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SHORT CUTS

AFL-CIO sues OSHA to protect workers

WASHINGTON (PAI) – Fed up with the Trump government's refusal to force firms to protect workers from the coronavirus, the AFL-CIO is suing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to force it to do so.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for D.C., which handles most cases involving federal agencies and their rules, says the rule forcing firms to act is even more-needed now, as states start letting businesses reopen and crowds gather – thus increasing the risk of community spread of the coronavirus.

The virus has already killed thousands of workers and endangered tens of thousands more, especially in plants with no social distancing – such as meatpacking – or occupations whose workers come into constant contact with coronavirus sufferers, such as nursing.

"Thousands of workers have been infected on the job through exposure to infected patients, co-workers and unscrubbed members of the public," the AFL-CIO said as it filed the papers in court on May 18. It wants a hearing within 12 days, including time for an OSHA written reply, and a court order to follow within 30 days after that. "As the economy reopens and people return to work, person-to-person contact will increase and health experts predict the already shocking number of infections and deaths among workers will rise," the federation warns.

"It's truly a sad day in America when working people must sue the organization tasked with protecting our health and safety," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "It's beyond urgent that action is taken to protect workers who risk our lives daily to respond to this public health emergency. If the Trump administration refuses to act, we must compel them to."

The AFL-CIO sued after Trumka wrote to Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, whose department includes OSHA, demanding he order the agency to stop its voluntary guidance, which does not have the force of law, and order firms to create and implement plans to protect the workers.

Scalia replied a new standard isn't needed. He added many measures Trumka said should be in a new mandatory standard are already in OSHA's "voluntary" guidance, that workers have filed thousands of complaints about firms falling down on the job, and that OSHA's "general duty" clause will let it pursue the worst violators who don't do anything at all. But "voluntary" doesn't work, the fed said. Its lawsuit specifically says OSHA "shall provide...for an emergency temporary standard to take immediate effect" if OSHA concludes "employees are exposed to grave danger from exposure to substances or agents determined to be toxic or physically harmful or from new hazards," such as the COVID virus. The federation italicized the word "shall."

—Mark Gruenberg, PAI

Trades golf outing now set for Oct. 2

The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's annual golf outing has been rescheduled for Friday, Oct. 2. More details will follow. Please mark your calendar.

Quotable

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind."
—Roy T. Bennett



IRON WORKERS Local 25 rodbusters build the base of one of 60 wind turbines that will be erected this year for Consumers Energy's Gratiot Farms Wind Project in mid-Michigan's Gratiot County. They're employed by Barton Malow. Photo credit: Marc Crance

Wind yields windfall of work, revenue, for Gratiot County

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Apparently, the winds are favorable in Gratiot County.

Currently home to recently completed DTE Energy's Polaris Wind Park (68 turbines, 168 megawatts) and a portion of DTE's Pine River Wind Park (65 turbines, 161 megawatts) and others, the building trades and Barton Malow are in the process of building the Gratiot

Farms Wind Project for Consumers Energy, which will include 60 wind turbines and 150 megawatts of power.

The \$260 million Gratiot Farms project started in 2019 and is expected to be complete later this year. The project is located in Gratiot County west of U.S. 127 about 10 miles northwest of St. Johns. The project area encompasses approximately 20,000 acres and is expected to involve

around 100 landowners.

"The Gratiot Farms Wind Project," says owner Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy, "will create direct and indirect economic benefits to Gratiot County. Those benefits start with jobs: approximately 150 or so construction jobs as the energy park is built, then up to 13 permanent jobs when it begins (Continued on Page 2)



HARDHATS WORK atop a nacelle of one of 68 wind turbines that are part of DTE Energy's Polaris Wind Park in Gratiot County, which started energy production in April. It's the first of four wind parks in Michigan that DTE Energy will commission this year. Photo credit: DTE Energy

Report finds state's bridges among the worst

WASHINGTON – Nearly 231,000 U.S. bridges need major repair work or should be replaced, according to an American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) analysis of the just released U.S. Department of Transportation's 2019 National Bridge Inventory (NBI) database.

That figure represents 37 percent, or more than a third, of all U.S. bridges.

Michigan, where Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ran for office in 2018 on a "fix the damn roads" platform, is unsurprisingly among

the worst states in the nation for deficient bridges. Our state has the ninth most number of deficient bridges.

The figures come from a report released April 14 by ARTBA, in an analysis of the newly released U.S. Department of Transportation's 2019 National Bridge Inventory (NBI) database.

"If placed end-to-end," ARTBA said, "the length of these bridges would stretch over 6,300 miles – long enough to make a round trip across the country from New York City to Los Angeles

and back again to Chicago. American drivers cross these bridges 1.5 billion times per day – representing one-third of all daily bridge crossings."

In Michigan, of the 11,244 bridges in the state, 1,217, or 10.8 percent, are classified as structurally deficient, according to the report. This means one of the key elements is in poor or worse condition. That number is actually down from the 1,264 bridges classified as structurally deficient in 2015. The report said Michigan has identified needed repairs on

2,650 bridges at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion.

Nationwide, 81,000 bridges should be replaced, says ARTBA Chief Economist Dr. Alison Premo Black, who led the team conducting the analysis. One third of interstate highway bridges (18,177 spans) have identified repair needs.

The report comes as Congress and the Trump administration continue working on measures to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Continued on Page 13)

Egan honored, again, as an excellent employer

GRAND RAPIDS – If you have made the elite portion of the list of "Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" for 10 years straight, you must be doing something right.

Andy J. Egan, a mechanical contractor that celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, won the "Best of the Best" Award in the competition for medium-sized companies in West Michigan. Egan employs about 200 workers, including members of Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Service Trades Local 174. The recently announced award is sponsored by the National Association for Business Resources (NABR).

(Continued on Page 13)

ANDY J. EGAN employee and UA Local 174 member Sean Newman works in Egan's shop grinding a gas meter spool for use at a state university project. Photo: courtesy Egan



SOS to mail absentee ballot applications to all registered Michigan voters

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced May 19 that all registered voters in Michigan will receive an application to vote by mail in the August and November elections.

"By mailing applications, we have ensured that no Michigander has to choose between their health and their right

to vote," said Benson. "Voting by mail is easy, convenient, safe, and secure, and every voter in Michigan has the right to do it."

Of the 7.7 million registered voters in the state, about 1.3 million are on the permanent absent voter list, and their local election clerk mails them applications ahead of every election. Additionally, some jurisdictions are mailing applications to all local registered voters. The Michigan Department of State's Bureau of



Michigan has to choose between their health and their right

Michigan construction gasping behind other states during pandemic

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The COVID-19 crisis and subsequent closure of much of Michigan's construction industry for six weeks punched our state harder than any other, new data affirms.

Using employment numbers updated on May 14, Procore (a U.S. construction technology firm) and the Associated General Contractors of America reported that construction hours worked in Michigan between March 1 and May 4 dropped 69 percent, easily the highest rate of any other state except Vermont (-68 percent). Other states with significant drops during that time period were New York (-55 percent), Massachusetts (-48 percent), Pennsylvania (-40 percent), and

West Virginia (-40 percent).

And as we reported in our last issue, technology company OxBlue said earlier in May that Michigan dropped a nation-leading 81 percent in construction activity since the start of the COVID crisis. Construction in Michigan was interrupted by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home - Stay Safe" policy from March 21 to May 7.

Overall in the U.S. construction declined by 975,000 jobs in April, the Labor Department reported on May 8.

"Today's jobs report, our new survey results and Procore's data make it clear that the construction industry is not immune to the economic damage being inflicted on our country by the (Continued on Page 3)

Building trades propose national standards for COVID-19 protections

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The nation's building trades unions and their allied construction research and training center proposed detailed national standards for contractors to follow to protect workers from "community spread" of the coronavirus as construction restarts after the almost-complete shutdown of business since the virus hit.

"The new national framework outlines planning and implementation elements with strong minimum standards, screening policies and the requirement of a comprehensive employer exposure control plan comprised of control measures, symptom checking, social distancing, training, hygiene and decontamination procedures," North America's Building Trades Unions said in a covering statement.

Building Trades President Sean McGarvey said the coronavirus pandemic "under-

scores the need for and value of a strong, adaptable and multi-purpose exposure control standard to prevent the spread of infectious diseases on U.S. construction sites." Michigan's unions and their contractors already have numerous safety protocols in place, go to www.michiganbuildingtrades.org for more information.

McGarvey said the GOP Trump administration is dragging its feet on protecting workers from the coronavirus, which had (Continued on Page 2)

'Dropped like a rock'

U.S. economy, workers are taking a beating

The Economic Policy Institute, a labor-backed research center, has been a loud, helpful voice for American workers since it was established in 1986. They regularly look at government economic numbers and offer broader analysis and perspective on how workers are affected.

They're had quite a bit to chew on in the past few weeks with the full, horrible impact of the COVID-19 crisis becoming more clear. Following is some of what the researchers at the EPI have found:

• "After a sharp fall in March, payroll employment dropped like a rock in April. I struggle to even put into words how large this drop is," wrote EPI economist Elise Gould on May 8. "It's as if all the gains in employment since 2000 were wiped out. It's as if all the jobs in all of the states beginning with the letter 'M' simply disappeared in the last month. That's all the jobs in Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, and Montana combined."

• In the last eight weeks leading up to May 14, more than 33 million people – more than one in five workers – have applied for unemployment insurance (UI) through regular state UI programs. That is more than five times the worst eight-week stretch of the Great Recession a decade ago.

• On May 8, the monthly employment situation report showed that the U.S. labor market saw a net decline of 20.5 million jobs between mid-March and mid-April. (Note, that number is not just layoffs where people filed for Unemployment Insurance – it also accounts for a drop in hires, job losses where people didn't file for UI, quits, and worker deaths.)

Today's (May 15) weekly UI claims numbers show that things have further deteriorated – drastically – since mid-April. (Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page 3)

Viewpoints



This time, workers first

(Following is a letter sent to congressional leaders outlining America's five economic essentials for the CARES 2 Package, the second economic stimulus package being debated in Congress in the aftermath of the COVID crisis. Nearly all of the union leaders from the building trades, as well as leaders from other unions added their signature).

Dear Leaders Pelosi, McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

We urge you to prioritize workers and their families and to put them at the front of the line in this time of great need. America's workers – in the private and public sectors – have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, for too many heroes on the front lines, simply going to work has already proven to be a death sentence in this cruel crisis. Without your leadership and action, working people may not recover.

We supported the efforts to date to stabilize our industries and communities, but unfortunately, much more must be done. These efforts already have been eclipsed by surging unemployment and record job loss. Workers across all sectors are facing a stark reality: This unprecedented crisis will affect each and every one of us. As the pandemic continues, millions are losing their jobs and their health insurance coverage as a result, while coping with devastating health concerns of their own.

Workers are experiencing severe cash flow constraints and struggling to meet basic food and shelter needs. We're already seeing the effects of stressed state and local budgets. Many of our members are working without adequate safety protections and access to personal protective equipment and are becoming sick and unable to work, with some losing their lives because of COVID-19.

This is a moment that demands of us compassion and common sense; any meaningful relief and recovery will require a prioritization of the workers and their families who undergird the stability and prosperity of this nation.

While the recovery actions already taken by Congress will help many, those efforts are disproportionately aimed at large enterprises, not communities and families. We now urge the development of a CARES 2 proposal that meets the needs of working people and their families head on. We simply cannot rely on a "trickle down" approach that is dependent on the actions of private equity and large companies.

Without more direct help, hardworking people and their families will continue spiraling downward to a social safety net in tatters, damaged by years of under-investment. We call on Congress and President Trump to embrace America's Five Economic Essentials, outlined below, as the centerpiece of the CARES 2 package to KEEP our families safe:

KEEP America healthy – protect and expand health insurance for all workers: We are in a health care crisis, yet the first thing millions of people are losing is their health insurance. Now, in the midst of a pandemic, is not the time to throw millions of laid-off workers and the families of workers who have died off their health insurance. We need to expand affordable health care, not eliminate it, so that all workers have access to medical testing and treatment. This must include 100 percent federal payment support for COBRA extensions that otherwise would bankrupt millions and steps to ensure there are no surprise medical bills sent to families in medical crisis. We also must assure the financial solvency of hospitals across the country, including community hospitals that provide the economic engine in many rural communities.

KEEP front-line workers safe and secure: All essential workers need safety protections on the job, including personal protective equipment, training, testing, anti-retaliation protections, paid sick leave and hazard pay. We are seeing workers performing essential services or making essential products left unprotected as they protect us in sectors such as health care, grocery, transportation, public service, public and higher education, the U.S. Postal Service, emergency response, construction, manufacturing, energy, utilities, broadcast news and many more. These workers are everyday heroes who have kept our country moving, fed, cared for and safe through this crisis. All these workers need to be treated, protected and paid accordingly.

This requires actions, not just words; which is why Congress must mandate that OSHA and MSHA issue emergency temporary standards to protect all workers from infectious diseases, and the administration must use the Defense Production Act to ensure the manufacture of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies we must have to keep our country safe for the duration of this crisis.

KEEP workers employed and protect earned pension checks: We are headed toward catastrophic levels of unemployment – 20 percent or higher – and we must act. The Paycheck Protection Program must pay workers as it was designed to do, not used by executives to pay back debts to big banks and private equity firms. CARES 2 must ensure that millions more workers are paid for through the duration of this crisis by making support for employers who keep workers on payroll simpler, faster and more universal.

A pension is a promise – workers paid into a system for decades of work for the promise of security in retirement. Congress must help ensure this promise made to millions of private-sector American workers and their families is kept. The labor movement has advanced meaningful proposals on how to address this and these must be adopted. We must also extend direct financial support for all workers' housing, including renters and homeowners.

KEEP state and local governments, our public schools and the U.S. Postal Service solvent and working: The past decade of austerity at the state and local levels have exacerbated the current crisis. We are watching state and local governments become overwhelmed by an unprecedented demand for public services at the very moment that revenues are cratering. A substantial investment in unrestricted aid to state and local governments, school districts, colleges and universities, and the U.S. Postal Service, as well as greater federal assistance for Medicaid, will help prevent a further gutting of public services that would make this concurrent health and economic crisis even worse.

We cannot forgo the future of our students for a crisis that is not of their making. Moreover, nurses, food service personnel, teachers, postal workers, child and home care workers, transit workers, telecom workers, and other public service workers are front-line heroes working long hours to allow families to adhere to social distancing and, in many cases, risking their lives to serve our country. They must be defined as essential and supported financially throughout this public health and economic emergency as part of CARES 2.

KEEP America competitive – hire people to build infrastructure: With the highest number of unemployed Americans since the Great Depression, we need to both provide good jobs and strengthen our nation's workforce. This crisis is a wake-up call to make long overdue investments in a key pillar of the economy: our infrastructure. If not now, when will we ever reinvest in the vital infrastructure essential to protect our country and boost good job creation?

This crisis of unknown proportions requires new thinking and new action. CARES 2 gives us the opportunity to keep top of mind the millions of people who work hard every day, play by the rules, and now need our collective support and decisive action. America's Five Economic Essentials provide a chance to calm our nation's angst and protect our nation's people.

Sincerely, **Richard L. Trumka**
AFL-CIO President

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

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Trades propose COVID-19 standards

(Continued from Page 1) infected 1.5 million people as of May 18 and killed more than 90,000. So "the building trades are trying to do our best to protect our members and contractors on the job, and, for that matter, everyone in the construction industry," he said.

Some features include designating a COVID-19 (coronavirus) officer at each job site, training workers in the latest protection methods, including safe distancing, frequent hand-washing and disinfecting tools and surfaces, and implementing social distancing and staggered work schedules to minimize close interaction. The detailed list is on NABTU's website: www.nabtu.org.

Others include taking workers' temperatures with no-contact thermometers at the start of each shift and sending home any with a temperature, and if they get sick while on the job, sending them – and their colleagues – home on paid sick leave now legal under federal law.

And managers should identify sites "where workers are forced to stand close together, such as hallways, hoists or elevators" – or that platform in D.C. – and enforce strict capacity limits so workers can be six feet apart. Worksites and offices should have hand sanitizers and contractors should equip all workers with approved N95 masks or their equivalents.

For their part, NABTU recommends workers should follow the community spread rules, wear the masks and respirators, drive to work one person to a car, clean and disinfect tools, equipment, surfaces, carts, vehicles such as forklifts, and other areas people often touch. And workers who are especially vulnerable, such as those with asthma or who are smokers, should follow extra precautions outlined by the Centers for Disease Control.

"In many places, our unions, contractors, and project owners have already implemented these protocols," McGarvey said in releasing the plan "The industry has been calling for a single national standard, and this is a product we highly recommend for owners, contractors, union members and all of our industry. We hope these guidelines will raise the bar to prevent and control infectious threats and improve safety and health management practices."

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A WINTRY VIEW from atop a turbine at the DTE Energy Polaris Wind Park in Gratiot County.

Photo credit: DTE Energy

Wind yields windfall of work

(Continued from Page 1) operations."

Consumers Energy has pledged to end its use of coal and reduce carbon emissions by more than 90 percent by 2040. Similarly, DTE Energy says it plans to achieve net zero carbon emissions in its electric company by 2050. And these wind parks are moving them toward that goal.

"CMS Energy is committed to our triple bottom line of people, planet and prosperity, and we are excited to support all three by increasing the renewable energy we supply using wind power," said Patti Poppe, CMS Energy's president and CEO. "We are showing it is possible to provide affordable world-class products and service to customers while being responsible corporate citizens."

The 68 new turbines in the Polaris Park wind development generate enough energy to power 64,000 homes, says DTE Energy. The turbines are about 500 feet tall when the blades reach their highest point. Polaris Park – the

largest operating wind project in Michigan – saw its turbine power added to the grid in April, while the Pine River turbines came online in March 2019. The Pine River development is in both Gratiot and Isabella counties.

"Developing more renewable energy resources is a key part of our business strategy and our commitment to reduce carbon emissions," said Irene Dimitry, DTE vice president, Business Strategy and Development. "Projects like Pine River demonstrate our commitment to provide our customers with cleaner energy while maintaining our focus on reliability and affordability for our customers."

Gratiot County's breeziness and abundance of wind farms has been a boon to both landowners and taxing authorities. The northern and western side of Michigan's Thumb area by far have the most wind farms, followed by mid-Michigan's Gratiot and Isabella counties. Local regulations and other factors have

prevented the construction of wind turbines in other areas.

"Wind development has unquestionably brought increased economic prosperity to Gratiot County," said Jim Wheeler, president, Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. "In addition to tax revenue that benefits the County, townships, and schools, investment from wind development was used to leverage a grant for infrastructure in the Breckenridge Industrial Park, which now houses five companies and over 100 jobs.

"The area economy also benefits from increased consumer spending at restaurants and retail shops by temporary construction workers and permanent maintenance technicians, in addition to increased spending from local landowners who receive lease payments. Overall, wind development has offered Gratiot County a renewed drive toward the future with new opportunities for its citizens."

During pandemic, looking out for No. 1

By Jim Hightower

There's a general sentiment today that multimillionaire corporate chieftains are pigs. But I think that's unfair. To pigs.

Pigs are remarkably intelligent animals with a sense of social responsibility to the common good of the group. Compare that to the pompous and petulant corporate executives like hotel magnate Monty Bennett, who recently grabbed millions of dollars in economic relief meant for small businesses.

It was so stinky that even the thieving Trumpistas made him return the money. Yet a shameless Bennett continues to insist that he deserves a government bailout: "What are all those taxes we paid supposed to provide us with, anyway," he whined?

Well, Monty, maybe with a literate workforce, clean water,

paved streets, fire and police protection, and other public basics that subsidize your business. But our taxes aren't meant to guarantee your profit.

Yet Bennett flaunts his cluelessness: "I won't apologize for being a capitalist in America," exclaimed this "socialist capitalist" in March, as he was grabbing taxpayer handouts.

Indeed, he's apparently a very poor capitalist. Last year, before the coronavirus catastrophe struck, the Ashcroft trust that he heads had a \$113 million loss and saw its stock value nosedive by 80 percent. Yet he took special care of himself, pocketing

\$5.7 million in personal pay.

Meanwhile, Monty is in line for more government money from Trump & Company's new \$500 billion pot of cash exclusively reserved as "emergency aid" for giant corporations.

Moreover, Bennett and his ilk can take this bailout with no requirement to use any of it to protect the paychecks or save the jobs of employees. They can even use our money to raise their own pay!

In CEO World, taking care of Number One is Priority Number One. Then, as a second priority, repeat Priority Number One.

(via www.otherwords.org)

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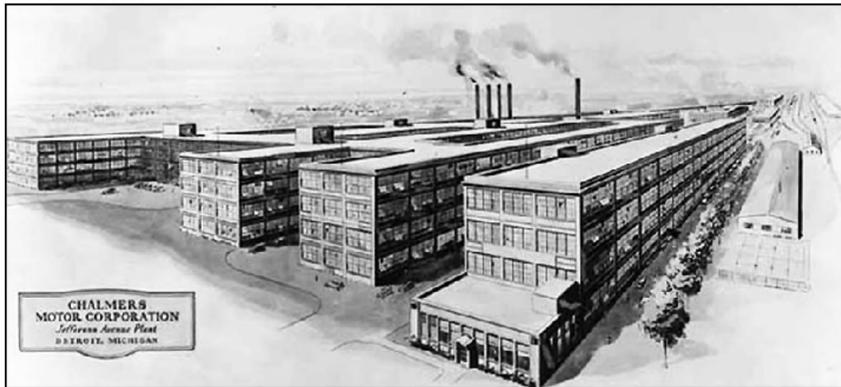
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BUILDING MICHIGAN!

The Chalmers Motor Co.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A RENDERING of the Chalmers Plant on the east side of Detroit, circa 1920. While Chalmers only lasted 17 years as an automotive brand, the plant grew into the mammoth Chrysler-Jefferson plant, where vehicles were made for 82 years.

The name “Chalmers” is probably only familiar to Detroit east-siders, and only because it is the name of a street, marked with a sign as an exit off of I-94.

A century ago, you would be more apt to be familiar with the man and company for which the street was named. Hugh Chalmers and his Chalmers Motor Co. were, for a while, a major manufacturer of touring cars, sedans and limousines, with the aim of building pricey, high-quality vehicles. The Chalmers Motor Co. lasted longer than most vehicle manufacturers of the day, but it also suffered the same fate as most—financial collapse, or absorption, or merger with another company, followed by obscurity. It was a fate met by hundreds of car companies of the era, who fiercely competed for a place in the fledgling auto industry.

But with its demise, Chalmers left a considerable niche in automotive history—the company was one of the founding nameplates that formed the Chrysler Corp. and the original manufacturing facility that the company erected on Detroit’s east side long outlived the original firm and became the site where cars were assembled longer than at any other facility in the U.S.

Constructed in 1908 at East Jefferson at Connor, Chalmers’ original factory was built on a site with room to grow, and eventually was enlarged and improved over the years to become Chrysler’s mammoth Jefferson Avenue plant, where over the decades, models from the Chalmers 30, to DeSotos to Dodge Omnis were assembled. The plant, which eventually became woefully outdated, closed on Feb. 2, 1990. It was demolished about a year later and replaced by the new Jefferson North plant built across the street.

“Long history short,” says *Historic Detroit*, “Chalmers Motor Co. did well at first and built this huge plant in 1908. However, it made increasingly expensive cars that increasingly didn’t sell, and so it leased unused space to Maxwell Motor Car Co. By the late 1910s, the two companies were practically merged—but also practically broke. Their creditors appointed Walter P. Chrysler to take over, and by 1925, he had discontinued the two brands and reorganized the firm as the Chrysler Corp.”

A glowing feature in the Jan. 25, 1913, edition of the *Michigan Manufacturer and Financial Record* called Chalmers



A CHALMERS “Detroit-30” model in 1909.

Chalmers facility (courtesy National Automotive Historic Collection, Skillman Library, Detroit) around 1910



THE CHALMERS plant, circa 1910, two years after it opened. Architect Albert Kahn separated wings of the plant with the use of courtyard green spaces, making for a more pleasant plant.

Photo credit: Detroit Public Library

“one of the most prominent figures in the automobile industry.”

Chalmers was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1873, and he began as an office boy at the National Cash Register Co. There, he moved his way up the corporate ladder, eventually becoming vice president and general manager and then CEO.

Switching from cash registers to cars in 1907, “he came to Detroit to enter the automobile industry, becoming president of the E.R. Thomas-Detroit Motor Co.,” the article said. “This firm was later reorganized as the Chalmers Motor Co., and under Mr. Chalmers’ direction the present Chalmers plant, occupying a site of 30 acres and consisting of 17 manufacturing buildings, was built up.” Construction began in the fall of 1907.

The plant’s architect was—guess who—Albert Kahn, whose architectural firm seemed to have a hand in nearly every prominent automotive-related building in Michigan. The Chalmers plant was one of the earliest reinforced-concrete plants, which no doubt helped its longevity. It’s self-sufficiency was also a precursor to Henry Ford’s Rouge plant in Dearborn.

“By 1911,” says the *Chalmers Automobile Newsletter*, “the Chalmers factory was one of the most modern and comprehensive automobile manufacturing plants of the time. Located on the east side of Detroit, it had ready access to both railroad and Detroit River/Great Lakes ship transportation. One of the things that made the Chalmers plant so advanced was the self-sufficient approach to building automobiles.

“For example, raw pig iron was shipped in and processed by the on-site foundry and machine shop to become complete engines, transmissions, and axles as needed for the finished car. Even the nuts, bolts, and screw fasteners required to complete an automobile were made on-site.

“Many of the competing automobile manufacturers bought these items from outside suppliers and simply ‘assembled’ their cars. Chalmers did buy parts from some outside suppliers on a limited basis (i.e. spark plugs & tires), but the underlying philosophy was to perform as many manufacturing processes as possible in-house.”

In designing the original Chalmers plant, Kahn used “traverse bays” between buildings with pleasing green areas between buildings. “Four simi-

lar parallel units,” says *The Legacy of Albert Kahn*, “were incorporated into the design of the Chalmers Motor Car Co. plant of 1907 on East Jefferson Avenue. These were linked together to form open and closed courts. Broad front lawns dotted with shrubbery and flower beds presented a park-like appearance. An early description of the plant called it a ‘pleasant place to work.’”

The two 1911 models offered by Chalmers accounted for sales that year of 6,250 vehicles, positioning Chalmers in eighth place among U.S. auto manufacturers—a high point the company would never see again.

According to AllPar, with Chalmers under the gun as a company—still chasing the low-volume, high-price theory of production—it built cars for Maxwell under contract starting in 1916. The new Chrysler Corporation (a shell company) absorbed both Maxwell and Chalmers in 1925.

Now the Chrysler Jefferson plant, it underwent numerous modifications and expansions over the years. Chrysler enlarged its manufacturing facilities there significantly in 1928, to the tune of \$1.26 million. Major construction projects included the Assembly Building, Machine Shop, Enameling Building and Shipping Dock, all single-story steel-framed structures. A four-story reinforced concrete wing to one of the existing buildings was another major project.

Completed in 1933, the Chrysler Corp. Office and Display Building at the site along Jefferson Avenue was designed in the Art Moderne style by Kahn, and it originally included a showroom for the Chrysler products on the first floor. In the early 1960s, it was converted to office space. The building cleverly hid much of the assembly plant and shipping dock from public view.

Chrysler continued to make Maxwells for a while, and over the years moved on to Imperials, Dodges, DeSotos, trucks (for one year only), plus the smallest Plymouths and Dodges ever made (Omni/Horizon), and the K and E cars. Over its 82 years of existence, the plant built an unmatched 8,310,107 cars and trucks.

Hugh Chalmers became chairman of the board of Chalmers Motors when it was leased to Maxwell in 1917, a position he held until his retirement in 1922. He died in 1932.



SHOWN HERE UNDER construction and completed in 1933, an addition to the Chrysler Jefferson plant “hid” the remainder of the plant from the streetscape. Architect Albert Kahn designed the Chrysler Corp. Office and Display Building on 12200 East Jefferson Avenue in the Art Moderne style.

Photo credit: Walter Reuther Library, Wayne State University

Michigan construction gasping behind other states during pandemic

(Continued from Page 1)
 “Without new federal help, it is hard to see a scenario where the construction industry will be able to recover any time soon.”

The AGC said the loss in construction jobs from March to April constituted nearly 13 percent of the industry’s employ-

U.S. economy, workers are taking a beating in COVID era

(Continued from Page 1)
 An additional roughly 9.0 million people have applied for regular UI and 2.6 million have applied for PUA (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) since that time. The May jobs number (released June 5) is going to be grim.

•In April 2009—the worst month of the Great Recession for layoffs—there were nearly 2.7 million layoffs, or 2 percent of the workforce.

•Some good news: regular state UI claims have declined in each of the last five weeks. Though last week’s number is still close to three times the worst week of the Great Recession, the improvement is welcome.

•And of course, workers aren’t just losing their jobs. Our health care system ties health insurance to work, so millions of workers have likely already lost their employer-provided health insurance. As of April 30, an estimated 12.7 million workers have likely lost employer-provided health insurance since the coronavirus shock began.

“Because the United States is unique among rich countries in tying health insurance benefits to employment,” the EPI said, “many of the newly unemployed will suddenly face prohibitively costly insurance options. A comprehensive policy solution would be to extend Medicare and Medicaid to all those suffering job losses during the pandemic period, with the federal government funding this expansion.”

•Goldman Sachs is now projecting that the unemployment rate will average 25 percent in the second quarter of this year (which is the estimated level during the Great Depression of the 1930s). Given that the unemployment rate was 14.7 percent in April, that means they are projecting the unemployment rate will average 30.15 percent in May and June. Further, the Congressional Budget Office projects that without additional relief, the unemployment rate will average 10.1 percent for the calendar year of 2021.

Michigan, for the week ending May 9, saw a 28 percent rate of initial jobless claims as a share of the state’s labor force. That represented a 30 percent reduction from the prior week.

As of May 13, the Michigan Unemployment Agency reported that about 92 percent of eligible unemployment claimants in the state have received part of the total \$5.6 billion in unemployment insurance that was paid between March 15 and May 13. That includes 165 million eligible claims.

•The U.S. construction industry experienced 1.94 million initial jobless claims between March 5 and May 9, amounting to a rate of 24.8 percent of total job losses as a share of industry employment. It has been one of the hardest hit job sectors.

•U.S. women continue to bear a larger share of job losses in the COVID-19 labor market. Women represented 50 percent of payroll employment in February, but represented 55 percent of COVID job losses

ment and was, by far, the worst one-month decline ever. Simonson added that unemployment among workers with recent construction experience soared by 1.1 million compared to a year earlier, to 1,531,000; while the unemployment rate in U.S. construction jumped from 4.7 percent in April 2019 to 16.6 percent.

An AGC survey of more than 800 U.S. construction firms released May 8 found that:

•Sixty seven percent of U.S. firms reported having a project canceled or delayed since the start of the outbreak in early March.

•While only 30 percent of firms report projects have been halted by government order—down from 35 percent two weeks prior—37 percent say their owners have voluntarily halted work out of fears of the pandemic.

•Thirty-one percent of respondents report that owners had canceled projects because of a predicted reduction in demand.

•Twenty one percent report having projects had been canceled as a result of a loss of private funding.

“Unfortunately, our survey indicates that layoffs are continuing to occur throughout the nation,” Simonson added. “Between March 1 and May 1, 39 percent of responding firms reduced their headcount. Reductions were particularly severe in the Northeast, where 53 percent of firms terminated or furloughed employees. The South had the fewest firms reporting staff reductions—29 percent, while 38 percent of firms in the Midwest and 45 percent in the West reduced headcount.”

Michigan (-69 percent), unfortunately, pushed up the jobless numbers like crazy in the Midwest—where construction activity in other states had not been halted. And the numbers aren’t even close. Ohio (-2 percent), Indiana (-3 percent), Illinois (-4 percent) and Wisconsin (-6 percent) saw their construction hours worked drop only moderately during the period between March 1 and May 1.

If there’s any good news, the bleeding has apparently stopped after the steepest job losses taking place in early April, and unemployment levels are not worsening.

Kris Lengieza, Procure’s senior director of business development, told the *Engineering News Record* on May 13 that after measuring a baseline of 14 million construction worker hours the week of March 1, the platform saw those hours decline to 11.5 million hours the week of April 5, the third week of stay-at-home orders announced by the states. However, since that week, worker hours rose to 12 million the week of April 12 and have been hovering between 12.4 million and 12.2 million since.

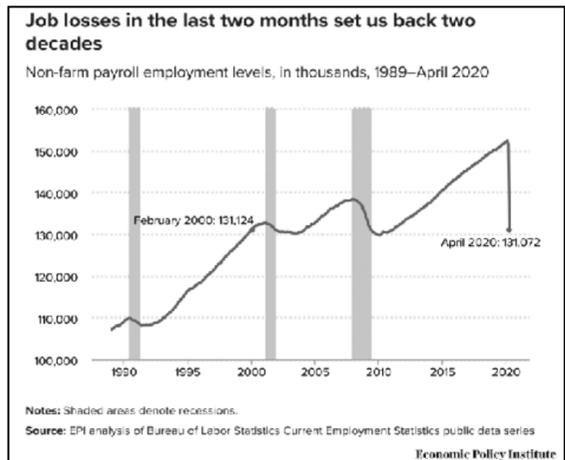
“There has been a significant leveling off of this decline since about the week of April 12,” Lengieza told the ENR, “which puts us at a place where our current overall workforce stands at about 13 percent below our pre-COVID benchmark, highlighting some of the resilience we’ve seen in these projects.”

According Procure’s data is based on thousands of transactions captured in Procure’s platform over the same time period as the AGC survey from companies that allow their data to be compiled for research purposes.

The data is updated regularly on Procure’s COVID-19 response site. One metric Procure captures is construction worker hours, measured either by general contractor or construction manager’s staff or specialty subcontractors working for them.

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SOS to mail absentee ballot applications to all registered Michigan voters

(Continued from Page 1)

Record-breaking turnout was recorded in the approximately 50 elections held across 33 counties on May 5, with nearly 25 percent of eligible voters casting ballots and 99 percent of them doing so by mail or in a drop box. From 2010 to 2019, average turnout in local elections in May was 12 percent.

The application mailing to vote absentee from the Bureau of Elections will include a cover letter with instructions from Benson. Once a voter signs their application, they can mail it or email a photo of it to their local clerk, whose contact information is included on the application. The application is also available for download at Michigan.gov/Vote. At the same website, voters can also register and join the permanent absent voter list so they always have the option to vote by mail.

The mailing effort will come from the federal CARES Act, to pay the estimated \$4.5 million it will cost to mail absentee ballots to every registered voter.

“The vast majority of voters across the political spectrum want the option to vote by mail,” said Benson. “Mailing applications to all registered voters is one of the ways that we are ensuring Michigan’s elections will continue to be safe, accurate and secure.”

“We do not inherit this land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”
 —Haïda Indian saying

“There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone’s life.”
 —Sister Mary Rose McGeady

“One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.”
 —Jane Austen (1775-1817)

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”
 —Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

“Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything.”
 —Charles Kuralt (1934-1997)

“If you want to make peace, you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.”
 —Moshe Dayan (1915-1981)

Just joking
 My wife yelled from upstairs and asked, “do you ever get a shooting pain across your chest, like someone has a voodoo doll of you and they’re stabbing it?”
 Concerned for her, I replied, “no!”
 She responded, “How about now?”





Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80
SOUTHFIELD – FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES REGARDING COVID-19 PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE SMW80.COM



TIM MULLIGAN

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 June 23, 2020 at 5:30.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 16, 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. 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 12:00 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.

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, August 17, October 19, and December 21. The meetings begin at 12:30 pm and are held at the Royal Oak Elks Club located at 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 any questions call us at 248-557-7575.

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN Brien J. Grim, Merritt E. Engberg, Matthew J. O'Rourke, Dean C. Hoskey, Matthew A. Harding, Richard J. Anderson, Robert R. Nowicke, David Wolfe, George H. Dluze, Timothy L. Durocher and Ryan Cousino.

CANCELLED EVENTS: Unfortunately the golf outing and picnic are cancelled for 2020. We hope to resume back to normal for 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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:

General Election Vote June 23 @ Union Hall
Golf Outing July 11 @ Cracklewood Golf Course *CANCELLED*
Picnic August 8 @ K of C Picnic Grounds *CANCELLED*



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 292
TROY - MEETING NOTICE:
JUNE MEMBER MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. The next general membership meeting will be held on **July 8, 2020.**



PAUL GUALDONI

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 26, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: Governor Whitmer has signed an Executive Order to re-open 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 precautions 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.

Fraternalty yours, Paul Gualdoni, Business Manager/FST

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 retirees luncheon will be held **Thursdays** at: Tavern on the Main, 235 S Main, Clawson MI 48017. (248) 588-1696. It 3 blocks south of 14 Mile on the east side of the street. Next meeting: **June 4, 2020** at 12:30 pm

2020 meeting dates are as follows: **Aug. 6, Oct. 1 & Dec. 3.** Please contact Fred Engelman at fred_e1@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The Constitution and Ritual of the 2nd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab 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 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.

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

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the

Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner.

By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have questions, contact BeneSys, 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 will not be processed and you **WILL** go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

UNION HALL HOURS: 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 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: 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 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.smw292jatic.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
(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!



SAM FULLER

***Zone 5 (June 4, 2020) – 6 p.m Zoom Meeting-** There will be a Zone 5 informational Zoom Meeting, June 4 at 6 pm. Please register on the web page at www.sheetmetal7.org, once your account is approved, you will receive an email. You will then need to go to the Member Resource tab, under your Zone there will be instructions for the Zoom meeting. You will need to download the Zoom app to join in or you can dial in.

The picnic scheduled for June 20, 2020 has been canceled. 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, Samuel J. Fuller: Please note the cancellations 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 who are considered essential workers who have continued to work. Thank you for your patients during these trying times. Please stay safe.

Local 7, Zone 1 JATC, is currently accepting Letter of Interest for an Trustee Position. Letters must be received in no later than June 30 2020, Local 7 Zone 1 JATC. Attn: James Callahan, 1473 N. 30th St. Galesburg MI 49053, or E-mail letters to: jcalmsw7@gmail.com or efarringtonsmw7@gmail.com

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 SUBMIT YOUR FORM BY THE DEADLINE YOUR CERTIFICATION WILL EXPIRE.** Feel free to contact Training Coordinator Darek Scarlavai @ (231)288-6325 if you have any questions.

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

Local 292, con't

protected by 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.

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.smw292jatic.org for more information.

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 Training and Certification, CAD or Welding, please contact the Zone 1 Training Coordinator Kevin Dowdy at (269) 781-7183 or by email at kdowdy@smw7@gmail.com.

"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) In Zone 3 Saginaw area the work is starting to trickle in, guys are going back to work but contractors are taking it slow to make sure they have room for social distancing for everyone, but it looks like once we get 100% we're going to be busy the rest of the year.

Our hearts go out to all the people that were affected by the floods in the Tri-City area. Anyone that was affected and needs help please contact the Zone 3 office or my cell phone, and we will put in the efforts to help all that we can. Any members that did not go back to work for their original contractor, please contact me so I can get you on the list. We will be resuming apprenticeship school July 1 you will be receiving information in the mail on whether it will be virtual classroom or in class. Hopefully everyone gets a chance to enjoy the summer since our year had a rough start. **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 eligibility etc., please give me a call and I will try to help anyone 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: Canceled until further notice

Condolences: It is with a heavy heart that we announce we lost a brother, friend and a great man. **Jimmy Wild** passed away; he will be missed but never forgotten.

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

Address/Phone changes: Article 8, Section 1 of Local 7 Work Rules: *Address Changes:* All members are required to keep the Financial Secretary informed
(Continued on Page 5)



Local 25 Iron Workers

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.

FINAL Call / Deadline: Completed 2020 Dennis O'Dowd Scholarship applications **ARE DUE before MAY 31, 2020.**

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 three-envelope 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 THEM BACK ASAP; **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 SIGNATURE and Judges will not be present at the post office to sign for any certified mail. If you are unsure if you have enough mailing time, DROP YOUR BALLOT OFF INSIDE THE NOVI POST OFFICE DURING THEIR BUSINESS HOURS. THEIR ADDRESS IS 24875 NOVI RD. NOVI MI 48376. THE US POSTAL CLERK WILL THEN PUT YOUR BALLOT ENVELOPE DIRECTLY INTO BOX 917. US Postal Office Business Hours M-F 8:30 am to 7pm (Don't forget due by 4pm on June 5, 2020).

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**

PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK IF YOU VISIT ANY OF THE UNION OFFICES OR UNION HALLS.

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

SMW Local 7, continued

(Continued from Page 4) 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.

CONTACTUS: 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI 48910– 517-882-4064

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

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

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

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

Wayne Stover (Saginaw) 989-692-0002

Travis Eastman (Traverse City) 231-943-5150

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

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

evolve. **Local 25 is working with our Contractors on a daily basis.** Download The IRONWORKERS' 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!

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

QUESTION: Vacation Pay-out 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 coverage, Monthly Status, Eligibility, ADDRESS Changes: Option 3.

QUESTION: To find the status of employer contributions re-mitted on your behalf: Option 4.

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

QUESTION: Pension or Defined Contributions Information 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 your pension check: Option 5.

QUESTION: Blue Cross Health Claims/ Customer Service 877-790-2583. **QUESTION:** 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.**

Congratulations to Business Agents Michael Decker #1136238 and "Chicago" Bob Sabaitis #1065980 on your upcoming retirement! Many thanks to both of you, for your dedication and years of service to the members of Local 25. We wish you both a happy and healthy retirement.

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

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 CANCELLED** at this time, we may try to hold it in the fall however.

The Annual Ironworker Festival in Mackinaw is scheduled for August 7, 8, 9, 2020.

The 5th Annual Ironworker Benefit Dinner is being planned for Saturday Sept. 5, 2020 and tickets are now available \$20 per person. Please call or see any Business Agent to get your ticket! To be held at the Novi Union Hall, 4:00 pm.

The Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk in Mackinaw has been CANCELLED.

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



Local 8 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local Union #8 Tim Roman, Business Representative

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

RETIREE & ACTIVE MEMBER UPDATES: Clare "Kermit" Kidder, Book #996418, age 71, of Stephenson, Michigan, passed away on April 24th, 2020 at his home.

Kermit was initiated into Iron Workers Local #510 in 1978, then transferred into Local #340 in 1986, then transferred into Local #783 in 1989 and then into Local #8 in 1994. Kermit was a 42 year Member of the Union and a Lifetime Member.

Our condolences to the Kermit Kidder family.

Local 25, con't

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

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

Pay a year's dues or more (\$429 Journeyman) (\$426 Apprentice) and you will get a (1) one-month dues paid for by Local 25. (Get the 13th month free). This is intended to encourage members to pay their dues in a timely manner. The one month will be credited in the month AFTER your actual 12-month payment.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced on May 19th that all REGISTERED voters in Michigan will receive an application to vote by mail in the August and November elections. By mailing applications, the Secretary of State will ensure that no "Michigander has to choose between their health and their right to vote," said Benson. "Voting by mail is easy, convenient, safe, and secure, and every voter in Michigan has the right to do it." The application is also available for download at Michigan.gov/Vote. At the same website, voters can also register and join the permanent absent voter list so they always have the option to vote by mail. Check your voter registration at Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/Vote

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

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.

Those who have passed: Journeyman David Walters #1307076 passed away on May 11, 2020 at the age of 53. He was an 18-year member. Ironworker Larry Englert #1139181 passed away May 10, 2020. He had been a L-340 member for 26 years when he transferred to L-292 in 2013. He was 64 years old. Stanley Dolson #486323 passed away May 17, 2020 at the age of 86. He was a 57-year member. **Our condolences to all of the family and friends as you mourn the loss of your dear loved one(s)!**

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

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (5/22/2020 12:00 pm E.S.T.).



Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The areas in and around Midland and along the Tittabawassee River have been flooding, causing the evacuation of thousands of people. Almost half of Local 47's members live and work in these areas. If you have been affected, please call me as soon as you can. We've reached out to the International Union and there may be emergency funds available for those members that have been displaced. This is available to Active members and Active retirees.

Please call me directly at 616-490-6636.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages 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.

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 information.

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 & 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.

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 Dr., Lansing, MI 48917-9275

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079
Phone: (517) 321-7502
Fax: (517) 321-7508

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

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

Attention All Retirees, Active, and Spouses in our Healthcare plan. On Jan. 1, 2017, the Trustees 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.

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

All Apprenticeship classes have been suspended until further notice.

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



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 SOUTHFIELD – RE-MINDER: We are still under the

direction of the International Union. Pursuant to their directive, ALL Union activities are postponed until further notice. Continue to monitor the Facebook page for updates.

CURT McGLONE

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 hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

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

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information.

SUB 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 p.m. Thursday.

LAY OFF/HIRE: All members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

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

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



Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – Hope all members and their families are safe and slowly easing into the slightly lifted restrictions for returning to normal. Work continues to improve weekly. Auto plants are re-opening with mandatory protocols for entering these sites.

Be certain to follow all guidelines to work in these facilities. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials, although several state agencies have relaxed renewal requirements due to the pandemic.

No updated news on the 2 members that tested positive with Covid 19 2 weeks ago. Both are still on quarantine at home without serious issues. One member was in Michigan and the other was in southern Ohio. Let us keep them in our thoughts & prayers that their situation 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, 2020
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher - Saturday, July 11th, 2020
Check with the Office to ensure the classes is still happening. 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 in place. **BE SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!**

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

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

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

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

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

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. They maintains offices in Sterling Heights, Livonia, Southgate and Novi. Call them at 1-800-331-3630 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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

www.ssdfighter.com



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

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 190
ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: The union meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

GOLFOUTING: Our annual outing is canceled for this year, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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 10th. The UA scholarship will now only be accepted electronically, no later than June 7th <https://ua-scholarshipfund.communityforce.com>. You can 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 is closed daily from 12 p.m. to 1 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, visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc.

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.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE: Members can now view and sign up for job calls. The same procedure will be used as the call-in line. If you are laid off or go back to work, there are forms available to fill out on the website that will inform the hall.

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:

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

EyeMed Customer Service Call: 888-581-3648

In Network Provider Listings Call: 866-804-0982

EyeMed Website: www.eyemed.com

NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE: Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. **Download: BCBSM**

REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: Bernadette will be available by phone call only. 1-888-390-7473 CLASS INFORMATION – TRAINING CENTER-OFFICE PHONE: 734-426-3700

TRAINING CENTER IS OPENING BACK UP, WITH LIMITED ACCESS. PLEASE NOTE: You must call the training center before arriving. We are following the State and CDC guidelines. You must wear a face mask inside the building.

Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hours): Monday July 6 at 5p.m. and Monday, Oct. 5 at 5 p.m. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 10.

(Continued next column)



WELDING THE BASE of a modular skid package is Shawn Hanford of West Michigan Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 174. He's working at the Andy J. Egan shop in Grand Rapids, assembling a project that will be shipped to Oregon for the renewable energy industry. Egan was gain named one of the top companies to work for in West Michigan. Photo: courtesy Egan



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 further notice.

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 Hall.

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

Upcoming Night Classes: on hold

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing The Joint

Local 190, con't

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hours): Monday, July 20th at 5:00 p.m. and Monday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO TEN (10)

WELDING LAB: Will start back up by appointment only. It will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting June 2. Times are 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. **Limited to 7 participants.** Call Andy Fielder, at the Training Center to be added to the list.

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

RETIREE MEETINGS – **SPADES and BREAKFAST MEETINGS have been canceled until further notice.

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

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

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

ALL GM Work requires Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.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 website is up and running. Check it out at ualocal370.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Local 85
Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW – We just keep continuing to have to battle 2020, solidarity will prevail. Remember to love thou Brother/Sister and just like all other turmoil we have encountered since 1892, we will triumph 2020 as well.

All Union Meetings are postponed until further notice. Currently we have canceled May and June. We will make decisions on all future meetings including July as we get closer.

Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the people affected by the Edenville and Sanford Dam Failures. Thankfully, the initial reports have no deaths. Many of our members and families live in these areas. Sanford and Midland have also been devastated by the extreme flooding, we will continue to monitor the situation and provide any assistance we can. As many of you are aware, this flooding has dramatically affected the Dow Sites. As updates come in, we will continue to communicate all information.

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

Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 13

jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 15

jbador@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 14

tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330

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

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

GODBLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

Training Center News: Congratulations on our newest Journeyman Sean Bellows and Sara Thomas!

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

Where to submit documents: Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 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 which you are eligible to receive a State benefit per the Plan Documents.

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261 ext. 10.

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. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your Insurance up to date.

SPECIAL THANK YOU: Drew Hart (65%), Matt Kowalski (60%), Brad Kingry (75%) and Dylan Berlanga (55%). These four outstanding apprentices called every retiree Monday, May 18th 2020 for wellness checks. These four have demonstrated the benevolence that has made the Local 85 the amazing Local we are. Selfless acts by apprentices like these absolutely make me proud to represent all of you. **WE ARE STRONG.**

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

Condolences: We extend our condolences to the family of Dan Crampton who passed away on May 12, 2020.

We extend our condolences to the family of James Gallagher who passed away on May 12, 2020.

We extend our condolences to the family of Bill Bailey who passed away on May 16, 2020.

Remember you all are essential to me.

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

"You do ill if you praise, but worse if you censure, what you do not understand."
—Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)

"Please do not be cynical. I hate cynicism. For the record, it's my least favorite quality. It doesn't lead anywhere."
—Conan O'Brien

"I say luck is when an opportunity comes along, and you're prepared for it."
—Denzel Washington (1954 -



Local 333
Plumbers
& Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333

LANSING – June's union meeting is CANCELLED.

Local 333 June 01, 2020 Wage Allocation: \$1.00 per hour will be put on the check, \$.65 per hour as approved last year will go the Pension to lower the retirement age and \$.10 per hour will go to the JATC as our Apprentice numbers are at record levels to offset forecasted retirements. Due to the current situation and Executive Orders we will not be able to vote at this time. However, we will convene as soon as it is safe and legal to review and vote at that time. The allocation will go into effect on June 01, 2020.

THE LOCAL 333 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS 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. APPLICATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY JULY 28, 2020 AND IN THE JACKSON OFFICE BY JULY 31, 2020. MEMBERS MAY REQUEST AN APPLICATION MY EMAILING JONIA T jthomas@local333.com OR CALLING 517-784-1106 EXT. #4 AND LEAVING A MESSAGE. APPLICATIONS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT ALL THREE OFFICES WHEN OFFICES REOPEN.

LOCAL 333 RETIREE'S GOLF OUTING HELD IN JUNE IS CANCELLED.

LOCAL 333 PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS GOLF OUTING HELD 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 center.

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.

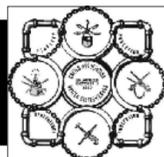
Foreman: Any journey member interested in Foreman opportunities please call your Business Agent. We have plenty of opportunities available.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of James Lemons who passed away May 13, 2020. Jim was a member from the Jackson region, and a Life member of the local. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time.

Deepest sympathy to Barbara Lipko whose husband Steve Lipko passed away on April 29, 2020. Steve was a journeyman plumber in the Jackson region; and became a Life Member in 2018. We are so very sorry for your loss.

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

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Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO – With the cancellation of May's membership meeting Local 357 conducted its Finance and Executive board meetings via video and conference call. The Finance Committee reviewed and approved May's expenditures.

The Executive Board met and discussed the following topics: 1) Membership Transfer, 2) Charges Filed against a Member and 3) Wage Allocation in June. Please read and review the following information listed below as it will help protect you and your family:

Governor Whitmer's Executive Order No. 2020-77 (EO) allows Construction / Service work to resume. In line with the EO every jobsite must:

1- Designate one or more worksite supervisors to implement, monitor, and report on the COVID-19 control strategies developed under subsection (a). The supervisor must remain onsite at all times when employees are present on site. An on-site employee may be designated to perform the supervisory role.

2- Conduct a daily entry self-screening protocol for all employees or contractors entering the workplace, including, at a minimum, a questionnaire covering symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19.

3) Create dedicated entry point(s) at every worksite, if possible, for daily screening as provided in sub-provision (b) of this section, or in the alternative issue stickers or other indicators to employees to show that they received a screening before entering the worksite that day.

4-Require face coverings to be worn when employees cannot consistently maintain six feet of separation from other individuals in the work place, and consider face shields when employees cannot consistently maintain three feet of separation from other individuals in the workplace.

5- Increase facility cleaning and disinfection to limit exposure to COVID-19, especially on high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles), paying special attention to parts, products, and shared equipment (e.g., tools, machinery, vehicles).

6-Make cleaning supplies available to employees upon entry and at the worksite and provide time for employees to wash hands frequently or to use hand sanitizer.

7-When an employee is identified with a confirmed case of COVID-19, within 24 hours, notify both:

(1) The local public health department, and
(2) Any co-workers, contractors, or suppliers who may have come into contact with the person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

8-Ensure there are sufficient hand washing or hand sanitizing stations at the worksite to enable easy access by employees.

9-Create protocols for minimizing personal contact upon delivery of materials to the worksite.

10- Restrict unnecessary movement between project sites. To access the entire EO go to the following website https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-528460--,00.html

The above ten items shall be followed on every jobsite starting on May 7th. If you find yourself on a job where they are not following protocols, contact Ken Willcutt at (269) 569-3492.

On Friday, May 15th, MIOSHA issued workplace guidelines for employers and employees and created a new hotline, 855-SAFEC19 (855-723-3219), to answer guideline questions and further protect YOU from the spread of COVID-19.

MIOSHA provided further clarification for the construction industry in order to protect workers who have returned to work. If you need additional information it can be found at the following link [Michigan.gov/LEO](https://www.michigan.gov/LEO).

If you are unemployed and have not received unemployment benefits or have been denied or are missing weeks of unemployment benefits, please contact Ken Willcutt via cell phone: (269) 569-3492.

As of May 25th, we have put back to work 115 Journeyman and 55 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 Ken.

UNION MEETING: NOTE: All Union Meetings Are CANCELLED Indefinitely. With Governor Whitmer's announcement on May 21 the Governor did not rescind her executive order allowing group gatherings/meetings. We will notify the membership through the Building Trades paper or send a postcard as to when we can resume membership meetings.

Wage Allocation: We had a Pension and Health & Welfare Trustees meeting on Thursday, May 21 and we are still working on a couple of details to determine your funds financial needs. Your Trustees will then determine the financial needs of your funds.

Those needs will then be subtracted from your negotiated wage increase, the remainder of which will be put on your check starting July 1. Without a vote from the membership the only monetary diversion of funds from your wage allocation must be to a trust fund. General President Mark McManus' directive to all Business Managers was as follows, "When membership meetings resume, the tentative allocation made by the Business Manger must be presented to the membership for approval or revision. In making the tentative allocation, the Business Manager should put the Employer Association on notice that the allocation is tentative and must be approved by the Local Union membership when meetings resume."

Please Note: by the time this paper reaches you we will be sending you additional information as it pertains to your wage allocation.

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

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.

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 contractors and is not deductible.

The Local will be donating
(Continued next column)



Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – Meeting Notice: JUNE MEETING CANCELLED 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 canceled.**

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

Family Picnic Cancelled: The Picnic Committee has recommended cancellation of this year's family picnic. It is unlikely that a gathering of that size will be allowed by July. We want to make sure to protect the health of our members and especially our retirees.

Please call ext. 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 arrears.

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

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

Unlike other hardships, this 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 one-time event only and must be taken prior to June 30, 2020. This program applies to only the employer contribution 401k and will begin April 20, 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 23 until the end of April. To file for

Local 357, con't

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 Rick Lemons on the passing of his father & retired member, James Lemons.

MISCELLANEOUS: Congratulations to Chaddrick Freed on his recent graduation and new Journeyman status.

Congratulations to Thomas Johnson on his recent retirement.



AT WORK AT THE Andy J. Egan shop in Grand Rapids is Beau Taylor, a Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 174 member. He's welding an application for one of Michigan's combined cycle power plants.

Photo: courtesy Egan

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 due to the number of filings. 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: 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 WILD GAME DINNER WILL BE POSTPONED TO A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.

Save the Dates:
Union Picnic, CANCELLED
Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: Saturday, Aug. 1, 8:30am Shotgun, Falls at Barber Creek
November Union Meeting: **MONDAY** Nov. 2 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 September 30th, 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.trophyhouse.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 ready.

Dispatch: We will be splitting up the dispatch responsibilities between the business agent and the assistant business manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to. There is a dispatch phone extension that will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

Organizing Update: Please contact Chris Pelton if you know of any jobsites with a non-union plumbing or mechanical contractor or if you are interested in actively assisting with our organizing efforts.

Dues: Please keep your monthly window dues current. You can find your dues balance on the website or by calling the Union office.

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 canceled. If you are a retiree and in need of assistance please contact the Local Union Office.

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

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

Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (TIC) West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275.

(855) 40-PLUMB Toll Free
(517) 321-7508 Fax

BENEFITS WEBSITE:

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

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

Contract Requirements: Please remember Section 5.7 of our collective bargaining agreement states, "Persons called from the unemployed list will report to work with a UA/WMMCA issued drug card." Sect. 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: Due to the recent developments related to COVID-19, the Training Center is closed until further notice as a proactive measure to help mitigate the transmission of the virus. 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 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.

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STAFF AT HENRY FORD Macomb Medical Center express their thanks to Local 98 and contractors who donated lunch to the hospital, an expression of appreciation for their efforts during the COVID crisis.



Plumbers Local 98



Plumbers Local 98

MADISON HTS. – *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 finds you and your family safe during this Memorial Day weekend. 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.

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.

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 is published on the MI. Department of Labor and Economic opportunity web site for the State of Michigan. Please take some time to review these before returning to work.

Due to our compliance with Mayor Duggan's STEP program, we have been given access to free Covid-19 testing to all Local 98 members at the old State Fair Grounds on Woodward and 8 Mile in Detroit. Prior to going you must call for an appointment at 313-230-0505. No doctor's note is needed, they will ask you for a code and ours is **289488PL**. This is free and zero copay.

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.

Due to many large volumes of calls we now are looking for organized men and women, travelers and retirees so next Friday, May 29th, SUB pay will be cut, your agents have gone thru the list multiple times and the calls are ranging from 6-7 days, 40 hours to 70 hrs.

Our auto plants as well as construction sites are starting their work up again. There are many changes now for entrance to these facilities. If you are asked to do any pre-hire safety 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 return, 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 to 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 Local's 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 jons and a clean place for lunch. All of you need to talk as one voice and help yourselves on this issue.

As you know wage allocation is upon us and it is a gamble where to put the increase, whether it is temporary or permanent. No one wants to move money to a check than pull it back for some unforeseen run on a fund. We can post on our web page this coming week. Once we have an official meeting you can then have a vote to approve final allocation.

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 Local 98 has a Web Page (not Facebook). Your officers can individually report on upcoming work in their areas or issues plus a whole list of information is now available to you under the member only section. <https://u.alocal98.com>

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

The new Out of work list is 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.

If you're still having unemployment issues call BA's Gary Glaser or Tom McWilliams.

If you're looking to retire or need help with Benesys call Jon DeRoo or myself, the union hall phone # of 248-307-9800 will direct dial our cells, agents Larry Delephant and Wade Kovach are there to help as well.

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 to get your classes caught up at Washtenaw Community College, this virus may hamper going to school but not your obligation to the training center.

Please check our media outlets like the 98 Web page, Facebook 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.

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 class.

Superintendents and Foremen, 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.

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.

Finally, we had a retired Brother pass away a few weeks ago, his name was William Thompson Prytula, he was a 65-year member of our local. His good family friend and neighbor Rhonda Doty on behalf of the Staeb family donated \$200 dollars in his name to our Local 98 Scholarship Fund. From all of us at 98 thank you for being there for our Brother William.

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/Divorce 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 notice.

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

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

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

Local 98, contractors say thanks with lunch

How 'bout lunch? Plumbers Local 98 members and some of their contractors teamed up last month to deliver lunch to front-line health care workers at hospitals across metro Detroit, as a way of thanking them for their service during the COVID-19 crisis.

Local 98 teamed up with affiliated contractors Guardian Plumbing, De-Cal, John E. Green, and Limbach to deliver Lefty's Cheesesteak sandwiches to health care workers during their daytime and late-night lunch breaks. The food was delivered to personnel on various days at

Henry Ford- Macomb; Beaumont- Dearborn, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak and Troy; DMC Children's Hospital in Detroit; McLaren Port Huron; Henry Ford- Macomb; Southfield; Ascension Providence- Southfield, and St. Mary Mercy- Livonia.

"It proved to be an awesome lift for these fearless heroes battling Covid-19," said Local 98 Business Agent Gary Glaser, who helped coordinate the process. "They were very thankful for our support and it was great to be able to display our appreciation for them."

Many of the medical per-

sonnel responded with signs and notes expressing their thanks.

"Thanks again for the generous donation," wrote Jonathan Michaud, director of Cardiovascular, Sleep Lab, Wound Care Services at St. Mary Mercy in Livonia. "The front line staff feel very supported by the community members, and it certainly is helping their drive. Stay safe and healthy."

"This is the kind of thing that make me very proud of my members officers and contractors," said Local 98 Business Manager Carlo Castiglione.



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

Pipe Fitters 636

FARMINGTON HILLS – 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

Due to COVID-19 Pipefitters 636 is sad to announce that the **Pipefitters 47th Annual Golf Outing has been cancelled.** Anyone looking for information regarding a Refund please contact Lance Pesci at 248-939-3421

Pipefitters 636 would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Brother Arie Moskovitz on the passing of his wife Ella Moskovitz who passed away on May 12, 2020. To the family of Retiree Brother John Galvin on the passing of his wife, Kathleen Galvin who passed away on April 30, 2020. Also to the family of Retiree Brother Robert Richardson who passed away May 1, 2020. To the family of Donald Otremba who passed away on May 10, 2020. Also to the family of Retiree Brother Eugene Machcinski Jr. owner of Seaway Mechanical, who passed away on April 30, 2020. Eugene was father to Brothers Larry Machcinski and David Machcinski and Son of Late Retiree Brother Eugene Machcinski Sr. And to the family of Retiree Brother James Larkin who passed away on May 18, 2020. James was father to Brothers Hugh Larkin and James Larkin Jr. and brother to Brothers John Larkin and Henry Larkin. Also to the family of Retiree Brother Ronald Erdman who passed away May 11, 2020.

The Retiree Association meeting for the month of June has been canceled. 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 Canada Strong

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 No. for the VRU is 877-410-9984. Plan provider No. is 7526.

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

Are you "Work Ready"? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustsafe.org and if it is time for renewal. Call the Training Center

(Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

FARMINGTON – 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 it's 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 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 information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

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

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Retired Brother Durand Hatcher who recently passed away. Brother Hatcher was a 54-year member of Local 704. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Remember to keep your information updated with the Local Union Hall.

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

Local 636, con't

248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, YOU WILL QUALIFY FOR FUTURE BONUS PAYMENTS.**

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 questions you may have.

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 and Pipe Fitters 111

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

Notice: The wage allocation for the June 1st raise is as follows - \$1.85 increase, \$.60 defined benefit pension; \$.25 health & Welfare; \$1.00 on the check.

Due to the Covid-19 and the unavailability of meetings, this allocation was discussed and approved unanimously by all 17 Local 111 elected positions based on the input of the fund trustees as to what was needed for the maintenance of the funds.

The next possible membership meeting (to be announced ASAP) will be a special-called meeting to ratify this allocation.

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

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.

Condolences: To the family of William "Bill" Turner who passed away on 5-21-2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Safety Training on Local 111 Web Site: When taking the on-line safety training, go to our web site u111.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.

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Delivering lunch in Marquette

ON MAY 14 the Upper Peninsula Construction Council and the U.P. Building Trades partnered with a Marquette dining favorite, The Pasta Shop, to feed lunch to the staff at Norlite Nursing Home in Marquette. Norlite staff and residents have been especially hit hard by the Covid-19 Pandemic, and the Council and its building trades partners figured the staff would enjoy a complimentary lunch to recognize their hard work. Pictured above are Michigan Building and Construction Business Rep. Ryan Stern, Stern's daughters Maddy and Lucy, along with U.P. Construction Council, Executive Director Tony Retaskie.



Experts: big biz using coronavirus pandemic to get protection from all worker lawsuits, all the time

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) – Big business, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – which sent a glossy advocacy brochure to all senators – and the National Association of Manufacturers, is using the coronavirus pandemic crisis as a cover for its real goal: Protecting itself against all workers' and consumers' lawsuits on health and safety, all the time. And that doesn't mean just lawsuits against corporate wrongdoers who deliberately fail to protect workers and customers against the virus, experts said at an American Constitution Society seminar on May 19.

It means liability against almost everything, a situation the panelists said would be even worse than when corporate interests ruled U.S. politics during the Gilded Age.

Not only that, but the business scheme also includes routing the few lawsuits against the worst wrongdoers away from state courts and into federal courts packed with anti-worker Donald Trump-named judges, the experts added.

Rebecca Dixon of the National Employment Law Project, Georgetown University law professor Heidi Li Feldman and public interest attorney Deepak Gupta spoke as the ideological and political fight heats up over whether firms that deliberately don't protect their workers and customers against "community spread" of the virus can get away with it.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has a "red line in the sand." He has an unequivocal condition for any new economic stimulus law: Preventing workers and consumers from suing if they catch the coronavirus on the firms' premises, unless the workers and consumers can prove firms violated state and federal guidelines to prevent its spread.

McConnell's plan "is part of businesses' pressure over time to avoid the law" and all lawsuits, Feldman said. Reading from the chamber's brochure, she added the business groups "are also asking for immunity from other legal avenues" workers now can take to battle back against irresponsible bosses.

Gupta added the Association of American Retailers and the National Federation of Independent Business – considered part of the radical right – also back the lawsuit ban.

Workers, their advocates and unions all oppose such a scheme and said so, forcefully, at a GOP-run Senate Judiciary Committee hearing the week before, where Dixon and United Food and Commercial Workers President Marc Perrone spoke out.

"UFCW supports measures to make workers safer and rejects calls for employer immunity,

"The best way to keep our essential businesses up and running, and to reopen additional businesses, is to ensure that workers have the protections they need,"

–United Food and Commercial Workers President Marc Perrone

which would only exacerbate the current (coronavirus) crisis," Perrone declared then. The virus turned meatpacking plants into increasingly hazardous employment, he said.

UFCW's 1.3 million members include both packinghouse workers and grocery workers.

The nation's 1.5 million coronavirus cases and nearly 100,000 dead include 35 dead meatpackers and 3,272 ill ones, and 60 dead grocery store workers and 4,157 ill ones, Perrone said – and that was a week before the ACS session.

The infamous Smithfield meatpacking plant in Sioux Falls, S.D., is now the nation's single largest corporate virus hotspot, with at least two dead and at least 900 – out of more than 5,000 workers total – sick. They got sick even though the UFCW local and the Sioux Falls AFL-CIO tried hard to stop the outbreak, there and in the city as a whole. Local right-wingers foiled them.

Perrone said that's wrong. "The best way to keep our essential businesses up and running, and to reopen additional businesses, is to ensure that workers have the protections they need," he said. Besides, if the food workers get ill, the national food chain grinds to a halt. "Without these food workers doing their essential jobs it is fair to state the crisis we all are enduring would quickly devolve into social chaos and panic. These food workers deserve not only our gratitude, but adequate protection and provision for their health, safety, and financial security."

Dixon and Feldman warned at the ACS session corporate interests want to take the ban on lawsuits further than the coronavirus emergency, and have it cover far more instances and incidents than those involving "essential" workers at Smithfield and in other jobs and fields.

"Worker health is public health, and we've seen that even more" in the pandemic, Dixon, NELP's executive director, said. "Worker rights to a safe and healthy workplace must come before profits. Far too many employers know what to do, but have not chosen to do it."

Preserving the right to sue bosses who don't protect you is particularly important for workers of color, migrants and workers without unions, Dixon said. They're the ones who are the most vulnerable, she explained.

"Employer failure to protect workers and...risk have been stratified by race and color," she explained. Some "87 percent of U.S. occupations are racially segregated. Though all workers are at risk, Black and Latinx and indigenous workers will be at greater risk."

That's in line with data already filtering in from those jurisdictions that keep track by race of which workers get sick – and die – from the coronavirus. African-Americans are an estimated 70 percent of the cases in Chicago, and Cook County, which the city dominates, has the most ill people of any U.S. county: 63,690 as of 8 am May 19.

And Navajo Nation, which stretches over the "Four Corners" area of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, has 3,122 cases, but among 170,000 people, giving it the highest per capita illness rate in the U.S.

That segregation puts workers of color and low-income workers into the most-hazardous jobs, with the hazards hugely increasing due to the pandemic.

In theory, workers' comp is supposed to protect workers, who give up their right to sue in return for immediate coverage of their medical costs and – sometimes – lost earnings or pain and suffering. In practice, Dixon said, workers' comp often fails. And, while she did not say so, workers whom bosses misclassify as "independent contractors" don't qualify for workers' comp, because their bosses don't pay in for them.

There's one other way workers could be protected if they get sick on the job from the coronavirus, she added: If President Trump's Occupational Safety and Health Administration forces firms to craft and implement anti-virus safety plans. It's refused to do so, forcing the AFL-CIO to sue OSHA in federal court over the issue (see separate story).

"If OSHA is not going to issue standards, states will have to step in," said Dixon.

"Everything you do in life, every choice you make, has a consequence. When you do things without thinkin', then you ain't makin' the choice. The choice is makin' you."

–Mark Steven Johnson

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut."

–Ernest Hemingway (1899 -

Local 149
Roofers &
Waterproofers

Roofers 149

DETROIT – Main Office – Southeastern Lower Michigan – The next regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **June 16, 2020** at 7:00 p.m. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149.

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.

To get the Negotiation Committee elected, we will be doing a drive through type election on June 2, in our parking lot. With little advance warning of lifting or extending the Governors E.O.'s, this is the best option we have.

DAD's Day. It is with great sadness that we inform you that the June DAD's Day canister drive is canceled. This was an extremely difficult decision to make. Our Union has not missed a canister drive pounding the streets since 1985, back when it all started. I hope you are as passionate about seeing the DAD's Day event through as much as I do. Our union will try to have an event later in the year

Retirees' Association. 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.

Follow us on Facebook for announcement updates @ Detroit Roofers & Waterproofers Training Center for announcement updates.

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 p.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 810-687-1368.

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.

"Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics."

–Fletcher Knebel

"Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see."

– Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 - 1860)

"Success is following the pattern of life one enjoys most."

–Al Capp (1909 - 1979)

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC 1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL IMSMART 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 PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Local 357
Glaziers &
Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

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

We hope that everyone had a terrific Memorial Holiday Weekend.

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

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

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

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

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

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

–Business Rep- Don Stepp

Michigan Painters District Council

IUPAT
District Council 1M Michigan

District Council 1M

Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

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

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

Local Union 312

Business Rep: Tim Schwerin

Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Local Union 514

Business Rep: Scott Mikulen

Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826

Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman

Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845

Business Rep – Fred Frederickson

Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052

Business Rep – Jake Fluty

Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803

Business Rep: Josh Ovalle

Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352

Business Rep: John Sape

Meeting Date: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

Local Union 2353

Business Rep: Keith Anderson

Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

IUPAT
District Council 1M MICHIGAN

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – ALL MEETINGS 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, your Business Representatives.

Questions pertaining to Local 591 Pension Fund issues call 248-645-6550 and/or Health Care issues call 248-358-3340 or 800-482-8736 which will then be answered directly through fund office.

OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK: procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it."

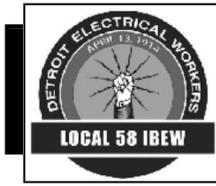
–Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

"It is no good to try to stop knowledge from going forward. Ignorance is never better than knowledge."

–Enrico Fermi (1901 - 1954)

"The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand."

–Frank Herbert (1920 - 1986)



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.

The Electrical Industry Training Center is offering Continuing Education classes. Please check them out at <http://www.detroititec.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 our communities.

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 RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23, 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 have been postponed. We will continue having our regular monthly meetings on ZOOM as needed. The next ZOOM meeting is May 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Please watch for emails with further updates and hopefully we will be meeting in person soon.

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 Local 58 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 of our Local. 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 Awards 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 winners.

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 @ibewwomen58; 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 Rushford Room" in the lower level of the Union Hall, at 10:00 AM.

Luncheons: *Price Increase* Due to rising costs, our luncheons will increase from \$15, to \$20 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: Joseph P. Diederichs (May 2020); David Fuhst (April 2020); James Gillis (June 2020); James Herod (June 2020); William Lusk (May 2020); Joseph Kozlowski (May 2020); Kleantnes Pappas (June 2020); Polly Staggs (April 2020); Troy Turrentine (March 2020); James Wenson (June 2020).

Deaths: William Hanson, pension member, 42 year IBEW membership; David W. South, Journeyman Inside Wireman; Kenneth Wurster, pension member, 55 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

"You can be pleased with nothing when you are not pleased with yourself."
-Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689 - 1762)

"Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature.... Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."
-Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)

"To know the road ahead, ask those coming back."
-Chinese Proverb

"The universe may have a purpose, but nothing we know suggests that, if so, this purpose has any similarity to ours."
-Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

"By the time I'd grown up, I naturally supposed that I'd be grown up."
-Eve Babitz



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 a month

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

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

Gregory Remington Business Manager

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



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 standing 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.

"I'm all in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools. Let's start with typewriters."
-Solomon Short

IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- will be held on Wednesday, June 10th, 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 tentatively on track to start up again the first week of June, 2020.

Picnic – this summer the picnic will be on Aug. 29, 2020. 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 – Ballots have been mailed and should be in your mail box by now. Please participate with your local in this very important event. Your ballots have to be returned to the PO Box in Grawn MI no later than 12PM June 10th, 2020. After that time ballots returned to the PO Box will not count as a vote. So please give yourself plenty of time to send in your ballot to be counted.

JB Webb East and West- As of this week, there are only a few members still off and both plants are resuming production, 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 as well as any other local information.

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

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 \$1.00 a month. Effective Jan. 2020 the new rate will be \$140.10 per quarter.

Resale Items – We have Local 498 Beanie Hats for resale and T-shirts. 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 who would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book: MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 or 1-517-321-7502 Fax# 1-517-321-7508

MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-517-321-7502

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

TIC International Corporation, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES. Jan 1, 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 changes.

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

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



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

File Your Claim By Last Name

ONLINE SCHEDULE:		CALL CENTER SCHEDULE:	
michigan.gov/uia WEBSITE IS 24/7		1-866-500-0017 8AM-6PM MON-FRI, 7AM-2PM SAT	
A-L FILE CLAIMS Monday Wednesday Friday	M-Z FILE CLAIMS Sunday Tuesday Thursday	A-L CALL ON Monday & Wednesday	M-Z CALL ON Tuesday & Thursday
Saturday if you missed your days		Friday and Saturday if you missed your days	



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

KALAMAZOO – Due to the Governor's newest executive order extending the Stay at Home order until June 12th, the limit on group meetings to 10 people or less, the **June General Membership** meeting has been cancelled. The business of the Local Union will be handled by the Executive Board on June 15th.

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 cbhoms@ibew131.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 cbhoms@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 obituaries can be viewed on the website under the Memorials Tab. **FROM THE APPRENTICE-SHIP:**

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

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

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 692**

IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – Union Meeting.
The next regular membership meeting will be **Monday, July 6, 2020 at 7pm.**

Executive Board Meeting.
The next E-board meeting will be **Monday, June 15, 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 June 1st monthly membership meeting has been cancelled. We are definitely getting closer to having the monthly membership meeting but with Governor Whitmer's latest executive order of gatherings less than 10 people we are not there yet.

Our hearts go out to the members of Local 692 that have been affected by the heavy rainwater and flooding that have occurred throughout our jurisdiction. The failure of both the Edenville and Sanford Dams have left a portion of the jurisdiction in total ruins.

The devastation that many members of this local have experienced is totally heartbreaking. If you are a member in need, please reach out to myself or Brother Klele (Jr.). The number of members who have reached out willing to help has been awesome. I am personally very proud of the members that have reached out willing to help their struggling brothers and sisters. It's times like these that definitely make us thankful for what we do have.

The allocation of our raise has been decided 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. The raise will be seen on the check with hours worked starting June 1st.

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 webpage.

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 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 community.

Work Report. With Gov. 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 nearly all the men to work they had out prior to Covid-19. Work has also begun on Augres Schools and also Midland Schools. There should be a
(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 906
UPPER PENINSULA—MEETINGS

MARQUETTE UNIT—First Tuesday

IRON MOUNTAIN UNIT—Second Tuesday

ESCANABA UNIT—Second Wednesday

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

The Building Trades has set 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 everything hinges on the covid19 rules in place at that time.

The Health Plan has met and reviewed the income, market loss projections, work hours shortage and have concluded that a 50 cent increase per hour is necessary during the Covid19 crisis. The 50 cents increase will become effective June 1st, 2020.

The Negotiation Committee have met and have reached an agreement with NECA. The Marquette area will receive \$1.40 each year for the next 3 years. Iron Mountain will receive \$1.49, \$1.90, \$1.90 and Escanaba will get \$1.85, \$2.00, \$1.97. At the end of this contract there will be one scale across the U.P. We extend our thanks to this committee for their work on our behalf. It was a tough time to be negotiating with no work at all and prospects for the future unknown. Again our thanks.

The contract becomes effective June 1st so a zoom meeting of all the officers will take place and they will have to determine the allocation due to the ban on meetings of ten or more. Our meeting scheduled for June 6th is not looking so good at this time either. More details as we get them.

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

If you have any information you would like to see noted in this article or something you believe should be published please email the Hall with your request. Ibw906@gmail.com

Local 692, con't

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

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

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

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

Golf Outings. The Michigan Wireman's Golf Outing and the IBEW 6th District Golf Outing
(Continued on Page 12)



**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 Convention: 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 WHO 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. If you believe your ballot will not arrive at the P.O. Box in Chelsea by the June 5th, 4:30 P.M. deadline via the USPS first class mail, here is a procedure to hand-deliver your ballot to the P.O. Box in Chelsea:

Take your mail-in ballot package to the Chelsea Post Office located at 1101 S. Main St. Ste 100. Go inside and ask the clerk to have your mail-in ballot placed into the P.O. Box that is on the front of your return ballot envelope: P.O. Box 290. DO NOT drop it into any mail collection box as your ballot will surely go to an

off-site mail sorting center. DO NOT attempt to hand-deliver your ballot to the Local 252 hall as they will not accept it. The ballots can only be received if they get into the P.O. Box in Chelsea. If you have received your mail-in ballot please fill it out and put in into the mail as soon as possible. Do not hesitate or delay to do so. To request a replacement ballot or if you have any questions about the election please contact election judge Pat Ulanowicz by cell at 517-918-8948, by e-mail at 252electionjudge@gmail.com, or by mail 252 Election Judge P.O. Box 594 Adrian, MI 49221.

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 UNTIL 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 a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

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

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 number: (517) 306-0144.

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

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

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 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 Agreement.

I am happy to report that the Union Hall received no damage from the floods that did affect some of the surrounding area last week. Late Tuesday night into early Wednesday a group of members helped to get some of the important documents out of the Hall just in case the building were to sustain any major flooding. I wish to send out a big thank you to those Brothers that helped out. Thankfully this proved to be an unnecessary move, but all important documents were safe from harm's way.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS—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 along.

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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING—The Local 557 Executive Board met on Tuesday the 19th. With continued guidance from the International Office, the E Board has the power to take any action that would normally be approved at a Local membership meeting. All operations are still on track at the Hall and they have done a great job helping to guide the Local through these difficult times while we are unable to have Monthly meetings.

NEW WEBSITE—Local 557 will soon get a fresh look for the Local's Website. Within the next month the site will be updated and should be easier to navigate. I will inform everyone when it is up running. More than likely there will be some bugs to be fixed when it is first rolled out, so please be patient as we work to

make improvements to the Local.
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.

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 www.bcbsm.com. Upon registering you can take the Free Health Assessment test and find instant results that can lead to living a healthy lifestyle.

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

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

JOB CALLS—Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK DON'T FORGET TO CALL (989) 781-0516 option 3.**

STAY CURRENT ON DUES—Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases.

There is a convenience fee to use this service. Credit card payments to pay dues can also be accepted over the phone to ensure you 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

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

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**Local 514
Cement Masons
& Plasterers**

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons' Local 514

MADISON HTS. – The monthly membership meeting for June 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!!

Congratulations go out to Jack McCool who is retiring from the OPCMA Local 514!! Good Luck Jack as you move on to this next phase in your life. We will all miss you!!!

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

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

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

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

Attention all Apprentices now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.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.opcmiamichigan.org.

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

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are 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.mustonline.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

(Continued next column)



**Bricklayers and Allied
Craftworkers**

BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – We take the COVID-19 outbreak seriously and recognize the importance of minimizing the spread of the virus. So, while we continue to provide services to our members, we are not able to let anyone into our buildings as a result of the continued statewide shutdown in place in the Lower Peninsula.



**CHUCK
KUKAWKA**

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.

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

If you are available for work, it is important to contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. We want to be ready if one of our contractors calls and needs assistance.

AT THIS TIME ALL JUNE CHAPTER MEETINGS IN THE LOWER PENINSULA HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 SHUTDOWN. FOR UPDATES PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR OUR WEBSITE.

Since the UP has reopened, Chapter Meetings will be held while practicing social distancing in groups of no more than 10 people, as ordered by the Governor.

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855.

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:30 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965.

DEATHS REPORTED: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Anthony Galan** (Bricklayer) who passed away on April 08, 2020. Brother Galan had been a member for 74 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Everett Health** (Bricklayer) who passed away on March 26, 2020. Brother Health had been a member for 30 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Donald Skorupa** (Cement Mason) who passed away on March 28, 2020. Brother Skorupa had been a member for 60 years.

ASPEEDY RECOVERY: A

Local 514, con't

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

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

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

If you have questions concerning your pension benefits, **ROAD BUILDERS** can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502. **PLASTERERS' AND COMMERCIAL CEMENT MASONS** can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357.

All Plasterers and Cement Masons can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. For the **INTERNATIONAL PENSION** Call 1-888-880-8222 Toll Free or (202) 638-1996.

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, except for annual RESPIRATOR FIT TESTS.

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 DETROIT APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD: Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Metro Detroit Apprentice Worksheets are available for download at <http://bit.ly/ApprenticeWorksheets>. 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: detroittraweltrades.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.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: During this COVID-19 pandemic, the IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <http://bit.ly/MAP-BAC> and are also available via telephone at (888) 880-8222 and ask for membership assistance Monday - Friday 8 am-8 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Local #2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via e-mail. 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 (dvtt.org)

Union leaders back vote by mail

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Top union leaders, marshalled by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, are backing the \$3.6 billion in the House Democrats' stimulus bill to pay states to establish vote-by-mail systems – and the measure's mandate they do so.

But whether the unionists' statements, plus wide public support for the idea, will be enough to sway either GOP President Donald Trump or the overwhelming majority of the Senate's ruling Republicans, remains to be seen. Both Trump and the GOP lawmakers fear that the more people vote, as Trump put, the more the Republicans lose at the polls.

Vote-by-mail money is in the \$3 trillion House Democratic economic stimulus bill. "In the middle of a global pandemic, we must make it easier to vote than ever before," Trumka explained. The \$3.6 billion for vote-by-mail and \$25 billion more for the Postal Service – so carriers can deliver and pick up ballots, along with other mail – "are investments in our democracy."

Vote-by-mail will help "the front-line workers – the nurses, those who are driving trucks and in grocery stores and others, who are working from home and have kids there" due to shelter-in-place policies the coronavirus pandemic mandated, said bill co-sponsor Sen Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.). Voters also don't want to risk health or lives to the virus's community spread by waiting in long lines.

That's what happened in the Wisconsin Democratic primary, she noted. The GOP-run state lawmakers forced voters to stand in line during the height of the pandemic and 72 voters and one election judge got sick.



IBEW Local 692

(Continued from Page 11)

have been CANCELLED for this year.

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

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

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 second-generation 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
www.ibew692.org
Health Plan
517-321-7502
www.mielelectricalhealth.org
Michigan Pension Fund
517-321-7502
www.michiganelectrical.org
First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"
NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300
IO Pension: 202-833-7000



**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 January 1, 2020 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$ 8.00.

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, Asbestos Removal Supervisors License, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading, Measuring Tools, & GPS** 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-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by this Local Union. (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 & DEBIT payments.**



**Local 169
Boilermakers**

Boilermakers Local 169 ALLEN PARK – All training centers are closed until further notice. Please see the website or Facebook group for further details.

The 2020 union dues are \$47.35.

The union hall accepts Visa, Master Card, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the hall and over the phone.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as we move forward through the Covid-19 pandemic I hope you are all healthy and safe. During my recent efforts to reach out to the active members of Local 169, I was encouraged to find that only one member that I spoke to was diagnosed with the disease. They were recuperating at home and doing well. Many others believe they may have already had the illness some time ago and recovered. When better antibody tests are available, I believe we will have a better understanding of the spread of the disease and hopefully a vaccine will be available in the near future.

As restrictions are eased and work resumes, I strongly recommend that every member follow the CDC, (Center for Disease Control) recommendations. They are available on our website. I am encouraged by the efforts our signatory contractors have made to ensure that the you are safe in the workplace. Cleaning, PPE, and social distancing, when practical, are being utilized. Please make every effort to keep each other safe during this unprecedented time.

As we begin to move toward the "new normal," Boilermakers Local 169 is making every effort to be ready when that occurs. President Jones has advised us to use our best discretion regarding our upcoming Union Meeting for June. As of now I am planning to have our June meeting in Area 3 as planned. We are currently planning to schedule apprenticeship classes beginning in June, with new protocols in place to protect those attending, including limiting the number of apprentices, PPE, social distancing, temperature checks, and surface cleaning.

Please keep in mind that all future meetings and Training Center activities will be subject to the Governor's restrictions regarding gatherings. As of today, apprentice training restrictions have not been lifted, but I am making plans in the event they are.

With work resuming and most members receiving additional unemployment benefits, and stimulus checks, I will be lifting the temporary "grace" period regarding union dues during the pandemic. Local 169 will make reasonable efforts to allow those that became suspended during the pandemic to become current. Make every effort to protect the future of Boilermakers Local 169 by paying your union dues.

In closing I would like to commend all of you for the efforts you have made, both at work, and at home. While speaking to you I was encouraged to hear that you were all following the recommendations of our medical professionals and making your best efforts to protect your Brotherhood and your families. Make no mistake, the battle against Covid-19 is not over. We must do everything possible to emerge victorious over this deadly disease. Stay healthy and safe.

**Bob Hutsell
Business Manager
Boilermakers Local 169
Detroit, Michigan**

"Old age is the most unexpected of things that can happen to a man."
—Leon Trotsky (1879 - 1940)

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

U.S. construction industry sees more workforce shrinkage, job cancellations

Construction employment declined in every state except South Dakota in April, an analysis released May 22 by the Associated General Contractors of America of new government data shows. At the same time, the association released a new survey that finds that rising project cancellations are forcing many firms to furlough or terminate employees even as federal relief measures help avoid further job losses.

AGC officials urged Washington officials to act quickly on measures like new infrastructure funding, liability protections for employers and extending the Paycheck Protection Program.

"Today's state employment report shows how widespread – and deep – the job losses have been among construction workers, despite a smattering of new or accelerated projects," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Meanwhile, our latest survey indicates that the paycheck loan program has enabled some companies to retain or add workers for now, but that relief will expire soon if not extended."

The economist said the loss of 975,000 construction jobs, or 13 percent, nationwide from March to April pushed down industry employment to multi-year lows in many states. New York

experienced the largest construction job loss over the month (-166,200 jobs or -40.8 percent). Vermont had the largest percentage decline (-46.3 percent, -6,800 construction jobs). Michigan experienced the second-worst percentage decline, (-44.0 percent, 78,500 jobs).

South Dakota was the only state to add construction jobs over the month (+500 jobs, 2.0 percent).

Simonson noted that the association's latest contractor survey found that more than two-thirds (69 percent) of the 742 respondents report having a project canceled or delayed since the start of the outbreak in early March. An increasing share of respondents reported that projects they expected to start in June or later had been canceled: 24 percent in the May 18-21 survey, compared to 20 percent in the association's May 4-7 survey and 16 percent in the April 20-23 survey.

He noted that project cancellations have forced 30 percent of U.S. firms to furlough or terminate employees. But an equal share has added workers, including some firms that laid off employees earlier, according to the survey.

"The Paycheck Protection Program, which provides no-cost loans for firms to cover payroll

expenses for a short time, appears to have achieved the goal of helping contractors retain or add workers for now," he added.

AGC officials warned that the Paycheck Protection Program benefits will end soon unless Congress acts to extend it. They also called on Congress to pass funding for highways and other infrastructure and to provide liability protections for employers following safety guidelines from coronavirus lawsuits.

And they cautioned against extending unemployment supplements, noting that 43 percent of firms that recalled furloughed staff said some workers declined to report because of the supplemental unemployment benefits.

Organized labor has completely different takes on opening COVID-19-related lawsuits and supplemental jobless benefits, supporting both.

"Washington's temporary relief measures appear to have helped the construction industry avoid even more layoffs," said Stephen E. Sandherr, the association's chief executive officer. "Now Congress and the administration need to focus on measures that will revive the economy, rebuild demand for construction and restore American jobs."



OPERATING THE FabPro system at the Andy J. Egan shop is Alex Christopher, a member of West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local 174. Photo: courtesy Egan

Egan honored as an excellent employer

(Continued from Page 1)

The NABR said the competition "identifies and honors companies that deliver exceptional human resource practices and an impressive commitment to their employees. Organizations are assessed based on categories such as communication, work-life balance, employee education, diversity, recognition, retention and more. Participating companies have the opportunity to benchmark results with other cities..."

Egan executives credit the company's longevity with the same culture that has earned the firm's reputation as an outstanding place to work. "Our team is what sets Egan apart," says Amy Jones, Egan's vice president and head of human resources. "We strive to recognize the incredible talents and contributions of our employees. Receiving this award is a tribute to the strength of our team, and we're so honored to have made this list for a decade."

Egan has earned a spot on the list for 14 years and has re-

ceived 10 elite awards. It is a fourth-generation, family-owned business. The company employs in-house engineers, BIM specialists, a fleet of maintenance technicians, and other professionals that make Egan a reliable, full-service contractor.

"Andy Egan is our largest employer, and one thing I know about them is that they do appreciate and value their workforce, and they understand and appre-

ciate their partnership with Local 174," said Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Service Trades Local 174 Business Manager Ryan Bennett. "One great thing that we appreciate about Andy Egan is that they're not afraid to grow, they see opportunities for new work and they're not afraid to go after it. They get bigger and we try to help them succeed by training our workforce for whatever they need."

"Assumptions are the termites of relationships."
-Henry Winkler (1945 -)

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."
-Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)

"To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness."
-Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

"Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own."
-Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC)

"Waste not fresh tears over old griefs."
-Euripides (484 BC - 406 BC)

Report finds Michigan's bridges among the worst

(Continued from Page 1)

ARTBA says once policy makers shift from a rescue focus to economic recovery, robust transportation infrastructure investments have comprehensive benefits.

"Economic recovery from coronavirus begins with strategic road and bridge improvements," said ARTBA President Dave Bauer. "Increased transportation investments support direct job creation and retention, while putting in place capital assets that will enhance U.S. productivity for decades to come."

Bauer notes the transportation construction industry is not seeking federal assistance, "but it should be part of the solution." He says the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee's July 2019 unanimously approved five-year highway reauthorization bill should be the starting point for discussions.

"The sooner we invest in robust new transportation improvements the sooner the American people will experience the economic benefits," Bauer says.

ARTBA estimates the cost to make the identified repairs for all

THE CONDITION of Michigan's bridges is among the worst in the nation, surprising no one who has a driver's license.

File photo, credit Jim LeMay/MDOT

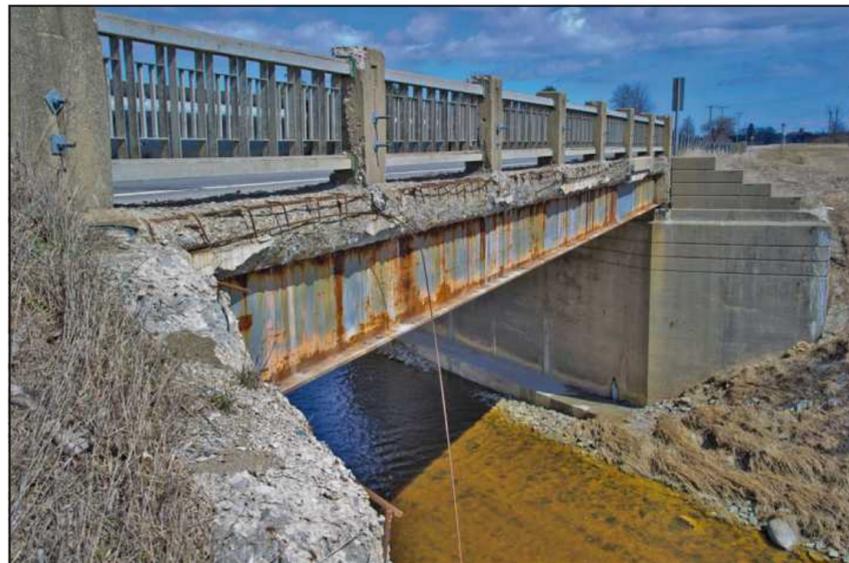
231,000 bridges in the U.S. at nearly \$164 billion, based on average cost data published by the Federal Highway Administration.

According to ARTBA, states with the most structurally deficient bridges as a percent of their total bridge inventory, are: Rhode Island (22.3 percent); West Virginia (21 percent); Iowa (19 percent); South Dakota (17 percent); Pennsylvania (15.3 percent); Louisiana (13.2 percent); Maine (12.8 percent); Puerto Rico (12.3 percent); Michigan (10.8

percent); and North Dakota (10.7 percent).

States with the largest actual number of structurally deficient bridges are: Iowa (4,575 bridges); Pennsylvania (3,501); Illinois (2,407); Oklahoma (2,352); Missouri (2,147); California (1,797); New York (1,745); North Carolina (1,714); Louisiana (1,701); and West Virginia (1,531). Michigan (1,217), was ranked No. 15.

Nevada, Texas and Arizona (all under 2 percent) had the lowest percentage of deficient bridges.



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Outdoors

Fly fishing with the Yellow Drake



By Ryan Soulard
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

It was a rainy, cool, spring day a few years ago, when my wife and I hit the water with fishing guide Ed McCoy on the Manistee River.

Still in my infancy stage of learning which bugs hatch when, and what flies to match them with, I was eager to soak up everything I could. My wife, the trooper she always is, had a smile on her face despite the dreary weather. As the old saying goes, "A bad day of fishing, beats a good day at work." So off we went.

Soon into the float, it became very apparent that fly fishing in the rain wasn't a bad thing after all. It seemed like wherever we placed our fly, with the careful guidance of Ed's rowing skills, brook trout and brown trout were crushing our flies with reckless abandon. "What fly is this?" I asked Ed.

"Roberts' Yellow Drake."

It soon became clear to me that this fly was something I needed to have in my arsenal when I am hitting the waters of northern Michigan. It also occurred to me that these tiny yellow bugs must taste like the finest meal you've ever had to a fish, just judging by the constant attention these daytime trout were giving them. As the days passed following that trip, my mind wandered back to just how great it was.

We don't own a drift boat, so it was nice to experience the river with a first-class guide leading the way, sharing all his knowledge with us – from insects to casting. As we stopped for lunch that day and the rain really picked up, I remember holding a small container of pasta salad Ed brought and watching it fill with water as I held it.

I still can taste that little tub of pasta salad and how delicious it was, watered down, probably having some residue off the cedar tree we were parked under, and who knows, maybe even a mayfly or two.

It doesn't matter what you eat while out fishing, it just tastes



A BROOK TROUT is shown with a Yellow Drake fly in its mouth.

MDNR photo

20 times better. Look it up, it's got to be a rule somewhere.

On that fishing excursion, we had prolific insect hatches of *Ephemera*, or "sulfurs" as they most commonly are known.

One mystery still evaded me as I looked back on this great trip: "Who was Roberts and why does his sulfur imitation work so wonderfully?"

After some internet sleuthing, I was delighted to find a couple of great articles written about Clarence Roberts and his Yellow Drake. What made it even more special to me was finding out that he and I were kindred souls in our career paths.

Roberts had been a game warden (before they were called conservation officers) for the Michigan Department of Conservation (the precursor to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources) and he was obviously a fishing fanatic. As a wildlife biologist for the Michigan DNR, it absolutely made my day to read this.

He was born in 1916 in the little town of Onaway in the northern Lower Peninsula. As the lore surrounding Clarence goes, his "trout madness" all started when his brother Cliff purchased several items from the Herter's catalog in the 30s and began tying

flies.

When Cliff joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, he needed someone to pass his materials along to, and his brother Clarence was the perfect candidate, living in a hallowed trout fishing area around Grayling and working in the outdoors.

You could say that Clarence dove in head over heels because by 1949, he was commercially tying flies and selling to bait shops, gas stations, hardware stores and canoe liveries.

At the height of his enterprise, Clarence was commercially tying more than 5,000 flies a year. He raised his own roosters to use their hackles for fly tying, and he scavenged a road-killed animal or two in his game warden duties for fur to tie with.

Roberts made a big impact regionally and around the Au Sable River, both as a game warden and for his innovations in fly tying.

He is credited as one of the first people to ever tie flies with deer hair parallel to the hook to add buoyancy and help the fly ride better in the water, which is a tenet of fly tying born in Michigan that has since spread globally.

To think that on the backside of World War II, there were people tying flies and making more

money than their work salaries!

Enter George Mason and George Griffith. According to the book "America's 100 Best Trout Streams" by John Ross, "The idea for Trout Unlimited was hatched at a chance meeting in 1950 of George Griffith, a hosiery salesman, and George Mason, president of American Motors, as both men were waiting to launch their Au Sable riverboats at Burton's Landing."

Mason was a Ducks Unlimited member who suggested a similar organization for trout be started.

After Mason died in 1954, Griffith – a member of the Michigan Conservation Commission – and others picked up the flyrod and kept moving the idea forward.

Griffith went on to hold a landmark meeting on the banks of the Au Sable with the likes of Fred Bear, Mort Neff, Al Neuman and several others that led to the creation of Trout Unlimited in 1959, which grew into the international organization we know today.

It is said that somewhere between 1957 and 1959, Clarence Roberts and George Griffith were fishing together when Griffith hooked a log with a streamer fly pattern, tugging it, causing it to rocket loose, injuring his eye and leading to subsequent vision is-

sues.

After that, Roberts began tying the Roberts Yellow Drake with the large white parachute post so that Griffith could more easily see the fly on the water.

I would have loved to be a fly on the water back in the 40s and 50s and listen to the conversations among anglers and what they were brainstorming. Here they were coming out of some of the darkest moments in history, the Great Depression of the 1930s, then World War II in the 40s and the Cold War of the 1950s.

Yet somehow, these great giants of conservation were able not only to keep a level head but to devise plans on how to save and enhance cold-water fisheries in northern Michigan.

Those foundations have spread globally and have made lasting positive impacts. I guess I should not be surprised by the resiliency of someone from the Greatest Generation who also served Michigan as a game warden.

One of my greatest joys at work is that as a wildlife biologist I regularly have interactions with conservation officers from across the state.

Some people may see a conservation officer with their badge and gun and assume "they are just an officer," but I can tell you from experience it goes far beyond that. Michigan conservation officers' more than 130-year history is one of outstanding service to the state's people and natural resources.

They act as the first line of defense in many emergency situations, are involved in their communities and exemplify what it means to be a law enforcement officer. Outside of their work, I can't begin to tell you the number of unique personalities I have met from the ranks of conservation officers: artists, musicians, trappers, hunters, anglers, foster parents, mentors and so many other examples.

Looking at the great men and women who wear the conservation officer badge each day in this state, I guess it should be no surprise to me that, way back when, Clarence Roberts designed a fly that is still in rotation today.

His Yellow Drake is one of the "must have" patterns for spring and summer trout fishing in Michigan, let alone other places around the globe – tied in various other ways based on re-

gion. You can tie it from a small, size-16 sulfur, all the way up to the biggest *hexagenia* pattern. It is really a "do-all" pattern, that has stood the test of time.

I'd bet Roberts would find it incredible to know that his fly has been in tens of thousands of fly boxes – resulting in some of the finest brook and brown trout catches, creating countless memories for first-timers to seasoned anglers.

I'm sure, like many of the other Michigan conservation officers I have had the good fortune of meeting across the state, he would be the last person to pat himself on the back and instead probably would give credit to those around him.

A health condition forced Roberts to retire from the DNR in 1971, after just under 30 years of service as a game warden. He later moved to Florida, where he fished and tied flies for enjoyment.

He returned to Michigan a decade or so later. He died in 1984 at age 68. He is buried in Grayling in Crawford County.

Thinking about Roberts and his Yellow Drake, while stocking my fly boxes for the upcoming fly angler's magical time of year, really got me thinking about this current COVID-19 situation that we find ourselves in and how much of an anxious and uncertain time it has been and will continue to be for a while.

I think of all the conservationists back in the 1930s, 40s and 50s and the many milestones they reached in the face of adversity and uncertain times.

How will I go forward in what my generation may consider our darkest hour and ensure natural resources are being taken care of? How will I keep my mind right? One day at a time and this too shall pass.

Find a river, take a few yellow bugs and think about what you can do to make sure clean, cold water and good habitat are there for generations to come. What part might you have in this?

Sit on a riverbank, read a book, slide into the water and cast a fly, get lost on a two-track road for a few hours this summer. Cross that songbird off your birdwatching life list, go after that fish you've been wanting to catch, reset those gears and look toward the future of good days to come.

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