



Since 1952

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

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SHORT CUTS

Added momentum for U.S. construction

The Dodge Momentum Index moved 4 percent higher in March to 166.9 (2000=100). The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Construction Network this month on April 7, is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. The index continued to trend higher in March, largely due to gains in planning for commercial projects. Commercial planning in March was just slightly lower than the all-time high set in October 2021, Dodge said. The index, which has been kept a jagged trend line since the onset of Covid, as a whole was up 4.1 percent from a year ago. "Nonresidential projects entering planning continue to be robust despite rising energy prices, higher material costs, and significant shortages of labor," Dodge said.

Bill would set new penalties for cheats

A bill addressing a subject that's near and dear to the state's construction industry — the misclassification of workers — has been introduced in the state House. The bill would institute penalties against companies that misclassify workers in order to avoid paying full-time wage overtime and taxes. Such misclassification of workers — effectively making them independent contractors — robs them of a fair wage and benefits, and takes away tax revenues from the state. "Hardworking Michiganders should be paid for every hour they work, and any shady employer that fails to do so should be held accountable," said one of the bill's sponsors, state Rep. Donna Lasinski (D-Scio Twp.). I will continue to stand for policies that set a level playing field for all and work with my colleagues to ensure the economic security of working families is always put first." Introduced at an April 13 news conference without bipartisan support by House Minority Leader Lasinski, the bill likely has little opportunity to matter in the Republican-dominated House and Senate, other than as a means to call attention to the age-old misclassification issue. The unionized construction industry has complained for years about shady employers misclassifying workers into independent contractors when they should be full-time employees. Such a set-up allows employers to issue those workers with 1099 tax forms, permitting the employers to avoid paying payroll taxes and health benefits and allowing them to lower their costs and submit lower bids on construction projects. According to a report by the Economy Policy Institute, an estimated \$429 million was stolen from Michigan workers in wages and overtime pay between 2013 and 2015, impacting more than 2.8 million Michigan workers.

Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely. —Roy T. Bennett (1957-)

Quotable

Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely. —Roy T. Bennett (1957-)

THE 18-STORY United Artists Building (1928), now being converted into the Residences @ 150 Bagley, is the last major, abandoned tower in downtown Detroit to get renovated. The former office building has, astoundingly, been empty for nearly 50 years. This photo is from 2014, but the building is little changed. The tower portion of the building is in reasonably good condition, but the old United Artists Theater off the back is decrepit and will be demolished as part of this project. Brinker/Christman will manage the renovation work.



Trades to remake old United Artists Building into 148-unit residential hub

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT — An imposing part of Detroit's skyline — one that's slightly off the beaten track from other recent historic building renovation projects in the downtown area — is next in line for redevelopment.

The old United Artists Building — rebranded with a

moniker that matches its address — is on its way to redevelopment into "The Residences @ 150 Bagley." Opened in 1928, the long-empty and derelict 18-story tower will benefit from the skill of building trades union workers and be transformed into a residential

building with 148 units with 10,000 square feet of commercial space. Like numerous other historic buildings that have been renovated in recent years downtown, the path to assembling the financing and tax breaks for 150 Bagley was long and complicated. It took six

(Continued on Page 2)



A BRICK SECTION of the east wall of the 150 Bagley building in Detroit is opened up by mason Andrew Kliffel of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2. Employed by Pullman Mason Contractors, he was preparing for the installation of a buckhoist as rehabilitation starts to ramp up on the building.

AFL-CIO's Shuler: a new look for labor is coming

Building Trades 2022 Legislative Conference

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI)— President Joe Biden's five-year \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure and Jobs Act presents building trades unions with "a golden opportunity" to grow, but "it's up to us" to shape the future U.S. construction workforce, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler says. Closing a morning of

speeches to North America's Building Trades Unions' legislative conference held April 4-6, the IBEW member told the 3,000 delegates and guests crammed into the unionized Washington, D.C., Hilton hotel's International Ballroom that the measure will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs — and



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

union members and union-trained apprentices must fill them, as Biden wants. Shuler and others followed NABTU President Sean McGarvey to the podium on April 5. The next day saw ten speakers, with Biden giving the closing address.

Shuler did not delve into construction worker demographics but a survey of the crowd showed what she's talking about. The delegates were overwhelmingly white, male and middle-aged or older. Within a few years, most will be ready to retire. That's not going to be the composition of the future construction workforce, Shuler and other speakers said, and unions must adjust themselves, their

(Continued on Page 14)

Upstart union gets historic 1st win at Amazon

By Brian Young
Union Communications Blog

Two years ago, Amazon workers at a Staten Island warehouse known as JFK8 walked out. They were protesting the company's failure to inform them that co-workers were getting sick with Covid. Instead of working with the scared employees, as many companies did during the beginning of the pandemic, Amazon decided to fire the leader of the walkout, Chris Smalls. That decision led to a two-

year campaign by the workers at the warehouse and Smalls to form Amazon's first union. They formed the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) and began talking to workers throughout the warehouse.

This hard work paid off, on April 1 the National Labor Relations



AMAZON union organizer Chris Smalls

Board (NLRB) announced that ALU had enough votes to become the first union at Amazon in the company's 28-year history. In the end, after an intense anti-union campaign by the company, the vote wasn't even close with 2,654 voting to join ALU and 2,131 voting against the union. What was accomplished in just these past two years is nothing short of amazing. Unlike other successful and unsuccessful organizing efforts, the Staten Island campaign was not

led by a national or international union. Instead, the workers formed their own union and raised money on GoFundMe to help pay for literature and food for the workers. With little money, they often flew under the radar, especially with the higher-profile union election at Amazon's Bessemer, Ala. location going on at the same time. Yet the Staten Island workers kept trucking along, talking to workers and exposing Amazon's lies and bad behavior. Even when

Smalls and some of the other organizers were arrested for attempting to bring food to workers at the warehouse, the pro-union workers were not deterred and seemed to get even more fired up. According to HuffPost, in 2021, Amazon spent over \$4 million on union avoidance lawyers and consultants to stop organizing campaigns at two Staten Island warehouses, one in Bessemer, and a growing campaign

(Continued on Page 14)

Biden touts union, pro-labor bona fides at trades conference

Building Trades 2022 Legislative Conference

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI)— After a serious start talking about Russian atrocities in the Ukraine War, and subsequent U.S. and allied moves against Vladimir Putin's government, President Joe Biden virtually roared into full campaign mode in addressing more than 3,000 people at the North America's Building Trades Unions Legislative Conference.

As closing speaker for the confab, Biden was interrupted many times by cheers and applause on April 6, not just when he listed pro-worker achievements of his administration, but also when he announced a big mass transit grant at the end — and in between rattled off the union jobs his Infrastructure and Jobs Act have produced and will create.

And Biden drew cheers for his full-throated endorsement of unions. He highlighted it by leaning into the microphone, pointing a conspiratorial finger forward and growling "And by the way,

As proof, the president points to...

- Passage of \$1.2 trillion for infrastructure
- Passage of the union pension rescue
- Focus on the use of prevailing wage, project labor agreements
- Promotion of the Protect the Right to Organize (PRO) Act



PRESIDENT BIDEN speaks to the NABTU conference April 6.

Amazon, here we come!" after the independent Amazon Labor Union's big union recognition win at the monster retailer and distributor's JFK8 warehouse win on Staten Island. That drew even more laughs and cheers.

Biden's speech came as his (Continued on Page 2)

Biden administration's 'actions have matched their words' in supporting U.S. labor unions

'I intend to be the most pro-union president leading the most pro-union administration in American history.' —President Biden, from remarks made on Sept. 8, 2021

Building Trades 2022 Legislative Conference

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI)— North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey heavily pushed political contrasts in his keynote address to the 3,000 delegates of construction unions' legislative conference, with powerful praise of President Joe Biden and his administration and big blasts at his GOP predecessor.

Opinion polls show McGarvey has reason to highlight such contrasts: Off-year elections often are referendums on the incumbent president. They also depend on motivating supporters to vote, and many workers and their allies, worried about inflation and gas prices, rather than creating jobs and beating the coronavirus pandemic, feel let down by the Biden administration, at least right now, despite excel-



NABTU PRESIDENT Sean McGarvey speaks at the building trades legislative conference earlier this month.

lent jobs numbers. "We knew Joe Biden would be the true president of the working (Continued on Page 14)

Building material prices are through the roof

Ouch. Higher prices continuing to hit all corners of the economy, with the inflation rate up 8.5 percent overall in the U.S. for the 12 months ending in March 2022.

Well, that ain't nothing compared to the construction industry, where input prices for non-residential construction rose 21 percent between March 2021 and March 2022. Among the league leaders: diesel fuel prices spiked 64 percent, while aluminum and steel mill product prices rose by 43 percent, according to federal government data released April 13.

(Continued on Page 14)

Viewpoints



Money in our pockets

A Labor Department plan to strengthen federal prevailing wage regulations and enforcement under the Davis-Bacon Act would put more money in the pockets of an estimated 1.2 million U.S. construction workers.

Labor Secretary Marty Walsh (a union laborer) said the changes will “help us make sure our skilled workers and wages can’t be undercut” and are especially timely as projects funded by President Biden’s Infrastructure and Jobs Act surge nationwide. “Federal dollars should be used to create good jobs in local communities all across our country,” Walsh said. “These proposed regulations are good for workers, good for building high-quality infrastructure and for ensuring we have a strong construction industry, as we rebuild America.”

The 1931 law, signed by President Hoover, was weakened by a Reagan-era overhaul 40 years ago. Most notably, it reduced the rate paid to workers on federally funded construction projects by changing how local prevailing wages are calculated.

The DOL wants to restore the original formula and review it more frequently so that rates set for federal contractors continue to align with local construction wages.

The update includes anti-retaliation language to protect workers who raise concerns about payment practices from being fired or discriminated against. There are also new strategies for recovering back pay. The long-sought revisions are welcome news to the IBEW and its building trades partners.

“The proposed updates will restore the Act’s intended bipartisan purpose to protect the hard-earned wages of construction workers, and in doing so, shield them from exploitation,” IBEW International President Lonnie R. Stephenson said.

The Labor Department, which has been setting a record pace for pro-worker initiatives the past year, made its proposal public on March 11. A 60-day comment period is underway, as required for all federal rulemaking. “Our members are the nation’s best-trained, most highly skilled construction workers and for 40 years, the law has let federal contractors get away with paying them less than they deserve, along with their building trades brothers and sisters,” said Austin Keyser, assistant to the international president for government affairs.

“That’s money that could have been invested in college funds, vacations, home repairs, and anything else that a fairer calculation of prevailing wages would have provided for,” he said. “Labor Secretary Walsh and the Biden administration innately understand what that means to working families, and that’s why they’re pushing to fix Davis-Bacon.”

According to the DOL, the Davis-Bacon Act and 71 related statutes cover roughly \$217 billion in federal and federally assisted construction projects each year, a figure that is expected to swell with infrastructure spending.

Which makes it urgent to act now, said Jessica Looman, acting administrator of the DOL’s Wage and Hour Division and the former head of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council. “Given recent unprecedented investments in our nation’s infrastructure, this comprehensive regulatory review is necessary to ensure employers on federally funded or assisted construction projects pay fair wages to the workers who build our roads, bridges, federal buildings and energy infrastructure,” she said.

Communities and taxpayers reap the benefits, too, Looman stressed, “by ensuring all contractors can compete on equal footing and by preventing employers who pay workers substandard wages from gaining an unfair competitive advantage.”

Stephenson said modernizing Davis-Bacon adds to an ever-longer list of ways that President Biden is making good on his promises to workers and unions. “We applaud the administration’s efforts to ensure that pay reflects the work of this highly trained, highly skilled workforce,” he said.

(From the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers)

“We want to thank Jeff Bezos for going to space because while he was up there we were organizing a union.”



Chris Smalls, who was fired by Amazon in 2020 for union organizing, is now President of the Amazon Labor Union.

White-collar robots coming

By Jim Hightower

In CorporateSpeak, there are no “job cuts.” Instead, firings are bluntly referred to as “employment adjustments.”

Now, though, corporate wordsmiths will need a whole new thesaurus of euphemisms, for masses of job cuts are coming for employees in the higher echelons of the corporate structure. Don’t look now, but an unanticipated result of the ongoing pandemic is that it has given cover for CEOs to speed up the adoption of highly-advanced RPAs (Robotic Process Automation) to replace employees once assumed to be immune from displacement.

As one analyst told a *New York Times* reporter, “With RPA you can build a bot that costs \$10,000 a year and take out two to four humans.”

Prior to the COVID crisis, many top executives feared a public backlash if they pushed automation too far too fast. But, ironically, the economic collapse caused by the pandemic has so discombobulated the workplace and diverted public attention that corporate bosses have been emboldened to rush ahead. While the nationwide shut-down of offices and furloughing of employees has caused misery for millions, one happy purveyor of RPA systems notes that it has “massively raised awareness among executives about the variety of work that no longer requires human involvement.”

He cheerfully declares: “We think any business process can be automated,” advising corporate bosses that half to two-thirds of all the tasks being done at their companies can be done by machines.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Conventional corporate wisdom blithely preaches that all new technologies create more jobs than they kill, but even those Pollyannish preachers are now conceding that this robotic automation of white-collar jobs is being imposed so suddenly, widely, and stealthily that losses will crush any gains.

“We haven’t hit the exponential point of this stuff yet,” warns an alarmed analyst. “And when we do, it’s going to be dramatic.”

(via www.otherwords.org)

Trades to remake United Artists Building

(Continued from Page 1) years to line up and assemble the \$75 million funding package, with the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (HIT) providing nearly two-thirds of the financing. As a result, 100 percent union labor will be employed on the project, which will be led by the construction management team of Brinker/Christman.

“We are proud to work with the HIT on this new project that will create good jobs for our members and affordable housing in a growing neighborhood in downtown Detroit. 150 Bagley will be a great example of how labor’s capital helps build a stronger community,” said Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Patrick Devlin.

The project was announced at a March 31 event in front of the building. On hand were Mayor Mike Duggan, lead developer Emmet Moten, Ilitch Holdings President Christopher Ilitch, AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust reps, among a long list of politicians, bankers and local, state and federal government officials.

“For nearly half a century, the United Artists Building has been one of our city’s iconic images of blight and abandonment,” Duggan said. “Today, just like we are doing with Michigan Central Station, Fisher Body 21, Lee Plaza and others, we are giving the United Artists Building new life, and turning blight into beauty.”

“I’m so proud that we have a development team that truly represents our city turning this great building into new housing, with 20 percent of the units reserved for Detroiters of lower incomes. This project would not have been possible without the leadership of Chris Ilitch and the partnership of HUD, the State of Michigan, our Department of Housing and Revitalization. This is a great day for Detroit.”

Said Emmett Moten, the Bagley Development Group’s managing partner: “Residences @ 150 Bagley represents the perfect model for urban development, with the public and private sectors working collectively to benefit the community.”

Located two blocks west of Woodward and southwest of Grand Circus Park, the 200,000 square foot United Artists Building was primarily an office building, but named for the United Artists Theater it once contained. The building was shuttered in 1974 after its last major tenant, AAA-Michigan, moved to Dearborn. A renovated theater

will not be part of the project. Ilitch Holdings – which has drawn significant criticism for not developing properties it owns in its sprawling “District Detroit,” has

owned this property since 1997.

“We’re honored to partner with Emmett Moten and the rest of the outstanding Bagley Development team on this historic res-

toration in The District Detroit, and we look forward to seeing the lasting, positive impact that it will have on the community,” said Ilitch.



LABORER Sammie Peaster of Local 1191 wraps up an extension cord while working in front of the United Artists/ 150 Bagley project in Detroit. He’s employed by Brinker.

Biden touts union, pro-labor bona fides at trades conference

(Continued from Page 1) negative poll ratings still outdo his positive ones, producing a drag on Democratic hopes for retaining – or even expanding – their slim congressional majorities this fall. The Senate is tied: 50 Republicans face 48 Democrats and both independents. Democrats hold the House, 221-209 with five vacancies.

Often-ineffectual Democratic organizations rely on foot soldiers from organized labor, including the building trades to make up for that lack. But inflation, and rising gasoline prices, he admitted, dampen enthusiasm, despite bright economic numbers – which Biden recited.

“Look, I know people are still hurting,” he conceded. “But our economy is not just on the mend, but it’s on the move.”

His big selling points were the five-year, \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure And Jobs Act, a key cause of the building trades, and the earlier American Rescue Act, designed to cushion the economic impact on workers and their families from the coronavirus-caused depression. The infrastructure act drew some GOP support. The rescue act got none.

“We can’t compete in the 21st Century without building 21st Century infrastructure,” Biden told the crowd, to more cheers. “We passed that infrastructure law, and now it’s no longer ‘Infrastructure Week,’ it’s ‘Infrastructure Decade.’”

And at the end, Biden announced he’d be issuing an executive order allotting \$20.5 billion more of the infrastructure act’s money for new mass transit projects, to be built with union labor, which would reduce pollu-

tion and have components and materials “made in the U.S.A.”

“And remember those long lines of cars with people lined up just to get bags of groceries? Our American Rescue Plan helped 41 million people put food on their tables,” and it saved “4 million who were on the verge of being evicted.”

Both the infrastructure law and the rescue act, he reminded the crowd, included strong worker protections, such as Davis-Bacon prevailing wage language and Project Labor Agreements. So would future legislation. So did his special White House Task Force on unionizing.

So would the Protect The Right To Organize Act, labor’s top legislative priority. “We want to make sure that choice” of whether or not to unionize “belongs to workers alone!” Biden declared. That bill, renamed for the late AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, is marooned by unanimous Senate GOP opposition and filibuster threats.

Biden’s speech also avoided some topics. He didn’t mention the Green New Deal by name. That’s a sore point of contention between building trades, who fear it would cost union jobs, and environmentalists.

And he said the nation must make child care affordable so working women, including construction women, can rejoin the labor force. But Biden didn’t mention his overall Build Back Better/reconciliation bill, stalled by a GOP Senate filibuster threat. It includes child care tax credits and money, too.

Instead, his big theme was adding up all the new jobs from

the two pieces of legislation, including “320,000 new construction jobs last year,” which puts building trades employment—union and non-union combined—at a level higher than before the crash.

“That wasn’t all we did,” he added. Biden then reminded listeners of another big rescue act win: Incorporating the Butch Lewis Act to set financially troubled multi-employer pension plans back on their financial feet without cutting benefits to current retirees or their heirs.

The key aid: Federal loan guarantees to plans that create viable packages for their own recovery. Many of those multi-employer plans cover construction workers.

And that’s quite a contrast, Biden declared, with what his predecessor, whose \$1.7 trillion tax cut targeted to the rich and corporations.

Biden’s trying to undo that, too. Both his Build Back Better “reconciliation” bill, halted by the GOP filibuster threat, and proposals in his latest budget would close tax loopholes for those firms and millionaires, and restore a top tax rate on the rich of 39.6 percent.

“There’s no reason someone making \$10 million a year pays at a lower tax rate than a family with two wage-earners, a teacher and a fire fighter. We’ve got to have everyone pay their fair share,” he said. That includes the ultra-rich and “the 55 Fortune 500 corporations which paid zero in income taxes last year. We can do this without raising taxes on anyone making under \$400,000 a year,” he said, repeating a campaign pledge.

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: The United Artists Building HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

Detroit's building boom of the 1920s was in full bloom by the middle of that decade, as both sides of Woodward Avenue downtown were being filled out with buildings of all sizes. Even the streets adjacent to the city's main thoroughfare were starting to fill in, and a big chunk of space was taken up by the United Artists Building – two-and-a-half blocks west of Woodward and south of the cluster of buildings on Grand Circus Park.

Most of the 18-story, 200,000 square-foot United Artists Building had nothing to do with "United Artists." The upper floors were offices – nice, well-appointed offices, according to a contemporary account by the *Detroit Free Press*.

The United Artists Building, the *Free Press* said upon its opening in February 1928, "is a fine building and a slightly building and a thoughtfully planned, beautifully executed, well arranged building" that was "designed to meet the exacting requirements of creative workers, as well as ordinary business requirements.... The building is supplied with every modern convenience ... and apparently everything conceivable has been done for the comfort and well being of the tenant and to facilitate his business." The UA would "become the magnificent home of many and diverse enterprises, including a great theater."

Ahh, the theater. Unfortunately it will be demolished as part of the newly started, \$75 million renovation of the building. But unless you were an office drone working in the floors above during the 50 years the UA tower was open, the theater was the building's feature presentation to the greater community. Architect Howard Crane, a heavy hitter in Detroit who also designed the Fox Theatre and Olympia Stadium, drew up the blueprints for the entire structure.

"That theater was the building's main attraction," says Dan Austin of *Historic Detroit*. "The UA was the baby of Detroit's movie palaces, as it was the smallest of the giants. The



THE UNITED ARTISTS BUILDING in Detroit, in 1928. The 18-story building, mostly faced with orange brick, featured a 10-story blade sign signifying the building's theater. The sign was replaced in the 1950s.

Photo credit: Detroit Free Press archives

UA was built exclusively for films – a rarity at the time – and showed mostly United Artists films. The movie studio was founded in 1919 by actors Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks and director D.W. Griffith – four of the biggest names in showbiz.

"Detroit's UA was one of three that Howard designed in the Spanish Gothic style for the United Artists Theatre Circuit, and followed theaters in Chicago and Los Angeles. The Detroit theater was considered the sister of the Los Angeles location. Crane, who had done mostly classic theater designs up until this point, was asked to go with an exotic, Gothic style because Pickford loved the look of European castles...."

The Detroit United Artists Theatre, said *Cinema Treasures*, "also had some major differences" from Crane's Chicago and Los Angeles theaters. The

office tower in Detroit was built as a hedge in case the theater became unprofitable.

"Crane was faced with an irregular-shaped lot, but made the best of it, giving the UA a round lobby, with a domed ceiling, gilded Art-Deco inspired Indian princesses on the walls, between wall-length mirrors," said *Cinema Treasures*. "A marble staircase led up to the mezzanine and balcony levels. The 2,070-seat auditorium, which was said to be nearly acoustically perfect, was fantastically decorated, with Gothic plasterwork, more gilding, metal-work, and brass light fixtures like something out of a Medieval cathedral.

Opening night on Feb. 3, 1928, featured the Gloria Swanson hit *Sadie Thompson*, with the star herself on a phone hook-up addressing the full house and opening the curtains for the first time.



THE UNITED ARTISTS THEATER in Detroit, shown here after it opened in 1928, "featured a grand, circular lobby, complete with mirrors and huge Indian maidens on the walls that looked down on audiences," says *Historic Detroit*. "The United Artists' auditorium was like a cathedral of cinema and said to be acoustically perfect, and was decorated with Gothic plaster and interesting brass light fixtures. For this UA theater, (architect) Crane had colored lights filtering down from perforations in the domed ceiling of the auditorium, allowing for the intricate details to be bathed in beautiful illumination." The theater featured "lacy conical fan vaults, an elaborate gilded dome, and great projecting canopies over proscenium and organ grilles," historian Andrew Craig Morrison wrote.

Photo credit: Walbridge

Detroit in the 1920s had an abundance of impeccable showplaces for movies and stage works. The United Artists Theater, wrote Austin, "mainly competed with its nearby neighbors, the Michigan and the Crane-designed Fox, State and Capitol theaters. But there were many others nearby, such as the Oriental and Adams. The intricate designs and lavish interiors of these so-called movie palaces allowed common, working Detroiters to enjoy the splendors of the rich. The theaters became as much of a draw as the films themselves and were part of the show. And Detroit's United Artists was no exception."

The UA had a great run. It had an in-house orchestra and hosted stage shows, but movies were its primary moneymaker. It hosted the Detroit premier of *Gone With the Wind* in 1940. It became the first Detroit theater to feature Cinemascope (with 1953's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*) and also the first to get 70mm, three years later, with *Oklahoma!* *Anatomy of a Murder*, starring Jimmy Stewart, made its world premier at the UA in 1959.

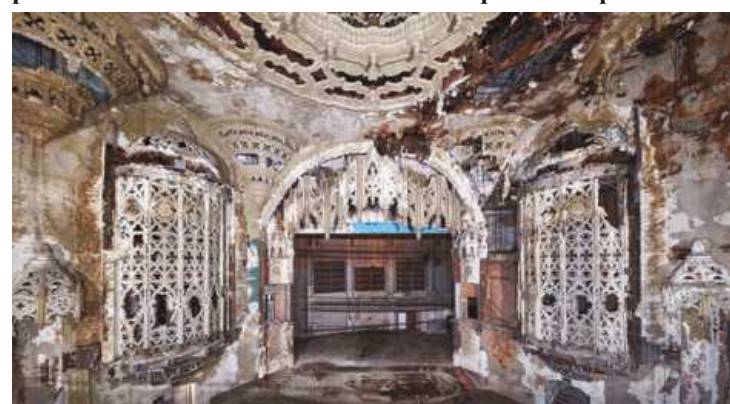
But by the end of the 1960s, the opening of suburban theaters began to portend the demise of the UA, which attempted to stay open with the showing of adult films. The former movie palace would close for good in September 1971.

The Automobile Club of Michigan, the building's primary tenant since the 1950s, moved out in 1974, leaving the building vacant. The furnishings and decor in the building and theater were subsequently auctioned. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra used the acoustically perfect theater hall for record-

ings from 1978 to 1983, until its condition made it unusable.

The building has been held since the Ilitch family's Olympia Development, and was slated for demolition for parking for Comerica Park – until the site was changed and the stadium was built east of Woodward.

On March 31, it was announced in an event in front of the building that a highly complex deal involving multiple investors and tax credits made a comeback of the building a reality. The theater will be demolished as part of the plan.



THE THEATER auditorium's ruins, date unknown. Photo credit: AfterTheFinalCurtain

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IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Our May Union Meeting will be held on Monday, May 2nd, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Our April Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 25th, 2022, at 4:30 pm.

The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, May 3rd, at 9:00am then Tuesday, May 16th, 2022 at 8:00am.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 948

The nominations for all officers of Local Union 948, IBEW will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the local meeting hall located at 1251 W. Hill Rd., Flint, MI. 48507. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination prior to being nominated. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate. Nominations do not require a second to be accepted.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years:

- President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Financial Secretary/Business Manager
Treasurer
Executive board (7 to be elected)
Examining Board (5 to be elected).

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 948. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations.

No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union.

As stated in Article XII, Section 7 of the Local Union bylaws; all members in good standing shall have a voice and a vote one year after being sworn into Local 948.

An election judge and tellers will be appointed at the close of nominations. None of these may be a candidate for any office.

The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022 at the local union meeting hall located at 1251 W. Hill Rd., Flint, MI. 48507. The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted. A complete listing of the results shall be posted at the Union Hall by the close of business on the day following the election.

Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge. Mail Request to Steven Teel, Election Judge, PO Box 320527 Flint, MI 48532. Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Anyone receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the post office box after 4p.m. on June 6, 2022 will not be counted.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. Observers may not interfere with the orderly procedure of the election. There shall be no campaigning or electioneering at the polls nor within 50 feet from the entrance to the polling place. No postings except for instructions shall be permitted at the polling place.

In the event a runoff election is required, same shall be held on Monday, June 27, 2022. The same rules shall apply to the runoff election as were applicable to the (Continued next column)



IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – Dear Brothers and Sisters, the work outlook remains unchanged from what we've been reporting over the last few months.

Wild game tickets are still available at the Hall. This year's dinner is scheduled for May 5 @ 6 p.m. in Muskegon. Call Walter at the Hall for more information and to reserve your tickets today!

You may be aware that T.I.C. (our health and pension administrators) recently had a data breach. We have been told that they are currently investigating the severity of the breach, but that they do have security and insurance measures in place for just such an occurrence. You will soon receive an informational mailing from them explaining everything. If, after receiving their info you have any questions, please direct them directly to T.I.C. at the contact info that will be provided in the letter.

Please note that nominations for officers will be held at the May monthly meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Hall in Coopersville.

At the time of this writing, the following members are three or more months behind in dues: Robby Engelsman, Kevin Koon, Dave LeBeck, Nick Perry and Antonio Zizumbo. If you haven't already, please make sure you become current on your dues as soon as possible.

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

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

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

Local 948, con't

regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the run-off. If there is a tie for an office not requiring a runoff, the Election Judge has ruled that the tie will be settled with a coin toss.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3 year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Monday, July 11, 2022. 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 is 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.

Fraternalty yours, Steven Teel, Election Judge, IBEW Local 948

Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new content. www.local948.com.

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

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

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

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

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



IBEW LOCAL 58

CIO affiliated Local Union families and friends are welcome!

The Jerry Gaudi Memorial Golf Outing will be Friday, June 3, at the Glenhurst Golf Course in Redford. This will be the 21st Annual Gaudi Open. The Entry Fee is \$75 per ticket, which includes cart, golf, prizes, & lunch (at the turn). Everyone is welcome and bring a friend. Limited to 120 golfers due to Covid restrictions. Arrive by 8 AM, Golf starts at 9 AM. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 and raffle tickets are available for a cooler of cheer and an IBEW golf bag with accessories. If interested in hole sponsorship, raffle tickets or donations please contact Michael Bellhorn, 586-612-5964 or Jim Peltier, 586-610-1154. Thanks again for all your support.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, at 5:30 PM. The Wobbly Kitchen is up and running again and we are assisting them every 2nd and 4th Sunday with food prep and distribution at Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 am to help with the Wobbly Kitchen program. To get involved with future community service projects contact Mike Conflitti or Rob Z at the union hall. Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963.2130 for further information to volunteer or participate.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 pm.

EWMC of Southeastern MI The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. What can we safely participate in that continues to promote the IBEW in the community? Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future.

Also, if you are a DPS/DPSCD alumni, please add your name to our list for future events. You can contact Byron Osborn or Felicia Wiseman with your information. Solidarity Forever.

The RENEW Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

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

The Political Action Committee (PAC) meets the first Wednesday of each month Via Zoom. To be added to our email list please contact Jeannette Bradshaw (313-408-1287). PAC contributions can be made through the APP, and at the Union Hall. You can contribute more than the \$4 that is suggested on your quarterly dues, but you cannot exceed \$175 per calendar year. The loss of our deduction cut our resources in half, and we would like to assist local candidates and our members looking to run for office.

Local 58's Women's Committee- Our next regular meeting is Thursday, April 28th at 5:30 pm at the hall and on Zoom. Please watch for emails with further updates and zoom info. Coin number 3 in the "She needed a hero" set is now available. Hurry and

Bringing power to 150 Bagley

ELECTRICIANS Roderick Wright, Jr. and Ron LaPlante of IBEW Local 58 set up temporary 100-amp, 400-volt electrical service to the Residences @150 Bagley project in Detroit. They're employed by Edgewood Electric.

IBEW Local 58

all of you who are attending our luncheons as soon as possible to keep the caterer informed of our attendance numbers. This luncheon is open to all retirees (and active members too), it will be a good time to see one another and get up to speed on what has been happening in everyone's lives. Come join us for this Annual Event. If you aren't a member yet, come along and see what we are about. You may be happy you did. We look forward to seeing all of you! Board meetings have resumed, the May meeting will be held in the Bill Rushford Room in the lower level of the Union Hall on Wednesday May 11, 2022 at 10 a.m.

There will be no eastside/westside luncheon in May because of the Memorial Day Holiday. The June Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 8. If all continues to go well with the covid situation, there will be a luncheon in June at the Gazebo.

It's no secret that change is upon us. The changes are there every day, in small incremental ways. That change is also evident within the Board of our fine Retirees Association. We (the Board) are appealing to our membership for more involvement on this level. Our board is getting smaller, and we need enthusiastic new younger retirees to help fill our ranks and keep this organization in working order.

Over these last few years, we have less board members doing more of the work. In the past, we always had enough folks involved so the work necessary to pull off luncheons, parties and picnics wasn't too labor intense for any one individual; that is no longer the case. Board meetings are open to all members, please come join us, see what we do during meetings, we won't hogtie anyone to step up, just come along and consider joining us, remember "many hands make light work of a big job!"

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Joseph Burke, Steven T. Johnston, Walter Kochan, Phillip Lavalée, Richard Petty, George Philson, and Ludwig Schulz.

Members that have Passed Away: Donald Castell Sr, Father-in-law to JIW Steven Janes, Grandfather to Apprentice Inside Wireman Johnathan Janes; James Herod, Pension member, 43 year IBEW membership; Michael Lassaline, Pension member, 25 year IBEW membership; David Marcoux, Pension member, 58 year IBEW membership; Eugene McGinnity, Pension member, 73 year IBEW membership; Quintus Stulz, Pension member, 66 year IBEW membership; Donald Sutton Jr., Journeyman Inside Wireman; John Witoszynski, Pension member, 50 year IBEW membership. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

AFL-CIO affiliated Local Union families and friends are welcome to join us for the 13th Annual IBEW Local 58 Benevolent Fund Detroit River Walleye Tournament SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Rain or Shine) Outside Event 50% of Entry Fees to Benevolent Fund \$25 Per Person / 4 People to a Boat 3 PRIZES AWARDED INCLUDING BIG FISH CONTEST FISH FRY FOLLOWING WEIGH-IN @ UNION HALL AT 3:30 PM Entry Form & Rules are available at Local 58 or on our website at: www.ibewlocal58.org ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY WED, MAY 4th, 2022 Make checks payable to: Local 58 Benevolent Fund Mail or Bring to: 1358 Abbott St., Detroit, MI 48226 Attn: Michael Bellhorn For further information call 313.963.2130



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Outdoors



Volunteers step up to the plate

By Ada Takacs
DNR Forest Resources
Division Volunteer Coordinator
 Many Michiganders believe spring officially arrives once the robins or red-winged blackbirds return, or the sap flows and buck-ets show up on maple trees.

Few folks ever think about the other creatures who come out of their winter slumber long before the trilliums begin to bloom, and morels make an appearance.

The creatures I'm talking about are volunteers.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has close to 1,400 employees year-round and hires an additional 1,600 seasonally. These employees work hard to conserve and protect Michigan's natural and cultural resources for not only today's enjoyment, but for future generations.

Most recreationists are unaware of the 5,000-plus volunteers who work in tandem every year with these DNR employees protecting our resources. Volunteers are unpaid and driven by their connection to the natural environment. They are some of Michigan's most dedicated members of the "work force."

Shining stars. For example, who brings snowshoes to a river cleanup? Now nearing retirement, I have worked for a long time as the volunteer coordinator for DNR's Forest Resources Division. Twenty years ago, I was flipping through project photos when I saw something that surprised me.

A volunteer named Jim Heffner from Grand Traverse County had donned snowshoes to walk across a mucky portion of the river to clean up cans and scattered debris.

That was the day I realized the power and perseverance of our volunteers. DNR volunteers are innovative. Jim had the foresight to bring snowshoes on a kayak trip because he had to pass up beer cans that were in deep muck during the prior year's cleanup.

He and many others were volunteering with the award-win-



A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS transport flood debris gathered from the Boardman River during one of the volunteer garbage cleanups.

Norm Fred photo

ning Boardman River Clean Sweep group led by Norm Fred. Almost anyone in the Grand Traverse Region is familiar with Norm's work, including his thousands of hours floating and cleaning the rivers, as well as running a program that pays homeless people to help remove trash illegally dumped on public lands.

Fred has volunteered for DNR programs for more than two decades.

When asked why he started to volunteer, his response was not surprising.

"When fishing on the Boardman one day, I thought I reached the end, but I found my beginning," he said.

Individuals and groups from every walk of life – from Cub Scouts to motorsport and hunt clubs – have heartfelt connections to the land and show their dedication by giving back.

They build, install and maintain bird nesting platforms, clear brush from trails and plant trees. They collect native seeds for planting and work hard to help eradicate invasive species.

These volunteers not only obligate themselves, but drag

along their entire boot-wearing, glove-donning sets of friends and family members with pickup trucks and trailers.

The Lansing Motorcycle Club is just one example. Even though most members live in Ingham County with club grounds in Missaukee County, they work on multiple projects across the state every year.

The club's Hunt family and their friends have planted flowers and trees, torn down buildings, pulled invasive plant species, maintained trails, stabilized streambanks and literally removed tons of trash from public land.

Educators and watchdogs. DNR volunteers are not just boots-on-the-ground, but also an army of educators and eyes in the field. Volunteer recreational safety instructors teach our children how to operate boats and snowmobiles, as well as how to hunt safely. Year after year these volunteers play an integral role in passing down land and conservation ethics to future generations.

Volunteers are committed for every season.

While some work during the

winter months to keep the trails groomed for skiing and snowmobiling, the activity really picks up once the snow clears.

Volunteer activities continue in the spring with volunteers who move through the woods listen-

ing for the songs of male Kirtland's warblers defending their nesting territories. These bird counts, done every five years, help monitor the successful recovery of one of Michigan's most iconic wildlife species.

Other volunteers sit near ponds to track frog and toad populations as they emerge after winter's snows retreat. Come summer, volunteers are out protecting piping plover nests and educating visitors about these once near-extinct birds. Autumn brings the popular harvest festivals at state parks, which would not happen without our high-energy volunteers.

State park and rustic state forest campground volunteer hosts dedicate a minimum of four weeks a year to live on-site at DNR campgrounds. In exchange for a spot at the campsite, they greet customers, conduct light maintenance, host coffee hours and children's activities and help direct traffic during busy weekends.

When filling out park surveys, it is not uncommon for park visitors to write about wanting to return and spend time with these annual volunteers. Harbors and lighthouses also have host programs.

Not surprisingly, these dedicated DNR volunteers become friends with land managers and work side by side to care for the land and water.

Volunteers are most effective at enlisting others and correcting

misconceptions about why laws are in place. DNR volunteer coordinators often wake up to an email or voicemail about trees that have blown over a trail or a new trash site that has popped up in the forest. It seems that volunteers never sleep.

Even further. Often volunteer groups take the extra step to fund and initiate improvements to public lands. Michigan's off-road vehicle, snowmobile and nonmotorized trails programs are comprised of over 100 grant sponsor, nonprofit organizations and friends groups that volunteer their time clearing, grading, grooming, mowing, writing grants and managing construction projects approved by the DNR.

Many friends groups raise and commit funds for construction projects.

Friends of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail have raised hundreds of thousands over the years for trail surfacing projects and to fund maintenance operations on the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail. The Friends of the Betsie Valley Trails also have raised thousands of dollars to fund conceptual design of trail paving and extensions into the Village of Elberta. Club members also maintain the Betsie Valley Trail.

The Friends of the Porkies at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park raised \$40,000 to finance the purchase of equipment for important emergency rescue operations at Michigan's largest state park, located in Ontonagon and Gogebic counties.

The next time you are recreating in the forest, visiting a state park, boating or fishing, take the time to look around and consider the impact volunteers have had on your experience.

Michelle O'Kelly, volunteer coordinator for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, said she realizes that increased gas prices this year will put an additional burden on our volunteers.

History shows that most are so committed that they will find a way to continue the work.

"If all of us would take the time to do something within a 5-mile radius of where we live and work, we can accomplish great things," she said.

Want to become part of the team? Check out volunteer opportunities at Michigan.gov/DNR Volunteers



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan United Conservation Corps plant trees to improve habitat in Marquette County.

MDNR photo

\$1.8 Million Goldberg, Persky and White Verdict Considered **Largest** in History of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.

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Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

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