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SHORT CUTS

Slow start to 2024 construction

Total construction starts brought a mildly positive start to 2024, growing 1 percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.16 trillion, according to a report issued Feb. 20 by the Dodge Construction Network.

Nonbuilding (usually infrastructure) starts rose 9 percent for the month, while nonresidential construction starts dropped 2 percent and residential starts were flat.

For the 12 months ending January 2024, total construction starts were down 1 percent from the 12 months ending January 2023. Nonresidential building starts were down 5 percent while residential starts were 8 percent lower, with nonbuilding starts up 17 percent on a 12 month rolling sum basis.

"Construction starts are struggling to make headway in the new year," said Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. "Construction starts will continue to struggle early on in 2024 as higher interest rates and tight credit standards are slowing down projects moving through the planning cycle to start. The Federal Reserve is expected to cut rates later this year. That will move some of these projects in the planning queue through to start and provide for a more stable rising trend in construction activity in the second half of the year."

Dodge said the largest non-residential building projects to break ground in January were the \$5.5 billion Texas Instruments fabrication plant in Lehi, Utah, the \$2.6 billion Terminal B construction at George Bush Houston Airport in Houston, Tex., and the \$1 billion BlueOval battery plant in Marshall, Mich.



THE BLUEOVAL PLANT in Marshall gets started.

Gains made for Black women, Latinas

A new report from the National Partnership for Women and Families shows that some of the biggest labor movement gains in 2023 came from Black and Latino women.

The NPWF reported last month that among full-time Latina workers, those who are union members made nearly \$14,000 more per year than their nonunion counterparts in 2023. Black women who are in a union make about 20 percent more than nonunion women. Additionally, women in unions are far more likely to have stronger employer-sponsored benefits like quality health care and parental leave.

Black women and Latinas leading new organizing drives and negotiating contracts prompted "some of our most compelling arguments," said International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21 Vice President Shelsy Bass Zhang.

In construction, for all women, the union pay advantage is even more pronounced: the latest (2022) Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers show that union tradeswomen make 23 percent more than their non-union counterparts.

Quotable

"What progress we are making. In the Middle Ages they would have burned me. Now they are content with burning my books."

—Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)



BUILDING TRADES WORKERS are making rapid progress on erecting the Gordie Howe Bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. The 722-foot-tall towers and the six-lane bridge deck over the Detroit River are the most visible portions of the project, but there is also a tremendous amount of work "back bridge" in Southwest Detroit, with Point of Entry structures, overpass and other road work.

Photo credit: Bridging North America

'Stunning progress' moves Gordie's bridge up, across and back

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

In 18 months, drivers between the U.S. and Canada will have a new, union-built gateway to travel between countries.

Following what it called "significant and stunning progress" in 2023, earlier this year the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team announced that construction completion is expected in September 2025, and in the autumn of next year the first vehicles will traverse what will be the longest cable-stay span in North America.

"After a three-year pandemic and considering the size and complexity of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, our project team is

pleased that the impact to the construction schedule is limited to only 10 months beyond the original contracted completion date and that we could agree on a reasonable adjustment to the

contract value," said Charl van Niekerk, CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority. "With safety as our top priority, we will continue to work (Continued on Page 13)



THE CURRENT GAP in the Gordie Howe Bridge is less than 500 feet, and Windsor and Detroit tradespeople are expected to be shaking hands when the deck sections are connected by the end of this summer. The main span is 138 feet above the Detroit River near the towers, and with a 5 percent incline, it will reach 150 feet in the middle of the river.



THE GORDIE HOWE BRIDGE'S leading edge of its main span is shown, looking at Detroit. The span is constructed one segment at a time, with the cables tied to the tower and main span tied back to the already completed approach span. Deck construction follows shortly behind the steel, and a crawler crane services both tasks from the deck. The superstructure is built of structural steel edge girders and floor beams with a composite, precast panel deck.

Photo credit: Bridging North America

Safety first: OSHA ups the costs for negligent employers

By Nick Fox
Laborers Health and Safety
Fund of North America

Federal OSHA is notoriously underfunded and understaffed for an agency tasked with protecting the health and safety of millions of workers across millions of workplaces. This is so well-established that AFL-CIO's *Death on the Job* report keeps track of

how long it would take OSHA to inspect every U.S. workplace once. The current math is... 190 years.

Despite those limitations, OSHA ramped up the number of inspections it conducted in 2023. According to information shared with the LHSFNA, OSHA conducted 34,250 inspections in 2023, a seven percent increase

from 2022 and the highest number of inspections conducted since 2015.

In an even bigger shift, when the agency did issue citations from these inspections, they were more likely to be for higher penalty totals. In 2023, OSHA issued more than 250 citations with initial penalties exceeding (Continued on Page 13)

Aquadome topped out at Gun Lake

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WAYLAND – Another job well done by Local 25 iron workers and Local 324 operating engineers, who topped out the unique dome that will cover the "Wawye Oasis" (or Aquadome) at the Gun Lake Casino hotel project.

The topping out of the roof over the 32,000 square-foot Aquadome structure took place on Feb. 22. Iron workers and operating engineers employed by Douglas Steel completed the placement of the steel sections – many of them oddly shaped, befitting placement in a domed structure.

"We've hit a monumental milestone in the Gun Lake Casino Phase 5 project!" said a statement from Clark Construction, which

is managing the entire project. "On Feb. 22, we celebrated the placement of the final trichord truss on the Aquadome structure. Standing at 90 feet, the dome's framework, comprising over 2,200 steel pieces, has topped out.

"The journey doesn't stop here: we're gearing up to start the glazing activities where 800 unique pieces of glass will encase the dome, bringing the vision for the project closer to reality."

Gun Lake Casino is located off U.S. 131, between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. On former parking and green space on the

west side of the casino, construction began in spring 2022 on the 15-story, hotel and aquadome.

Gun Lake Casino, owned by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi, opened in 2011. It includes 2,500 slot machines and 47 table games. It also has two restaurants, a sports bar and lounge, and a buffet. From early on, the tribe had plans to erect a connected hotel that comprises the main portion of this \$300 million expansion.

While the 252-room hotel will make the site an overnight (Continued on Page 2)

THE WAWYE OASIS (or Aquadome), under construction on the grounds of the Gun Lake Casino in Wayland had its structural steel topped out last month by Douglas Steel iron workers and operating engineers.

Photo credit: Ben Roberts

Bill would put needed fangs into state's prevailing wage law

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The state's newly resurrected prevailing wage act became effective Feb. 13, after state Democrat lawmakers voted to return it to the state's books last year along with a raft of other pro-labor legislation.

Now, there's additional legislation in the works to provide another obstacle for shady, low-paying contractors who seek to bid on state taxpayer-funded projects. State Sen. John Cherry (D-Flint) has introduced Senate Bill 571, which would require contractors and subcontractors to register with Michigan's labor department before bidding on state construction and demolition projects, as well as solar or wind energy projects.

"It modifies the new prevailing wage statute to require registration of contractors and subcontractors who are going to be working on state prevailing wage projects, and requires the submission of the certified payroll that they're required to maintain to (the state's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO)," Cherry told the Senate

Labor Committee, as quoted by the news service MIRS.

Last year's House Bill 4007, which was adopted by Dems with razor-thin margins in both the House and Senate, gave new life to the prevailing wage law after Republican lawmakers snuffed it out in 2018. Cherry is chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, and the panel gave its first hearing to SB 571 on Feb. 15 after it was introduced last October.

A Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the bill said it would "require LEO to implement a state project registration system for contractors and subcontractors bidding and working on state construction projects."

"The bill would allow LEO to charge a fee for a registration application and require the fee and any fines for a violation of prevailing wage and fringe benefit requirements to be deposited into the bill's proposed Prevailing Wage Fund. It also would require LEO to create and maintain a certified payroll database for contractors and subcontractors to submit certified payroll records that contained specific information."

(Continued on Page 2)

Strikes hit 23-year high last year, but 'high' is relative

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The nation's labor market is roiling a bit more these days.

"In 2023, there were 33 major work stoppages," the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said in its annual report on the subject, released Feb. 21. "This is the largest number of major work stoppages since there were 39 in 2000."

And the numbers of strikes was up significantly, too, but some perspective is necessary here. The lowest annual total of major work stoppages was five in 2009. Strikes and walkouts this century don't come close to when the labor movement was at its zenith in the 1950s. The greatest number of work stoppages recorded was 470 in 1952.

Moreover, the heightened number of work stoppages the nation has witnessed in the past few years has been tempered by the relatively low number of workers involved. Last year, however, there was somewhat of a breakout.

"Data from the BLS show that

458,900 workers were involved in "major work stoppages" in 2023," said researchers Margaret Poydock and Jennifer Sherer of the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute (up from 120,600 in 2022). "The number of workers involved in major work stoppages increased (Continued on Page 3)

Workers at two Southern plants vote to seek historic link with UAW

A majority of workers at Mercedes-Benz's largest plant in the U.S., in Vance, Ala., have signed union cards in support of joining the UAW.

In a Feb. 27 video announcement, Mercedes worker Jeremy Kimbrell, surrounded by coworkers, said they "are ready to win a better life with the UAW."

The announcement marks the second southern plant to reach the 50 percent milestone, after Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga reached majority support for the union in early February. A union can seek an election run by the National Labor Relations Board once a majority of workers support it, but the UAW will likely seek to strengthen its position with workers before doing so.

Meanwhile, there's sure to be pushback from the companies (Continued on Page 13)



Viewpoints



A silent revolution

I don't think you're expecting what I'm about to say, because I have never seen anything like this in 50 years in politics.

For decades I've been sounding an alarm about how our economy has become increasingly rigged for the rich. I've watched it get worse under both Republicans and Democrats, but what President Biden has done in his first term gives me hope I haven't felt in years. It's a complete sea change.

Here are three key areas where Biden is fundamentally reshaping our economy to make it better for working people.

#1, Trade and industrial policy. Biden is breaking with decades of reliance on free-trade deals and free-market philosophies. He's instead focusing on domestic policies designed to revive American manufacturing and fortify our own supply chains.

Take three of his signature pieces of legislation so far – the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS Act, and his infrastructure package. This flood of government investment has brought about a new wave in American manufacturing. Unlike Trump, who just levied tariffs on Chinese imports and used it as a campaign slogan, Biden is actually investing in America's manufacturing capacity so we don't have to rely on China in the first place.

He's turning the tide against deals made by previous administrations, both Democratic and Republican, that helped Wall Street but ended up costing American jobs and lowering American wages.

#2, Monopoly power. Biden is the first president in living memory to take on big monopolies.

Giant firms have come to dominate almost every industry. Four beef packers now control over 80 percent of the market, domestic air travel is dominated by four airlines, and most Americans have no real choice of internet providers. In a monopolized economy, corporate profits rise, consumers pay higher prices, and workers' wages shrink.

But under the Biden, the Federal Trade Commission and the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department have become the most aggressive monopoly fighters in more than a half century. They're going after Amazon and Google, Ticketmaster and Live Nation, JetBlue and Spirit, and a wide range of other giant corporations.

#3, Labor. Biden is also the most pro-union president I've ever seen. A big reason for the surge in workers organizing and striking for higher wages is the pro-labor course Biden is charting.

The Reagan years blew in a typhoon of union busting across America. Corporations routinely sunk unions and fired workers who attempted to form them. They offshored production or moved to so-called "right-to-work" states that enacted laws making it hard to form unions.

Even though Democratic presidents promised labor law reforms that would strengthen unions, they didn't follow through. But under Joe Biden, organized labor has received a vital lifeboat. Unionizing has been protected and encouraged. Biden is even the first sitting president to walk a picket line.

Biden's National Labor Relations Board is stemming the tide of unfair labor practices, requiring companies to bargain with their employees, speeding the period between union petitions and elections, and making it harder to fire workers for organizing.

Americans have every reason to be outraged at how decades of policies that prioritized corporations over people have thrown our economy off-keel.

But these three waves of change – a worker-centered trade and industrial policy, strong anti-monopoly enforcement, and moves to strengthen labor unions – are navigating towards a more equitable economy. It's a sea change that's long overdue.

Robert Reich

Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley

Aquadome topped out at Gun Lake

(Continued from Page 1) destination, during waking hours the six-story Wawye Oasis/Aquadome and nearby space will offer all manner of year-round amenities when it opens in 2025.

The site will have three pools, as well as all-purpose space that can transform into a banquet center for 300 guests and concert/entertainment venue that can accommodate up to 2,400 people.

The Aquadome, enclosed under the glass atrium, will feature live palm trees, tropical flora, and plantings at a temperature of 80 degrees.

The pool area is a fully enclosed glass atrium that allows natural daylight to illuminate the space during the day with a nightclub and concert light show atmosphere at night.



IRON WORKERS Local 25 members employed by Douglas Steel gather under the final section of steel ready for placement at the Aquadome at the Gun Lake Casino hotel. Photo credit: Ben Roberts

Bill would put fangs into prevailing wage law

(Continued from Page 1)

Lacking such a state project registration, a contractor or subcontractor could not submit a bid or perform work on a state-funded project, the analysis said. It added that the bill would have "no fiscal impact" on the state's Treasury Department, given the income from fees associated with registration.

Michael LaFaive, senior

director of fiscal policy for the conservative Mackinac Center for Public Policy, surprised no one with his testimony protesting the legislation. "Evidence," he wrote in submitted testimony, "demonstrates that conventional prevailing wage laws force Michigan taxpayers to pay more for goods and services when funded by the state." He cited an economist's opinion on this,

but there are a slew of academic studies indicating the opposite, that prevailing wage laws have zero impact on the treasuries of state or local communities.

He also called it "a problem" that the bill would apply to renewable energy projects that may not have any state funding.

But the bill would provide something that was sorely lack-

ing for most of the years when the Michigan Prevailing Wage Act was in effect from 1965-2018 – any serious attempt to enforce it.

Lansing IBEW Local 665 Business Manager Aaron Pangborn testified the bill would provide "mechanisms of oversight and enforcement," which he said is "a necessary component of any law. With no one to oversee and enforce the prevailing wage law, contractors would be free to ignore it," he said.

Rebranding crap is a stinky move

By Jim Hightower

A decade ago, Oklahoma's countryside was literally infested with 626 massively-polluting CAFOs –



"Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations."

These are nightmarish creatures of industrial agribusiness, each

one caging thousands of chickens, hogs, or cattle in huge concrete and steel buildings, and producing rivers of excrement. Imagine living next to one!

But – hallelujah! – responding to the outrage of rural neighbors, environmentalists, and

animal rights advocates, Oklahoma's political honchos have since stepped in with regulations to eliminate 90 percent of those CAFOs. Wow! How'd they do that?

The old-fashioned way: Political fraud. At the behest of chicken lobbyists for factory farm giants like Tyson Foods, state lawmakers – Hocus-Pocus! – let CAFOs rebrand themselves as PFOs, "Poultry Feeding Operations." It's the same old stink by a new name – only worse.

The state's PFO designation lets corporate profiteers get away with providing fewer protections for Oklahoma communities they subject to the overwhelming stench, contamination, flies, disease, and other nasties inherent in caging more than 300,000 birds

at a time in one spot.

For example, merely switching a factory's registration from a federal CAFO to a state PFO lets these industrial polluters locate right across the road from family homes, bringing such constant odor, debris, and disease that people can't open their windows or play in their yard.

The PFO scheme also eliminates a requirement that neighbors have to be notified when a chicken factory proposes to locate next door, and state officials even outlawed legal protests against their rubber stamping of water permits for these polluters.

This is Jim Hightower saying... Here's a solution: Require that a PFO chicken factory be installed next door to the Capitol building – share the stink!

"There are two ways to slide easily through life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking."

– Alfred Korzybski (1879 - 1950)

"Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life, and when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, 'I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me.'"

– Ann Landers (1918 - 2002)

"I have come to believe that the whole world is an enigma, a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our own mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth."

– Umberto Eco (1932 -)

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

- ◆ Mesothelioma
- ◆ Lung Cancer
- ◆ Asbestosis
- ◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis
- ◆ Throat Cancer
- ◆ Colon Cancer

As pioneers in asbestos litigation, GPW has filed asbestos lawsuits since 1984, defending the rights of hardworking men and women throughout Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Exposure to asbestos can cause deadly diseases such as MESOTHELIOMA, LUNG CANCER, ABESTOSIS, PULMONARY FIBROSIS, THROAT CANCER, and COLON CANCER.

Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

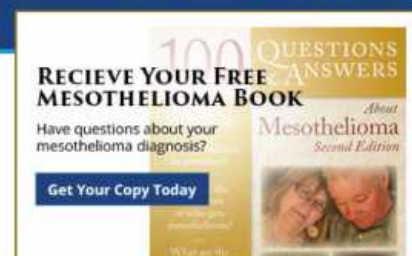
\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.

For more than 30 years, GPW has helped thousands of Michigan workers. We have represented mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestos disease victims, obtaining over \$1 billion in compensation for our clients.

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Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.

BUILDING MICHIGAN!

Alabaster, our state gypsum capital

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A 1910 POSTCARD VIEW from the dock of the Iosco County town, Alabaster – named for the gypsum that was – and still is – mined at the site. Its location on the shores of Lake Huron made it economical to ship the heavy gypsum throughout the Great Lakes. Alabaster was a typical company town, tied to the fortunes of the company’s sales. The town (current population, 480) never exceeded the 600 residents who lived there in its circa 1905 heyday.

Depending on where you live in Michigan, the glaciers that formed our topography gradually receded between 7,000 and 20,000 years ago. They left behind the basins for the Great Lakes that eventually formed our state’s borders, but they also left behind all manner of rocks, minerals and metals.

The Upper Peninsula produced iron ore, copper, and nickel, among others. The Lower Peninsula, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, became a major source of cement products, sand and gravel, peat, potash, common clay, crushed and dimension stone, industrial sand and gravel, limestone, gemstones, and salt.

One of our state’s under-the-radar mineral offerings is gypsum. Perhaps it deserves a little more renown, since it has been mined in Michigan since 1841. Today, Michigan’s only gypsum mine is in the tiny town of Alabaster Twp., a few miles below Tawas City on the Lake Huron shore. “Alabaster” – defined by Webster’s as a “hard compact calcite aragonite” – was the name given the site even before it officially became a town in 1866.

In 1837, the year Michigan became a state, state geologist Douglass Houghton discovered outcroppings of a variety of alabaster rock (gypsum) at the mouth of the Au Gres River. The discovery was followed by some unsuccessful mining attempts.

“It was William Patrick who developed the first successful gypsum mine in 1861, followed by Benjamin Smith who opened the present quarry in 1862,” said *Water Winter Wonderland – The Best of Michigan, Past and Present*. “By 1863, when the (Iosco) county population was less than 400, the open-pit mine here employed 60 people. By 1870 production had reached 23,000 tons annually. The population was about 300 by 1880, including a plaster works, two hotels and a general store.”

Gypsum is a soft sulfate mineral. Among the first American uses for gypsum was in plaster, as a fertilizer for wheat fields, and as a soil conditioner to improve water absorption. Gypsum is in no way native only to Michigan or even North America. (There was also another significant gypsum deposit mined near Grand Rapids). Gypsum has been used for centuries as an ingredient in plaster of Paris due to its abundance near France’s capital city. Ancient Egyptians used the stuff in 7,000 B.C. and mixed it into the outer layers of the Giza pyramids.

A federal geological report from 1881 said gypsum beds closer to the surface at Alabaster were 16 feet thick in the area, “with borings showing the existence of lower lying beds of an equal value.”

A fire destroyed the Alabaster Co.’s gypsum works in 1891, but the site was rebuilt in time to supply material for the



A SHIP LOADS gypsum from the Alabaster marine bin in the 1970s. Photo credit: USG

main buildings at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893. These buildings on display in Chicago, with marble-like walls (made with a plaster-gypsum-glyce mixture, the forerunner of wallboard), earned that portion of the exposition the title, “White City,” and greatly expanded U.S. gypsum sales.

“Incorporated into the U.S. Gypsum Co. (USG) in 1902, the quarry helped to make Michigan a leading producer of gypsum for over a century. By 1905 the village population had peaked at about 600, then declined to less than 400 in 1920,” said *Water-Winter Wonderland*.

USG owned about 200 acres of land at the site and built a two-story warehouse and a unique pier into Lake Huron for loading ships. The company also moved its product with a rail spur connecting to the Detroit and Mackinac, and Pere Marquette railroads.

“At the present time the (U.S. Gypsum Co.) has established a hotel, post office, and some 40 dwelling homes for the workmen, forming a very comfortable town located six miles from Tawas City and 42 miles from the mouth of the Saginaw River, fronting Saginaw Bay,” wrote George Grimsley in *The Gypsum of Michigan and the Plaster Industry* (1904).

USG – today the familiar maker of wallboard – has been continuously operating a mine



LONG ABANDONED, the Alabaster marine bin which distributed gypsum to ships was demolished in 2020. The conveyor system which fed it “represented a compromise between a major dredging operation to allow freighters to transport gypsum out of Alabaster and barging the material to freighters in deep water,” says the website *Abandoned*. “The ships took gypsum from Alabaster to East Chicago, Indiana or Detroit for manufacture into various gypsum products.” Photo credit: USG

located at the Alabaster Twp. site since its inception as a company.

“We formed in 1902, when about 20 gypsum companies came together as the United States Gypsum Co.,” USG says in its company history. “Twenty more companies joined the next year, and a network of gypsum mines, quarries and processing plants spread across the United States. In 1916, we disrupted the construction world with our invention of Sheetrock panels, changing the way interior walls were installed. A sales representative named it Sheetrock and our most well-known product was born.”

Indeed, gypsum today is mostly associated with the pressed material found in Sheetrock, which of course is also variously known as “drywall,” “wallboard” even “gyp-rock.” But gypsum also continues to have a wide variety of other uses, in plaster, plaster of Paris, tiles and masonry blocks, even in toothpaste.

The village of Alabaster quietly declined over the years, as did employment at the USG site. The company announced last year that it plans to “open its next quarry, on (adjacent) land purchased in 2018. The current quarry is near the end of its working life and offers a rare glimpse of geological history along the layers of its walls.”

USG, which owns about 5,000 acres in Iosco County, said it plans to develop a new quarry starting this year on about 600 acres of land purchased from the State of Michigan, southwest of the current operation. They expect production to be about 500,000 tons of gypsum per year.

During the mining process, according to *Iosco News*, “surface soils and clays are cleared until the gypsum layer is exposed. Machines similar to road resurfacing equipment essentially mow rows of gypsum approximately 12 inches thick. The materials are crushed and sorted by size on-site, and transported by truck to manufacturing operations and other businesses across Michigan and North America.”

Under an agreement with the state, once removal of the gypsum deposits is complete, the land is to be restored to create wetlands, lakes, forests and prairies.



THE 400-ACRE ALABASTER Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, but there isn’t much still standing. “The most visible and impressive structure in the district, the elevated marine tramway, was constructed in 1928 and the tramway stretched 1.3 miles out into the Saginaw Bay,” says *Lost in Michigan*. “Like a horizontal ski-lift, the cable system carried 72 “buckets” of gypsum to a waiting ship or to the storage bin. Each bucket held more than two tons. The tramway included 6,450 feet of one- and three-quarter inch steel cable and 14,000 feet of three-quarter-inch cable. At a length of 6,350 feet, it was the longest over-water bucket tramway in the world.” The tramway was demolished in the 1990s and the loading marine bin in Lake Huron was finally torn down in 2020. This photo is from the 1940s.

Strikes hit 23-year high last year, but ‘high’ is relative

(Continued from Page 1)

by 280 percent in 2023, returning to levels last seen prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. These strikes included workers across the country – from auto workers to Hollywood writers and actors, nurses, and public school teachers.”

They added: “A common theme among strikes in 2023 was a demand for higher pay amid the inflationary shocks stemming from pandemic re-opening, global crises, record profits for many corporations, and stratospheric CEO pay.”

By BLS standards, a major work stoppage involves 1,000 or more workers and lasts at least one shift during the work week, Monday through Friday. But that’s not good enough, argue researchers at the Cornell University’s School of Industrial

and Labor Relations. Researchers there said that budget cuts made during the Reagan Administration reduced recordkeeping, resulting in traditional undercounts of smaller strikes by the BLS of U.S. labor activity.

For example, a six-week strike involving 750 Temple University graduate student workers was not captured in the 2023 data, because it did not meet the size limitations of the BLS.

“2023 marked an important year for the U.S. labor movement,” said Cornell’s *Labor Action Tracker 2023*. “By only recording large work stoppages, official data sources exclude the vast majority of strike activity, posing issues for policymakers, practitioners, and scholars in determining the extent of workplace conflict across the country.

Increasing considerably over the past three years, strikes are an important tool for workplace and labor activism.”

The Cornell researchers said “large, high-profile strikes” in 2023 included the SAG-AFTRA actors’ union strike, the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions (health care workers) strike, the Los Angeles Unified School District strike, and the UAW’s Stand-Up Strike. Together they accounted for about 76 percent of all workers involved in work stoppages.

Some other nuggets from the Cornell report:

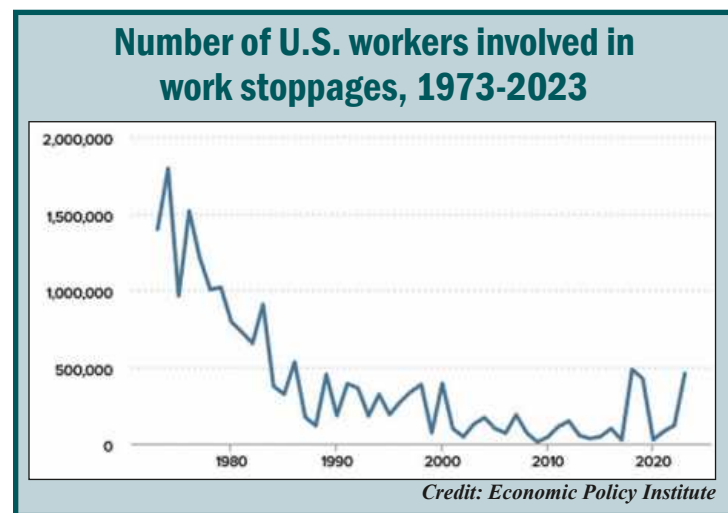
- The top three demands in workers’ work stoppages were unchanged from 2022: better pay, improved health and safety, and increased staffing.

- Workers in the accommodation and food service organized the highest number of work stoppages of any industry (33 percent), but only accounted for 6 percent of the total number of workers on strike. Of these strikes, 82 percent were organized by Starbucks Workers United or SEIU’s Fast Food campaign.

- Most work stoppages continue to be short, with the majority (62 percent) lasting fewer than five days.

“Despite considerable increases in the number of work stoppages and workers involved in stoppages since 2021,” the Cornell researchers said, “the level of strike activity still does not approach rates in the 1970s and earlier, according to more comprehensive BLS data available at that time. The number of workers involved in stoppages in 2023 is similar to 21st Century highs documented by the BLS in 2018 and 2019, based on their narrower inclusion criteria. The total number of work stoppages, approximate number of workers involved in stoppages, and strike days have increased each year over the past three years.”

Margaret Poydock, EPI senior policy analyst, said “A surge of workers went on strike in 2023 to fight back against record corporate profits, stratospheric CEO pay, and decades of stagnant wages. From the United Auto Workers to nurses across the country, these strikes provided critical leverage to workers to secure better wages and working conditions.”



First college sports team seeks, gets, union rights from NLRB

HANOVER, N.H. (PAI)—The National Labor Relations Board’s Boston regional director ruled Dartmouth College’s 15 men’s varsity basketball players are “employees” under labor law.

That means they can unionize – and they would be the first college team in the nation to do so.

Service Employees Local 560, which represents other campus workers, is campaigning for votes among the players. A union authorization voting date is uncertain. Dartmouth plans to appeal NLRB Regional Director Laura Sacks’s ruling to the full NLRB.

“Because Dartmouth has the right to control the work performed by the men’s varsity basketball team, and because the players perform that work in exchange for compensation” – scholarships, plus game tickets, room and board on road trips for all 15 and \$1,000 worth of sneakers per season – “the petitioned-for basketball players are employees within the meaning of labor law,” Sacks wrote.

How tight is Dartmouth’s control over the players’ working conditions? Besides haircut requirements, coaches set when they can play and practice and urge players not to take classes during certain weekday afternoon time slots when the team practices. Dartmouth claimed its regulations on haircuts, classes and other issues apply to all students. “The record reveals no evidence other members of the student body,” most, like the players, legally adults, are so strictly supervised,” Sacks drolly said.

Sacks’s decision again raises the issue of whether athletes at private universities are “employees” under labor law. Almost a decade ago, the issue came up when Northwestern University’s football team voted to unionize. Their coaches supported them. So did NLRB Chicago Regional Director Peter Sung Ohr. The full NLRB didn’t. It ducked the issue, but didn’t make any blanket prohibitions on college athletes organizing.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler called the latest ruling “game-changing.”

“The Dartmouth players’ desire to form a union mirrors what we’re seeing from young people throughout the country, in every industry,” she said. “Nearly nine in 10 young people under 30 approve of unions because they know ‘it’s better in a union.’”

Player reps Code Haskins and Romeo Myrthil Haskins said the team is “thrilled” by Sacks’s ruling. “This is a significant step forward for college athletes, and we are excited to see how this decision will impact college sports nationwide. We believe other athletes will recognize the opportunities this ruling presents,” the two said.

“In attempts to improve your character, know what is in your power and what is beyond it.”
–Francis Thompson (1859 - 1907)

“They can conquer who believe they can.”
–Virgil (70 BC - 19 BC)

“The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”
–Dorothy Nevill

“If you believe everything you read, better not read.”
–Japanese Proverb

“I take it that what all men are really after is some form or perhaps only some formula of peace.”
–Joseph Conrad (1857 - 1924)

“Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to get leisure.”
–Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Just joking

A young farm boy accidentally overturned his wagon load of corn. The farmer who lived nearby heard the noise.

“Hey Willis!!” the farmer yelled. “Forget your troubles. Come in and eat dinner with us. Then I’ll help you get the wagon back up.”

“That’s mighty nice of you,” Willis called back, “but I don’t think Pa would like me to.”

“Nonsense, come on!” the farmer insisted.

“Well, okay,” the boy finally agreed, “but Pa won’t like it.”

After a hearty dinner, Willis thanked his host. “I feel a lot better now, but I know Pa is going to be real upset.”

“Don’t be foolish!” the neighbor said with a smile. “By the way, where is your Pa?”

“Under the wagon.”

“Under the wagon.”

“Under the wagon.”

The Building Tradesman

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DETROIT – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the meeting will start at 6:30.

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

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Please Call, Text, Chat! IBEW Local 58 Cares! Call 988!

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line. \$100.00 Donation per Brick.

NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, extension 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Stay current on your dues! Look at your Dues Receipt – if you paid through date shows 12-31-2023 or earlier, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee (4 months or more behind). It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): The next DEWBF meeting will be March 5 at 5:30pm.

We congratulate the winners of this year's Joe Py Award that was presented at the Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday. Mike Conflitti and Jim Rehberg are this year's recipients. They have spent countless hours supporting the Benevolent fund and local 58 and the membership. Examples being Wobbly Kitchen and Cass Park, Community Service committee, and Super Bowl party to name a few. Thank you for all your service.

Our next event will be the Walleye Tournament on Saturday May 4. This open to all members and family as well as the other trades. Please look for more information soon. Lastly some special thanks go out to our business manager Paul VanOss and president Kimberly L'Heureux Denison on all their help and support to make our events and fundraising successful.

One last shout out to brother Geoff Yonkers from Local #275 for all his support and donations for our Brad Ballard golf outing in the past. Those were some awesome plaques you made as well as the Plinko board. Thanks again brother.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail).

Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information to volunteer or participate.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2024 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available.

If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall. Please bring any suggestions that you have for EWMC involvement and engagement. If you were a delegate to the Annual EWMC Leadership Conference in Atlanta celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the organization, please don't forget to fill out the conference survey. Now it's time to get to work here at home. We have a lot of events and projects on the horizon this year and we need all hands-on deck.

We have our annual DPSCD March Reading Month event coming up and we need all to sign up so that we can fill all of our spots. Please go online and fill out the volunteer waiver that was emailed to you and let us know that you have completed it. The district will expedite all of the requests that we submit to them for the Reading month event.

Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities in the near future. Volunteers will be needed as we continue with our efforts.

The **RENEW Committee meeting** will be on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

The **Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

The **Veterans Committee** will now be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024 starting at 5:30 pm.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) – If you have any questions or concerns or would like to attend our next PAC meeting you can reach out to our registrars at registrar@ibewlocal58.org. Political Action Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the hall at 5:30 PM.

Local 58's Women's Committee – Our next meeting will take place on March 28, 2024, 5:30pm at the Hall and also on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087). Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

Local 58 Motorcycle Group: Open to everyone and all riders are encouraged to join us! Requirements need to be met for patched membership. For more information, please visit our Facebook page for planned rides and updates @ IBEW Local 58 Motorcycle Group. Contact Vice President Anthony Anderanin @ 313-999-3829, aanderanin@gmail.com or Grace Trudell @ 517-715-7563 for more info. Join us at our upcoming meetings to plan for next year's events and rides.

IBEW LOCAL 58 Retirees Association: Our next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the lower level of the union hall. The next luncheon will be Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at the Gazebo Banquet Center, 31104 Mound Rd, Warren. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at 12:30.

Send your reservations with your checks (payable to the Retirees Association) in the amount of \$25 per person, to IBEW #58, Attn Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756, questions call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

The Annual Pin Party Luncheon is set for Saturday, April 27 at the union hall. Members who are receiving pins this year, will receive an invitation in the near future (please RSVP in a timely manner), and are our guests at this celebration. Honorees are welcome to bring guests, \$25 per person. Be sure to put the Pin Party on your calendars.

Checks and reservations, send to the aforementioned address at the local union hall. More pin party details will follow in this column and in our newsletter.

2024 DUES: If you haven't paid yours yet, send your checks for \$8 per person, to the address at the local. The ORAL HISTORY PROJECT has started back up, if you are interested in adding your story to this collection, call the local at 313 963-2130 to put your

name on the interview list. You will be contacted by a member of the committee for interview dates and times. Come join us for a luncheon, we always have a great time. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Local 58 Retirees' Association Fall Bus trip: the trip is Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 through Tuesday, Sept. 27. Traveling to Boston, Salem and Cape Ann. Total cost of the trip is \$845 per person, based on double occupancy. A deposit of \$75 per person, is due when you Sign up for the trip. Made payable to the Retirees Association. Balance will be due July 5th. Insurance provided by TRAVEL CONFIDENT INSURANCE is recommended, which is a separate payment made payable to the insurance company which is \$72 per person to join the trip, send your \$75 checks, per person, To Dave Riley, 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores 48080-1878. Questions: call Dave at 586 206-8075. **DON'T WAIT, SEND YOUR DEPOSIT TO HOLD YOUR SPOT.**

Local 58 Senior 55+ Softball Team 2024 is getting underway. The games start in May 2024, with practices running through April. Anyone interested in playing or maybe coaching a base or being a scorekeeper, please come on out! We are also going to field a team for the IBEW Midwest tournament this year. It is being held Aug. 9-11 at the Canton softball complex in Canton MI. Those who cannot join the league games but would like to participate in the tournament are welcome. We need a full roster and you do not have to be 55+ for the tournament. We will be getting together for practice once a month until the tournament. For more information call Dave Baldino, 586-747-2446; Gerry Cassani, 586-804-8026; or Jim Miles, 586-933-3551.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

Electrical Workers Credit Union – Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060. In the market for a loan? Check out our low rates!! New auto as low as 5.75%. Give us a call today to find out how to apply or go online at <http://www.ewcu.net>.

Who's your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary. Give us a call and we can check who you have listed. State of Michigan Escheat Law: The law states that any deposit account with no activity for 3 years must be turned over to the State. What can you do? Contact us today to find out your account status. Conduct a transaction by either deposit or withdraw (any amount). Close account.

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

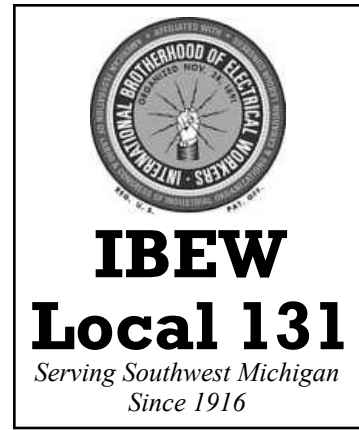
IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Dirk Delboy, and Wayne McNeill.

Members that have Passed Away: J Brown, Pension member, 70-year IBEW membership; James P. Diederichs, Brother to Pension member Joseph P. Diederichs & JIW Jeremy Diederichs, Nephew to Pension member Leonard Diederichs, Cousin to Pension member Paul Diederichs, Pension member Mary Nielsen, Tech I, Business Agent of Local 58 Thomas Diederichs, and Tech I Joseph Diederichs; Yvette N. Head, Wife to NECA Executive Director Jason Head; Dethana Dewitt Raleigh, Father to JIW Kathryn "Kandy" Raleigh; Irene Szymanski, Widow of the late Pension member George Szymanski. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

"Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim."
–George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."

–Charles W. Eliot (1834 - 1926)



IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on April 1, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew** meeting will be held on April 1, at 5 p.m. The next **Executive Board** meeting will be held on March 18, at 5 p.m.

The **Veterans Committee Meeting** will be held on April 4, at Union Hall, at 5:00PM.

Brotherhood night is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at CJ's from 3:30 to 5:30PM.

The **Work Outlook** continues to be steady. We have open calls for Moore, Champion Services, and Hi-Tech have crews working on the Pfizer, Zoetis and Palisades. Gun Lake Casino Hotel and Water Dome have several floors up, with more windows being installed all the time. Yes, there are a few warm spots. Palisades is waiting for final approval. They could be hiring this spring.

Negotiations have started for the next contract. We will find out in April if the Healthcare cost will be going up. The contractors offered 3% for the first year, for a total of 8% over three years. We are considerably higher. Come to the Union Meeting and we will discuss it. We will need your help in talking to the foreman, general foreman and superintendents about what you feel is a fair deal.

Politics are starting up and there are plenty of issues that have improved because the Democrats have had control. The IBEW advocacy efforts for labor standards include any federal incentives or assistance for infrastructure projects. We have supported the following labor standards on incentives for energy infrastructure including prevailing wage requirements, registered apprenticeship utilization requirements, union neutrality agreements, application test for worker misclassification, and local hire provisions.

NEBF is increasing for those who retire after Jan. 1, 2025. The change will increase the benefit from \$32.00 to \$33.00 per service year credit. For those who are currently retired, a 13th check will be sent out in November of 2025. Go to our website for more information under the "Retirees" tab.

Retiree Lunches at the following locations: March 20, Lunch at McGonigle's Irish Pub, 3512 E. Main St. Kalamazoo. @11:00.

Every Tuesday, a smaller group of Retirees meets at Uncle Ernie's Pancake House, 4005 Portage Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 @ 10 a.m.

On the last Friday of each month a group of retirees and others meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 South Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Sign up for a **Code Update** class. Classes are scheduled for on April 13 and 14, and on May 4 and 5. Call the hall or email mapplebey92@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Classes are limited to 25. There will be classes in the fall.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and IBEW PBF application takes at least 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. If you are nearing retirement, please call the hall and set up an appointment with Christine. You will need to submit copies of your social security card, birth certificate, marriage certificates and divorce decrees for you and your spouse(s) with your applications. Important numbers for you to write down: NEBF 301-556-4300 IO Pension 202-833-7000

Wilson-McShane has been sending emails addressing your special fund accounts. Receipts are required when using the special fund card (WEX Account). Wilson-McShane is asking for receipts. You must produce them, or the IRS requires that you pay taxes on the payouts. The Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) explanation of benefits could be used. Please call the hall or Wilson-McShane for help.

Three Months or more behind in counter dues payments are the following suspended members: Cody Stokan, Daniel Benson, Richard Butler. *Morris Applebey Business Manager*



IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Mar 11, 2024.

75th Anniversary of Local Union 498 – Look for invites for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Party to be held at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City. You will receive it by USPS and electronic email. You will have to RSVP so we can get a good count for attendance. We are looking for volunteers to help also. Please call Dave or Dylan. So far we have 153 members and significant others signed up to attend.

Code Update Class – The State of Michigan has adopted the 2023 code. Tim Babcock is working on dates for an update class for the 2025 license renewal. Please watch later editions for a class time update.

Negotiations – Negotiations have started, please watch your mail box for a post card for an invite to a special called ratification meeting. We will also notify you by email as well.

Habitat Update – The rough-ins at New Wave subdivision off M72 and Bugai Road have started, we have 2 more homes to rough in, we mostly roughed the 1st home on Saturday, February 24th. Thanks to everyone that came out to help! We will be back at it on Saturday, March 9, so if you have some free time, please come out and help.

Resale Items – We have Local 498 t-shirt, and Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing

Retiree breakfast – Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am. So if you are retired or not and want to join in the conversations and possibly some old wives tales or other embellished stories, show up at Sparky's.

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

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

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

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

Important numbers for you to write in your address book: MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632

Website: www.michigan-electrical.org

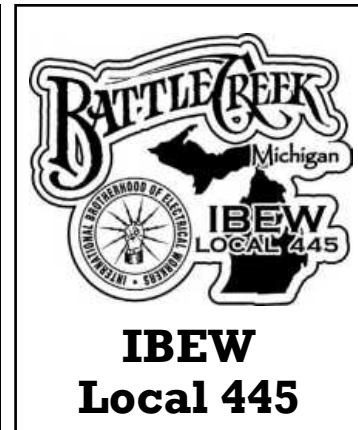
MEEPP (MI Pension) 1-855-633-4584

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300 NEAP 1-301-556-4300 IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES
Jan 1, 2023 – Dues increase to \$152.10/Quarter.
July 1, 2024 – Dues increase to \$155.10/Quarter.

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.
Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#



IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – In Memoriam. It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Daniel Clemence and James Zeiter. Please keep their families in your prayers.

First Aid/CPR – Check the expiration on your First Aid/CPR certification cards! There is a First Aid/CPR refresher class scheduled for March 11, 2024 at the Hall after the Union Meeting. We will be having a class every March for members to get an updated First Aid/CPR certification card.

IBEW Local 445 Annual Golf Outing The 17th Annual IBEW Local 445 Golf Outing hosted at Binder Park Golf Course is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 8am shotgun start. Please contact the Hall for the individual/team registration/sponsorship paperwork.

Reminder about Health Plan Advocate. This is a reminder about the Michigan Electrical Health Plan Pharmacy Savings Program. Health Plan Advocates is working with the MEEHP to help the fund and the members to save money on costly prescriptions. If your prescription is over \$400.00, the HPA will check for copay savings cards to get members a \$0.00 payment for that prescription. If you receive correspondence from HPA, either via mail or email, you MUST respond to them to get enrolled. If you don't contact HPA, you could encounter a high deductible/co-pay when you fill that RX on your next refill.

Delta Dental – Active Members should have received the new Delta Dental cards and information on the covered services. If you haven't received your cards, please contact the Hall. You can also visit deltadentalmi.com and set up an account to see your dental card as well as your EOB's.

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

2024 Personal information. As we enter into the new year, it is time to think about your personal information that we have on file at the Hall. Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

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

Wilson-McShane has replaced TICI for our benefit administration as of June 1, 2023. Please have a little patience as the transition has had some bumps that they are smoothing out. You can visit www.michiganelectrical.org to create a new account under the Member Portal tab. You should have received new Special Fund cards that are white. Please dispose of the old blue cards as they will no longer work. The website to access your Special Fund is <https://ibewmichigan.lh1ondemand.com/Login.aspx>. There is an app you can download from your app store MI IBEW Special Fund.

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

Local Website – Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is IBEW445.com. Make sure you check out the Resource Link page for important related websites.

Respectfully Submitted, Wanda Secrest Recording Secretary

"We are inclined to believe those whom we do not know because they have never deceived us."

–Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

"You can't make up anything anymore. The world itself is a satire. All you're doing is recording it."

–Art Buchwald (1925 - 2007)



PULLING RANGE CABLE on the third floor of the Harrison Street Commons project in Flint is Max Hendrickson of IBEW Local 948. He is employed by Roth Electric.



IBEW 557
SAGINAW – UNION NEWS- The Local is currently in contract negotiations with our contractors. At this point, one meeting has occurred. It was evident that the two sides are very far apart on the issues of wages. IBEW skilled trades workers deserve the best compensation. Keep this in mind and remind your current contractor of that during this period of time.

A stewards class will be put on at the Local on April 3rd. Please keep this day open. Good stewards on job sites will be vital

to this Local for the upcoming workload we will be seeing.

Poker night for March is set for the 21st at 6pm. It would be great to see some new faces.

COMET class happened on February 21st. The Local had great participation for its first offering of the class. It is a great opportunity to help educate the membership of the importance of organizing.

Very soon Local 557 will be even busier than we have been lately. Work is picking up at Hemlock Semi-Conductor and we will need all hands on deck to man the work. This goes hand in hand with the importance of organizing. If you know someone in the electrical field that would like to join our membership, please reach out to them.

The new member incentive program is still ongoing, and it could mean a bonus for you, as an existing member as well. The opportunities in front of us in the IBEW are plentiful at this point in time and should be for a good long time. The IBEW is all about changing lives and we will continue to do so.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS- The next two membership meetings are March 5th and April 2nd at the Hall at 5:30pm.

ORGANIZING- Please contact Brother Gus Voisine for any organizing issues. If our members have any questions please reach out to him on his cell: 989-941-8046.

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are M-F 7-4:30pm.

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- Work continues on solar projects in the area. If you are targeting these jobs, they should be available for Book 1 and Book 2 members. Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by making contact with their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Weinstein Electric from Local 948 continues work on the new Bavarian Inn Waterpark in Frankenmuth. Future work at HSC is at our doorstep with some hiring expected soon. Master Electric has also secured a job at SVSU.

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

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

WEX APP- You will need to download the new WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. After doing this step, it will work the same as the old app, only more efficiently.

JOB CALLS- Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.

STAY CURRENT ON DUES: Please check to see if you are current. The Hall has the ability to accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service. You
(Continued next column)

IBEW Local 692's column – See Page 6



IBEW Local 275
COOPERSVILLE – The work outlook continues to be very busy, with the potential of several large projects kicking off this Spring and Summer in addition to the work our contractors have already secured. We've had various open job calls for some time and plan to have more over the coming weeks and months. Call the recorder each night to avoid missing a call you may be interested in.

With the tremendous amount of work right now, the Local has been organizing new members of all levels to fill calls and grow the Local. If you've been to a Union meeting recently, you'd know we've been swearing in several new members every month for the last several months. We can use all the help we can get, so if you know any electricians in your social circles and/or communities, please encourage them to reach out to one of our organizers, Walter or Geoff.

Please join Local 275 in walking with the KICLC in the annual St. Patrick's day parade in Grand Rapids. Parade takes place Saturday, March 16 with lineup starting at 9:30 and the parade starts at 11. The route has changed a bit this year with groups meeting at Calder plaza and ending at the library. This is a great community service idea for apprentices and a great way to show solidarity in the Grand Rapids area.

The 2024 West Michigan United Labor Wild Game Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, March 28! Please mark this date on your calendars if you plan to attend this year's event. We approved tickets at last month's meeting and they are at the Hall. If you would like to reserve tickets, call Nicole at the Hall. If you have any extra fillets or meat in your freezers that can be donated, please contact Walter at the Union Hall.

At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Luke Rokus, and Christopher Wagner. Please make every effort to get caught up with your dues as soon as you can.

"Not only is the universe stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine."

–Sir Arthur Eddington (1882 - 1944)

"How little a thing can make us happy when we feel that we have earned it."

–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"Never go to excess, but let moderation be your guide."

–Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

"A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of."

–Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

"It is always easier to believe than to deny. Our minds are naturally affirmative."

–John Burroughs (1837 - 1921)

"There is no moral precept that does not have something inconvenient about it."

–Denis Diderot (1713 - 1784)

"Be careful that victories do not carry the seed of future defeats."

Local 557, con't
 can pay for these purchases over the phone, if you wish.
CONTACT NUMBERS- Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855)633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org
In Solidarity, Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



Local 665
IBEW 665
LANSING – WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 has OPEN CALLS and will need help from our travelling brothers and sisters. Call the hall for the most up to date information. 665 will be experiencing unfilled calls for all of 2024.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have just surpassed 700 members in the local of which 140 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeyman's job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical, we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email Dale@lejate.org or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our new contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to the JATC to sign up for it. You can email Dale@lejate.org to receive instructions on how to complete it.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejate.org and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.
FIRST AID/CPR: If you require First Aid/CPR. Contact the JATC for the next available date to sign up.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your MUST mods/ OSHA 30 and your MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

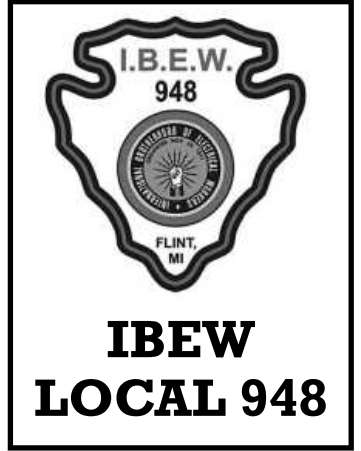
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is on the third Monday of each month and starts at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS: Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #346. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

BENEFICIARIES: If you have recently gotten married, divorced, had children, etc., please make sure you update your beneficiaries. Forms are available at the hall.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of Local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal. Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23, Howard Shooltz 08/14/23, Gerald Loughlin 08/19/23, Walter Keith Sr. 07/12/23, Joseph Fussman 06/16/23, Eric Odle 05/15/23, Christopher Brown 04/12/23, Richard Farrington 03/12/2023, Donald Reidsma 02/22/23, Lee Benjamin 01/26/23.



IBEW LOCAL 948
IBEW Local 948
FLINT – Meetings.
Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be March 11th, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
Retiree Meetings - Retirees will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month starting back up in April.

Party Committee - For interest in participation please contact President Phil Steele.

AFL Educational Meetings - Attention all members. Before every monthly meeting at 5 PM, our hall will be hosting educational meetings presented by the AFL-CIO. These meetings aim to further educate our members on core regulations, acts, and laws that play a key role in our careers. For any questions or concerns please contact Jenny Wallace.

Book Signing - For any members looking to sign our books please refer to our hotline at (810) 767-3308 Ext #5 or report directly to the hall.

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is slow with a gradual increase in calls projected post-strike. Steady calls have been available for GM centers. Long-term calls for service truck drivers have been made available. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

Dues Reminder - Members, please ensure your dues are paid in full. For any questions, concerns, or payments please see Jenny Wallace or call the main office at (810) 767-3308.

Seeking New Membership - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Kellogg Dipzinski.

New Store Stock - To all members interested, we have new merchandise at our hall. New stock includes shirts, hoodies, hats, and other apparel. For any questions or purchases please contact Jenny Wallace.

Special Thanks to Tim Sneller for speaking to the membership at our latest meeting. We will be supporting and looking forward to your candidacy in the 68th District Court.

Congratulations to Eric Crites on being hired as our latest Organizer. We look forward to having you as an agent of the hall.

Tigers' Party Bus - Attention membership, we are seeking interest in booking a party bus and potentially a suite to a Tiger's game later this year. Plans will not be made unless sign-ups are secured so please contact Jenny Wallace for any interest.

New Membership - Welcome to our latest members; Nick Fitzmaurice, Jarvis Love, and McKenna Harrison. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees - Congratulations to Daren Slocum and Brian Mikulski on your pension applications. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

Draping of the Charter - Our condolences to the families of Stan Puchez and Dan Schmidt. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep these Brothers in our hearts.

"The only thing I like about rich people is their money."
 –Nancy Astor (1879 - 1964)



IBEW Local 252
ANN ARBOR – *THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20TH*
BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office AND at the hall for anyone that may need to update information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at BOTH.

TRAINING CLASSES 2024: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM
 Code Update session 1 Mondays and Thursdays, March 4, 7, 11, & 14, 2024

Code Update session 2 Mondays and Thursdays, March 18, 21, 25, & 28, 2024

Code Update session 3 Mondays and Thursdays, April 8, 11, 15, & 18, 2024

Code Update session 4 Mondays and Thursdays, April 22, 25, 29, & May 2, 2024

CPR/First Aid Tuesdays, March 7, 14, June 6, 13, Sept. 5, 12, Dec. 5, 12
 There is a \$50 fee to hold a spot in all classes except First Aid/CPR. You must register one week prior to class start date. Call the Training Center at (734) 475-1180 to register.

LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OPENING: If you're interested in filling the open committee seat or looking for more information please contact President Mike Cox at (734)424-0978.

TRAINING DIRECTOR OPENING: The AAEJATC is accepting applications for Training Director. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest that addresses specifically how your experience and qualifications meet the duties and desired qualifications of the position, a current resume, and any transcripts, diplomas, or certifications to the AAEJATC, located at 13400 Luick Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118, or submit by email to Hope Salyer at hopes@aeajate.org, by February 29, 2024. All applications will be kept confidential.

2024 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2024 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA's 2024 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2024! Beginning Jan. 2, 2024, prize winners will be drawn each week for 52 weeks. Sweepstakes entrants are eligible to win multiple prizes! Online calendar registration is available until April 15, 2024. Only mail-in registrations will be accepted after that date. Entries registered after Jan. 1 will only be included in drawings that occur after the registration date. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.

PHEASANT 4 LIFE HUNT: There will be a field hunt on the morning of March 9, 2024 at Ringneck Ranch, 14904 Hanover Rd., in Hanover to benefit U of M Rogel Research Center. The hunt usually begins between 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$150 per person, with a deposit of \$50 due by Monday, February 15th. If a dog is needed it is \$100 per group. Payments can be made at the JATC, Union Hall, or by Venmo. Bird cleaning is \$3.50 per bird if desired. Food, beverages and snacks will be provided. BYOB. Contact Joe Jarecki for more information at (734) 770-5114 or joejarecki4@gmail.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Renew Committee's 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 23rd at the Union Hall from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Activities include an egg coloring contest, egg hunt with prizes for kids under 10, games for all ages, and visits from the Easter Bunny. Egg hunt will begin at 3 p.m. For more information, or to RSVP please contact Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

BLOOD DRIVE: American Red Cross will be at the Union Hall on April 24 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For an appointment, log onto Red-CrossBlood.org (sponsor code Jeremy), or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk in donations are also accepted. Please take time to honor Jeremy Loy's memory with your donation.

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

RETIREE'S BREAKFAST: Will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 S. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Parking and entrances in both the front and rear.
M.U.S.T DRUG TESTING: Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

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

AFLAC INSURANCE: Aflac has teamed up with the IBEW to offer its members Aflac benefits at a reduced rate. Contact Representative Lisa Enerson for information about Accident, Cancer, Critical Care, Dental and Vision insurance from Aflac. Phone: (517) 306-0144.

RETIREMENT: NEBF and applications take 3 months to process but can be filled out as early as 6 months before your planned retirement effective date. IBEW PBF applications usually take 3 months to process but are running a couple months behind. IBEW PBF applications can be filled out 6 months before your planned retirement date. If you are nearing retirement, please contact Alana at the Union Hall to start your paperwork at least 3-6 months before your planned retirement date. You will be asked to submit copies of social security cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc. for you and your spouse with your applications. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS - Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2023, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$131.25 for first quarter 2023. "BA" members pay \$67.80 per quarter for 2023. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, March 29, 2024.**

Future Dues Increases:
Effective July 1, 2024: A Members will pay \$134.25 per quarter.
Effective Jan. 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$140.25 per quarter.
Effective July 1, 2025: A Members will pay \$143.25 per quarter.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The April monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 1st, 2024.

Executive Board Meeting. The March Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, March 18, 2024.

Message from the Business Manager.

St. Patrick's Day Parade. IBEW Local 692 will be participating in the Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17 at 2PM. An email will be sent out with specific details as the date approaches. Please join us in celebrating this annual event, all members are encouraged to bring their families. Hot dogs and refreshments will be provided.

Work Report. Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include:

-Nelson Electric (Currently) GM Powertrain - Many more projects to come at Powertrain.

-J. Ranck Electric – continuing work at SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility.

-Master Electric continues Electrical installations on the new Isabella County Jail. More calls for this project are expected.

-Countyline has secured Airport Work. Countyline has a Michigan Sugar De-Sugarization Project and also a project at the Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facility. Look for job calls from Countyline.

-Clements Electric Independence Bridge work continues along with Bay Carbon Project, and also work out to the Bay City State Park.

-Conti Electric has many projects inside I -Park (DOW). Conti Electric has also secured a couple small projects inside Michigan Sugar along with a nice Fire Alarm Project on site at Michigan Sugar.

-Conti Electric also expects to assemble trailer city on their upcoming solar project near Rogers City April 1. Conti expects the average manpower on this project to be around 50 peaking at 90. Zone 1 scale will be paid on this project along with \$ 50.00 dollars a day incentive pay being offered per Conti.

-Escon has secured a nice project at Mersen USA in Bay City's south end. Much more work is to come out at Mersen with projects bidding as you read this article.

-The State has approved its final permit for the Great Lakes Tunnel. The last permit needed for this project to occur is in the hands of the Army Corp of Engineers. It is unknown at this time how long this process will take.

- Zone 2 also has another Solar project coming to the Lafarge Cement Plant. This Project could also start very soon.

Another large-scale utility solar project is expected to break ground in Isabella County this year. As soon as more details are known I will share them.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership.

Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing are currently having many calls getting into Book II if you are looking for work. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Fin. Secretary Organizers Report. As always, 692 Organizers continue to visit jobsites within our jurisdiction to speak with unrepresented electricians, building relationships and discussing the opportunities that exist by joining our Brotherhood. We should never lose sight of the organizing mission that guided the birth and growth of the IBEW. Our founders built a strong union by organizing all qualified workers, which allows us to achieve higher union density and ultimately increases our bargaining power during negotiations.

Regular public school visits and partnerships with area ISD programs and will continue through the winter into spring in an effort to recruit apprenticeship applicants and increase overall interest in the skilled trades. A special focus was aimed towards the schools in our northern jurisdiction including Onaway, Cheboygan, Rogers, and Alpena.

Select Bay Arenac ISD students have been working directly with agents performing hands-on lab assignments at our apprenticeship school. More than a dozen additional school events have been scheduled in the next two months. If you know any young people interested in the electrical construction industry, please contact an agent to receive apprenticeship application and supplemental information.

Our Apprenticeship accepts applications in-person year-round, every first and third Wednesday of the month. A special apprenticeship application day was also held Wednesday, March 6 at Presque Isle District Library in Rogers City, allowing local candidates to speak directly with union organizers and Training Director Stephen Pahl.

Do not hesitate to contact agents if you are interested in up-to-date work reports or if you'd like to register on books. Saginaw, Lansing, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and West Michigan have all recently experienced open calls. Flint and Local 692 expect more calls at various projects through winter and into spring.

Our website has been updated and is now live. Please visit www.ibew692.net and let us know if you'd like us to add additional information or member options. Members can pay dues, check their position on the out-of-work list, find links to health and pension plan portals and more. New stickers, pencils, pencil clips and 2024 planners are now available at the hall.

Union Dues.

PLEASE NOTE: Effective Jan. 1, 2024, dues will remain \$45.20 per month through June 2024. Effective July 1, 2024, dues will increase to \$46.20 per month. This \$1 per capita increase was approved by the delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.

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

2024 Dues (January 2024 thru June 2024): \$45.20 Monthly 2024 Dues (July 2024 thru December 2024): \$46.20 Monthly To avoid a reinstatement fee, please remember to keep your dues current.

Retirees Lunch. The March retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 21st at Coonan's Irish Hub, located at 1004 N. Johnson Street in Bay City.

RENEW. 692 RENEW would like to thank all brothers and sisters who participated in the 3rd annual Brotherhood on the Bay fishing tournament on Saturday, February 24th. Nearly 50 anglers participated with even more joining the reception and dinner later in the evening. Billed as "Battle on the Bay", the new tournament rules allowed Locals 557 and 692 to face off head-to-head for bragging rights and possession of a traveling trophy.

Local 692 took home the hardware, with members Gus Voisine, Brian Klele, and Chris Reiss combining for a heaviest three walleye total of 21.8 pounds. A special thank you is due to all 557 RENEW members and Saginaw's hands who participated, as well as 692 member Josh Revard who provided and prepared the walleye for an incredible reception dinner. 692 RENEW is looking forward to collaborating with our sister local to plan another wonderful tournament next year.

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

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

Important links & numbers Health Plan & Pension Fund 855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE www.michiganelectrical.org NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300 • IO Pension: 202.833.7000



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – There will be NO Union meeting in March; In order to accommodate Voting for the By-Law and the June Wage Allocation we will conduct an April Union Meeting earlier in the month, as follows:

The April Union meeting will be Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm and will be in person and zoom. We will conduct the third (3rd) reading of the proposed By-Law Proposal and review the wage allocation proposals. All Union Halls will be open.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2023 we will conduct Voting for the By-Law Proposal and the June Wage Allocation Vote. All Union Halls will be open from 12:00 pm (noon) until 7:00 pm. A member is considered "eligible" to vote who is in good standing. Union Dues must be paid through March 2024 or better. Apprentice, pre-apprentice, probationary, honorary and lifetime members, not being full dues paying members, are NOT eligible to vote.

Steward meeting(s): The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 pm. All are welcome! No Lansing Steward meeting in March.

Communications Alerts & E-mails; sign up via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS. You can download our APP for android on google play or for iPhone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop.

IMPORTANT: Dependent Eligibility Verification for Health Insurance Benefits coverage is in its 2nd round. PDA Verification Team from Livonia MI is conducting this audit. All members who have dependents (spouse and/ or children) on their health care must comply. If you missed the mailing somehow, watch your mail for a second mailing coming soon!!

PLEASE RESPOND RIGHT AWAY WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR LETTER AS THIS IS VERY TIME SENSITIVE AND CRITICAL TO YOUR CONTINUED COVERAGE IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.

DEADLINE APPROACHING for the 2024 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP: All COMPLETED applications must be turned in by March 15, 2024.

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

The 2024 Mandatory Apprenticeship Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16th 2024 @ the Novi Union Hall from 10am-1pm; all Classes, all Apprentices must attend.

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 to view the 2024 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Training Schedule. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. 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. 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.

Check your HRA Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com

Check you online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

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

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

Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Retirees' meeting/luncheon is Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 10 am in Novi. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday April 2, 2024 at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Cafe, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the Bay City Chapter will be April 18, 2024; NEW LOCATION: at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw Mi 48604 at 1:00 pm. All are Welcome.

The Downriver Chapter The next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be April 19, 2024 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

Local 25 Retirees' Club 2024 Scholarship is available. Eligibility Requirements: child or grandchild of a retired Local 25 member. Applicant must be in their Senior year of high school with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Retiree must have a minimum of five years continuous Local union membership and be a member of the Iron Workers' Local 25 Retiree' Club as of the prior year and must be current on their annual club dues to be eligible and apply. Contact John Miller: text/call (734) 812-8036. All requests must be made by March 12, 2024. Completed applications due by 5pm April 30, 2024.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/ Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

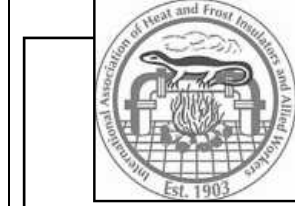
FindTreatment.gov where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357.

MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health 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 – its free & confidential. 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. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

The IRONWORKER Magazine changes: The magazine published by the International will now be issued every other month (6 times per year). To subscribe to the digital edition of the Ironworker or the monthly newsletter, please use the following link: https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up

In Memory: Ronald Birgy #532064 passed away February 16, 2024 at the age of 91. He just celebrated 70 years of membership with Local 25/575. He is survived by his wife of 67 years Barbara. His dad was the late Otto Birgy #340212. 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 (Mar 1, 2024 9:00am E.S.T.)-



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 25

Heat & Frost Insulators 25

SOUTHFIELD – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

SUB FUND BENEFIT: At the latest SUB Fund Meeting, the trustees voted to increase the SUB Fund Benefit amount effective, January 22, 2024.

The new weekly rate for members drawing a medical disability check from the Fund Office will be \$350.00 per week. A member drawing an unemployment benefit from the State of Michigan will now receive \$300.00 per week.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This 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 48 hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

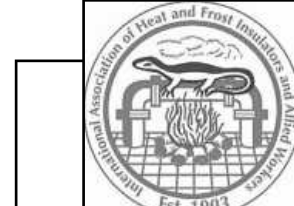
S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

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 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.



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Regular Union Meeting will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at J.A.T.C. Training Center, 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 No. (517) 321-7508

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

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

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

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

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."

Good and Welfare: We hope everyone stay in good health!

"It still holds true that man is most uniquely human when he turns obstacles into opportunities." –Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

"Science is nothing but trained and organized common sense, differing from the latter only as a veteran may differ from a raw recruit: and its methods differ from those of common sense only as far as the guardsman's cut and thrust differ from the manner in which a savage wields his club." –Thomas H. Huxley (1825 - 1895)



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,
Refrigeration &
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Local 636's next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (at the Lodge) Southfield, MI 48075. Attention Softball Players; Anyone interested in playing Softball please contact Jeff Selp at 269-598-6942.

UA Local 67 Hamilton, Ont. Hockey Tournament that 636 participates in is taking place May 3-5. Per past years, 636 sends an under-35 and an over -35 team. This year, there will be 8 pre-tournament conditioning skates on Tuesdays, 3/12/2024 - 4/30/2024 from 4-5 pm at Redford Ice Arena. If you are current or new and interested in playing this year, please reach out to Ryan Stewart (248) 798-7420.

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

REMINDER: Please open all correspondents with the Local and BeneSys and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

Save the Date: Saturday Aug. 17, Local 636 will have our annual picnic at the SARA CLUB in Brighton, 11am – 4pm.

The first Annual Local 636 Scholarship Golf Outing is Saturday June 15, 2024 at Mystic Creek Golf Course. More information to follow.

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 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall. The next meeting will be held March 21, 2024

The Dec. 19, 2023 Awards Banquet, UPDATE; we will begin mailing certificates and pins this week, we have a lot to mail so please be patient.

New 988 crisis helpline. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available.

When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

Our deepest condolences go out to the members, families and friends of the following, who have passed from our ranks: 10-year member Ty Alan Wright Dec. 30, 2023, Lifetime Member Morris "Ric" Parr Dec. 20, 2023; Lifetime Member Robert Blackburn Jan. 30. Our condolences to Lifetime member Bernard Cousino whose wife June Ellen of 55 years passed away Feb. 9, 2024. Juanita Davenport wife of the late Lifetime member Harold Davenport passed away Feb. 10, 2024. May they Rest in Peace.

Get Well Wishes to; Charles Baker, Barbara Brown, Patrick Cullen, Theresa Danko, David Fox, Kevin Harper, Andrew Hernandez, Alan Hiller, Jamie Klimowicz, Frank Kozlowski, Mark Surowiec, Kirt Williamson, Tom Wills, David Yuhn, David Jarzab, Brian Mierendorf, Paul Franjesh.

Following is a list of our recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. Congratulations on your retirement! December; Mark Mears, Charles Chesser. January; Daniel Sarna

Dues. NEW- Your dues receipts will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. 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. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday.

After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

Direct Deposit is now available, members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website and you can call the Local for one.

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.

Financial Advisor Jason May with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a new contact number 248-540-2091 or email him at 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 corrected website is www.yourplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

Considering Retirement? Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 248-641-4936 at BeneSys 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.

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

Training Center News. REMINDER: The Training Center is down to 15 Welding Booths for night welding through the month of February due to upgrades. Regular night welding running through the Winter will be Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm. Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8 Monday and Thursday nights with Jason starting April 8th from 5 till 8: Commercial Refrigeration and MES 3/Star.

Wed Mar. 6th at 5 PM: Absorbers

Mitsubishi Installer Certification: April 30, May 1&2 from 7 till 3:30

Running Saturdays March through April: Orbital/clean-room, and HDPE Fusion class, RMD/GMAW, Downhill

All classes are \$50 per 5 weeks. Call Kim at the Training Center to sign up.



Local 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm.** Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

GROWLERS BASEBALL NIGHT: Mark your calendars for Local 357's Union Outing - Kalamazoo Growlers Baseball Game on **Saturday, June 8, 2024.**

More information will be coming in a few months.... So ... Just set this date aside for now.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.ualocal357.com. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site.... so, if you are paying a month of dues at \$34.00... you need to pay \$35.36. Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at Long Island Cafe located at 5222 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 218-0003.

MEDICAL CLAIMS ISSUES: As a member, TIC International and Labor First provide a dedicated team of member advocates to assist with the resolution of any and all medical claims issues. If at any time you experience an issue with your claims being processed and paid correctly, please contact TIC international at (888) 281-3461. For Medicare Retirees – Contact Labor First at (269) 218-3533 or (833) 933-0036.

WEBSITE INFORMATION – FRINGES – TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com and the **FACEBOOK** Page @ www.facebook.com/UALocal357/. You should sign up for access to your fringe reporting done by TIC via the Union website. To gain access, click on the Member Resources, then click on MRA / TIC Intl Information and then Register.

This is where you will type in your Name, Email Address, UA Card # and create your own password. Once you have completed all the information – click on the LARGE REGISTER button that is surrounded by a Blue Box.

Your User Access will be granted the next business day. To access your account, once it is set up, all you need to do is access the Membership Button again – type in your email address and password – and all your information will be presented. As a member via the website, you will be able to keep track of all your hours and receive an e-mail when the hours are posted to your account. **This is very important as it is up to you to keep up to date on the hours being paid on your behalf by ANY CONTRACTORS.**

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date.

There seems to be a continuing problem regarding notification of divorcees. Note that you, the member, will be responsible for any bills incurred and paid on claims of an ex-spouse or dependents. (See Pages 6 and 27 in the Summary Plan Description Booklet for clarification).

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the family of Mike and Tom Johnson on the recent passing of their mother.

"Keep on going and the chances are you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I have never heard of anyone stumbling on something sitting down."

– Charles F. Kettering (1876 - 1958)

"Nothing is as far away as one minute ago."

– Jim Bishop



Local 370

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 12, 2024, at 7.** This will be a **refreshment** meeting.

New website is up and running!! Ualocal370.org

Upcoming Night Class Schedule: Weld Test Saturday, March 9 at 7 am. To sign up, call 810-720-5243 ext. 15 or email training@ualocal370.org. You will need to have your name, phone number, test type and UA card number when you sign up.

First Aid & CPR. Sept. 18th @ 4:30

Backflow. March 11 thru April 8. Mondays and Thursdays @ 4:30

A2L Refrigerant Class. March 4th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 18th & 21st 5:00- 7:30

HVACR STAR Mastery Prep. Sign up and we will schedule classes as needed.

Night Welding Session 3 March 18th thru April 10th. Mondays and Wednesdays @ 4:30

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 ext 15 or at training@ualocal370.org

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows: Examining Board – Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 4:00pm
PAC committee – Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 5:00pm
Executive Board – Tuesday March 12, 2024, at 5:00pm
Building Committee – Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 6:00pm
Finance Committee – Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 6:15pm
JATC Committee – TBD

ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing: MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years.

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

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

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

Attendance award drawing for membership meeting information. Member's present must have dues paid to date to claim award. The monthly award is \$150.

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

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

Our web site is up and running. Check it out: ualocal370.org

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

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

(Continued next column)



Local 333

Plumbers &
Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

LANSING – The March meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI 48911.

Attention: Per Section 130 of the UA Constitution, monthly dues will go from \$28.00 per month to \$31.00 per month effective January 1, 2024 for Journey-men with no change for retirees.

SPRING SESSION WELD CLASSES. LANSING. Beginning - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 4/02/24 - 6/07/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30

JACKSON. Beginning - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 - 8:30 Advanced - 4/02/24 - 6/07/24 - Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 8:30

BATTLE CREEK. Welding - 4/01/24 - 6/06/24 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 8:30

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBING PREP CLASS: April 29th, May 1st, May 6th and May 8th.

BACKFLOW RENEWAL CLASS. Starts April 15 (Mondays only)

ADVANCED PIPEFITTING CLASS. Starts April 1st at 5:00 pm - Class lasts six weeks.

MIG CLASS. Must have UA21 - Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

ORBITAL. 18A CLASS. Must have UA41 - Class will begin when 6 members have signed.

Please sign up on the Website - UA333.org. If you need assistance call the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA as of January 1, 2019, all Braze and Weld certifications must be updated within 120 days of their expiration date or you will lose your certifications. Check the dates on your certifications and if they have expired call Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone's continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

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

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

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees 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.

Local 370, con't

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

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

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

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

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

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

– Enrico Fermi (1901 - 1954)



Local 85

Plumbers &
Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be a **Special Order of Business on Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM for the purpose of allocations.

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

Contact Information: Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 jpomerville@ualocal85.org

Jamie Badour, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 jbador@ualocal85.org

Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 tdanielak@ualocal85.org

Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 csteele@ualocal85.org

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

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

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

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

Social Media: Like us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, @UALocal85. Facebook has our Members Only page for updates at UA Local 85 Members Group.

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any changes, (989) 799-5261.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

Insurance: When you are working out of another Local's jurisdiction it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECK STUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

Condolences: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Arthur Falting who passed away on February 6, 2024.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Rodney Swalwell who passed away on Feb. 5, 2024.

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



Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters
& Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 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, April 4**, at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Wild Game Dinner: Save the date - the Wild Game Dinner is back! Join us on 3-28-2024 at **Barclay Event Center, 2330 Barclay St., Muskegon MI 49441**. We are in need of wild game donations. By donating, you'll have the chance to enter into specific raffles based on the pounds and type of game you contribute. Remember, the more you donate, the better your chances of winning. Additionally, if you volunteer at the dinner, you'll be entered into a separate raffle as well. We encourage you to donate or volunteer for this fantastic event. Expect delicious food and great prizes. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to Jason Finch. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Grand Rapids St. Patrick's Day Parade: We will be walking in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Kent-Ionia Labor Council Saturday March 16 in downtown Grand Rapids. The parade line up will take place near Calder Plaza on Ottawa Ave NW. Parade line up starts at 9:30am, but participants will need to be there by 10:45am at the latest, as the Parade starts at 11am sharp. We will be walking about a mile to Veteran's Park near the Library. Contact Nathan Phillips to register to walk in the Parade or check Facebook for route details.

Organizing Update: *I want to thank everyone for spreading the word about being a member. I've received numerous phone calls and text messages from workers interested in joining 174. If they don't have experience, I give them a path to get on. I have been very active on the different social media platforms like TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, uploading videos about what we represent and what the non-union worker can get and deserves!*

We are all organizers in some sense, speaking to unrepresented workers about our benefits and wages. It makes perfect sense to us to be union, but they are listening to what they are told about dues, traveling, and getting laid off. Let's educate them! We are strength in numbers. Do you know who really hates unions? The non-union business owner!!

"We're all doing the same work, we're just not all getting the same wages and benefits!" It has never been a more perfect time to organize with the workload that is here but it is definitely a team effort! 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.

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.

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: (855) 878-4101 • EAP: (888) 238-6232 • Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Medicare Retirees Retiree First: (616) 345-0788

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63 Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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 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 - 3rd Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location
Lakeshore - 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

All members are encouraged to become active in our area Labor Councils. Please contact a Union Officer for details. *The Kent Ionia Labor Council has recently moved from the building on Benjamin and will be rotating meeting locations monthly.

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, March 14, 2024, and Thursday, April 11, 2024.

WCP: The next weld test event will be Saturday, March 9, 2024, @ 8:00 am. The capability demonstration will be on Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 5:00p - 9:00p. Please call/text and sign up if you plan to test.

ASSE BACKFLOW REPAIRER: Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 5p - 9p.

CSD-1: Class is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Class dates will be 3/12, 3/13 and 3/14 at 5:00pm.

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 Chris Phillips or Nicole Schumaker if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Nicole @ (616)837-0222 x30 Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Nicole (231)206-4213.



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – The next Union Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th in Marquette at 7:30.

Condolences: To the family and friends of life member Harold Chenier who passed away Feb. 11, 2024.

Local 111 will be accepting applications for the Plumber/Pipefitter Apprenticeship March 4-29 at all UP Michigan Works! locations. If you know anyone interested, please let them know.

Welding Classes: Tuesday Evening weld classes are ongoing at the Escanaba Training Center, classes run from 5 pm-9 pm on a week-to-week basis. We are also starting Saturday weld classes, 8 am-4:30 pm, once a month. Contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew to be added to the notification list. Your position in the class is not confirmed until you receive a reply.

Upcoming Saturday Weld Sessions: March 23, and April 27. Upcoming Weld Tests: May 4.

Anyone interested in 1-day shutdowns, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher, Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba office.

MRA CARD: Please check your MRA Account for transactions that are in need of substantiation or ineligible. You can access this info here:

<https://edge.zenith-american.com/page.php?p=members/index.php&ac=login> The MRA link will take you directly to your MRA info and you will be able to see the ineligible transactions.

Please make sure what you are submitting is either an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an Itemized billing with paid receipt, that includes: Provider Name, Patient Name, Date of Service, Description of Service, Total Patient Responsibility

Please if you are having trouble with something you have submitted you can call the Zenith American Solutions helpline at 1-866-823-4730 extension 1 (MRA) or call the hall and Rose will be able to try and assist you-906-226-6511 ext. 4

New 988 Crisis Helpline: The UA & the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on how we approach mental health and suicide prevention. New resources are now available with the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline. Call or text 988 to be connected to trained counselors who will listen & provide support and linked to resources.

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 Rose 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 (Continued next column)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, March 13, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month.

Training Classes: A fire pump testing class is being scheduled at the Local 704 Training Center, Call Jeff Gray to reserve your spot. ASSE 15000, ITM classes are scheduled for after the first of the year, this is a 40-hour class. Contact the training center for more information.

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

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



Local 111, con't

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-home address, phone number, a new birth, marriage, divorce, or death. Please call April or Rose to have your information updated.

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

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



Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: A monthly union meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

Local 190 Organizing Position: Any Local 190 member interested in this open position, please go to the members only section of the Local 190 website for information on how to apply.

A BIG THANK YOU from our building trades apprentice Dustin Zawacki. Dustin wanted you all to know he so appreciates your help and is so grateful to know so many wonderful members. He wants to thank everyone for the get-well card and donation of money. He is truly touched by your kindness and thanks all of you from the bottom of his heart for all that you have done for him and his family.

UNION HALL CLOSING AT NOON FOR AN UPCOMING HOLIDAY: For the Easter holiday the office will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 24 and all-day Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms we remember and support those who protect them.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Local 190 Scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 28th. The UA scholarship it not yet available, we will post information as it becomes available.

ATTENTION MI GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for the Michigan Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

ATTENTION OHIO GAS DISTRIBUTION MEMBERS: A "Special Called Meeting" for Ohio Gas Distribution Wage Allocation has been scheduled for: Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. This meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott – Columbus Worthington, 7400 Vantage Drive, Columbus, OH 43235

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

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION JOURNEYMAN: If you are currently laid off and you would like to work building trades. Please contact Kristyn at our Training Center to get information on a UA 21 Weld Certification. 734-426-3700 Ext. #1 for Kristyn

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

MICHIGAN GAS DISTRIBUTION - E-Mail address: Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 or Pat Duffy 734-368-4423 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online ONLY!!! For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

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

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

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

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473. The Training Center will be closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday and May 27 for Memorial Day. The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5:00pm. Friday 8am. to 4:00pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online. The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments, we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MIOSHA, MDHHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines

Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current! **The Training Center and UA Local 190 Apprentices will be participating in the Dexter Memorial Day Parade May 27. Any UA Local 190 Veteran members wishing to participate contact Kristyn to sign up.**

Please submit all certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date.

Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please (Continued on Page 10)

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		
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Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 671

MONROE – The next regular scheduled Union Meeting is scheduled for April 4th, 2024, at 7pm. There will also be an Executive Board meeting at 5pm on April 4th, 2024. 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.

Local 671 App: Our Mobile app is back up and running after a large update required by the Apple App Store. The new username will be your last name and book number @ ibusiness-tech.com, (ex. smith1234567@ibusiness-tech.com) and the password is your book number. Contact Vinnie if you have any issues logging in.

All upcoming courses and certifications have now also been added to the App under the Training tab. Please contact Justin to register for any training opportunities.

Health & Welfare: If you are an active member on Local 671 Health & Welfare fund and you have not received your new health cards or you need extras, please contact the Union Hall.

To all active members of Local 671 Health & Welfare, please take note of the new plan changes effective Jan. 1, 2024. The changes were mailed to you. If you have any questions, you can contact Carly or Mike at Union Hall.

To all our Retirees on United Health Care, if you need an eye exam there is one free exam per year through United Health Care. If you have any questions, you can contact Labor First at 734-234-6496 or toll free at 833-237-3380.

Condolences: We regret to inform you that Retiree Howie Sieb passed away Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024, after a long and hard-fought battle with Parkinson's Disease. Howie was 72 years old, and a 50-year Member of Local 671 who will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Scholarship Opportunities: The Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671 Scholarship Fund will be awarding scholarships again this year. If selected, one scholarship will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild, or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2024 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student at a college or a qualified post-secondary school.

Qualification Requirements:

- Applicant must be the dependent, grandchild or spouse of a member in good standing of UA Local Union 671

- Have at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average

- Write an essay of 500 words or less on one of the following two topics:

‘How Monroe Local 671 has benefitted my Family’ or ‘What Labor Union Means to Me’

- We are very proud of our previous winners, but please understand that we only award (1) scholarship per applicant.

The application deadline is May 3rd, 2024.

The Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (CLC) will be awarding two

\$1000 scholarships through the Bonnie Finzel-Doster Memorial Scholarship Program again this year. One each will be awarded to a qualified 2024 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school.

Qualifications Requirements:

- Be a 2024 graduating senior at a Monroe or Lenawee County high school

- Be the son or daughter of a member in good standing of a local union currently affiliated with the CLC

- Have at least a 3.0 (B) grade point average

- Write an essay of 500 words or less on one of the following two topics:

‘How the Union has Benefitted my Family’ or

‘What Labor Union Means to Me’

- The deadline for the application is April 5th, 2024.

Retiree Luncheon: We would like to remind everyone that our retiree luncheons are held on the last Thursday of every month, except for August (due to the picnic) and November and December due to their proximity to the Holidays. These luncheons are a great time to see old friends, and maybe even meet some new ones. We look forward to seeing you there!

Open Weld Shop Nights: The open weld shop nights are now Wednesday and Thursday nights from 6pm-10pm now that school is back in session. There will be no open welding on Union Meeting or UA weld test nights. A booth will need to be reserved 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.

Michigan Plumbing Exam Prep Class: We will 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.

Medical Gas Installer Class: We have spots available for the upcoming 40-hour NFPA 99 Medical Gas Installer license training. The class will run from March 20th to June 5th on Wednesday nights. Please contact Justin if you are interested in attending.

In Closing: Local 671 Plumbers and Pipefitters mission statement is the following: Supply skilled, qualified, safety conscious trades people to our Contractors. As you all know, the work environment across the state and country is unprecedented. The way you combat this issue is to organize and train. We are doing both, and we will continue to do both and expand our membership until we meet the labor demands of our contractors. Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Vinnie Fenech: email: vinnie@ualocal671.com

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

Local 671 Fax: (734) 242-4692



ERECTING STEEL in what will be the YMCA portion of the Harrison Street Commons project in Flint is Chad Oliver of Iron Workers Local 25. He's employed by AMS Steel.



Plumbers Local 98



Plumbers Local 98 DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local 98.*

The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you and your family are well.

Announcements, information on meetings, links to your benefits, the Training Center, and more can be found on our web site. Go to UALocal98.COM. MED GAS, MED GAS, MED GAS! Coming to a job near you!

Meetings & Union Hall. The next Union meeting is a special called meeting for purpose of swearing in new officers and the State of the Union address. March 14th at 7:00pm at the Union Hall.

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

Retiree Meetings. The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, March 13th from 12pm-2pm at Local 98!

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship. Learn more at Plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

It's that time of year to renew your Plumbing License or Apprentice License with the State. Don't be that person who lets it go. You worked way too hard to stand out from the other crafts to let it slip.

Training Instructor: We are taking applications for a training instructor at local 98 training center. Turn in application to Ryan Lyle at the front desk at the training center between 7 am to 3:30 pm or email him at Ryan.lyle@ualocal98.org

Attention Hockey players: If interested in playing hockey please contact Dan Nixon at 248-752-3702.

Attention Baseball players: If interested in playing baseball please contact Jon DeRoo at 248-762-9238.

Macomb County Adopt-A-Highway: Will be April 20, 2024 at 8 am. Meet at the Roseville Bob Evans on 13 and Gratiot. Please call Business Agent Gary Glaser (313) 580-0148 to RSVP.

Dues. Happy to say there are no expelled members at this time.

SUB Apps/Out of Work List. SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether 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.

New Benefit. We will have a new benefit for the working members of Local 98 and their families. We are proud to announce we have secured a 2-year agreement with Delta Dental starting March 1, 2024. There is zero cost to the fund at this time. Please watch the insurance mailings for the annual benefit information for 2024. We still will offer the DENCAP (Golden) Dental plan for the retired members who wish to purchase this plan.

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and lead by or health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

Please select option #4 for Financial Secretary Jon DeRoo 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 sympathies to Family and friends of Brother Thomas Tostige initiated 8/26/1965 a 58-year member.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers & Apprentices. 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. Or get online at The Training Center for more information on Apprenticeships.

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

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Phone # 248-585-1435

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 26,

2024. 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. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions. The State of Michigan Plumbing Division will be instituting the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code beginning in March of 2024. Books are available for preorder through the ICC. The Training Center will have a limited number available for sale.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2024. All classes are register and pre-pay by credit card, check or money order only. Deadlines for registration and prices are listed with each class. The 2024 upgrade classes are listed below. Please keep an eye out for the class you need or find interesting!

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 Baker at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

There will be a code class that reviews the entire Michigan Plumbing Code and includes practice for the practical portion of the Journey exam in the near future. Please call the Training Center if you are interested in attending the class.

CLASS LIST 2024.

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

8 hour recert class April 16 & 17 Deadline is March 15

8 hour recert class July 23 & 24 Deadline is June 21

8 hour recert class October 22 & 23 Deadline is Sept. 20

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):

Fall: Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$200

ASSE Repairer: *** Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification

Fall: Sept. 10 – Oct. 15, Deadline is August 23-\$100

ICRA and Water Quality: *** Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30

Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$200

CAD/BIM

Fall: Sept. 9 – Nov. 18 Deadline is Aug. 23-\$100

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):

Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$200

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber

Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$100

Hydronic Heating and Cooling

Fall: Sept. 11 to Nov. 20, Deadline is Aug. 23 -\$100

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings. 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 April 6, 2024. **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 This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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

“Concentration is my motto. First honesty, then industry, then concentration.”

– Andrew Carnegie (1835 - 1919)

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.”

– Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

“The secret of a good memory is attention, and attention to a subject depends upon our interest in it. We rarely forget that which has made a deep impression on our minds.”

– Tryon Edwards (1809 - 1894)



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

(Continued from Page 9)

register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule - Mondays – April 1, July 15, and Sept. 30. Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2024 Schedule – Mondays – April 15, July 22, and Oct 7. Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

Welding Lab: Open welding lab schedule is Mondays and Thursdays at 4:30pm. to 9pm. and Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The welding lab will be closed for Union Meetings and Holidays. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). 2024 Schedule: The second course starts Sept 10, 2024. Courses run on Tue and Wed for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this re-certification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). 2024. Schedule: The second course starts May 7. The third course starts Oct 17. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5:00 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. 2024 Schedule: First course starts March 12. The second course starts Aug 20. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. 2024 Schedule: First course starts April 16, Second course starts Sept 24. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. 2024 schedule: First course starts March 13, Second course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be Spring 2024. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: Monday, March 18th, 2024, refresher starts at 5:00 p.m. and then on Monday, March 25th, 2024, test starts at 5:00 p.m. Please register through the website: ua190.org

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member Gerald Sweet passed

away on Feb. 15. Gerald was initiated on January 30, 1970, retired on Jan. 1, 2011 and became a lifetime member Jan. 1, 2020. To all family members and friends in this sorrowful time, we would like to extend to you our heartfelt condolences, may his soul rest in peace.

Our member Robert Dunlap passed away on Feb. 16. Robert initiated May 15, 2008. To all family members and friends, we are deeply saddened by your loss. We send our most sincere condolences.

Our member John Homes Jr. passed away on Feb. 26. John initiated Jan. 12 2004. To all family members and friends, prayers and fond memories are what we have to remember our dearly departed. We send our well wishes during this very difficult time.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, April 4, at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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

“Even with the best of maps and instruments, we can never fully chart our journeys.”

– Gail Pool

“Education... has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.”

– G. M. Trevelyan (1876 - 1962)

“We have been taught to believe that negative equals realistic and positive equals unrealistic.”

– Susan Jeffers

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

Local 1191

Laborers Local 1191
 (2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)
DETROIT – Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org and the “Laborers’ Local 1191” Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

Monthly General Membership Meetings: The next regular scheduled monthly membership meeting has been rescheduled for March 8 at 7 p.m.. The next meeting will be April 5 at 7 p.m.

General Membership meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays).

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: The next meeting will take place March 29 (Good Friday) at 11 a.m. at the union hall. The next meeting will take place April 26 at 11 a.m.

Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208.

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

Union Dues For 2024: Regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 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!!! 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 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.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member’s responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets.**

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

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 to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241.



PUNCHING HOLES to allow for the setting of duct hangers below is Ken Krupp of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7. He’s employed by Dee Cramer, working at the Harrison Street Commons project in Flint.

Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on **March 8, 2024**, at 8PM at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall, located at 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, Mi. 48101.

Current Union dues for 2023 and 2024 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.



BOB HUTSELL

In an effort to assist our active members, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has waived any increase in dues for the upcoming 2024 year. Dues for the 2024 year will remain at \$55.85.

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

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

Dinner Dance 2024. The dinner dance was Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Athenum Hotel in Detroit. Please visit our website www.boilermakerslocal169.com and our Facebook page for pictures from the festivities.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons **Area 1** Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 West Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

Area 2 Retirees hold luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11am at Whitlow’s Forerunner Restaurant located at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next lunch will be March 20, 2024, at 11AM at The Green Spot Pub. It’s located at 808 N. Mission Rd., Mount Pleasant, MI. 48858. All area boilermakers and retirees are welcome to attend.

Area 4 Retirees’ lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. Payments can be made with cash or check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details. The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169.com or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do

(Continued next column)

Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular **MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE March 25, 2024, at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI. The next Executive Board meeting will be on March 18, 2024.** Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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.

Michigan workplaces are NO LONGER governed by the Right-to-Work law, as the repeal took effect Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, and prevailing wage was also restored on this date.

You should have received your End of Year report and W-2 sheet by now. If you haven’t received this, contact the hall. A copy of your W-2 is due by March 31, 2024, but you can send them in or bring them in before that deadline.

We are looking at having a supplemental insurance company (Aflac) come into the April membership meeting to let members sign up for a policy if they choose, they need 25 members to sign up to get a group pricing. We are also looking to have a financial advisor come to the April meeting, more information will come in future articles.

We are going to be giving pins for service at the April Meeting, so if you are eligible for 15 years or more of service pin, please attend this meeting. It will be held at the Electricians Hall, more information will be in this paper as it gets closer.

I would like to encourage everyone to use Bill Pay through your bank to pay dues, it is a free service and can be set up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly. We have a few of our members that have already started this, and it seems to be working well. Please call the hall or contact your bank about how this works.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Vol Outing, please contact **Justin Smith @ (248)709-0341.**

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work.

If you are off for a work-

Local 169 cont’d

so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

Any current apprentice that is eligible to utilize their G.I. Bill should contact their branch of service regarding this benefit. Your apprenticeship training qualifies for reimbursement under the terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.

related injury, there is a separate form you must fill out. Call the hall with any questions.

If you think there are contract violations or safety violations on the job you are on, call the hall, we will come out to the jobs and get these issues corrected.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

Once again, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2024 to receive their scheduled pay raises January 1, 2025. **I highly recommend you take the course and keep up on it every year!**

We had 3000 members take the CE in 2023, 1100 required and 1900 grandfathered. We would like to see all our grandfathered Mechanics take this course in 2024, you will be paid 8 hours at mechanic’s rate. If you aren’t registered or are having problems getting registered, call the hall and we will help you.

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.

Attention All Apprentices, Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. 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!!!**

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. We would like to extend well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list.

Be safe and stay healthy!
“If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it.”
 –Margaret Fuller (1810 - 1850)

“Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn’t have to do it himself.”
 –A. H. Weiler (1909 - 2002)

“The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny.”
 –Albert Ellis

“Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can’t lose.”
 –Bill Gates (1955 -)

“I believe in getting into hot water; it keeps you clean.”
 –G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

Michigan Painters District Council

Painters DC 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*
 Any questions regarding lost or damaged Union cards, or if you have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at: Warren: (586) 552-4474, Ext. 100; Freeland: (989) 695-6888

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP



ROBERT GONZALEZ

Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its’ all new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Play-store Search for “Painters and Allied Trades”

download APP
 Username: your member id#
 Password: painters
 With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

FTI of the Great Lakes upgrade classes

FTI Apprenticeship will be putting on Rigging and Signaling classes.

Rigging and Signaling class-Lansing March 9 and 16; 9 a.m. start time.

Rigging and Signaling class-Warren March 23 and 30; 9a.m. start time

Contact FTI Director Shawn Oneil to register
 Email: dot@iupatdc1m.org or call at (517) 304-4425

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

Warren office# is 586-552-4474 or Freeland office# is 989-695-6888. New job starts should be reported to the Union office, please do so.

Get involved. Work smart.

Local 357 Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 6pm. At this April meeting we will hold our 2024 allocations vote. These allocations will go in to effect on June 1, 2024. Please make every effort to attend.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. 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 down-load 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**



District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez

Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 312
Business Rep: Tim Schwerin
Meeting date: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

Local Union 514
Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845
Business Rep – Fred Frederickson
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052
Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

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

Local Union 2352
Business Rep: 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.



Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 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.

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



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076. ****MEETING DATE CHANGE**** April's union meeting will be on April 9, 2024 at 5:30pm.



TIM
MULLIGAN

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: The next executive board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI. ****MEETING DATE CHANGE**** April's executive board meeting will be on April 9, 2024 at 5:00pm.

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

RETIREE MEETING SCHEDULE: The 2024 retiree meeting schedule is as follows: April 15, June 17, Aug. 19, Oct. 21 (holiday party) and

Dec. 16. All membership meetings will be held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. All meetings will start at 12:30 pm. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593.

RETIREE NEWS: Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association. They will be available at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership meeting schedule above.

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

BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL: There is a representative from Benesys at the union hall to help our members with anything related to benefits or funds. She will be available all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4pm. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please contact Lashone at 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

RETIREMENT CLASS: Saturday, May 4, at 9 a m we will hold a FREE retirement education class with Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to RSVP 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Patrick Turner, Alonzo Colley, Eric Alvarado, Anthony M. Stocker, Christopher Andrus, Michael Pilon, Robert Augugliaro, Gerald Stephens, Jacob Kortright, Steven Valente, Nicholas Mohr, Alexander Swenson, Gary Lulek, Chris Cosgrove, Scott Cuny, Gerald Hoga, Chris Salter, Tamuk Scruggs, Jerry Roland, Wyatt Osborne, Ray Summers, David Guillemins, Landon Gardiner, Glen Head Adam Mayne, David Baker, Phillip Maslonka and Carl Fornell.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

S.U.B. BENEFITS: Report to the hall promptly upon layoff. You must complete a S.U.B. Application within 7 days from your layoff date or you will forfeit S.U.B. benefits. Lay-off slips must accompany the application to be eligible. Proof of UIA benefit payments must be submitted within 21 days of when you were paid in order to receive SUB benefits. Do not submit your sub applications directly to the fund office. Your application must be signed by the hall or you will not collect benefits.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE: • Pre-Retirement Seminar – May 4 • Golf Outing – July 13 • Picnic – August 3



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be, April 11, 2024, at 6 p.m.

*Zone 1 March 14 at 6 p.m.

*Zone 2 March 19th at 6 p.m.

*Zone 3 March 13th at 6 p.m. (Saginaw)

*Zone 3 March 21 at 6 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 March 12 at 6 p.m.

*Zone 5 April 5 at 6 p.m. (Moved from April 4)



SAM
FULLER

Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2024. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you are having issues registering.

NEWS: Local No. 7 – Union Hoodies available through the Lansing office for \$70.00/each (While supplies last). Hoodies are Gray, Black or Navy with White logo. Payment via check, cash or credit card. Payment must be received before shipping.

SMART Union Labels: Make the union label work for you! The new and modernized SMART Labels are an essential part to wage equalization, which means more money and work for you. Make sure that you are scanning labels in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area. For more information visit the official website at www.labelscantireport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

SMART Members Assistance Program provides counselors to speak with members experiencing crisis. Call (877) 884-6227 for 24/7 assistance with Suicide Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

ZONE 1 Info. Work in the Zone 1 area remains busy and will increase as we get into spring and summer. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric or Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with unemployment or insurance, please contact Eric or Vance for any additional assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

ZONE 1 Training Center Info. There are new changes to the testing procedure in Zone 1. Applicants will need to register for the Zone 1 entrance exam. Registration will open at the beginning of the exam month. You will receive your exam time during registration. Please contact the training coordinator to register (269) 781-7183.

ZONE 1 Monthly Retiree Meetings:

1st Wednesday of each month @ 8:00 am located at Bob Evans 1725 N W Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1:00 pm located at Rocky Top 1900 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI 49202

2nd Wednesday of each month @ 12:00 noon located at The Beamery 879 E Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49014

(Retirees, please notify Vance or Eric of any changes or additions you would like)

- In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains steady and looks good into the spring. Our next scheduled meeting is March 19th at the VFW Post 3195, 5209 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores, MI. We will be having a strike authorization vote please be in attendance. If your employment status changes please contact me and apprentices also let Cody know. Dues are always due prior to the first of each month and keep me informed of any address or phone number changes. As always, please work safely. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) Work in the area has slowed down at this time. If you are laid off please call me there may be work in other areas or in other Locals if you want to travel. Please make sure you schedule your physicals this year to keep your deductible at the lower rate. If you change your phone numbers or address please remember to contact me or the Lansing office to let us know. Next Zone 3 meeting is March 13th at the Freeland hall

Retiree meeting is March 26th at the Ponderosa on Wilder Rd in Bay City.

- In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City). Our next meeting is on March 21st at the Mill Pond event center. Please be in attendance as we will be going over agenda on our next contract. Make sure your dues are paid for the month of April as you will not be able to vote on the contract without a current receipt that was paid in advance in March as per our Constitution. Work in our area has slowed down but should pick back up in May, there is work in other areas if you get laid off. The SASMI underemployment benefit eligibility is under 700 hours worked from July 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023. Anyone eligible has been sent an application that has to be sent in by March. Also, you can go to www.ourbenefitoffice.com/smw7-3/benefits to register and get a wealth of information on your H&W and local pension status as with the NPF, go to www.smwnpf.org and register to see to your future benefit. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Local 7 Zone 4 is experiencing a positive wave of progress and opportunities, with a lot of hard work from apprentices we have been successful with some very nice grants from the State, for our training facility and the apprentices. They are able to acquire personal items that allow them to make being a Sheet metal worker a little easier. Also don't forget 3/12/24 is our next Flint Union meeting. As spring approaches, let's stay focused, united and prepared for the exciting times ahead. Together, we build a stronger and more prosperous local community. Shoot Straight and tight lines. **Your Brother Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info Work in the U.P. is starting to slow a bit but is looking to pick back up in a few weeks here. The Local 7 statewide picnic is going to be on July 20th at the Timber Ridge Resort in Traverse City. Also our next Zone 5 meeting has changed dates to Friday April 5th at 6pm in Gwinn. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

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

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

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

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200

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

Joe Dotson (Saginaw) 989-225-0095

John Amalfitano (Traverse City) 231-590-1112

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552

Brandon Langenfeld (Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Member meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of the month at The Knights of Columbus in Clawson. Check out the calendar tab at www.sheetmetal292.com for the location and date.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on March 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. The regular meeting schedule will resume in March.



PAUL
GUALDONI

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

SMART 292 APP: Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292

There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

RETURN TO WORK BY NORMAL OR EARLY RETIREES:

Consistent with the actions of the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, the Trustees of the Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 292 Pension Fund ("Fund") have decided to provide a limited waiver of the Fund's suspension of benefit rule from March 22, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024 only, without limitation and without incurring a suspension of benefits then in pay status. This means that, during this period, if you are working as a sheet metal worker for an Employer that contributes to the Fund, you will receive your monthly pension benefits from the Fund no matter how many hours you work in any one month. This waiver is based on the current demand for sheet metal workers and is not anticipated to be continued indefinitely. Call Paul for more information or if interested.

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you Must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and also through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

TRUHEARING: On behalf of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 we would like to introduce TruHearing, the NEW exclusive provider of premium hearing aid benefits. This benefit is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

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

DUES: Membership dues are required to be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday, therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paying online (sheetmetal292.com).

LOCAL 292 ONLINE STORE: The online store is no longer available. If you are interested in purchasing merchandise, please contact Paul or Tony.

ADDRESS UPDATES: If you move, please get in touch with the union hall to update your address.

RETIRES NOTICE: Thanks to all the retirees who came out to the meetings in 2023. It's always nice getting together and staying connected. We will post the 2024 retiree meeting schedule as soon as it becomes available. Stay safe and be well.

Please contact the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

SUBSTANTIATION REQUEST: Many members have been receiving Substantiation Request letters from the Local 292 Benefit Fund office. IRS regulations require that every use of the Benny Card be substantiated or validated as an eligible covered expense under the Plan. This validation is required by the IRS, the Fund cannot make exceptions. It is the member's responsibility to ensure all requested documentation be returned to the Fund office in a timely manner. By not responding to the Substantiation Request letter, your Benny Card may be suspended until all requested documentation has been received. If you have any questions, contact BeneSys at 248.641.4992 or the Union Hall.

UNION HALL HOURS: Hall office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION: We have recently updated the text blast contact list. All members have been added. If you haven't been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please contact the Union Hall and we will make the change.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; Facebook page - Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member contact your Local 292 Training Center at: 313-623-9390 (Dave) or Quintir 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any member interested in a Saturday welding class on March 16 & 23.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding. **Note:** Anyone who signs up for a class, must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

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

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STAY CABLES on the Detroit side of the Gordie Howe Bridge support the full weight of the bridge deck. The cables are comprised of rope-like metal strands housed in a high-density polyethylene plastic pipe. A total of 3,107 miles of stay cables are being used to support the span.

Photo credits: Bridging North America



Elevator Constructors

Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT- ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED, our next regular MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE **March 25, 2024, AT 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI.** The next Executive Board meeting will be on **March 18, 2024.** Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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.

Michigan workplaces are NO LONGER governed by the Right-to-Work law, as the repeal took effect Feb. 13, 2024, and Prevailing wage was also restored on this date.

You should have received your End of Year report and W-2 sheet by now. If you haven't, contact the hall. A copy of your W-2 is due by March 31, 2024, but you can send them in or bring them in before that deadline.

We are looking at having a supplemental insurance company (Aflac) come into the April membership meeting to let members sign up for a policy if they choose, they need 25 members to sign up to get a group pricing. We are also looking to have a financial advisor come to the April meeting, more information will come in future articles.

We are going to be giving pins for service at the April Meeting, so if you are eligible for 15 years or more of service pin, please attend this meeting. It will be held at the Electricians Hall, more information will be in this paper as it gets closer.

I encourage everyone to use

Bill Pay through your bank to pay dues, it is a free service and can be set up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly. We have a few of our members that have already started this, and it seems to be working well. Please call the hall or contact your bank about how this works.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuccc.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Organizer @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Coordinator @ 410-312-1474.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Gulf Outing, please contact **Justin Smith @ (248)709-0341.**

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office and inform the hall when you are off and go back to work.

If you are off for a work-related injury, there is a separate form you must fill out. Call the hall with any questions.

If you think there are contract violations or safety violations on the job you are on, call the hall, we will come out to the jobs and get these issues corrected.

If you would like to sign up for Safety alerts, text **(855) 957-1801** and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

Once again, individuals with a Mechanic Exam Pass Date on or after Jul 9, 2022, must take a Mechanic Required (MR) Continuing Education course in 2024 to receive their scheduled pay raises Jan. 1, 2025. **I highly recommend you take the course and keep up on it every year!**

We had 3000 members take the CE in 2023, 1100 required and 1900 grandfathered. We would like to see all our grandfathered Mechanics take this course in 2024, you will be paid 8 hours at mechanic's rate. If you aren't registered or are having problems getting registered, call the hall and we will help you.

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.

Attention All Apprentices, Kenny and I thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. 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!**

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.

We extend well wishes to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list. Be safe and stay healthy!

'Stunning progress' moves Gordie's bridge up, across and back

(Continued from Page 1)

together to deliver this much-needed infrastructure to the thousands of eager travelers ready to cross North America's longest cable-stayed bridge."

Originally, the \$4.8 billion project was scheduled for completion in November 2024 with opening anticipated by the end of this year. "However, the project, like many others, experienced unprecedented disruptions as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic," the authority said in its latest update. "The disruptions were even more prevalent for the Gordie Howe International Bridge project given the differing applicable restrictions in the U.S. and Canada, combined with the ramping up of construction

activities in early 2020."

The 1.5-mile crossing over the Detroit River, about a mile south of the Ambassador Bridge (1929), will be the 10th longest in the world, with a main span of .53 mile. Supporting the span now and upon its completion next year will be 216 metal-stranded stay cables, 108 on each side, which are attached to the tops of each tower and then anchored into 35 concrete ground-level boxes on each side of the river.

The six-lane bridge deck and road deck will have a total of 106 segments. Each floor beam weighs 55,000 lbs. and each edge girder for the road and bridge decks weighs 99,000 lbs. Each concrete precast panel for the road and bridge decks weighs

between 35,000 lbs. to 55,000 lbs. Supporting all that weight are the aforementioned attached cables, which are connected to the second-tallest structures in the state and the region – the massive 722-foot-tall towers on either side of the river.

Construction is being managed by Bridging North America, and the project is being paid for by the Canadian government, with reimbursement from vehicle tolls on the American side. Since construction began on Oct. 5, 2018, on both sides of the river, about 10,000 people have worked more than 10 million hours on the project.

The bridge deck gap in the middle of the river is expected to be closed by the end of summer.



THE \$4.8 BILLION price tag on the Gordie Howe Bridge includes a massive change in the landscape "behind the bridge" on 167 acres in Southwest Detroit. The U.S. Point of Entry will have 13 buildings and include border inspection facilities for both passenger and commercial vehicles, control booths, and parking. Once constructed, this port will be one of the largest ports of entry in North America. Local road improvements include widening of I-75 and reconfiguration of ramps and service drives, as well as construction of four new road bridges, five new pedestrian bridges, and connecting ramps to and from the U.S. Point of Entry. The bridge will have a direct link to I-75.

Safety first: OSHA ups the costs for negligent employers

(Continued from Page 1)

\$100,000 – with 101 of those citations totaling \$250,000 or more. Compare that to 2022, when the agency issued 184 citations over \$100,000 - 51 were over \$250,000.

Those higher penalty numbers are being driven by more violations being categorized as "willful or repeated," which carry a maximum penalty of \$161,323 per violation. OSHA issued over 600 willful violations in 2023, topping the previous record set in 2015.

"The best way to avoid these large fines is to proactively invest the resources and effort necessary to create a top-notch safety and health program," said LHSFNA Management Co-Chairman David F. Ram-

pone. "Steps like pre-job hazard assessments, regular refresher training and giving crews stop work authority if they encounter a hazard are all part of such a program."

In 2023, OSHA also conducted almost 300 inspections as part of its Severe Violator Enforcement Program (SVEP), which involves mandatory follow-up inspections for "employers that have demonstrated indifference to their OSH Act obligations by committing willful, repeated or failure-to-abate violations." The previous SVEP high was 108 in 2016.

Takeaways for Construction Employers. To recap, this was OSHA's 2023 enforcement strategy: more inspections, more willful violations when the situation

calls for it and more resources focused on previous serious violators.

That's three very good reasons for employers – particularly employers in the construction industry – to take the safety and health of their workforce seriously. After all, about 50 percent of annual OSHA inspections happen in the construction industry.

The best reason for construction employers to have a strong safety and health program isn't to avoid OSHA fines – it's to eliminate potential hazards and protect their workforce from serious injuries and fatalities. However, hefty fines can impact a company's bottom line, limit its ability to compete for and win future projects and damage its reputation.

UAW sought at two Southern plants

(Continued from Page 1)

– with employee captive audience events and other persuasive means – and from the business communities. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey warned that the UAW's attempted incursion means that the state's "model for economic success is under attack."

The union-friendly votes are historic: the UAW has had zero success organizing plants in the South.

Kimbrell said several of the driving forces behind the workers' grassroots campaign to join the UAW, including workers going many years without meaningful raises, a two-tier wage system, and the abuse of temporary workers. Each of these issues also figured prominently in the UAW's Stand Up Strike at the Big Three, which has spurred an unprecedented amount of organizing activity and interest among America's non-union autoworkers.

"There comes a time when enough is enough," says Kimbrell. "Now is that time. We know what the company, what the politicians, and what their multi-millionaire buddies will say. They'll say now is not the right time. Or that this is not the right way. But here's the thing. This is our decision. It's our life. It's our community. These are our families. It's up to us."

More than 6,000 people work at the plant, which produces a variety of Mercedes vehicles.

At a Hyundai plant in Montgomery, Ala. 30 percent of workers voted to support the union.

The UAW said more than 10,000 nonunion autoworkers across 14 auto companies have signed union cards and begun organizing to join the UAW in the wake of the historic Stand Up Strike victories at the Big Three.

After the Detroit Three OK'd the contracts with the UAW last year, a number of nonunion carmakers announced worker pay increases. UAW President Shawn Fain has called the raises the "UAW bump," saying that they were given in an effort to thwart union organizing efforts.

The UAW said its organiz-

ing drive will target more than a dozen U.S. plants run by Tesla, Toyota, Honda, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Mazda, Volkswagen, Mercedes, BMW and Volvo.

Zach Costello, who has worked at the Volkswagen plant since June 2017, told The Guardian that the UAW's success last year motivated his decision to become involved with the union campaign. "I had this feeling that something in the air was changing, that people were starting to see that something wasn't right and that there's something that we can actually do about it this time," he said.

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Outdoors



Getting to the bottom of Kitch-iti-kipi

By John Pepin
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

In early May 1959, a small group of Michigan State Police troopers practiced their diving and recovery methods, probing the clear, cold waters of the state's largest natural spring, located 12 miles northwest of Manistique – the Big Spring called *Kitch-iti-kipi*.

Outfitted with wool mittens and socks, insulated underwear and heavy rubber suits, the troopers carried onion sacks with them to the bottom of the 40-foot depth to retrieve beer cans, pop bottles, a toy pistol and a golf club.

But to really get to the bottom of the Big Spring, you need to go back in time a few more years to uncover the efforts of John Ira Bellaire, a former schoolteacher and native of St. Joseph Co., who came to the Upper Peninsula pursuing a newspaper classified ad that sought a store salesman in Seney.

In spring 1893, Bellaire became a salesman for the Morrison and Schneider general store in Seney, purchasing the store three years later. Bellaire then spent a decade during the wildest days of the white pine bonanza in Seney – a then-drinking and whoring lumberjack town nicknamed “Hell” by some.

“In 1904, shortly after robbers blew open his safe, Bellaire sold the store building and moved the business to Germfask where he had previously operated a branch store,” the *Escanaba Daily Press* reported. “Ten years later, he sold the Germfask business and went to Blaney to become manager of the Wisconsin Land and Lumber Co. general store.”

In 1925, Bellaire moved to Manistique, purchasing the Riverside Coal and Produce Co. when it went bankrupt. About this same time, Bellaire began his nascent efforts to promote the Big Spring.

“Bellaire fell in love with the Big Spring when it was still a black hole all but hidden in a tangle of fallen trees,” according to a state park brochure.

The 300-foot by 175-foot



THE RAFT at the “Big Spring” at Palms Book State Park in Schoolcraft County is shown on a winter day. The glass bottom of the raft allows for the viewing of the clear, emerald waters of Kitch-iti-kipi Spring, which is near Manistique.

MDNR photos

oval pool gushes more than 10,000 gallons per minute from numerous fissures in the underlying limestone.

“Vegetation grew lush, draping the piles of trash dumped into the pool by the lumber company which operated nearby,” the brochure stated.

In years past, the spring – with its constant 45-degree temperature and emerald-tinted waters – had been a popular picnic place. Visitors crossed Indian Lake – the eventual destination of the spring’s outflow – by boat and then hiked to the spring.

At one point, a narrow-gauge railroad brought visitors to the spot from Thompson. Bellaire – who became thoroughly enchanted with the spring – collaborated with a poet and writer to produce “Namesakes” and “Medicine Water,” two booklets which sold in the thousands, describing the beauty of the area and the supposed American Indian legends surrounding this placid pool – the “Mirror of Heaven.”

“The Big Spring wasn’t too different in formation from the other sink holes in the area, except

that it was tapped to a fast-flowing spring,” the brochure said. “Bellaire saw through the debris, saw the beauty of the emerald bottom of the pool. He watched the sand bubble and roll as some hidden hydrostatic pressure forced water through the narrow opening left when the slumping occurred in the glacial drift near Manistique.”

Bellaire, who could have purchased the spring and surrounding roughly 90 acres for himself, instead arranged for a sale of the property by the Palms Book Land Co. to the State of Michigan for \$10.

A deed stipulation required the property to be used “forever” as a public park – Palms Book State Park.

Around 1930, Bellaire operated a five-and-dime store in Manistique where he sold water and sand from the spring, promoting them as “magical.” The sand was said to be called “Juggler’s Sand” by the Indians and the water, “Juggler’s Laughing Rain.”

According to the packets containing them, the sand and water from *Kitch-iti-kipi* are used thus: “The sand as an all-around good

luck powder, and the water as a prevention against Bad Spirits. The sand, when mixed with a kind of bark the Indians smoked, becomes *Takosavos*, ‘Love Powder.’”

“Through the two books and other writings Bellaire succeeded in making the Big Spring one of the best-known scenic attractions in the Midwest,” the *Daily Press* reported.

Into his 70s, Bellaire, still mesmerized, continued to visit the spring almost daily.

In 1955, the local Lions Club erected a 3-foot-tall stone memorial at the park. Attached was a bronze plaque honoring Bellaire for his “unselfish service in promoting and developing the Big Spring.”

Four years later, after an illness of several months, Bellaire died at age 87, roughly two months before the state police divers swam among the sparkling waters of “The Blue Sky I See” – one of numerous supposed Chippewa translations of *Kitch-iti-kipi*.

Today, a state highway brings visitors to the Big Spring. There they sit and enjoy the eerie quiet



BIG TROUT are shown in the Big Spring.

or turn a large metal wheel to propel a glass-bottomed raft across the surface of the pool.

Large brown and lake trout haunt these depths and hide among the encrusted branches of the cedar trees that guard the rim of the spring. At the bottom, coins dropped by visitors for luck lie half-buried in the churning sands. Last fall, members of the Manistique Lions Club, in coordination

with the DNR, cleaned up the park and erected a new interpretive sign to bring more attention to Bellaire and his work at the Big Spring.

Now decades after his altruistic efforts began, Bellaire’s waters of the Big Spring remain magical. Find out more about Kitch-iti-kipi, the Big Spring, at Palms Book State Park.

A few tips to keep birds safe at backyard feeders

To survive Michigan’s frigid winter temperatures, some birds store food from feeders to eat later in winter, while others expand their food sources and change their diets.

Despite these incredible adaptations, winter can still be a stressful time for birds. We can help support winter birds by feeding them when other food sources may be scarce. Here are a couple of tips on how to feed them safely and responsibly in your space:

- Keep your bird feeders and birdbaths fresh and clean throughout

winter. Freshen the water every other day, if possible. Clean your feeders once every one to two weeks in a 9:1 solution that is nine parts water and one part bleach, scrubbing away any debris. Dry the feeder before refilling.

- Clean bird baths with a scrub brush in a 9:1 solution of water and vinegar.

- Don’t place seed directly on the ground or use platform feeders, which tend to attract larger numbers of birds, deer and other unwanted guests. Mess-free birdseed options can help keep the ground clean.

(From the Michigan DNR)

“Saying what we think gives us a wider conversational range than saying what we know.”

–Cullen Hightower

“I would not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.”

–Frances Willard (1839 - 1898)

“There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge.”

–Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

“Trust thyself only, and another shall not betray thee.”

–Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)



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