

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council



VOL. 72, NO. 18

Since 1952 •

Serving the highly skilled men and women in Michigan's building trades

65 Cents

September 8, 2023

## SHORT CUTS

### Largest hydrogen storage plant coming

LANSING – The largest hydrogen storage manufacturing plant in North America is coming to our state, the Michigan Economic Development Corp. announced Aug. 22.

Plastic Omnium New Energies is expected to sponsor the makeover of an existing property in the Grand Blanc Enterprise Park, which is expected to generate a total capital investment of \$171.2 million and create 175 jobs in Grand Blanc Twp. The Michigan Strategic Fund Board approved a \$5 million grant for the project.

The company will lease the facility, where it plans to begin designing, developing and producing hydrogen storage systems for medium- and heavy-duty zero emissions mobility. At a second, yet-to-be-determined location in Michigan, the company will establish what the MEDC calls “a state-of-the-art testing and validation lab to support key aspects of the product's safety systems.”

“Once operational,” said *Energy News*, “this plant could produce hydrogen storage systems for medium and heavy-duty, zero-emission vehicles. This is a crucial step in advancing the adoption of hydrogen-powered transportation and addressing emissions in the automotive sector. Hydrogen's potential as a clean energy source is receiving increasing attention. From powering vehicles to offering sustainable alternatives in industrial processes, hydrogen presents a versatile solution to reduce carbon emissions.”

Plastic Omnium already employs about 1,000 Michigan residents at its facilities in Adrian, Huron and metro Detroit.

Automotive giants like Toyota and General Motors are heavily invested in hydrogen technologies like fuel cells for portable power.

Construction is slated to begin later this year or in 2024 and the facility should be fully operational by 2027.

### State's top execs bullish on future

Michigan's top executives have an improved outlook about the state of the state's economy, but continued concerns over the availability and quality of the state's talent pool remain. That's according to Business Leaders for Michigan's most recent quarterly economic outlook survey.

The CEO survey results, released Aug. 23, were based on a questionnaire conducted July 10-28. It found that 74 percent of respondents expect Michigan's economy to improve or remain the same over the next six to 12 months – a 20-point increase from the second quarter survey.

Additionally, 87 percent expect their capital investments to stay the same or increase, compared to 78 percent from last quarter. While nearly 60 percent say they do not expect an economic recession in the next six to 12 months, 40 percent still believe there is a risk.

“Talent recruitment” continues to be a significant challenge for Michigan's top employers. Eighty percent of respondents say their employment will be the same or higher, and 68 percent are having trouble filling positions.

### Quotable

“Solidarity is not a matter of sentiment but a fact, cold and impassive as the granite foundations of a skyscraper. If the basic elements, identity of interest, clarity of vision, honesty of intent, and oneness of purpose, or any of these is lacking, all sentimental pleas for solidarity, and all other efforts to achieve it will be barren of results.”

—Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926) founding member of the Industrial Workers of the World



MEMBERS OF IBEW Local 58 walk behind their banner on Labor Day in Detroit. Local 58 officers were instrumental in organizing the return of the parade after a three-year hiatus.

## Celebrating Labor Day 2023

‘Free to live life to the fullest’  
BUILDING TRADES workers, families, friends and well-wishers joined the rest of the Michigan labor movement, celebrating the American worker on Labor Day weekend with parades, picnics and camaraderie. Celebrations were held in parks and union hall parking lots, as well as on the streets of Detroit, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Monroe, Muskegon and Negaunee. Hopefully, union members took some time to reflect on the historic importance of organized labor. “I do not value the labor movement only for its ability to give higher wages, better clothes, and better homes,” said American Federation of Labor founder Samuel Gompers (1850-1924). “Its ultimate goal is to be found in the progressively evolving life possibilities in the life of each man and woman. My inspiration comes in opening opportunities that all alike may be free to live life to the fullest.”



PLUMBERS AND PIPE FITTERS Local 671 members move out on their way to the Monroe parade held on Labor Day weekend.



PLUMBERS & PIPE FITTERS Local 174 members parade in Muskegon, at left, while at right, IBEW Local 906 members were on the march in Negaunee on Labor Day 2023.



## Bill targets child labor abusers with stiffer penalties

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – With illegal child labor quietly becoming more prevalent in U.S. workplaces, new legislation was introduced in the Michigan House last month to bolster the ability of the state to crack down on the practice.

Legislation by State Rep. Phil Skaggs (D-East Grand Rapids) came in the form of House Bill 4932 on Aug. 23, which would increase penalties against unethical employers who exploit the labor of young people.

“As Michigan children head

back to school, it is important that we do all we can to put them in the best position to succeed,” Skaggs said. “While having a job at a young age can teach important, lifelong skills and help support families, companies that break the law and exploit our kids for higher profits should be held accountable. Learning about the tragic stories of these young people not only breaks our hearts but spurs us to protect them. Unlike states such as Iowa and Arkansas that are rolling back their child labor protections, we in Michigan are going to show that we value

our young people and will protect them against exploitation.”

Skaggs said the legislation was introduced in response to a recent *New York Times* article detailing the widespread, illegal use of child labor in West Michigan and throughout the country. The exposé uncovered several instances of children being subjected to exploitation and unsafe working conditions in Skaggs' district. The child laborers were often forced to miss classes or drop out of school altogether.

HB 4932 would increase financial penalties against the bad

actors five to 10 times more than current fines, which are generally a \$500 fine for the first and all subsequent violations. State fines have not been updated since 1981.

Under the bill, first offenses would be punishable by up to \$5,000, second offenses up to \$25,000 and subsequent offenses up to \$50,000. Violations after the first offense would increase from misdemeanors to felonies.

Finally, the bill, mirroring federal law, provides for specific enhanced penalties on employers who violate the law if the

(Continued on Page 2)

## DOL proposes more generous OT pay rules

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With new, stronger prevailing wage rules in place for federally funded construction, the U.S. Department of Labor has now signaled its intent to raise wages for workers in other employment sectors.

On Aug 30 the DOL issued a “notice of proposed rulemaking” to raise the salary overtime threshold. Under the proposed rule, salaried workers making less than \$1,059 per week – or \$55,068 per year for a full-time, full-year worker – would become automatically eligible for over-

### Expansion of overtime eligibility would hike pay for 3.6 million workers

time pay when they work more than 40 hours in a week, even if they are a manager, supervisor, or highly credentialed professional.

The new regulations would provide new overtime protections to 3.6 million workers, and it is projected to increase the wages of working people by \$1.3 billion annually.

The president of the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute, Heidi Shierholz, said the

EPI “is encouraged to see this important regulation move forward. The overtime threshold has not been properly updated for nearly 50 years, robbing millions of workers of their basic wage and hour rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

“Currently, a worker making just \$36,000 a year can be required to work 50- or 60-hour work weeks with no additional (overtime) pay. This proposal

would ensure that employers have ‘skin in the game’ when they ask these workers to work long hours.

“As a result, these workers will either get those extra hours back or they will get higher wages when they do work long hours – whether through salary increases or by earning time-and-a-half overtime pay.”

The overtime pay regulations may sound familiar. For decades only workers making up to \$23,660 per year were eligible for automatic overtime pay after a

(Continued on Page 13)

## Whitmer hails UP Building Trades summer grads

NEGAUNEE TWP. – Six weeks of summer “camp” sponsored by the Upper Peninsula Construction Council culminated with a graduation ceremony for 28 Marquette area high school students on Aug. 17, and some words of encouragement from visiting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

“One of the things that we know is that an opportunity anywhere in the state you can find if you get into the trades,” Whitmer told the grads. “You can get the skills you need and get paid while getting those skills. You have

health care.

“You have retirement – all of the things that so many people are hoping for and praying for in other lines of work are incumbent and inherent in the grade, and that's why making sure young people, and older people, know that there is a path to prosperity and dignity in work through the trades.”

The students took part in an experience that gave them hands-on experience in a variety of crafts – bricklaying, electrical,

(Continued on Page 2)



“THIS IS A REALLY SPECIAL PROGRAM that is new, that is growing and is changing lives,” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer told graduates of the Upper Peninsula building trades summer camp program.

## ‘Home run for workers’ NLRB upends years of precedent to bolster organizing

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With little fanfare and scant attention in the greater media, the National Labor Relations Board issued a new ruling on Aug. 25 that, as it stands, could bring a seismic shift to union organizing.

The Teamsters union, plaintiffs in the case, called it a “landmark” victory for the entire labor movement. *American Prospect's* labor writer Harold Meyerson said the nation's “hot labor summer just became a scorcher.” Their headline: “Biden's NLRB brings workers' rights back from the dead.” The management attorney group Seyfarth said the ruling “will now present a minefield for employers.”

So what did the NLRB do? Under a Biden-appointed worker-friendly majority, the National Labor Relations Board issued

### Teamsters case tells employers: quit antagonizing unionization efforts

a party-line decision in the *Cemex Construction Materials Pacific, LLC*, case that basically moves aside decades of employer-friendly NLRB precedent, and streamlines the process of union organizing, tilting the table in favor of labor unions.

The NLRB “ruled that when a majority of a company's employees file union affiliation cards, the employer can either voluntarily recognize their union or, if not, ask the board to run a union recognition election,” wrote Meyerson. “If, in the run-up to or during that election, the employer commits an unfair labor

(Continued on Page 3)

## Workers win, low-road contractors lose under new prevailing wage rules

(From the IBEW)

The most sweeping updates to federal prevailing wage law in 40 years are now on the books, meaning more money in the pockets of IBEW members and other construction workers on federal projects.

IBEW leaders applauded the improvements to the badly eroded 1931 Davis-Bacon Act, which the Department of labor finalized in August after 16 months of regulatory review.

“For the past 40 years, a single low-wage contractor could depress wage rates on federal contracts,” IBEW President Kenneth W. Cooper said, pointing to assaults on the law in the 1980s that weakened its power to ensure that federally funded projects support good-paying jobs for local workers.

“The final rule reverses the Reagan-era changes,” he said. “It will allow construction workers to gain ground they lost, increasing the wages of millions and preventing low-road contractors from undercutting the workforce.”

The updates apply to tens of billions of dollars in federal and federally assisted construction spending each year, projects that are multiplying under President Joe Biden due to the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the \$550 billion Inflation Reduction Act, and the \$280 billion CHIPS and Science Act.

“Modernizing the Davis-Bacon and related acts is key to making sure that the jobs being created under the Biden-Harris administration's Investing in America agenda are good jobs, and that workers get the fair wages and benefits they deserve on federally funded construction projects across the nation,” said acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su. “This updated rule will create pathways to the middle class for more families and help level the playing field for high-road employers. Companies that exploit their workers, or don't pay workers fairly, should never have a competitive advantage.”

Elements of the revitalized law include:

•New efficiencies to help ensure that prevailing wage rates keep up with actual wages.

•Returning to the definition of “prevailing wage” used from 1935 to 1983.

(Continued on Page 13)

# Viewpoints



## Skilled trades, better lives

The signs of a robust summer construction season can be seen across Michigan. Orange barrels dot our freeways, cranes reach into the sky, and every morning thousands of men and women wake up early to put in an honest day's work.

The problem? There just aren't enough of us. The construction industry is facing an unprecedented labor shortage – reporting some 650,000 job openings nationwide – despite record numbers working.

The skilled trades gap isn't new – it can be traced back more than two decades and attributed to accelerating retirements typical of an aging workforce and cultural forces that steer young people away from construction work. Today, though, new levels of investment driven by the CHIPS Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, and private development have exacerbated the shortfall.

There are two excellent reasons why, as someone not working in construction, you should care.

First, the construction labor shortage is responsible for significant delays in the completion of projects. Delays might impact your commute or create noise and other disruptions outside of your home or place of business over longer periods of time. Delays, more than any other factor, also drive up the cost of construction, in turn leading to higher rents and reducing how far public infrastructure investments can go. If we are going to maximize the opportunity of this moment and leverage historical spending to make a difference to Michigan's economy and its residents, we have to address the construction labor shortage.

That leads to the second reason you might want to pay attention to this issue: There has never been a better time to start a career in the unionized skilled trades. There is by some measure more than a decade's worth of already-committed work ahead of us, work that will touch every part of our state: the Gordie Howe Bridge and transformational private developments in Detroit; upgrading the Soo Locks; clean energy and electric vehicle infrastructure; hotels and housing supporting communities across the lower and upper peninsulas; and the freeways and bridges that connect our communities.

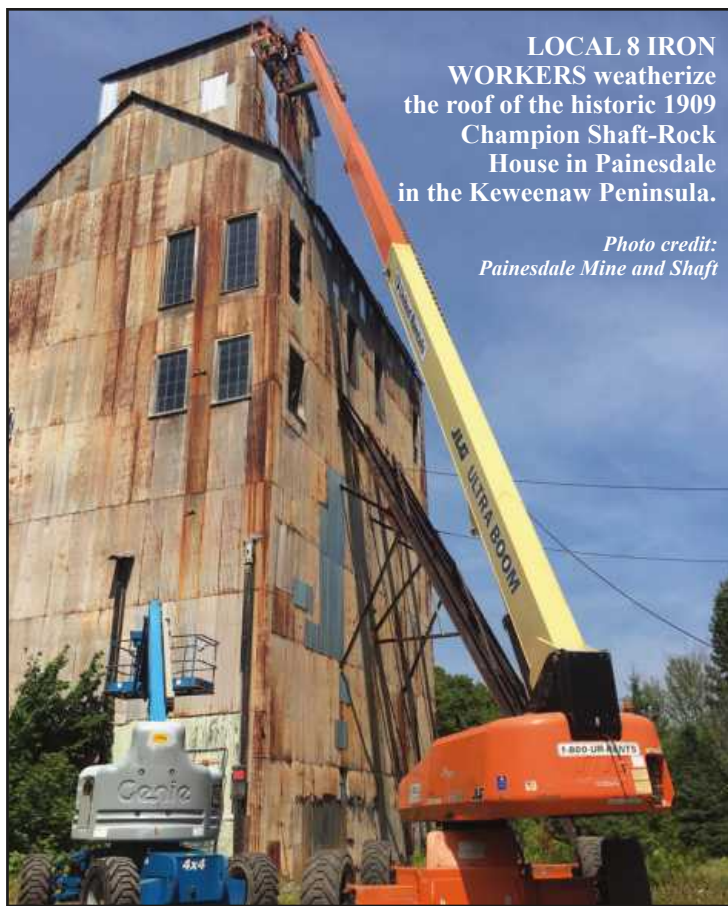
Joining the unionized skilled trades means the opportunity to leave your mark on the future of our built environment while earning the kinds of wages and benefits you can raise a family on – the kind you can retire on with dignity.

Carpentry, millwrighting, floor laying, operating heavy equipment, installing mechanical, electrical or plumbing systems, glazing, roofing, painting, or any one of more than a dozen other crafts, are unionized skilled trades that can provide careers that can't be offshored or replaced by AI. These are also careers with high levels of self-reported happiness and meaning combined with lower levels of stress. If you're interested, the place to start is in a high-quality registered apprenticeship program that is jointly sponsored by a union and employers in order to provide paid, debt-free skills training.

Our apprentices come from all walks of life. They are high school graduates and kinesthetic learners who don't like the idea of sitting behind a desk all day and who discover the trades early. They are men, women, and people of every color, creed and political persuasion who find common cause through their work.

And as long as you are willing to put in the work, they are waiting to welcome you.

**Tom Lutz**  
 President, Michigan Regional Council  
 of Carpenters and Millwrights  
 (From the *Detroit News Labor Voices*, Aug. 22, 2023)



**LOCAL 8 IRON WORKERS** weatherize the roof of the historic 1909 Champion Shaft-Rock House in Painesdale in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Photo credit: Painesdale Mine and Shaft

## Iron workers rock the house

To the Editor,

My son, a member of Iron Workers Local 8, shared the Aug. 11 edition of *The Building Tradesman*. ("History in the Making: the Champion Shaft-Rock House"). I am one of the founding members of Painesdale Mine & Shaft Inc., formed to save Champion Shaft-Rock House No. 4 from the scrap pile.

The *Tradesman* featured a very nice article on the Champion No. 4 Shaft Rock House. I want to point out that Local 8 Ironworkers played a big part in the saving of the shaft house. Ironworkers replaced the metal sheets missing from neglect and weather. The company at the time, Mattila Construction, generously donated some of the labor and material costs to help save No. 4.

Ironworkers worked on the shaft house two different summers replacing sheets to help weatherize and enclose. I remember heading out the door to work one morning and saw some ironworkers on the very top of the shaft house! I called in late to work so I could watch these "aerialists" perform their job!

The Shaft-Rock House stands tall and ready for tours, thanks in part to hardworking building tradesmen saving a piece of history.

*Debbie Pindral, Painesdale, MI*

## Bill targets child labor abusers with stiffer penalties

(Continued from Page 1)

misconduct results in death or great bodily harm. Additionally, minors would not be able to work between the hours of 12-5 a.m. State law currently forbids minors from working between 2-5:30 a.m.

Michigan's current law prohibits minors from "work in any occupation determined to be hazardous," and includes construction, industries with power equipment and food delivery, among others. Workers under 18 must be given a 30-minute break after five hours of work.

Current state law also has limits on the start and end times for minors, limiting 16- and 17-year-olds to 24 hours per week when school is in session and 48 hours per week when school is not in session.

In early August, an Ionia meat processor who pleaded guilty to employing a minor in a dangerous profession received a fine of \$1,143 after a 17-year-old lost a hand in a meat grinder. If Skaggs' proposed penalties were in place, the meat processor could have received a prison sentence of up to five years.

The *New York Times* report documented the abuse of more than 100 unaccompanied migrant children, mostly from Central America, working in grueling and often dangerous working conditions in the U.S. They were employed using heavy machinery and were subjected to long hours and late-night shifts at facilities that manufacture products for major brands and retailers.

"The increase in child labor violations has been going on for more than a decade and is attributable in large measure to the decrease in federal and state labor department funding for enforcement and to the notion that child labor is a thing of the past," said Jeffrey F. Newman, past president and executive director of the nonprofit National Child Labor Committee. "Until that changes, the situation will not change, and millions of children will be vulnerable to exploitation and workplace abuse. That is a sad and real 21st-Century problem that brings us back more than 100 years to the days when factories and workplaces were filled with children. We must act quickly to prevent this situation from expanding. Time is of the essence and children are at risk; public attention and political action are essential."

## Whitmer hails grads

(Continued from Page 1)

welding, painting and iron work, among others. The students earned while they learned, pocketing \$12 an hour while working four hours a day. Then they received a \$200 completion bonus.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Union Carpenters & Millwrights Training Center. The State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity identified the Building Trades Summer Camp as a "best practice" in the state, giving the youths a leg up on sampling various careers in the trades.



**The Building Tradesman**  
 is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
 Patrick Devlin  
 Secretary-Treasurer

ISSN-007-3717

Steve Claywell  
 President



Visit our website: [www.michiganbuildingtrades.org](http://www.michiganbuildingtrades.org)

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

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Editor/Photographer</b><br/>                 Marty Mulcahy<br/>                 E-mail: <a href="mailto:buildingtradesman@ameritech.net">buildingtradesman@ameritech.net</a></p> | <p><b>Advertising Director</b><br/>                 Joe Hoshaw<br/>                 E-mail: <a href="mailto:btads@ameritech.net">btads@ameritech.net</a><br/>                 (734) 558-6955</p> | <p>Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop</p> <p><i>Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.</i></p> |
|--|--|--|

Subscription Rate \$15 annually (group rate for unions)

CALL THE LAW OFFICES OF

# SERLING & ABRAMSON P.C.

## MESOTHELIOMA • LUNG CANCER

- Represented over 5,000 Michigan Plaintiffs in most all building trades
- Represented auto, chemical, utility and steel plant workers
- Over 200 years of combined experience
- We know the asbestos products that were used in Michigan and where exposures occurred

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

-Widow of Chrysler Engineer

**Insulators • Pipefitters • Bricklayers • Plumbers • Boilermakers**  
**Electricians • Utility Workers • Steel and Auto Workers • HVAC Workers • Other Trades**



Hundreds of millions of dollars collected for Mesothelioma & Lung cancer

Receive our FREE Michigan Guide Book on Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer

Can qualify for Lung Cancer case even if you smoked

[www.serlinglawpc.com](http://www.serlinglawpc.com)

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

**(248) 647-6966**  
**(800) 995-6991**



Offices in Birmingham and Allen Park



# BUILDING MICHIGAN: Holland's De Zwaan Windmill HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

Michigan has more than 1,600 wind turbines around the state, producing about 3,500 megawatts – about 11 percent of the state's net electrical generation. That's nice – but not a single one of them can grind grain into flour.

Ahh, but our state does have a windmill that's a forerunner of those turbines. And it's a unicorn among the 50 states: the De Zwaan windmill in Holland is the nation's only authentic, working Dutch windmill, and it's open to the public and continues to grind flour that's purported to be an ideal ingredient for making cookies and cakes.

Now an icon, and the focus of attention at Windmill Island Gardens in Holland, the structure is 125 feet tall from the ground to the tip of its blades. De Zwaan – or “The Swan” – dates to 1833, was originally built in Dordrecht, Holland, as a sawmill from equipment from two grain mills.

“In the United States you can see... ‘The Swan’ a four-bladed wooden windmill as tall as a 12-story building that now stands on Windmill Island, in the western Michigan town of Holland, overlooking grassy fields and the obligatory ye olde Dutch village,” writes Scott Huler in *Defining the Wind*. “De Zwaan, though, is completely authentic, the only working Dutch windmill in the United States. ...When it came to Michigan in 1964, it was the last ever to leave the Netherlands. In 1858 there were about 9,000 windmills in the Netherlands, by 1950, as a result of electrification, war, and a cultural blind spot, only about 900 remained. People noticed, and after De Zwaan left they slammed the door.”

The campaign to import a windmill from the Netherlands was undertaken by locals Willard Wichers and Carter Brown, who sought a way to pay homage to the Michigan city's Dutch heritage. Damaged during World War II – German bullet holes are still visible – and without a local patron to get the deteriorating works working again, the De-Zwaan windmill proved to be a good candidate for export. The Dutch government sold it to the Michigan group for \$2,800.

As part of the sale, Dutch officials required Dutch millwright Jan D. Medendorp to supervise its relocation from Vinkel, and then its restoration in Michigan.

“The dismantling of De Zwaan mill in the Netherlands began in June 1964,” says the Michigan DNR. “Its approximately 7,000 pieces, weighing 66 tons, were brought to the United States by the Dutch steamship *Prins Willem van Oranje*. It arrived at Muskegon on Oct. 5, 1964. The pieces were moved by truck to this site, where the city had levelled the ground, removed brush and created canals. Over the next six months, Medendorp supervised the mill's reconstruction, including its placement onto a new brick base. He restored its gears to working order, allowing it to mill local grain into flour. Jaap R. de Bleocourt, former head gardener at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel, planned the island's gardens. DeZwaan was dedicated on April 10, 1965.”

One proviso for the sale of the windmill was that Holland had to agree to keep DeZwaan open to the public and continue to use it for grinding flour.

The mechanical works inside the windmill are intricate and remarkable, but the Dutch had some time to perfect them – the first windmills began dot-



**THE ONLY WORKING Dutch windmill in the United States can be found in Holland. Not only is the De Zwaan windmill a unique part of the landscape, inside it's a mechanical marvel that utilizes wind power, heavy grindstones and intricate gears to move in synchronicity to make grain.** (Photo credit: Wikipedia Commons)

**THE DE ZWAAN WINDMILL** was deconstructed in the Netherlands and then reconstructed in Holland, Mich., in 1965.

(Photo credit: Holland Museum)



ting their landscape in the 13th Century.

According to *Uniquely Michigan* by Nichole Thieda, the De Zwaan windmill still has 80 percent of its original parts. The windmill stands six stories tall and weighs about 70 tons. Its blades are 40 feet long and weigh 3 tons each. The exterior has thick brick walls that slope at the bottom to move water away. The two sets of double doors on the ground floor allowed farmers to drive their horse and wagon full of bagged wheat right into the mill.

Alisa Crawford, who wrote a book about the windmill – *De Zwaan* – is a Dutch-certified grain miller in Holland who worked for three years to make sure the windmill was recognized by the state and federal governments as an historic landmark. The windmill earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017.

*Defining the Wind* offered some revealing nuts and bolts information about the windmill, gleaned from Crawford. She said an ideal wind for milling operations is 20 mph. A wind of 15 mph doesn't provide enough power to move the one-ton millstones, and more than 25 mph makes it harder to control the blades and stop them. “The analogy is a car,” she said. “You don't want to get going too fast and have to slam the brakes.”

Braking too fast can cause whiplash and broken pieces. Brake too slowly, and the friction of the wooden brake can burn off the beeswax lubrication and set the brake afire. Wooden gears are of different types of wood in order to limit wear.

She said only 25 percent of working a windmill has to do with actual milling: “I spend 75 percent of my time watching the weather.”

The book pointed out the mill's “ingenious governor” that's “used to control the speed and the separation of the two sets of millstones. Metal balls about the size of those used in shot-put depend from levers on a wheel: if the wheel goes faster, the miller can allow the increased force to push the balls out, slowing the rotation. The governor underscores the windmill's status as a miraculous machine, and reminds you that it's more like a ship – and it looks the same, too. It has the same wooden construction, the same dependence on the wind and on the power of people to be ready for the wind.”

Today, visitors can see and tour the De Zwaan windmill on Windmill Island, which is just outside of downtown Holland. The can walk through gardens, tour the shops, and maybe purchase some of the flour that was grist at the old windmill, the same way it was done 1,000 years ago.



**GIANT WOODEN GEARS** move millstones that are located on the fifth floor of the De Zwaan windmill. The stones are still used to grind farmers' grain into flour. The windmill is made up of some 7,000 pieces, and can grind an average of 250 lbs. of flour per hour. (Photo credit: WOOD TV)

# NLRB upends decades of precedent, bolsters organizing

(Continued from Page 1)

practice, such as illegally firing pro-union workers (which has become routine in nearly every such election over the past 40 years, as the penalties have been negligible), the board will order the employer to recognize the union and enter forthwith into bargaining.”

The leading issue in the ruling is the NLRB's setting aside of an employer's ability to delay organizing proceedings. In a related move the day before the ruling, the NLRB announced a pro-labor regulation, one that ends employers' use of frivolous procedural hurdles that lead to delay in holding union elections.

The decision, said the Teamsters, allows the NLRB to be brought in where the employer's actions impede a union's ability to hold a fair election, and means that the board will now issue bargaining orders in lieu of re-running elections as a remedy for unlawful union-busting when the union already established majority support.

“The way Cemex conducted itself when its workers sought to organize five years ago was on par with the way elections are undertaken in a tin-pot dictatorship,” said Teamsters International Vice President At-Large Chris Griswold. “This company fired union supporters, intimidated them, harassed them, and broke nearly every other rule under the sun. If any good came out of this company's scorched-earth tuggery, it's that now employers will think twice before they break the law to break the union.”

Taken together, Meyerson wrote of the back-to-back NLRB rulings: “this one-two punch effectively makes union organizing possible again, after decades in which unpunished employer illegality was the most decisive factor in reducing the nation's rate of private-sector unionization from roughly 35 percent to the bare 6 percent at which it stands today.”

The NLRB's ruling orders Cemex, a Mexican-based a global construction materials company,

to bargain with the Teamsters, who sought to organize 350 ready-mix drivers and trainers at 24 facilities. More broadly, the ruling requires that all employers will now be required to bargain with a union if, during an election for representation, the employer commits labor law violations egregious enough to compromise the legitimacy of the results.

The NLRB's majority ruling said “the new standard will promote a fair election environment by more effectively disincentivizing employers from committing unfair labor practices.”

Workers have been allowed, and even encouraged, to unionize by way of passage in 1935 of the National Labor Relations Act, but a subsequent law adopted by Congress, and rulings by the Supreme Court and the NLRB, have significantly weakened the act. The 1947 Taft-Hartley Act, adopted over a veto by President Harry Truman, significantly reduced the ability of unions to strike and take part in secondary boycotts.

Then came an oddball Supreme Court case and decision in 1969, when an associate counsel for the NLRB delivered oral arguments before the high court in the *National Labor Relations Board v. Gissel Packing Co.* case.

At issue was the NLRB's long-standing policy wrought by the *Joy Silk* case, of recognizing newly created labor unions, a process wherein workers formed a union through the simpler use of workers' signed authorization cards, or “card check,” rather than through a full NLRB-supervised election. If the employer refused to recognize the union without a “good-faith doubt,” the NLRB would compel them to the bargaining table.

That changed when the NLRB attorney, for reasons still unknown, argued the opposite, that the NLRB would not then compel bargaining by employers. The Supreme Court went along with that argument, and the chilling effect on organizing was immediate and

lasting. “In 1969, a rogue attorney for the National Labor Relations Board undermined a critical piece of labor law,” said a report last year in *Politico*. “Fifty years later, the Biden administration is trying to reverse the damage caused by that decision.”

Charges of employer intimidation rose in the 12 years after *Gissel* became the anti-union standard in that 1969 Supreme Court case, and then collective bargaining inexorably declined in concert with the influence of labor unions after President Reagan fired the striking air traffic controllers in 1981.

Biden's pick for NLRB general counsel, Jennifer Abruzzo, sent a memo last year to NLRB attorneys, suggested they look for cases that could be heard based on the original worker-friendly *Joy Silk* standard – effectively picking a fight to look for a way to bring that standard back. Mission accomplished: although this case or its ilk will likely find its way to a final judgement before a court, and eventually a conservative 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court may indeed find the *Joy Silk* case – which itself had 20 years of institutional precedent – as the guiding case for the NLRB.

But for now, unions have gained the upper hand in initial unionization efforts. “Many unions have updated their organizing playbooks,” wrote three attorney partners at the Seyfarth law firm, “and are already sending employers a letter demanding card check recognition prior to filing a petition for election with the NLRB. This is sure to become standard practice following *Cemex*.”

Said Brian Petruska, an attorney for the Laborers Union, to *American Prospect*: “This is a sea change, a home run for workers.” He said the NLRB decisions recreate “a system with no tolerance for employers' coercion of their employees” when their employees seek their legal right to collective bargaining.

The world's richest man is dying. He has made peace with that.



But he is bothered that no one in the after-life will know that he has amassed such a colossal personal fortune. On Earth, everyone knows he's a self-made man who built a huge fortune from scratch, but he can't take it with him. Not that he could spend it, of course, but just to SHOW everyone what a great success the poor boy had become.

He broods over this so much that his guardian angel is worried. One night the angel flies to heaven to consult with St. Peter. Peter tells him, “you know earthly wealth has no place here.”

The angel replies, “of course, but he's been such a good man. He was selfless on so many counts, he did so much for charity, he ran his business humanely. He's only human, he can't help having this little quirk. Is there something we can do to help ease his mind in his dying days?”

## Just joking

Peter looks him up in the Book of Life and agrees the man has led a good life. He tells the guardian angel, “Find a discreet way to tell him that I will allow him to bring one suitcase – only one, mind you! And he can fill it with whatever wealth he chooses. At the moment of his death his suitcase and its contents will be brought to heaven with him.”

The angel goes down and delivers the message to the dying rich man.

The guy is happy, but what should he bring? Cash couldn't be spent, jewels could be faked, stocks would be worthless. It finally it dawns on him: gold! Gold

has been valued throughout history and never got out of fashion.

He sends out for the biggest suitcase he can find, fills it with gold bars, and sets it beside his deathbed. Now he can die in peace, and he does shortly after.

True to the promise he arrives at the Pearly Gates, suitcase in hand. St. Peter greets him warmly and says, “All right. Let's see what was so important to you that eternal life and bliss wasn't enough.”

The man proudly opens the suitcase, stuffed with row after row of little gold bars.

St. Peter stares at it, puzzled, and sighs in utter disbelief: “But... why did you bring pavement?”

## Law Offices of Ezra N. Goldman P.C.

“Proudly representing union members since 1993”



Misdemeanors • Felonies • DUI

Drug possession • Domestic disputes

All matters handled in the strictest confidence

248-353-2343 • www.ezragoldman.com

24725 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 110, Southfield, MI 48034

# BRICKLAYERS WANTED

## \$37.04 HR \$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS

PLUS HEALTH & PENSION

BRICKLAYERS.ORG

## Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 members:

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

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

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

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

For more information go to: [bricklayers.org](http://bricklayers.org)





## Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – The September meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023 and will be held at the Local 333 Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

Over 400 members and guests have signed to enjoy the Local 333 Picnic With A Twist that is going to be held at High Caliber in Okemos, MI on September 17, 2023 with doors opening at 11:30 am and ending at 4:00 pm. The event is 100% indoors in a climate controlled environment.

A Diversity Committee meeting will be held October 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways of creating diversity within Local 333 and is open to those who are interested.

**NOTICE:** Fall welding classes in Jackson and Lansing are both full. Battle Creek can still accept a couple of members wanting to learn to weld. Members wanting to sign up in Jackson or Lansing can call Tim Hicks 517-897-7250 and he will put their names on a list and notify them in case someone drops out.

### FALL SCHEDULE - WELD CLASSES

**LANSING.** Advanced - September 5, 2023 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 Beginning - September 6, 2023 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30

**JACKSON.** Advanced - September 5, 2023 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 Beginning - September 6, 2023 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30

**BATTLE CREEK.** Welding - September 7, 2023 - Monday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30 If interested please sign up at [www.ualocal333.org](http://www.ualocal333.org) - UA # and email address needed when signing up. Questions please call the Training Center 517-323-0333.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS:** Per the UA, as of January 2019 all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired, please contact Diana at (517) 323-0333. Even though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated.

**NOTE:** Members needing assistance with the Journeyman Plumbing Code test prep please contact Tim Hicks at the Training Center.

Condolences to the family of Jeff White, former Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 member and owner of Grindall & White Plumbing, who passed away August 14, 2023. Jeff was also the father of Local 333 member Brandon White. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time of extreme sorrow.

Heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family of Michael Mandoka, Local 333 Retiree who passed away August 10, 2023.

Condolences to the family and friends of Tim Fitzgerald, a Local 333 retiree who passed away August 31, 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of sorrow.

Battle Creek Retirees' Breakfasts are held the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Cafe, 2587 Capital Avenue, Battle Creek MI at 9:00 am. Please spread the word.

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. PLEASE NOTE: The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center.

*"Success is following the pattern of life one enjoys most."*  
- Al Capp (1909 - 1979)

*"The outcome of any serious research can only be to make two questions grow where only one grew before."*  
-Thorstein Veblen (1857 - 1929)



## Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT – **Membership of Plumbers Local 98,** Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to [UALOCAL98.COM](http://UALOCAL98.COM).

It's an honor to announce one of our own Jessie Cowell, has stepped up and is running for Mayor of Flat Rock. Please tell your friends and family that he is a Union Man and a Veteran of the USMC, and is a great bet over there. If you can help Jesse, catch him in off work hours on his cell, 734-674-4867 or email him at [Leatherneck.0351@yahoo.com](mailto:Leatherneck.0351@yahoo.com).

**Possible UAW strike or possible pickets:** I have been asked what is my position on possible job actions by the UAW. We work under a variety of local and national agreements. All these agreements are in force and contain provisions regarding crossing picket lines of other unions. Some of these agreements like the National Maintenance have language requiring us and other Building Trades Unions to cross and go to work. We intend to honor our agreements.

Of course, per OSHA, you are never required to work in a situation that you believe possesses a threat to your life or possible physical harm. We will continue to monitor the situation along with the Local's legal counsel and will provide more information when and if the situation arises based on facts at that time.

Our Contractor Association has reminded me that they will challenge any SUB requests during this strike (thanks for that shocking reminder). Bottom line: you're in a Union, with a contract coming up in 2025.

**Meetings & Union Hall.** The Union Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14th at 7:00 pm at the Union Hall.

The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday 5:30 pm and before all Union Meetings.

**Retiree Meetings.** The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, September 13th from 12 pm – 2 pm, at Local 98!

**2023 Awards night,** letters go out this week for members who are receiving years of service awards, we again are having it at the Venetian Club located at 29310 John R. The date is Oct. 19 starting at 5pm with cocktails and dinner starts at 6pm.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at [Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship](http://Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship).

It's time for renewal of your State of Mi. Plumbing License for Journeyman and apprentices, for detailed instructions visit [www.michigan.gov/bcc](http://www.michigan.gov/bcc)

The **LABOR DAY Parade** was back on this year. 130 years of supporting worker's rights and protecting Americas health. Great job by our Officers, Members & Families, please post any pictures you took on our FB page.

East-side road clean up: Brother Gary Glaser is requesting help on the next road side cleanup, Sept. 30 at 8am, please meet at the Roseville Bob Evans. Please leave a message at the hall or call his cell so we know how many can help.

**Expelled members: To stay on insurance when you retire you must keep up your dues, no way around that. I get it if you are out of the trade but a working member especially an apprentice during full employment worries me.**

**SUB Apps/Out of Work List.** SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App weather you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Gary Glaser at 313-580-0148 or Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702

**Benefits.** \*We now have a dedicated BeneSys employee at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. Her name is Brooke, the Local 98 Health Insurance Specialist. Brooke is receiving the calls coming into Local 98. In order for us to best track all issues please call the hall at (248) 307-9800 and select option #2 for Brooke. If Brooke is on the other

line, please leave her a message and she will get back to you promptly.

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo for Pension issues. If you are looking to retire, please set a meeting up with him. We recommend doing this at least 6 months before retirement.

**In Memoriam: Our deepest condolences to the families and friends of deceased members. Brother Lester J. Maher initiated 1-24-1963. He was a 60-year member. Gustav Schmidt initiated 4-9-1963. RIP Brother.**

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

**In solidarity I remain, Carlo Castiglione Business Manager Plumbers Local 98**

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS.** Phone # 248-585-1435  
Check out The Training Center's website [www.Plumbers98tc.org](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)  
The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, December 29th, 2023. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process.

The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2023.** All classes are register and prepay by credit card, check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class.

**Monthly Code Class** – Next class is PENDING at 4:30 pm. This is not a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. Please call Paul at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

**ASSE Backflow Tester Certification:** Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly. \$100

4 hour recert class October 24 & 25 Deadline is September 22

**OPEN WELDING** – Fall is getting closer. This is a great time to get into a booth and get some welding in! Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext. 146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

\*\*2023 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next Welding and Brazing sessions will be October 7th, 2023. \*\*You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

**2023 Course Hour reimbursement forms** are available at the Training Center. You must have 8 hours (approved hours credited may vary from actual hours attended) of verifiable approved classes/training from January 1 - December 31, 2023 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

**OSHA Training - OSHA 10,** available as an online class for \$59 at [www.careersafeonline.com](http://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](http://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.

**SPRINKLER FITTERS 704 DETROIT**



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, October 11, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Sprinkler Fitters Local 704's golf outing was held August 26<sup>th</sup>, a good time was had by all. We would like to thank all of our sponsors: William Crook Fire, UA Local 190, UA Local 370, Sprinkler Fitters Local 281 Chicago, Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council, Michigan Maritime Trades Port Council, Sprinkler Fitters Local 183 Milwaukee, UA Local 671, Sprinkler Fitters Local 542 Pittsburgh, Stark Reagan P.C., Lincoln Fire Protection, Sprinkler Fitters Local 709 Los Angeles, John E. Green Company, Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 Newark, Sprinkler Fitters Local 821 Florida, UA Local 333, Pipefitters Local 636, Triton Fire Group, UA Local 85, Asher Kelly Attorney's at Law, Progressive Mechanical, Sprinkler Fitters Local 314 Kansas City, Nemes Rush, Elite Mechanical Services, Professional Sprinkler, Ace Sprinkler Company, Sprinkler Fitters Local 550 Boston, Absolute Fire Protection, Sprinkler Fitters Local 483 San Francisco, Plumbers Local 98, Dynamic Fire Protection, Shambaugh and Son, Conti, Wolverine Fire Protection, Johnson Controls and The Local Credit Union. Thank you all.

Thank you to all those that attended the Labor Day Parade.

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

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

It is the members' responsibility to notify the Union Hall when they return to work.

**Phone numbers to remember:** NASI is 1-800-638-2603 for information regarding Health and Welfare or Pension fund questions.

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

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

A reminder to please update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local Union Hall.

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

*"The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."*

-John Ruskin (1819 - 1900)

*"What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"*

-Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

*"I've done the calculation and your chances of winning the lottery are identical whether you play or not."*

-Fran Lebowitz (1950 - )



## Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – The next Union Meeting will take place on September 19, 2023, at 7 p.m., at St. George Romanian Cultural Center, 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075.

**CALLING ALL RETIREES!** The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at Local 636 Union Hall. **The next retiree meeting will be held, September 21, 2023.**

Our deepest condolences go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks:

Retired Journeyman Brother Saviere Speen on the passing of his wife, Grace, on August 10, 2023; and to Retired Journeyman Brother John Thielk on the passing of his daughter, Holly Ann, on August 30, 2023, who was also the sister of Journeyman Brother Ed Thielk and cousin of Retired Journeyman Brother Scott Mitchell.

May they Rest in Peace.

**Dues.** Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

**S.U.B.** Please send all requests for payment to Wanda Autrey at [subpay@pipefitters636.org](mailto:subpay@pipefitters636.org) to be processed. All requests must be filed within 30 days per the S.U.B. Trust Plan agreement.

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

**Considering Retirement?** Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Theresa Danko, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. She can be reached at ext.5, so that she can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact Kristal Mar, ext.3224 at the BeneSys numbers above as well for your retirement paperwork.

**Please allow a 60-90 day notice** that is necessary to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number, **248-655-4048**, or email him at [jason.may@ml.com](mailto:jason.may@ml.com)

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

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

*"Always be a little kinder than necessary."* -James M. Barrie (1860 - 1937)

*"Do it now. It is not safe to leave a generous feeling to the cooling influences of the world."*

-Thomas Guthrie

*"I'm very pleased with each advancing year. It stems back to when I was forty. I was a bit upset about reaching that milestone, but an older friend consoled me. 'Don't complain about growing old - many, many people do not have that privilege.'*

-Earl Warren (1891 - 1974)

*"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter."*

-e cummings (1894 - 1962)

**WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED**

Our mission at USA Plumbing & Sewer Service is to provide continued customer satisfaction by maintaining value driven, knowledgeable, positive work attitude employees and become the leading plumbing service provider in the market.

**PROUD MEMBER OF**

**PLUMBERS LOCAL #98**

SHOW THIS AD AND RECEIVE 10% OFF THE FIRST VISIT

11731 – 29 Mile Road  
Washington, MI 48095  
24 hour Service Line  
**586-739-7780**

Licensed & Insured

OVER 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE since 1967



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

**UA Local 174 COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

**Retiree Breakfast:** The retiree breakfast will be held on **Thursday, October 5th, 2023**, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Training Coordinator Position:** Brother Jeff Rumsey is retiring as Training Coordinator. The J.A.T.C. will be accepting resumes for the position until September 18<sup>th</sup>. Interested members can deliver a resume to the Union office or email them to J.A.T.C. Secretary Ryan Bennett at [rbennett@ua174.org](mailto:rbennett@ua174.org). Please see a brief description of the job below. For a more complete breakdown of day-to-day activities, please contact the training department.

**Job Description:** Oversee the day-to-day operations of the U.A Local 174 Training Program, following our Standards of Apprenticeship, approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, and as directed by the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) to provide instruction and additional certification opportunities for apprentices to achieve journeyman status and assure that the Training Department is offering the most up to date training available to ensure journeymen members have the marketable skills for themselves and the contractors in today's competitive work market.

**Job Skills:** Able to communicate and motivate, knowledge of field work and certifications necessary to perform in the field, self-driven, results-oriented with a positive outlook, and a focus on high quality with the ability to critically assess performance of apprentices. Previous experience as a Certified Instructor and as a foreman in the field. Must have a working knowledge of MS Excel, MS Word, Internet and Outlook. Knowledge of grants and competent writer of business letters.

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

**Contact Information:** If you need to change or verify your contact information, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNION OFFICE as soon as possible so we can keep our system up to date.

**Organizing Update:** Organizing is busy as usual! I have been hitting the roads across our jurisdiction speaking to the unrepresented worker, it amazes me how many projects are going on throughout the area. The work is there, and the workers are doing the work, we just need everyone to get the same wages and benefits the UA gets! I've been getting continued responses from the lawn signs that were put up, so we are having more signs made but with a different message. Details about this and another avenue of organizing efforts coming soon! It's a great time to be in the skilled trades!

Our biggest voice is OUR members! "We're all doing the same work but we're NOT all getting the same wages and benefits." We all know non-union workers; they deserve more! Give them my number and let's get them on the right track! The message is clear; you deserve better wages, benefits, and representation- which is why you need a UNION! Work safe, **Johnny Ortiz (616) 307-8551**.

**Wage Allocation:** The 2023 wage allocation was voted on at the **June 6, 2023 membership meeting**. Results were \$0.10 to the retiree bonus program and \$2.13 on the check.

**Contract Ratification:** At the special called meeting in July 2022 the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the three-year collective bargaining agreement. The agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/ 2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 and \$7.20 over 3 years. The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language.

Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on ne-



LOCAL 174 members, family and associates march behind their banner in the Muskegon Labor Day Parade.

gotiations and to the members of Local #174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

**FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS).** West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters and Service Trades Local No.174 Fringe Benefit Funds, 5600 New King St, Suite 330, Troy, MI 48098 (855) 407-5862 Toll Free

**Health Insurance Contact Info:** Active and NON Medicare Retirees

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

Health insurance premium decrease: Effective January 1st, 2023 the Local 174 health insurance premiums will be as follows:

| Current Rate 1/1/23 Rate          |            |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Active Member/Working Retiree     | \$1,233.70 | \$1,110.33 |
| Non-working Pre Medicare Retiree: | \$879      | \$791.10   |
| Medicare Single                   | \$262.55   | \$123.63   |
| Medicare Couple                   | \$525.09   | \$247.26   |
| Medicare w/ Pre-Medicare Spouse   | \$677.55   | \$497.13   |
| Medicare Surviving Spouse         | \$269      | \$126.67   |

**Solsys, Aetna, Labor First:** If you have issues with any of our fund service providers, contact Ryan Bennett at [rbennett@ua174.org](mailto:rbennett@ua174.org). Please try to remember who you spoke with; this will help the company fix the problem.

**Aetna Employee Assistance Program:** As a reminder, Local #174 active health plan participants will be eligible for Aetna's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). This program offers a wide variety of benefits. Free legal service, free financial services, counseling services and much more. You probably already received an email, and a physical mailer is on the way. Everyone will receive a new Aetna ID card with the EAP number on the back of the card. None of your Aetna info has changed, the only difference between the new card and old card is the EAP number on the back. You can continue to use your old cards or swap them out with the new one.

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

**Dispatch:** We have split 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 of: [dispatch@ua174.org](mailto:dispatch@ua174.org) which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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

**Labor Councils:** - Kent Ionia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location • Lakeshore - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

The Kent Ionia Labor Council has recently moved from the building on Benjamin and will be rotating meeting locations monthly.

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

**Out Of Work List:** Please remember to call the out of work list when you are laid off. You will be placed on the list based off the date you call in your layoff. 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.

**Training News:** **FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, September 14, 2023, and Thursday, October 12, 2023.

**WCP:** The next weld test event will be Saturday, September 9, 2023, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, September 7, 2023, from 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

Night classes will ramp back up after the Labor Day holiday and will be scheduled based on instructor availability.

**HVAC/Low GWP Refrigerant Safety: Flammable and Mildly Flammable Refrigerants (A2L):** As the HVACR industry continues to move forward and innovate, common refrigerants that were once used are now being phased out and replaced with Low GWP refrigerants(A2L). Technicians will require additional training for the safe handling and transportation of these refrigerants. Night training classes will be offered for A2L safety certifications and dates will be announced soon. The prerequisite required to attend this class is holding a current EPA608 certification.

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

Please contact Jeff Rumsey or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Jeff) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Jeff (231)923-8140 / Nicole (231)206-4213.

**Union Hall Extension Numbers:** Ryan Bennett, Business Manager ext:12, Nathan Phillips, Assistant Business Manager ext. 13, Jason Finch, Business Agent ext.14, Johnny Ortiz, Organizer ext.15, Lisa Johnson, Office Manager ext.11, Therese Simmons ext. 10, Training Dept: Jeff Rumsey ext. 16, Nicole Schumaker ext. 30.



## Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671 MONROE –The next Regular Union meeting is scheduled for **September 21, 2023**. There will also be an **Executive Board meeting at 5pm on September 21, 2023**. If any member would like to attend the **Executive Board Meeting**, please contact the Union Hall prior to the meeting.

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

Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/> and its calendar for the latest updates.

**Special Order of Business:** There will be a special order of business at our next Union meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Article XV Section 1 of the Local 671 By-laws states that we need to have a special order of business to discuss and vote on purchasing a new vehicle for Local 671. If you have any questions pertaining to this special order of business, please feel free to contact the Union Hall.

**Mobile App:** Our Mobile app is currently not available. They are having some issues with Apple and our administrators are working on the problem. We will be sending text messages out to all members when we get it back up and running. All members will have to re-download and re-enter their password and username.

**Congratulations:** To Brothers Michael Menard, Alex Blake, Keith Haener, Kyle McLaughlin and Sean Haddix, they completed their requirements for the apprenticeship and turned out as Local 671 Journeymen. Congratulations Brothers and good luck with your future careers.

**Local 671 Annual Picnic:** The Local picnic got a little soggy a couple of times throughout the day but overall, it was a success and fun was had by all. I would like to thank all of our volunteers once again and we will look forward to doing it again next year.

**Labor Day Parade:** We would like to thank those who came out to support the Monroe Labor Day Parade. We had good day representing skilled labor in Monroe County!

**Apprenticeship Information:** The following Apprentices have completed their third year and are now registered with the UA and have voice and vote rights. Joe Livermore, Corbin Masserant, Tyler Rigel, Joe Simms, Brandon Sortman, Jordan Clark, Jordan Hershey, Anthony Kitts, and Cody Nevel.

**Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class:** We will also be holding classes to prepare Members who will be taking their Michigan Journeyman Plumbing Test. If you have any questions or are curious about your Plumbing hours with the State, contact Justin for details.

**Open Weld Shop Nights:** The open weld shop nights will change to Tuesday nights from 6pm- 10pm for the Summer. You would need to reserve a booth by noon on the Monday prior to the practice night. If we have 3 or more signed up, we will hold the practice night. Booths will be first come, first served with whoever is practicing for a UA test getting priority.

\*Per the UA Weld Quality System Manual, any member who does not currently hold a UA Welding certification must prove that they are ready to take a UA weld test prior to the UA Weld test date.

**Contact Justin if you want to sign up for the next UA Weld Test.**

**In Closing:** I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Labor Day holiday. As always, if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall.

God Bless Local 671 and Union Labor.

Mike Jewell: email: [mike@uacal671.com](mailto:mike@uacal671.com)

Vinnie Fenech: email: [vinnie@uacal671.com](mailto:vinnie@uacal671.com)

Carly Neely: Insurance Line (734) 241-6180 email: [carly@uacal671.com](mailto:carly@uacal671.com)

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

—Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818)



## Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111 UPPER PENINSULA – MARQUETTE – Anyone interested in 1-day shutdowns, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher, Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba office.

**MRA CARD:** Please note, after using your MRA card, you will still need to "substantiate" your claim by sending in your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized bill which includes:

Patient Name  
Provider Name  
Date of Service  
Description of Service  
Amount of Service w/receipt of payment

Remember, when using your MRA card, your date of service must be within a year of the date you use your card. If you are having trouble, please call Zenith American at (866) 823-4730 ext. 1 and they will assist you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MSHA Training:** To register for an MSHA class please go to [Unconstruction.org](http://Unconstruction.org) and go to the MSHA calendar to register. This website applies for cancelling classes also.



**Laborers Local 191** (2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

**DETROIT – Regular Membership Updates:** Please check out our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org) and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your union.

**Member Personal Information Updates:** Be sure to keep the Local Union updated with any changes to your phone number, address, and/or email.

**Monthly General Membership Meetings:** are held on the first Friday of every month at 7 pm at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays).

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **September's Retiree Council meeting will be held on Sept. 29.**

**Union Dues for 2023:** Regular monthly dues are \$35 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

**Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments:** According to 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 will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

**Save Time & Money: We urge members to make their payments timely to avoid additional costs! Monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check and sent directly to the Local Union.** Please stop by the Local Union office to get one of the "Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction" forms or you may call the Local Union office at (313)-894-2241 to have one mailed to you. **FYI: Members who sign up for Vacation deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!**

**New Projects:** Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire

**North Point Mortgage Advisors**

Nicole Jenner  
Loan Officer  
NMLS# 2236230  
Licensed in Michigan  
**(586) 362-4689**

Proud Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 family member

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.

**Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org) to schedule appointments for modules.

**Training:** Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.mustbsafe.com](http://www.mustbsafe.com) to see how many modules you have.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare fund documents. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable if/when no beneficiary has been designated. **Each of the above individual benefits needs to have a designated beneficiary.**

**FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.**


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



ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS Local 36 members march in the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4.



MEMBERS OF THE Michigan District Council 1M/Painters and Allied Trades participate in the Detroit Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4.



**Local 36**  
Elevator  
Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36  
DETROIT— ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS ON MONDAY, September 25, 2023, at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email. Our next regular Executive Board Meeting will be September 18, 2023, at 5 pm.

**Attention All Members,** this paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. This is how we get information out to all our members, as repetitive as it might be there is new information in each article, please read it carefully and call the hall or attend a union meeting if you have any questions.

I just wanted to thank the backbone of Local 36 for participating in the Labor Day parade. Labor Day isn't just about the labor of today but the men and women who fought for the wages and benefits we have today! We have lost many of these members over the years and before long they won't be here to share their knowledge and experiences. Marching in the parade shows the strength of our membership and a chance to stand alongside these retirees who know what it is about.

I also want to thank the members who have recently called in close calls and incidents. No matter how small the incident is, make sure you report it to your company safety representative and the hall. The UAW is in contract discussions and with a possible strike looming, call the hall if you have any questions.

If any member or a member of your immediate family are currently serving in the military, please submit the following information to the local union business manager via email, to be published in the November journal, Roll call of Honor: Name, Military Rank and Division (branch) of the military. **Deadline for submission will be September 25th, 2023.** If you have any pictures, please send them with information above. I will try to get them in the journal.

The IUEC is aware that our signatory employers are becoming subject to a variety of state laws mandating that some percentage of fleet vehicles must be electric-only vehicles. Additionally, we are aware as well that certain customers are mandating the use of electrical vehicles at their properties.

We want to be clear that to the extent that compliance with such policies requires the cooperation of our membership in terms of allowing for the installation of charging facilities at their homes or incurring bills for additional electricity use, that these matters require bargaining with the IUEC and not direct dealing by companies with their employees. The IUEC is available to bargain over such items at your convenience and intends to do so in a reasonable fashion designed to both facilitate compliance with these mandates while also assuring that any policies adopted are in the best interests of our membership.

**Just a reminder to all members that the Local Constitution and Bylaws have been updated to reflect the new late fees for delinquent dues. They will be sent to the printer and will be available in the hall when we get them back. Call the hall with any questions.**

**The picnic assessment will be \$53.00 per member and will be assessed with fourth quarter dues.**

As you are aware, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2023 to receive their scheduled pay raises January 1, 2024. **I highly recommend if you fall in this category and haven't done so, take the course and keep up on it.** We have more grandfathered mechanics that have completed this course than mechanics that are required to complete this course.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** call those jobs into the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.

We are looking for pictures of NEIEP teachers from the past and present. If you taught in the past, know someone who taught in the past, or are a current teacher please email Ken @ [ba36@iuec36.org](mailto:ba36@iuec36.org) or myself @ [local36@iuec36.org](mailto:local36@iuec36.org) pictures so we can get them up on the wall to honor the teachers who donated their time to educate the future elevator constructors.

**Attention All Apprentices.** Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

Anyone interested in getting certified in Welding, you can sign up with NEIEP @ Local 85 or call Mike Janca.

**Attention All Temporary Mechanics,** your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month at the Union meeting. If you can't make the Union meeting (for good reasons) to sign your agreement, then come down to the hall the **NEXT MORNING.** If we continue to have problems getting these signed, you will be called down in front of the Executive board. If you are put back to Apprentice status, your personal tools **MUST** be taken off the job and notify the hall.

**Attention All Retirees,** if you requested an Honorary Card and have not received it, please contact the Hall.


**If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can get you on the email list.**

Please keep Brother Robert Kapanowski and his family in your thoughts and prayers after the passing of Honorary Brother Ed Kapanowski. We would also like to extend get well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!  
"Rogues are preferable to imbeciles because they sometimes take a rest."  
—Alexandre Dumas (1802 - 1870)

"Everything is in a state of flux, including the status quo."  
—Robert Byrne  
"Accomplishing the impossible means only that the boss will add it to your regular duties."  
—Doug Larson

"I must take issue with the term 'a mere child,' for it has been my invariable experience that the company of a mere child is infinitely preferable to that of a mere adult."  
—Fran Lebowitz (1950 - )



**Michigan Painters  
District Council**

Painters DC 1M  
WARREN – Dear Members,  
DC1M WEBSITE: [www.iupatdc1michigan.org](http://www.iupatdc1michigan.org)

**DCIM FACE-BOOK:** [www.facebook.com/iupat1m](http://www.facebook.com/iupat1m)

**DC 1M UNION CARDS\***

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

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

**\*LABOR DAY PARADE 2023, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH SAVE THE DATE!\***

The Labor Day Parade in Detroit is back on! The Labor Day Parade will take place Monday, Sept. 4. Come down and show your Union Pride. We will be giving out shirts and hats.

**Time: 8AM  
Location: IBEW Local 58, 1358 Abbott St., Detroit, MI 48226**

**SICKNESS AND DEATH.**

It is with a heavy heart we announce the following:

Local 357 retiree Harold Elders Sr. passed away.

Local 357's Cody Strickland passed away.

Local 357 retiree James Beran Sr. passed away.

Please keep the families of our fallen brothers in your thoughts and prayers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

**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](http://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

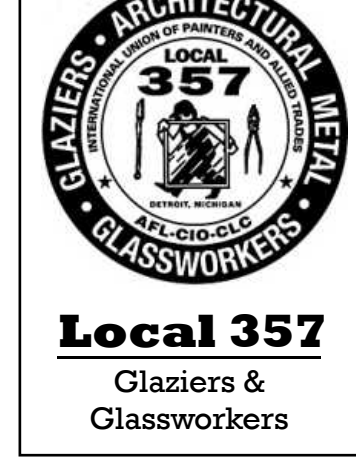
**Local Union 1803**  
**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle  
**Meeting date:** 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

**Local Union 2352**  
**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland  
**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:** Tony Parker  
**Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

"If you must love your neighbor as yourself, it is at least as fair to love yourself as your neighbor."  
—Sebastien-Roch Nicolas

"Deeds, not words shall speak me."  
—John Fletcher (1579 - 1625)



**Local 357**  
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357  
WARREN— Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6pm. Please make every effort to attend.

We had a terrific turnout to this year's Labor Day Parade. Local 357 Glassworkers represented well.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. [iupatpension.org](http://iupatpension.org)

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member id printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it's a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

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

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

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

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

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

**—Business Rep- Don Stepp**

"We should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality."  
— Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)



**Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591**

Sign Pictorial & Display 591  
WARREN –The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3, at 6:30p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 6:20 p.m.

Members must be in good standing (dues up to date) with district council 1 app or receipt of paid dues to attend meeting

Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws

Any questions on local union issues, please call Jeremy Haviland at 586-899-0183, your Business Representative.

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.

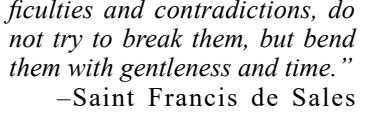
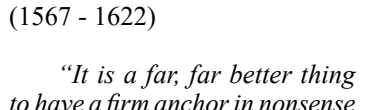
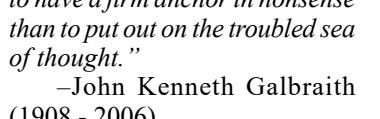
"Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend."  
—Theophrastus (372 BC - 287 BC)

"When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time."  
—Saint Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622)

"It is a far, far better thing to have a firm anchor in nonsense than to put out on the troubled sea of thought."  
—John Kenneth Galbraith (1908 - 2006)

**You Are the Missing Piece.**

**Attend Your Union Meetings!**


**Over 40 years of quality Administrative Services**

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

**THE FULL SERVICE BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR**

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

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

|                |                    |                 |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Boston, MA     | Milwaukee, WI      | San Diego, CA   |
| Bridgeton, MO  | Omaha, NE          | San Ramon, CA   |
| Columbia, MD   | Phoenix, AZ        | Seattle, WA     |
| Denver, CO     | Pleasanton, CA     | Troy, MI        |
| Des Moines, IA | Portland, OR       | Washington, DC  |
| Hagerstown, MD | Riverport, MO      | West Covina, CA |
| Las Vegas, NV  | San Jose, CA       | Youngstown, OH  |
| Louisville, KY | Salt Lake City, UT |                 |

[www.benesys.com](http://www.benesys.com) | (877) 923-6379 | [info@benesys.com](mailto:info@benesys.com)







## Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**  
**LANSING – Business Manager: Patrick Welch (517-708-0665)**  
 Local 47 Lansing Office:  
 419 S. Washington Square, Suite 301, Lansing, MI 48933. Ph.: 517-708-0665

The next regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at JATC Training Center, located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International.

**Per the Rules and Procedures:**  
 Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.  
 Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.  
 Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671  
 Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275  
 Toll Free: (800) 323-8079  
 Telephone: (517) 321-7502  
 Fax: (517) 321-7508  
 Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.  
 To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively.  
 Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.  
 Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: [www.heatandfrostlocal47benefits.org](http://www.heatandfrostlocal47benefits.org)  
 Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.  
 JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)  
 Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.  
 Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."  
 Good and Welfare: Get well to all our sick and/or injured members.

*"We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?"*  
 –Jean Cocteau (1889 - 1963)



## Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

**Heat & Frost Insulators 25**  
**SOUTHFIELD** –The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**WORKING ASSESSMENT:** Per Article XIX Section 15 (b) of the International Constitution and Bylaws, as of 6/8/2023 the Union office had to begin imposing a daily working assessment for any members working during the strike. The daily working assessment is as follows for each classification:  
 Mechanic: \$36 per day worked,  
 1st year Apprentice: \$18 per day worked,  
 2nd year Apprentice: \$21 per day worked,  
 3rd year Apprentice: \$25 per day worked,  
 4th year Apprentice: \$29 per day worked.

The daily assessment went into effect on 6/8/2023, meaning for each day you work during the strike on or after 6/8/2023 you owe the amount listed above that fits your classification. Please note: the daily assessment will continue until a new agreement has been ratified. The Union office has a list of people that are/were manning agreement jobs during the strike.

Unless you present a paycheck stub showing less than 5 days worked during the weeks effected by the strike, you will be expected to pay 5 days' worth of assessment for those weeks. It is your responsibility to make sure your financial obligations are up to date. If you have any questions, contact the Union office.

**PER CAPITA:** Please be reminded, any member working 32 hours or less during a month must pay their own Per Capita of \$14.00 per month. Per Capita payments should be made on a monthly basis. If a member works as a traveler in another Local's jurisdiction, the member must remit double Per Capita of \$28.00. Please forward your payments monthly to Local 25, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

**M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES:** In order to be eligible for the safety module stipend, you must contact the Union Office PRIOR to taking the safety modules.

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


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

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

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

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

**(Continued next column)**



## Abatement Workers Local 207

**Abatement Workers Local 207**  
**TAYLOR** – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late Summer so be prepared for work. When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials.

Work in other areas of the region will be picking up in Tennessee's and Ohio as well as Kentucky. So be prepared with all of your paperwork in order. With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out online renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states, you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell.

**If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them, call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application on our website WWW.local207.ORG**

**Upcoming Training classes**  
 ACSR, September 30<sup>th</sup> at The Union hall  
 New Initial class October 23<sup>rd</sup>-28th  
 Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.  
 --- 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.  
 The next Union Meeting is a **Special Called Meeting for Contract Ratification and Wage Allocation: December 13th at 7 PM at the union hall WORK SAFE.**

**Local 25 cont'd**

move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

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

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

*"All things great are wound up with all things little."*  
 –L. M. Montgomery (1874 - 1942)


*"Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory."*  
 –Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)

*"Never take the advice of someone who has not had your kind of trouble."*  
 –Sidney J. Harris

*"Nobody knows the age of the human race, but everybody agrees that it is old enough to know better."*  
 –Anonymous

*"There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm."*  
 –Willia Cather (1873 - 1947),

*"Be to her virtues very kind. Be to her faults a little blind."*  
 –Matthew Prior (1664 - 1721)



## Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

**Roofers Local 149**  
**DETROIT – Attention.** This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mid-Michigan.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is set for Jan. 9, 2024 at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

**Labor Day 2023.** The 2023 Detroit & Mid-Michigan Labor Day Parade and Picnic was a huge success!

Business Manager Brian Gregg thanks all volunteers who busted their butts on Saturday and on Labor Day to make sure this Labor Day Parade and picnic were a huge success. We could not have this event without the help from our volunteers, and our generous sponsors.

**A special thank you to the 2023 Labor Day Gift Sponsors:** AsherKelly Attorneys at Law, Benesys Inc., Christen Detroit, Dencap Dental Plans, Detroit Roofers Training Center, Humana, Lutz Roofing Co., Inc., McKnight, Canzano, Smith, Radtke & Brault, P.C., North Roofing, PRO, RAM Construction Services, Royal Roofing, Schena Roofing & Sheet Metal, Schreiber Roofing Corp., The Brice Group, Wrubel Wesley & Co CPA's, Members of LU 149, Office Staff of LU 149

Congratulations to ALL of our winners and participants!

Pictures of the 2023 Labor Day Picnic are posted on Facebook @ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149

**Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit.** Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas. To get your Vacation check direct deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall. The Member will need to know the following Financial Institution information, Routing No., Account No., and name of Financial Institution.

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center. If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

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

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


**CLEARANCE CARDS.** Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

**Outdoor Life.** If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

**MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office.** The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2024, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420

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

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.  
 If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368 to make arrangements.  
**Notice.** When contractors **(Continued next column)**



## Local 169 Boilermakers

**Boilermakers Local 169**  
**DETROIT** – Our next membership meeting will take place on Sept. 22, 2023, at 8PM at the Pipefitters Hall. The address: 601 North 30th St., Escanaba, MI. 49829. Please note the date change!

Current Union dues for 2023 are \$55.85 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution. The Union Hall accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) for more information.

Your local needs volunteers for an informational line in areas 1 & 2. All members including retirees are encouraged to participate. Please contact the union hall for details. You will be informed of the times and locations once details are finalized. Stand up for your work! Stand up for your local!

After a two-year hiatus, the Annual Detroit Building Trades Labor Day Parade resumed. Thank you to everyone who made it out to march and stand up for our work and all unions. Everyone came to the hall following the parade and enjoyed lunch and spending time with other boilermakers and their families.

Any member interested in taking the Great Lakes Safety for Corvea please contact Area 3 Business Agent, Mike Card at 989-662-6491.

Any member interested in working with other crafts during slow employment periods should contact their Business Agent. Our current reciprocal agreements with other crafts allow you to

**Local 149 cont'd**

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

The publication above is as 9/5/2023, 1:00p.m.  
**In Solidarity, Brian Gregg**  
 Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON**  
 Real Estate Training Inc.  
 901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
 Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
 248-885-8311

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS BIESKE & ASSOCIATES**

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

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**www.ssdfighter.com**









**IBEW 557**  
**SAGINAW – Union News-** We hope everyone had a great Labor Day and spent it relaxing and taking time to reflect on the great opportunities that Organized Labor has given our membership and their families. There has not been a better time to be in the IBEW in quite some time.

The Labor Movement and specifically the IBEW has an unprecedented amount of work that is about to hit our doorsteps. The work coming for electricians alone is in the trillions of dollars. This money has not even hit the street yet. There are most likely no current active IBEW members who have seen the likes of this amount of work which we are about to witness. We owe much of this to the IBEW's political department and our ultra-Labor friendly President, Joe Biden. Right now, at this moment, there is no more powerful Labor organization than the IBEW. We are writing the rules governing how the work will be performed. Labor has its loudest voice since the post-World War II era.

As everyone is aware, we are still packed with work. Some calls in our own local have been hard to fill. In most cases, ya'll know someone on the nonunion side in the electrical field. Now would be a great time to reach out and see if they want to switch sides. Talk to these people about your personal awesome experience in the IBEW. Let them know how good our benefits are. Local 557's new member incentive program is still up and running. Could mean some added bonus for you and them. The Hall and our organizer Gus are always willing to talk with anyone at any time about all we have to offer at 557.

Special thanks to Mid-Michigan Labor Council for once again putting on a classy event at the Saginaw Art Museum for Labor Day. A great time was had by all and the food and music were excellent. Looking forward to next year!

**IMPORTANT- The Wilson-McShane switch over for benefits administration is still continuing.** Visit [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org) to create your new member portal profile. If you'd rather call, their phone number is 855-633-4584. So far, members who've contacted WMC have had positive experiences. New cards for members special funds have been sent out. Hang tight if you're having issues. Patience is still needed through this process.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS-** Our next meeting is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm at the Hall.

**MICHIGAN INITIATIVE- Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues you see or have.** If our members have any questions or see sketchy people in our jurisdiction, they can reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS-** Normal Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm. Come in and say hi to Renee!

**BOOK SIGNING-** If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off, please come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this.

**WORK OUTLOOK-** Business is going smoothly ladies and gentlemen. Some school projects are wrapping up and others will continue on during the school year. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 has secured work at the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Calls will come in for this project in the near future as they ramp up in the months to come. Calls for both solar projects in Gratiot County for MJ electric and J. Ranck Electric are expected this month. Newkirk has a solar project at Nexteer. These Solar Projects will take a good amount of manpower to make for successful projects. The Wind Farm in Gratiot County continues to move forward as well as work for Hemlock Semi Conductor.



## Local 25 Iron Workers

### Iron Workers 25

The 7<sup>th</sup> Local 25 ICIF Fundraiser will be Saturday Sept 9, 2023 at the Novi Union Hall at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be bought at the door or through any Business Agent. We are catering food this year- please join us for food, drink and comraderie. **We will also raffle some great prizes as we've done in the past!**

**Iron Workers Picnic will be Saturday, Sept. 16 starting at 11 AM.** Location: Training Center 50490 W. Pontiac Trail, Wixom MI 48393. We are really looking forward to this year's picnic & hope members will bring your families out to enjoy good eats, like hot dogs, hamburgers, sweet corn, and beverages, ice cream, and activities for the kids. Come on out for some fresh air, great eats, and activities for the kids at the **JP O'Donnell/Jim Horvath Sr. Annual Picnic!**

**Steward meeting(s):** The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday Sept. 20, at 6 pm (NEW Time). The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday Sept 25 at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday Sept. 21, at 6 pm

**The September Union meeting will be Monday Sept. 25, 2023 at 7 pm.** The meeting will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open.

**Anyone interested in baseball tickets for Jimmy Johns stadium in Utica, please call Dennis Aguirre.**

**The Ironworkers Local 25 APP & Website:** Members are able to access the log-in section and can sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)). We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.**

**Local 25 Retirees are able to work without suspension of their pension benefits effective Aug 1, 2023** with the following criteria: Must be retired a minimum of 2 months, must complete the Memorandum of Understanding with approval by Trustee Aguirre or Trustee Randick. Must be a full dues-paying member and if you are currently on lifetime status

you will need to transition back to full dues paying for 1 year along with 1-year paid dues.

Those who are former L-340 Retirees are able to work without suspension of their benefits as their plan allows. The retiree is encouraged to pass on their knowledge to apprentices and other bargaining unit employees of the Employer; Contact any Business Agent who can assist you further with the details.

**Awards Night** – anyone who was not able to attend, your pin award will be mailed out, we predict within the next 60 day.

**New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) where you can now make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in your application. No walk-in foot traffic.**

**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 "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications". You can now electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests.

**To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School,** please go the [ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org) to view the block schedule. The 2023 Raising Gang Training schedule is on the website as well. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow! **If you read this entire article to the end and would like one (1) Union meeting credit, please call the Wixom Training Center and mention this article. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: (248)960-2130**

**24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org). **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the

Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a newborn child, or a new dependent child through marriage **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the next open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

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

**The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club:** The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10 am in Novi. The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, Oct.3, 2023 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

**The West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will be at 1:00 pm Oct. 19 at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams St., Bay City MI 48708. All are welcome.

**The Downriver Chapter** The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be in Oct. 20 at 9 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, 48183. All are welcome.

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan:** [www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/](http://www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/) Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state.

**Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help**

24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. **Whatever you are struggling with, help is available: it's free & confidential.**

**Check out Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT:** <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

**IFYOU NEED HELP IT IS AVAILABLE: FindTreatment.gov** where you can search by zip code/city etc. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-HELP (4357).

**OpiRescue smartphone APP to help Michigan residents prevent and reduce opioid overdoses.** It is free to use and anonymous. The APP provides information and a 5-step process for how to respond to an opioid overdose event. The guidelines developed by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Celebration of Life for Charlie Dodson #893129** on Saturday Sept. 30, 2023 from 1-4 PM at UA Local 333 Union Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King, Lansing MI 48911.

**In Memory:** Joel Boettcher #1230023 passed away Aug. 22, 2023 at the age of 50. He was a 26-year member on Withdrawal status. His brother is Darin Boettcher #1135058. Sadly for the family, they lost their father a few months back, and Darin's mother is dealing with both losses. David Brooks #1224697 passed away Aug. 25, 2023 at the age of 57. He was a 27-year member. Judy Stockman passed away on Aug. 27, 2023 at the age of 80. She was the wife of Lifetime IW Thomas "Cookie" Stockman #807563. Their son Jeff Stockman #1160938 preceded her in death.

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

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (Sept 5, 2023 12:00 pm E.S.T.)-



**PartnerFirst™**  
with Electrical Contractors

Utilities Instrumentation Service (UIS) has established itself since 1976 as a proven solution to provide third part independent testing, commissioning, and arc flash studies.

With the **PartnerFirst™** approach it allows the Electrical Contractor to provide these services without the added cost of training, tooling and personnel development that UIS brings to the table.

### Expanding Footprint

The **PartnerFirst™** approach allows you to expand your footprint with your current client's to provide complete Preventative Maintenance Plans and Electrical Testing of their entire system. This includes repairs, upgrades, and retrofits to meet your clients needs to increase their reliability and safety. Along with updating their Arc Flash Hazard Analysis every five years as required by the NF-PA70E. Once a customer is introduced to UIS by an Electrical Contractor, we will work closely with you to service these accounts.

### New Projects

On your new projects UIS can support you with Acceptance Testing, Commissioning, and Short Circuit/ Device Coordination/ Arc Flash/Shock Hazard Analysis Studies. With the UIS Partnership we can get you to the finish line on time.

### AlwaysOn™

**When downtime is not an option®**, then you need a partner who understands that anything can happen at any time. With the UIS **AlwaysOn™** approach, each new client is introduced to a UIS support team that will meet your needs – complete with their 24/7 contact information to provide 24/7/365 support.



PartnerFirst



866-967-9464

**UNION Solution**  
Since 1976





## Outdoors

# Fort Wilkins @ 100



By Barry James  
Historian

### Michigan History Center

This summer, Fort Wilkins, located a mile east of the village of Copper Harbor in Keweenaw County, is turning 100 years old as a historic state park.

Built in 1844, Fort Wilkins was intended to keep law and order during Michigan's copper rush. The fort complex includes 19 buildings, 12 of them original structures from the 1840s. Today, the fort serves as an excellent example of a mid-19th-century military post. The fort was garrisoned for just five years, from 1844-46 and 1867-1870.

This area at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula has always attracted visitors. After the soldiers left, the fort became a popular picnic and camping ground.

When the fort began to decay, Houghton and Keweenaw counties petitioned the U.S. government to purchase the property. In 1921, the two counties bought the military garrison for \$2,000. In July 1923, 53 years after the U.S. Army closed the post, the State of Michigan acquired Fort Wilkins as a state park. After decades without use, the fort buildings were in poor condition.

A contemporary report provides an excellent description of the property: "Time and weather have played havoc with the buildings. Their shingles are nearly all gone ... in some of the porches, small trees are growing in lieu of floors, doors and portions of the building(s) have been used by campers for fuel. The once imposing flag staff has met the same fate ..."

The willingness of the Michigan Department of Conservation (the precursor of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources), and particularly of P.J. Hoffmaster, the then-director of the department's parks division, to preserve Fort Wilkins was soon revealed. During one of his earliest inspection trips, Hoffmaster declared that the parks division desired to "restore Fort Wilkins



A MODERN BIRD'S EYE view of the restored Fort Wilkins, including Lake Fannie Hooe, south of the fort. Fort Wilkins is celebrating its centennial as a state park.

MDNR photos

to its original state" and planned to "restore all of the buildings surrounding the parade grounds."

Also, development of more sanitary facilities was to be included by adding two toilets and placing "several tables ... outside the stockade," along with building cement fireplaces to aid park campers and visitors. The Department of Conservation hired Charles Beatty as the park's first superintendent. Beatty, a former surface foreman at the Ahmeek copper mine, lived year-round in the east officer's quarters with his family.

Beatty served in the position from 1923 to 1936. Summers were spent keeping an eye on the park and visitors, and during winters Beatty trapped animals for fur and repaired building interiors.

By 1928, work crews led by Beatty had stabilized fort buildings, repaired roofs and foundations, rebuilt porches and replaced windows, doors, floors and fireplaces. Wooden stockade pickets, once scavenged for firewood, once again enclosed the fort.

The WPA. During the last years of the Great Depression, federal funding from the Works Projects Administration enabled the State of Michigan to restore Fort Wilkins more thoroughly.

The work was carried out from 1939 to 1942 and was part of a larger government effort to relieve nationwide unemployment.

Combined with other park improvements, the work provided much-needed employment for economically depressed Keweenaw County. Federal relief efforts were linked to Upper Peninsula road improvements, which made tourist attractions like Fort Wilkins more accessible and benefited the regional economy.

The Department of Conservation Parks Division hired Donald W. Dow, Sr. to manage Fort Wilkins State Park during the WPA project. Dow and his young family remained at the fort for 11 years (1936-1947), longer than any soldier had. In a 1984 interview Dow recalled, "Most of (the work) was just looking at what was here and replacing it."

The WPA project stabilized chimneys and stone foundations; replaced roofs, rotted timbers, siding and porches; repaired plaster and painted buildings inside and out. WPA crews cut timber, peeled bark and hewed the logs by hand - often using the same methods that soldiers had used almost 100 years earlier.

"These men were hard work-

ers," Dow remembered. "A lot of them were crippled with arthritis from working in the mines, but they were skilled - skilled with an ax." Men were paid \$33 a month. The truck drivers received \$40 a month, while the straw bosses and superintendent were paid more.

The state coordinator for the WPA project, architect G.D. Jones, worked closely with Department of Conservation staff to ensure a historically accurate restoration of Fort Wilkins. Carpenter and blacksmith shops were set up on-site to duplicate original fixtures.

WPA architects prepared measured drawings of two surviving married enlisted men's quarters that were beyond repair. Crews led by field supervisor Victor Oja carefully dismantled and rebuilt the cabins, reusing original materials whenever possible.

Work wasn't limited to the fort buildings. Workers planted

1,350 deciduous trees, 2,500 shrubs and 8,000 evergreen trees in 1941 and another 3,500 deciduous trees, 4,120 shrubs and 20,000 evergreens in 1942.

Additional improvements at the park included a new entrance road, parking area, park store, picnic and campground development, water system, toilet buildings, tables and a pump house.

**Interpretation then and now.** During the 1950s, extensive research and planning went into creating exhibits that tell the story of the time period in various rooms of the fort.

Fort Wilkins State Park manager Louis England, whose tenure at the park lasted from 1947 to 1952, along with Department of Conservation Parks and Recreation Division Chief Arthur Elmer, consulted with Carroll Paul from the Marquette County Historical Society and Museum.

Paul had experience with interior decorating and helped collect, catalogue and display furniture and other objects in the officer's quarters. Many of the furnishings she collected and installed are still on display and cared for by the Michigan History Museum collections staff.

In addition to period rooms, the fort had an extensive rock and mineral display in the east barracks. Other attractions included relics from the fort, original stockade posts and reconstructed married enlisted men's cabins.

In 1976, the Michigan History Division (now Michigan

History Center) celebrated the nation's bicentennial by developing a living history program. Now in its 47th year, the first-person, role-playing program continues to bring life to the historic site for park visitors.

This summer, in celebration of the fort's 100 years since becoming a state park, the Michigan History Center opened a new period room exhibit in the west officers' quarters.

The exhibit consists of high-quality reproduction period room furniture and objects of the 1860s. Visitors can sit on a felt sofa, enjoy reading books of the Civil War era and try their hand sitting at a secretary and writing with a steel pen.

Coming attractions will include 13 new outdoor interpretive signs and a new Michigan Historical Marker.

Planning is under way for a new exhibit entitled "Fort Wilkins Becomes a State Park" to be installed in the west mess hall building. Funding for the exhibit will come from a Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission grant, secured with matching funds from the Fort Wilkins Natural History Association.

For the past century, Fort Wilkins Historic State Park has offered visitors a rare and engrossing look into military life in the northernmost part of Michigan.

Stepping through the gates of the fort is like traveling through time, bringing the past into clear focus right before your eyes.



FORT WILKINS IN THE 1930s.



IN THE 1910S, after decades of neglect, structures at Fort Wilkins were becoming dilapidated.

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

# ASBESTOS

FREE ASBESTOS CLAIM EVALUATION

GOLDBERG PERSKY WHITE P.C.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
SAGINAW SOUTHFIELD

ASBESTOS CLAIMS

Evaluation Request Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Union : \_\_\_\_\_ Local No: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ thru \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been exposed to asbestos?

Yes  No

Have you been diagnosed with:

Mesothelioma  Asbestosis  
 Lung Cancer  Colon Cancer

Do you have shortness of breath?

Yes  No

Return this form to:

Goldberg, Persky & White, PC  
P.O.Box 5769, Saginaw, Michigan 48603 or

Call 800-799-2234

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

## Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as **mesothelioma**, **lung cancer**, and **asbestosis**.

Many Michigan building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Thousands have developed asbestos disease. Some are not aware they were even exposed.

For more than 30 years, GPW has represented thousands of Michigan union workers in lawsuits against the asbestos industry. We can arrange a **free chest x-ray** review by a NIOSH Certified B-Reader to all qualified building tradesmen with start dates prior to 1980.

**Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late.** No recovery-no fee

We are considered the **Very Best Mesothelioma Attorneys in Michigan** for good reason- our results speak for themselves

Return the form or contact us today:

**800-799-2234**

www.gpwlaw-mi.com