictures of toms, videos of birds gobbling in the dark on the roost, you name it. It was clear that he was very serious about turkey hunting and he was putting in some serious effort to help me end my dry spell, hopefully.

As he put it, "I can almost guarantee you we'll have a shot at a mature tom. Now whether or not you hit it is another matter altogether, but that's on you."

The night before the opener was a very sleepless one. I kept waking up before my alarm, about every 30 minutes, to make sure I didn't oversleep.

to Ravenna to meet Brandon. I had some good tunes going on the radio, some beef jerky, some strong coffee and a whole lot of optimism.

To say I was nervous and excited would be a great understatement. I arrived to meet Brandon about 5:15, and we immediately headed off to his hunting spot.

We slipped on in, in the dark, way along field edges, using the moonlight to mark our way.

Brandon would stop every now and then to point out some tree lines in the dark where he had seen the turkeys before or where they may have roosted, or where a tom had fallen to a hunter's gun

"Now when we get to that final fence row, we really have to go into stealth mode," he warned.

I am not exactly the stealthiest person. I tend to kind of lumber along when outdoors and have been known, a time or two, to take a spill in the water, mud, et cetera. I was holding my breath as I took each step, hoping a stick wouldn't crack or I wouldn't flip

Surprisingly, I was successful. It was about 5:45 when we got settled in. Brandon let me know I got up and hit the road about where he had seen the birds the

trees at night and stay almost motionless and quiet until dawn starts to break.

MDNR photo

Generally, the songbirds start singing first, then just when you think there are no turkeys in your area, you hear a tom thunder off, waking you up more than any cup of coffee will.

Typically, this will start a good while before daylight, sometimes an hour or better. Turkeys will sit in the trees and start gobbling and talking to each other, figuring out what their game plan of the day is going to be, I guess.

Another thing that turkeys are known for, both while in the trees and on the ground, is "shock gobbling." An owl hoots, turkeys gobble. A car horn beeps, they gobble. A crow caws, they gobble. You get the picture. Often, one gobble produces a domino effect where once one gobbles, they all go.

It seems the closer to daylight it gets, the crazier they get.

Legal shooting hours for Muskegon County began on this day at 6:21 a.m., but on most mornings you can expect turkeys won't leave the roost and fly down until 20-30 minutes after that time.

That day's trigger was a cow mooing. It was far away, but every time it mooed, they gobbled. more incredible outdoor moments 3:45 a.m. to make the drive over previous night. Turkeys roost in It was very apparent that we had took aim at one of the other toms

at least six turkeys very close, with two even closer – less than 60 yards away.

turkeys kept gobbling. About 6:10, Brandon decided to do some calling, and that really got them fired up. Just as a hint of daylight came over us, we were able to pick out a tom sitting in a tree, gobbling his brains out, and pointing right toward us and the decoys that we'd placed out.

This seemed to go on for an eternity, which really was about 20 minutes. By 6:30, my heart was beating out of my chest. I thought, "Is one of those turkeys really going to fly down and come over to us?'

Just about then, the first tom pitched down out of the tree, followed by a second and a third.

"OK, Ryan, keep it together," I told myself. I could feel my heart beating in my ears. My vision was swirling. I felt light-headed. "Take some deep breaths," I thought.

The toms all kind of meandered around looking, gobbling and probably wondering why the decoys hadn't moved. The birds were out of range and seemed to be very intrigued by the live hens that had flown out of the roost and were headed in the opposite direction.

This is pretty much textbook for how a few of my hunts have gone. Just when you think you have those birds fooled, they throw you a curve ball and go the other way.

Brandon got more and more aggressive with his calling, and the birds started slowly our way. They then got a little faster, a little more still, before I thought to myself, "They are in range."

"Just pick one out, let them get far enough apart so you don't hit more than one," Brandon said. I acknowledged him and began trying to slow my breathing. I was holding the gun, trembling like a leaf on a tree, dry mouth, heart racing. I was a total mess. "OK, I am getting the one on the left," I

I clicked the safety off, raised the gun, slowly put the barrel at the base of the tom's head, where you want to hit them, and pulled the trigger. Bang! I saw a bird running like the Roadrunner, unscathed. I was in total disbelief somehow, I missed this turkey at very close range!

I regained my composure,

that was making his way out of there, and BANG, down he went.

The other two were making As the cows kept mooing, the their way out of the spread and out of the field.

I completely forgot about Brandon and that he brought his gun just in case. Then I heard KA-BOOM. His big, 10-gauge shotgun sounded like a cannon go-

ing off – and down went his bird. I couldn't believe what just had happened. I not only ended my dry spell, but I just witnessed two toms being harvested.

This was something I always dreamed of. What's better than being able to enjoy a hunting success moment, but to do it with someone else and share in mutual admiration, excitement and respect for the animal and for the outdoors.

I was rewarded with a beautiful, heavy tom with a 9.5-inch beard and just over 1-inch spurs.

Brandon has shot a lot of birds. I'm not sure how many, but it's a bunch. From the excited look he had, you'd swear it was his first. My knees were knocking together. I was shaking. I was high-fiving him. I let out a holler. Brandon ran out to the birds, and I said to myself, "I can't believe it, a biscuits and gravy morning!"

I asked Brandon what time it was. He said 6:41 a.m. This was the kind of turkey hunt I always dreamed of. Done on the first day, done before the sun was up, with a beautiful tom turkey in hand.

Truly one of those moments in time I am never going to forget.

It is a joy to spend a day in the outdoors with someone who shares a mutual admiration for the pursuit and the harvest like I do – someone who is a consummate sportsman and truly gets what being outdoors is all about.

I'll admit, a couple of times, I have been close to saying I was going to take the year off from turkey hunting and that I was slowly losing my drive for it.

I am very fortunate to have met Brandon, who helped reinvigorate that fire in me for those early morning adventures chasing wily tom turkeys.

I can only hope that when folks go with me duck hunting, fishing or on any number of other outdoor adventures, I can get them inspired as well. It's never really about the harvest, but it sure is a nice bonus to an incredible experience outdoors.

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