

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN



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July 29, 2022

SHORT CUTS

Primary election set for Tuesday, Aug. 2

The state's Tuesday, Aug. 2, primary election is just a few days away.

The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local councils have compiled on Page 4 a limited list of endorsed candidates for the primary.

When you go to cast your ballot either absentee or at your local polling place, remember that in a primary election in Michigan you can only vote straight Democrat or Republican – cross-over voting will spoil your ballot.

ABC-MI seeks to halt state wage decree

LANSING – It took nine months longer than expected, but the Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan finally filed legal action with the state Court of Claims on July 21, arguing that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had no right to reinstate the state's prevailing wage law.

Last October, Whitmer announced that the State of Michigan would once again require contractors to pay the prevailing wage on many state-sponsored, taxpayer-funded construction projects. The move reinstated the prevailing wage requirement for government contractors, which was repealed in June 2018 by votes of Republican majorities in the state Legislature.

"By reinstating prevailing wage, we are ensuring that working people get treated with dignity and respect, which starts with a fair wage," Whitmer said when the new policy was issued. Her support of the state's building trades unions was made implicit as she made the announcement at Lansing Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333's Training Center. "As governor, I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with working people and unions who built the middle class. By reinstating prevailing wage, we are ensuring working people can earn a decent standard of living, saving taxpayers money and time on crucial infrastructure projects, and offering Michigan a highly-trained workforce to rely on as we build up our roads and bridges, replace lead pipes, install high-speed internet, and more."

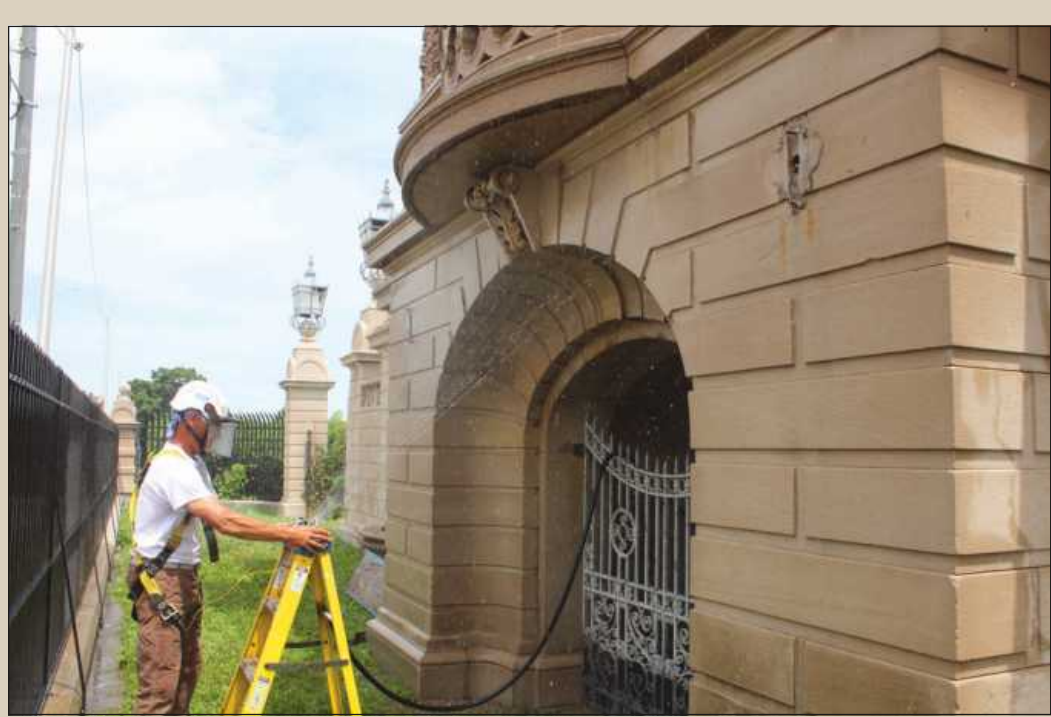
On July 21, the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan argued that Whitmer could not re-implement prevailing wage because she was ignoring state law.

"The governor has seemingly revived this repealed procedure, but has not done so by either enforcing legislation or through the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act," wrote ABC of Michigan, represented by the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation. "The policy has been implemented by unilateral edict from the governor's office. This is not a proper method of governance and is not binding on plaintiff."

The biggest surprise in the ABC's legal action is that it took the group nine months to attempt to overturn Whitmer's pro-union decree. ABC of Michigan President Jimmy Greene told *The Detroit News* that his members will have to "change their entire cost structure" to accommodate the change in state policy.

Quotable

"Some people will never learn anything because they understand everything too soon."
—Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744)



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, but a common lawn sprinkler – with no soap, and no chemicals – is being used to effectively clean the limestone surfaces of Detroit's historic Hurlbut Gate. Here a lawn sprinkler spraying the underside of an arch is adjusted by Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 foreman Robert Woods. Employed by Ram Construction Services, Woods said the gentle streaming water cleaning process is ideal for the old limestone.

Masons shower Hurlbut Gate with TLC – and no detergent

Going with the flow: Streaming water works wonders on limestone's grime

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – When the Hurlbut Memorial Gate along East Jefferson Avenue was completed in 1894, the limestone monument became the ornate, public-facing tribute to a new resource – a water treatment and delivery system that contributed enormously to better health in the city and an improved quality of life.

Located along a wrought iron fence line on East Jefferson Avenue that protects the city's massive Water Works Park, the Hurlbut Gate was a product of the City Beautiful Movement, which flourished in the 1890s and promoted the construc-

tion of such monuments, as well as public parks, gardens and statuary.

The Hurlbut Gate was erected simply to beautify the area, and never had a practical use, except maybe to provide drinking water troughs for horses passing by. Today, the monument is on its way to looking like it did back in 1894. The Great Lakes Water Authority has hired Ram Construction Services employing Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 masons to give the limestone gate a top-to-bottom cleaning and restoration.

"Just look at what we've been able to do," said Ram Foreman Robert Woods, who was working on the project earlier this

month along with apprentice Theodore Ravetta. "Ram is all about doing what's appropriate on a project, and here I thought we needed a gentle system to clean this stone, and we're being given the time and materials to do that. This is working incredibly well."

What the two masons are doing to clean the Hurlbut Gate's limestone is actually jaw-droppingly simple, gentle – and effective. They're employing both common lawn sprinklers and an improvised, garden hose-pressure water jet system to spray water – but no soap or chemical cleaner – on the limestone surfaces. Turns out water

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THE HURLBUT GATE, located along East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, is a 132-foot-wide by 50-foot-tall limestone structure that sits at the entrance of the city's 110-acre Water Works site, now operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is named for Chauncey Hurlbut, a 19th Century president of the city's Board of Water Commissioners. A wholesale cleaning/rehabilitation of its granite exterior is being undertaken by Ram Construction Services and its Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 employees. A decorative eagle atop the monument that fell after being struck by lightning will be replicated and replaced.

Ruling could hike minimum wage, set paid sick leave

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Michigan workers at the low end of the wage scale could be getting a raise, and paid sick leave.

State Court of Claims Judge Douglas Shapiro on July 19 ruled that two voter-initiated laws adopted in 2018 to increase the state's minimum wage as well as set new paid sick leave requirements for small employers trump the Republican-led state

Legislature's end-around effort that year to usurp both efforts by citizen petitioners.

The ruling, which will certainly be appealed and whose enforcement depends upon yet-to-be decided actions by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, initiates a \$12 per hour minimum wage (it is currently \$9.87) and requires thousands of businesses to provide paid sick leave to workers.

"Today's announcement is a

huge victory for Michigan's working families and every working person in our great state," said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. "The shameful actions of the 2018 Republican state legislative majorities and then-Attorney General Bill Schuette showed complete disregard for our state's Constitution – with the sole purpose of taking rights away from working people. With this decision, the people's

will expressed in these citizens' initiatives is now restored and goes into full effect as it should have back in 2018."

The Republican-led Legislature in 2018 pulled off some unprecedented shenanigans to usurp the successful petition drive, which would have placed the higher minimum wage and sick leave time on the November 2018 ballot.

The petition by Michigan One Fair Wage would have

(Continued on Page 4)

Union representation efforts show a wide, but not deep trend

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Two of the major "canary-in-the-coal-mine" markers to measure worker sentiment in the United States showed a significant recent increase in employee actions taken with the National Labor Relations Board

On July 15, the NLRB released their latest update of workers seeking union representation – and the numbers showed that during the first nine months of fiscal year 2022 (through June 30), the number of union workplace petitions were up a whopping 58 percent, to 1,182, compared to the same period a year ago.

"There is a surge in labor activity nationwide, with workers organizing and filing petitions for more union elections than they have in the last 10 years," said NLRB General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo.

Moreover, workers, perhaps emboldened by highly publicized worker job actions, filed 16 percent more unfair labor practice charges – from 11,082 last year to 12,819.

"We've now got hard data to back up a trend we've talked a lot about on 'Marketplace': The number of workplaces trying to

Still, 'there is indeed a tidal wave of union organizing occurring across a wide spectrum of workplaces...'

– The National Law Review

unionize is on the rise," *Marketplace* subsequently reported.

Said the *National Law Review*: "This data confirms what many in labor circles have been facing for months – there is indeed a tidal wave of union organizing occurring across a wide spectrum of workplaces, with much of it coming in the retail space and progressive-leaning workplaces, where workers have increasingly perceived a disconnect between the stated values of their employers and the various decisions their employers are actually making."

Union organizing drives and worker-led actions at companies like Starbucks, Amazon and Apple have gained notoriety in recent months, with the

(Continued on Page 3)

Upward momentum, unfilled jobs, uncertainty mark U.S. construction industry

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

The U.S. construction industry is a bit fidgety these days, weighed on by the inflationary cost of goods and services, labor shortages in some areas, and fears of a recession among owners paying the bills.

That's all reflected in the mid-year construction economic updates, which reveal a generally upward trend for building prospects, along with causes for some unease.

Happily, the Dodge Construction Network's "Momentum Index" for U.S. construction rose 4.1 percent in June, and was 9 percent higher than in June 2021, Dodge reported on July 11. The Momentum Index is a monthly measure of the initial report for nonresidential building projects in planning.

"A new cyclical high in the Momentum Index is a sign that developers feel that projects still have hope of moving forward, despite concerns of an impending economic slowdown," said

Richard Branch, chief economist for Dodge Construction Network. "However, this sentiment will be tested in the months to come as higher interest rates eat away at business and consumer confidence." Just nine days later, Dodge and Branch expanded on the "however" part of his statement.

Reporting on July 20 that total U.S. construction fell 5 percent from May to June, Branch changed his tune a bit, and said

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Construction material prices may be on path to moderation

Construction material costs overall are still at historic highs. But a welcome dip in prices may be coming.

The Associated General Contractors reported July 14 that the overall price of materials and services used in nonresidential construction jumped 1.1 percent last month, which is a modest increase compared to recent history. But the prices in June were still up 16.8 percent compared to June 2021.

"Some materials prices have fallen recently but others appear headed for further increases," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "Since these prices were collected, producers of gypsum, concrete, and other products have announced or implemented new increases. In addition, the supply chain remains fragile and persistent difficulties filling job openings mean construction

(Continued on Page 3)

Follies and foibles of workers featured in plumber's book

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Lots of people who have worked construction or any other job for any length of time have an entertaining story or two to tell, stemming from incidents they have seen or from working with interesting characters.

Daren Peel has 50 stories to tell – and they're contained in a book that he has recently revised and re-released, *The Blue Collar Follies*. The Plumbers Local 98 member calls it a "collection of 50 of the funniest true short stories from real working people in all

kinds of jobs, in all walks of life."

The 55-year-old refers to himself as a "semi-retired" plumber, and he decided that a book with the same title that he published in 2000 as a first-time author was worthy of a re-boot.

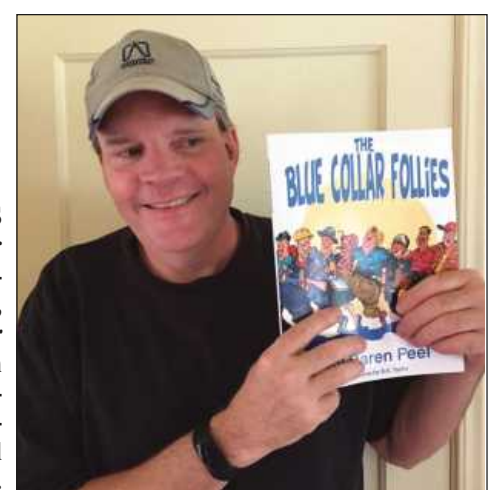
"I wanted to update it to make it more professional," he said. "I'm a plumber, not a writer. It's been a fun project, but I decided to approach it this time as more of a business, and I think the work that we put into it makes it a much better book. I'm grateful to be able to work with a great writer and illustrator, who are both

talented professionals."

Peel, who launched the second edition of the book on July 1, worked with Tex Ragsdale, a long-time writer for advertising, commercial fiction and independent feature films; and illustrator B.K. Taylor, whose resume includes work with the Muppets, National Lampoon and Walt Disney.

The first edition of his book sold 6,000 copies, and in this updated edition, Peel said he removed two stories, added five, and added color on the back and front covers. He even started his

(Continued on Page 3)



PLUMBERS LOCAL 98 member Daren Peel has released his book, *The Blue Collar Follies*, which features light-hearted, worker-based stories and anecdotes.

Viewpoints



Union-busters' bag o' tricks

You as a worker have a legal right to join a union, but there are many ways big corporations are skirting the law to stop you from getting your fair share. You could be working for a union-buster and not even know it.

Here are four of the biggest union-busting tricks to look out for:

One: Anti-Union Propaganda. Employers turn workers into a captive audience for false or misleading claims about unions. In 2019 Delta distributed pamphlets to flight attendants and ramp service workers warning that union fees would cost \$700 per year. But here's what they didn't mention: unionized workers earn \$700 more per month. Weird how they left that part out, isn't it?

Amazon wallpapered its warehouses with anti-union ads. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz claimed he had no choice but to exclude workers at unionizing stores from new employee benefits. Apparently when you're the boss you can just make stuff up.

Two: Your employer hires fancy anti-union firms, lawyers, and consultants. The company claims it can't afford to raise workers' pay but spends millions on anti-union consultants. You might hear your bosses call this "Union Avoidance," but it basically just means "Union busting, in a suit."

Three: Delay, delay, delay. It's illegal for employers to cancel a vote on whether to unionize. But they skirt the law to keep that vote from happening as long as possible.

And while they're delaying, they play dirty tricks to stop a union's momentum. Before a recent labor election in Buffalo, Starbucks flooded stores with managers to pressure workers. One Starbucks employee reported he was told to go to a meeting, only to be greeted by six managers pressuring him to reject the union.

So that's how many managers it takes to screw over an employee.

Four: If none of these union-busting tactics work, your employer might just break the law. Starbucks recently fired more than 20 union leaders. Amazon fired a union leader for missing work – even though he was on leave to care for a COVID-stricken family member. U.S. employers are charged with violating federal law in over 40 percent of all union election campaigns.

I'm sorry, I just have to pause for a second here. 40 percent of the time? Really? If I broke the law 40 percent of the time, I'd be in jail quicker than you can say "Pinkerton!"

Are companies allowed to skirt the law like this? No! But labor laws take a long time to enforce – if they're enforced at all. And the worst that can happen is a corporation has to rehire a worker who it illegally fired and provide back pay. No wonder some companies decide that breaking the law is cheaper than following it. It's simply a "cost of doing business" for a giant corporation like Amazon.

But here's some good news: A bill called "The PRO Act" would strengthen protections for union organizers and make many kinds of "union avoidance" illegal. Call your lawmakers and ask them to support it today.

They won't just be on the right side of history. They'll be on the right side of public opinion. A majority of Americans, including 77 percent of young people, support the right to join a union. Workers at Starbucks and Amazon have refused to be intimidated and have started to unionize. All over the country, American workers are growing wise to corporate union-busting tricks.

Big corporations are fighting dirty to keep their workers from organizing – and they're still losing. Imagine what could happen if they had to fight fair.

Robert Reich
Professor of Public Policy
University of California-Berkeley

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Dems' worst enemy: Dems

By Jim Hightower

"It's over." "Biden's numbers are in the ditch." "Democrats are doomed." "Call the priest."

These are Democrats talking! Even before November's congressional elections are run, many conventional-thinking Democratic operatives are surrendering to a presumed Republican sweep. You don't need a political science degree to know that if you start out announcing that you'll lose, chances are you will – after all, who wants to vote for a party that shows no fighting spirit, no confidence in the appeal of its own ideas?



What's happening here is that the party's top leaders have decided their candidates can't win in rural areas and smaller factory cities – so they've quit trying. Worse, they blame the voters, claiming that Trumpism, Fox News BS, and culture war nonsense have poisoned the minds of people "out there." Thus, party leaders have retreated from the countryside to focus entirely on big urban areas. Democratic Congressional leaders even killed their rural outreach programs, and the party's chairman in 2018 meekly declared: "You can't door-knock in rural America."

Actually, sir, you can. And if you choose to abandon this whole working-class constituency – surprise! – it will abandon you. Worse, than failing to campaign along America's dirt roads and factory streets, national Democrats have actively been pushing corporate policies that have ravaged families living there – including trade deals that sucking out union jobs; shamefully bailing out Wall Street bankers who crashed our real economy (while ignoring millions of devastated workaday people); and doing nothing about the corporate-caused farm depression still ripping across our land. Washington Democrats have largely betrayed this vital, FDRish constituency of millions that they now blithely dismiss as irredeemable.

Did Party poobahs think voters wouldn't notice or care how they're being treated? If we want them back on our side, then let's go to them... and get back on their side!

Water works wonders cleaning Hurlbut Gate

(Continued from Page 1)

on its own does an amazing job of cleaning away the soot and grime that have accumulated on the porous limestone.

Woods said he is using streaming water as a cleaner for the first time, but the system has been around for decades, and it has to be employed under the right circumstances. At Woods' request, Ram's system was fabricated using existing parts at their shop for this project by equipment manager Marty Papcun. The system employs two sets of sprinklers with 10 nozzles each, plus two garden sprinklers.

Access to the Hurlbut Gate is fenced off from the public, and helpfully the monument has four water spigots in the basement. So the water can stream unimpeded, even doing the dirty work overnight on the limestone. The streaming system is also ergonomically helpful, since water nozzles can be set and left to spray for hours at a time on areas overhead or hard to reach.

While working during the day, since there are only two masons on the project, they can set the nozzles to clean a specific area, and then work on the opposite side to stay relatively dry. Some areas are completely clean after only four hours of streaming water, other areas take longer. If other tradespeople were on site, they might not appreciate the constant shower, even in the summer.

"The Great Lakes Water Authority has been working to document and execute repairs to the Hurlbut Memorial Gate, located at the entrance to Water Works Park, following major damage caused by a lightning strike in 2019," said Douglas Atkinson, AIA, Management Professional, GLWA Facilities. "As part of our commitment to the restoration of the monument, we are working closely with Quinn Evans Architects and Ram Construction to repair, replace portions of and clean the monument, using preservation standards. Our goal is



BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED Craftworkers Local 2 apprentice Theodore Ravetta works on the limestone in the upper reaches of the ornate Hurlbut Gate. He's employed by Ram Construction Services.

to ensure the 128-year-old monument is preserved for future generations as a thank you to the City of Detroit and Chauncey Hurlbut for creating this monumental entrance to Water Works Park. We are grateful to our community and our design and construction partners, and are excited to see the monument completed later this year."

An account by Dan Austin's *Historic Detroit* website said that when Chauncey Hurlbut died Sept. 9, 1885, "he left his hefty estate to beautify his beloved Water Works Park. And one of the first things the city did with that fortune was build a monument to Hurlbut, a city water commissioner and civic benefactor who had been instrumental in creating the park. The monument opened in 1894 and would serve as the park's grand entrance, carved from stone and loaded with oodles of arches and stairways."

During this two-month rehabilitation project, the pair of masons have also used steam cleaning equipment to clean some areas of the monument, in the few heavily soiled areas where the

water nozzle system is ineffective. They're also performing some physical repairs to the limestone, including patching, joint work and stone replacement.

The project includes the replacement of a masonry eagle at the top of the gate, which was struck by lightning in August 2019. It fell and damaged other parts of the structure on the way down, and the eagle and those areas will also be restored.

"When we came on site, in many areas it was a very black, dirty monument," Wood said. "We have already completed quite a few areas with just the soaker hoses, and no detergent, and it's amazing how the system works. It takes more time than other methods, but we are able to use low manpower because of the system. And what we're doing is what's best for the monu-

ment. I am as happy as can be about how this is turning out."

The Hurlbut Gate has been rehabilitated in the past, most recently in 2007.

Woods added: "The Hurlbut Gate is an amazing piece of architecture and craftsmanship that can't be replaced or duplicated. I am honored to be chosen to work on it. I am proud to represent Ram Construction and have the opportunity to be a part of restoring something for the public to enjoy for a long time to come."

"When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not hereditary."

—Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)

"I have discovered that all human evil comes from this, man's being unable to sit still in a room."

—Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)

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A SET AND FORGET system of nozzles fashioned by Ram Construction Services shoots water into the ceiling of the interior of the Hurlbut Gate, and can clean the limestone for hours at a time without supervision.

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Kalamazoo's anchors HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy

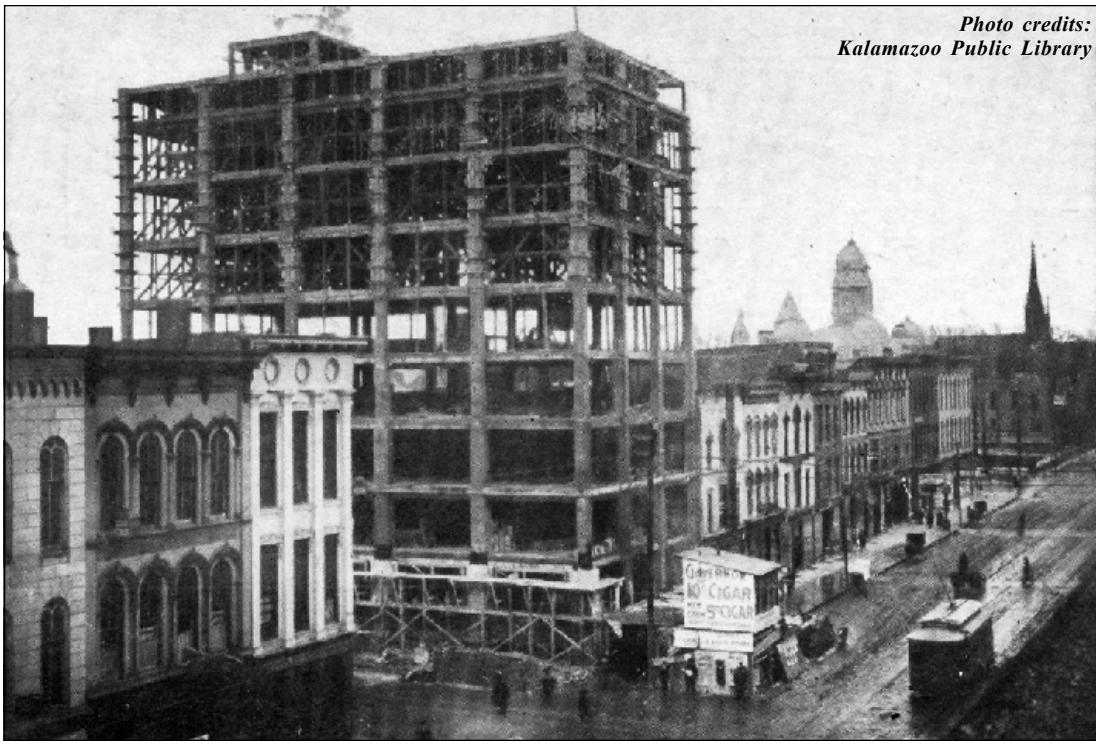


Photo credits:
Kalamazoo Public Library

THE KALAMAZOO BUILDING, the city's first "skyscraper," is shown under construction in 1908, which established some bragging rights. The *Kalamazoo Gazette* wrote of the eight-story building: "It is just this kind of a building that Kalamazoo has needed for a long time, something which is possessed in hundreds of other cities this size." The following day the *Gazette* editorialized that the existing low-rise buildings in the business district were "not in keeping with the spirit of Kalamazoo."

The Kalamazoo Building was the city's first "skyscraper." Plus it has had that simple, highly visible sign that has welcomed eastbound motorists to the city for some eight decades.

And the "American National Bank Building" was, for decades, Kalamazoo's tallest building. Today the home of a Fifth Third Bank, it is an unmatched icon in the city – a tall, art deco classic that would add dignity to any city's downtown.

Only a half-block away from each other, the two buildings don't look alike, and they were built 23 years apart. But together, the two buildings have anchored the south side of Michigan Avenue for more than 90 years. They were built to stand among the city's core symbols of prominence, permanence and community identity, and with many historic structures around them demolished over the ensuing years, their role is as important as ever.

"At the turn of the twentieth century skyscrapers were still a relatively recent development," says a history written by David Kohrman for the Kalamazoo Public Library. "The desire to build taller had historically been thwarted by the number of stairs people were willing to climb and how much weight masonry could support. But the industrial age solved these problems with the invention of elevators and the use of structural steel."

For centuries, low-rise wood or masonry buildings of two or three stories were what builders built in American cities. The availability of structural steel in the 1890s changed everything.

Kohrman continued: "As the building boom spread, any city that fancied itself progressive and prosperous had, or aspired to have, at least one skyscraper. Many people in Kalamazoo were disheartened that no such structure yet existed in the business district. The 24 January 1906 announcement that an eight-story skyscraper was planned generated considerable buzz and excitement."

The contractor selected for the Kalamazoo Building was Henry L. Vanderhorst, who had significant experience in building such an unprecedented structure (at least for Kalamazoo).

"Plans called for a tower that rose an astounding eight stories over the business district, making it the tallest building in town and the city's first recipient of the term 'skyscraper,'" said the Kalamazoo Public Library's history.

The lower two floors, which formed the base, were faced with carved stone. The five middle floors featured vertical piers and large windows to allow ample light into the offices. The top floor featured a projecting decorative cornice. *Emporis* refers to the style of the eight-story building as "neoclassical."

While businesses were displaced to build the new skyscraper, tenants were clamoring to secure a spot in the new building. "Fortunately, business relocation proved to be the greatest obstacle the builders would face, the library account said. "The process of clearing the site and actual construction proceeded rather uneventfully. There were no accidents. The only delays reported by the *Kalamazoo Gazette* were due to

THIS SIMPLE black sign with yellow letters atop the historic Kalamazoo Building is a bit of an icon, greeting eastbound drivers along Michigan Avenue into downtown since the 1940s. The sign has since been partially obscured by completion of the Kalamazoo Exchange Building next door in 2019.



tardy shipments of materials."

The first of the building's tenants began moving into the upper floors by August 1907. It was a sensation. Numerous period postcards couldn't wait for the completed building, and depicted the construction.

Kohrman noted that as work progressed "the citizens of Kalamazoo marveled at the sight of a black steel skeleton rising over Main and Burdick. But for many, impressing outsiders was more important."

Noting the building's progress, the *Kalamazoo Gazette* wrote on Nov. 24, 1906: "Nothing advertises a city to strangers more than the impressions they get when going through the place on a train." The writers, Kohrman said, expressed relief that the building's frame had reached a bank and office space above height to be visible from passing trains on the Michigan Central tracks, and mentioned hopes that the skyscraper would serve to overshadow Kalamazoo's less impressive aspects.

The *Gazette* concluded, "The long line of low buildings on North Burdick Street is anything but impressive. The new structure, however, looming up so prominently may in a measure take the attention away from the poorer built up part of the city."

"Kalamazoo's first skyscraper was built in 1907 and was originally the Kalamazoo National Bank Building since the bank was the primary tenant," says *Discover Kalamazoo*. "The upper floors housed a variety of small businesses. Kalamazoo National Bank moved out in 1929 and thereafter has been called the Kalamazoo Building."

By the 1920s, calling an eight-story building a "skyscraper" had long become passe.

The golden era of modern skyscrapers had arrived, and Kalamazoo's tallest downtown commercial tower – then and now – was erected between 1928-29. What is today called the Fifth Third Bank Building was built just a half-block east of the Kalamazoo Building along Michigan Avenue.

The 15-story Art Deco tower was originally built for the Bank of Kalamazoo, but its failure led to the building having the name American National Bank Building from 1933-1987.

"This building is Kalamazoo's best example of Art Deco Architecture," says *Kalamazoo MI*, "and at the time it was built it was our tallest. It caused quite a stir in the community when it was constructed."

The new tower, built in the Chicago style of architecture, was the first example in the city of a modern tower that looked like tall buildings in major cities across the country.

"The American National Bank Building demonstrates the fine capabilities of the Chicago firm of Weary and Alford to produce fine buildings in the Art Deco fashion," says the building's National Register of Historic Places application. "Using granite, limestone and lead, the structure features an unusually fine ornamented exterior. Bas relief carved geometric figures mark its irregular outline and the large arched entranceway features elaborate geometric and floral-like detailing. The exterior is further ornamented by the use of ornate Art Deco light fixtures. The interior of the bank building is equally fine. The lobby is richly detailed in stone and bronze and features hand-painted walls and ceilings in an Egyptian motif."



THE STILL-STANDING Kalamazoo Building, just after its completion in 1908. It houses a first floor reached a bank and office space above.

height to be visible from passing trains on the Michigan Central tracks, and mentioned hopes that the skyscraper would serve to overshadow Kalamazoo's less impressive aspects.

The *Gazette* concluded, "The long line of low buildings on North Burdick Street is anything but impressive. The new structure, however, looming up so prominently may in a measure take the attention away from the poorer built up part of the city."

"Kalamazoo's first skyscraper was built in 1907 and was originally the Kalamazoo National Bank Building since the bank was the primary tenant," says *Discover Kalamazoo*. "The upper floors housed a variety of small businesses. Kalamazoo National Bank moved out in 1929 and thereafter has been called the Kalamazoo Building."

By the 1920s, calling an eight-story building a "skyscraper" had long become passe.

The golden era of modern skyscrapers had arrived, and Kalamazoo's tallest downtown commercial tower – then and now – was erected between 1928-29. What is today called the Fifth Third Bank Building was built just a half-block east of the Kalamazoo Building along Michigan Avenue.

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KALAMAZOO'S American National Bank Building on Michigan Avenue in 1938. Then and now, the 15-story Art Deco tower is a major part of the streetscape.

Union representation efforts show a wide, but not deep trend

(Continued from Page 1) lingering pandemic one factor in seemingly bringing about a reboot of the traditional worker-employer dynamic.

A major cautionary note in the numbers is that the organizing drives are often happening at workplace locations that are fairly small. Of the union representation petitions, some 16 percent, or 320 filings, came from individual Starbucks locations. In addition, the UAW has a miserable organizing record among plants in the South, and an organizing drive at an Amazon facility in Bessemer, Ala. failed in two separate votes the past two years. Although a union has filed charges – with the NLRB – alleging Amazon corporate interference in the balloting.

"Some of what's in this count is a large number of relatively small workplaces," said Rebecca Givan, a professor of labor studies at Rutgers, to *Marketplace*. "A Starbucks coffee shop with maybe 20 workers and

an Amazon warehouse with 6,000 workers. Each of those is just one election."

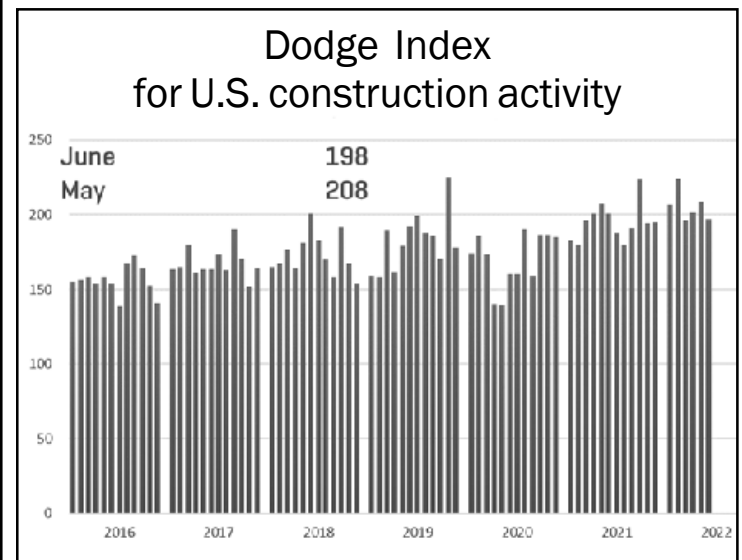
The NLRB said a representation petition is filed by employees, unions, or employers with an NLRB field office, intending to "have the NLRB conduct an election to determine if employees wish to be represented by a union. The field office investigates the petitions and, if meritorious, conducts an election to allow employees to decide whether or not they wish to be represented by a union."

The federal agency said an unfair labor practice charge "is filed by any member of the public with an NLRB field office if they believe an employer or union has violated the National Labor Relations Act. The field office will then investigate the charge and issue a complaint, absent settlement, if the regional director determines the charge has merit."

The NLRB took the occasion to point out that the increase in

cases comes during "a period of critical funding and staffing shortages for the agency." President Biden's FY 2023 budget would bring a 16 percent increase in funding for the agency, whose budget has dropped 25 percent since 2010. The NLRB said overall agency staffing levels have dropped 39 percent and field staffing has shrunk by 50 percent since 2002.

"The NLRB is processing the most cases it has seen in years with the lowest staffing levels in the past six decades. Our dedicated staff, especially in our 48 field offices, are handling unsustainable caseloads. The Agency urgently needs more resources to process petitions and conduct elections, investigate unfair labor practice charges, and obtain full remedies for workers whose labor rights have been violated," said Abruzzo. "We need Congress to help us restore the capacity that we have lost after years of underfunding."



Upward momentum, unfilled jobs, uncertainty mark U.S. construction industry

(Continued from Page 1) "construction markets are getting jittery as the odds of recession increase. While projects are still moving through the planning process, the velocity has downshifted, reflecting uncertainties over how rising interest rates will impact the economy, construction material prices, and ultimately, construction starts. Over the short-term, construction-facing indicators are likely to be more volatile than normal, particularly in the commercial sector."

Longer term, for the 12 months ending June 2022, total U.S. construction starts were 7 percent above the 12 months ending June 2021.

Meanwhile, the Associated General Contractors reported on July 8 that the construction industry added 13,000 jobs in June, "as the number of jobseekers with construction experience plunged to a record low for the month." The AGC said the industry would likely have added even more jobs in June had it not been for the shortage of available workers.

The unemployment rate among U.S. jobseekers with construction experience tumbled from 7.5 percent in June 2021 to 3.7 percent last month, the lowest rate for June in the 23-year history of the data, the AGC said. The number of unemployed construction workers fell by 345,000, or 47 percent, to 385,000, suggesting there are few experienced jobseekers left to hire.

Conversely, there were 466,000 construction-industry job openings at the end of May, a jump of 130,000 or 39 percent from a year earlier and the largest May total since similar records were kept beginning in 2000.

"Although nonresidential contractors were able to add employees in June, the industry needs more as demand for projects is outpacing the supply of workers," said Ken Simonson, the AGC's chief economist. "With industry unemployment at a record low for June and openings at an all-time high for May, it is clear contractors can't fill all the positions they would like to."

Follies and foibles of workers featured in plumber's book

(Continued from Page 1) own company, Sand River Publishing, and placed the 102-page book for sale on several online platforms to give it maximum exposure. The stories were collected from others in all walks of life who shared their anecdotes with him, as well as from his own experiences. He began taking notes when he decided that he might have the makings of a book.

"The stories are short and easy to read, and if I can get people to crack a smile, then the book will have served its purpose," Peel said.

A native of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Peel has been a Local 98 member since 1998, and worked out of the Soo Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 508 for about a decade before that. But the master plumber had his hands in a variety of jobs before that, working as a handyman, in lumber mills, making car batteries, and as a security guard.

Peel said he is donating a small portion of the proceeds of the book to charity.

A Kindle version of the book is available for \$7.99 from Amazon. A version of the soft-cover book is also available at his website: www.thebluecollarfollies.com for \$21.99.

This book, he said, took "a pile of work to get to press, and maybe hundreds of hours to tweak." Peel said for anyone else thinking of publishing a book, "it needs to be a labor of love, and it helps to associate with people who know what they're doing. But in the end, if you get a smile or a laugh out of somebody who reads it, it's worth it."

"The squeaking wheel doesn't always get the grease. Sometimes it gets replaced."
–Vic Gold

"The greatest justice in life is that your vision and looks tend to go simultaneously."
–Kevin Bacon

"Time does not change us. It just unfolds us."
–Max Frisch

Construction material prices may be on path to moderation

(Continued from Page 1) costs are likely to remain elevated despite declines in some prices."

Similarly, the index for new nonresidential building construction – a measure of what contractors calculate they would charge to erect five types of non-residential buildings – climbed by 0.5 percent from May to June and 19.8 percent over 12 months.

There were mostly modest one-month decreases in June in the index for copper and brass mill shapes (-1.6 percent); steel mill products (-1.8 percent) and aluminum mill shapes (-5.2 percent). There was a more significant drop for lumber and plywood (-14.7 percent).

The price index for diesel fuel soared 14.1 percent in June and more than doubled over 12 months, rising 111.1 percent since June 2021. But motorists have seen steadily lower prices at the pump in recent weeks.

A diverse mix of inputs accounted for the increase in the cost index even as prices for several metal and wood products declined, the AGC said. They only moved up a bit, led by asphalt and roofing products (up 3.2 percent). Insulation, plastic materials and concrete products each rose less than 2 percent for the month.

These small increases or declining prices suggest the nation may have overall reached peak inflation, analysts say.

The Federal Reserve reported on July 13 that "substantial price increases were reported across all districts, at all stages of consumption, though three quarters noted moderation in prices for construction inputs such as lumber and steel. In addition, there were several reports that price increases for food, commodities and energy "had slowed compared with recent months but remained historically elevated."

Just joking

In church one Sunday morning, a preacher called out to the congregation, "Anyone with special needs who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front by the altar!"



With that, Leroy got in line, and when it was his turn, the preacher asked, "Leroy, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

Leroy replied, "Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing!"

The preacher put one finger of one hand in Leroy's ear, placed his other hand on top of Leroy's head, and then prayed loudly, so Leroy and everyone else could hear what he was saying to God. As he prayed, the entire congregation joined in with great enthusiasm.

After a minute, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, "Leroy, how is your hearing now?"

Leroy answered, "I don't know, preacher. My hearing ain't 'til Thursday!"



Local 370 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

FLINT - The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Aug. 9, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Local 370 2022 Golf outing. Another successful outing in the books. Thanks to all who attended.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule. 2018 Plumbing Code Update Class. Will be held at the Local 370 Training Center on Aug. 8, 2022 from 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

CPR/FIRST AID. September 22, 2022 @ 4:30 pm. Sign up with Kaytlin

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.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

- Examining Board - Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 4:00pm
FMR Committee - Tuesday July 12, 2022, at 4:00pm
PAC committee - Tuesday July 12, 2022, at 5:00pm
Executive Board - Tuesday July 12, 2022, at 5:00pm
Building Committee - Tuesday July 12, 2022, at 6:00pm
Finance Committee - Tuesday July 12, 2022, 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.

Local 370 office hours 7:30am-4:30pm. Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am - 11:30 am 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. Monthly award is \$150.

Attention All Active Members in Good Standing. The Joint Apprentices 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.

Mobile App. Our mobile app is now available for download on your cell phone.

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

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues.

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.

(Continued next column)



Local 671

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 671

MONROE - The next regular Union meeting is scheduled for August 4th, 2022. There will also be an E-Board meeting at 5pm on August 4th.

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.

Retirees: To all retirees, we are having retiree luncheons once again. The last Thursday of the month at 12 noon.

Sick Committee: Brother Shannon Casto fell off a ladder while on the job.

Entertainment Committee: Local 671 will be out at the Monroe County Fair this year. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mike, Vinnie or Justin at the Union Hall.

The Local 671 Annual Picnic will be held on August 27, 2022. It is also a great time and a good opportunity to catch up with old friends.

WE NEED NEW PEOPLE TO HELP MAKE THE EVENT A SUCCESS! THE HANDFUL OF RETIREES WHO HAVE HELPED EVERY YEAR ARE GETTING TIRED!

Mobile App: Our Mobile App titled "UA Local 671" is available in the App Store for iPhone or Android.

In Closing: If you have the ability to make someone's life better, you have the responsibility to do so.

God bless Local 671 and Union Labor.

Mike Jewell: Cell (419) 262-8503 email: mike@ualocal671.com

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

Local 370, con't

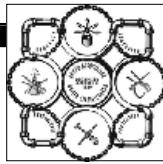
ments according to our bylaws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test contact business agent, 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.

Remember to keep your dues current.

(Continued next column)



Local 357 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

Plumbers, Pipefitters & Hvac Service Local 357

KALAMAZOO - UNION MEETING: The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 9 at 6:30pm.

MILEAGE INCREASE: As of July 1st, 2022, the IRS Mileage rate will increase from 58.5 cents per mile to 62.5 cents per mile.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is now accepted at the Union Hall for any payments.

RETIREE MEETINGS: Retiree lunch meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month. The lunches will commence at 11:30 am at Travelers Cafe located at 5225 Portage Rd, Portage, MI.

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.

WEBSITE INFORMATION - FRINGES - TIC: Check out the website at www.ualocal357.com

ATTN: HOCKEY PLAYERS! Plumbers Local 98 is looking into forming a hockey team to play league and tournament hockey.

ATTN: All Golfers! Join us for the 44th Annual Detroit Plumbers Local 98 Scholarship Fund Golf Outing on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022.

CHANGE OF STATUS: If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, remarried, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call TIC at the phone number above and Lori at the Union Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to David Brigman on his recent marriage to Shelby.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Lance Owen on his recent marriage to Taylor.

GOLF OUTING: Mark your calendars for Local 357's Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, September 17th at Pineview Golf Course.

"War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace." -Thomas Mann (1875 - 1955)



Plumbers Local 98

Plumbers 98

DETROIT - Membership of Plumbers Local 98. Brothers and Sisters, Local 98 supports our Sister Local 636 in their efforts to better themselves in negotiations and get through this strike.

When you leave 98 for a non-fringe paying contractor or an automotive plant, you will be immediately losing your Insurance and HRA as well as other benefits.

SCHOLARSHIP. We were able to expand our Scholarships to 5 this year due to donations and Golf outing success. The winners of Local 98s Scholarships are as follows: Olivia Sizeland, May Gulley, McKenzie Cools, Gage Slagor and Rufus Hamilton II.

Meetings & Union Hall. The next Union Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 pm. There will be a reading of the proposed BY-LAWS at this meeting, no votes will be taken.

Retiree Meetings. The next Retiree Meeting is Wednesday, August 10th from 12 pm - 2 pm.

PAC Updates. For candidates your PAC committee has endorsed, we have finalized our endorsements and have sent two each to your address on file.

SUB Apps/OOW. SUB pay is stopped due to travelers in town. You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List.

Benefits. We have exciting news as 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.

Dues. The online dues payment option will be coming back online soon, for now dues can be paid over the phone or by mailing in a check.

Good/Welfare. Back by popular demand the "Labor Day Parade"! Stay tuned for more information.

FAMILY PICNIC. Will be held on Saturday, August 27 from 10 am - 6 pm at Lower Huron Metro Park, 40151 East Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111.

Time to get on the field and play some softball. If you are interested in playing for the Local 98 Softball Team, please contact Manager Jeremy Pitts at (586) 405-9425.

ATTN: All Golfers! Join us for the 44th Annual Detroit Plumbers Local 98 Scholarship Fund Golf Outing on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022. Sponsorships and Foursomes are now available.

We are currently looking for Residential and Service Plumbers. This is a great opportunity to expand and grow, as many members are looking to retire.

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 Training Center is open. The mask mandate has been lifted. We are asking that people still practice social distancing while in the building.

OSHA Training - OSHA 10, available as on an online class for \$25 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center.

OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

"Do thou restrain the haughty spirit in thy breast, for better far is gentle courtesy." -Homer (800 BC - 700 BC)



Sprinkler Fitters Local 704

DETROIT - The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall.

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.

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

Mark your calendars for the Sprinkler Fitters Local 704 Golf Outing which will be held Saturday, August 20th.

Any retiree who would like to volunteer for picket line duty, please reach out to Rob Williams at the Union Hall.

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 speedy recovery to all of our sick and injured members.

Local 98, con't

ASSE Repairer: *** Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification Fall Class: August 31st - October 5th, Deadline is August 12th - \$75

6010 Medical Gas Installer Recertification - *All current 2018 Medical Gas Installer certification holders are required to take this update to 2021. \$130.00

OPEN WELDING - Our welding shop is open! The new ventilation system has been installed. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding related inquiries and to check on booth availability.

**Orbital Welding Class- September 12, 13 & 14 - Call the school to register - \$100 fee, check or money order required - minimal seats available

If you brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next WELDING Test session will be September 10, 2022. You must call to schedule your welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test.

2022 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, 2022 to be eligible for the \$100.00 reimbursement.

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.



BUILDING A BLOCK wall to enclose dumpsters at the Caro Psychiatric Hospital site are (l-r) Troy Tripp of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 and Matt Denay of Laborers Local 1098. They're employed by Boettcher Masonry.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2
 WARREN/LANSING—The SEMI-ANNUAL UNION MEETING will be held on Saturday, August 06, 2022 at 10:00 AM at BAC Local 2's Lansing office at 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906.



PAUL DUNFORD

ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED (EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER MEETING LISTED BELOW) FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2022 DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

AUGUST 2022 CHAPTER MEETINGS:
MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855. BBQ Dinner served from 5-6 PM

DEATHS REPORTED. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Ronald Darga** (Bricklayer & Cement Mason) who passed away on June 29, 2022. Brother Darga had been a member for 64 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Norbert Poltorak** (Bricklayer) who passed away on November 16, 2021. Brother Poltorak had been a member for 74 years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Donald Sullivan** (Bricklayer, Cement Mason & Stone Mason) who passed away on June 27, 2022. Brother Sullivan had been a member for 45 years.

WEBSITE UPDATES. Be sure to check out our new website at <https://www.bricklayers.org> and our app, which can be found in the IOS and Android app stores by searching for Bricklayers Local 2.

MEMBERSHIP GOLF OUTING. Local 2's 9th Annual Membership Golf outing will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at Hawk Meadows Golf Course in Howell, MI.

Registration is based on a first come, first serve basis. Payment **MUST** be submitted with registration, otherwise we reserve the right to cancel your team if we are overbooked. One person on each team **MUST** be a current, good standing BAC Local 2 member.

CRAFTWORKERS NEEDED. We need Skilled Bricklayers, Restoration workers and Caulkers in Metro Detroit. If you are available for work, or know anyone who is skilled in our crafts, contact your Field Representative on their cell phone. You can also have those who are interested call either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781.

SIGNING BONUS FOR SKILLED CRAFTWORKERS. Local 2 will pay up to \$2,000 as a **Signing Bonus** for skilled Journey Level craftworkers who come to work for one of our Union Contractors. Also, Local 2 members working with the tools and non-supervisory members can get the same amount as a **Finders Referral Bonus** for each new skilled craftworker who they refer, if they work for at least a month for our Union Contractors. For more details and information, call your Field Representative or either the Warren office (586) 754-0888 or the Lansing office (517) 886-9781. You can view the full Signing Bonus policy on our website.

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

***IMPORTANT CHANGE Regarding Union Dues*.** All Local 2 Members are now eligible for a Union Dues discount, regardless of what month you are paid through currently. This offer is a great way to catch up on your monthly window dues by taking advantage of this annual dues discount.

We are making available to ALL Local 2 members the opportunity to pay for 6 months of union dues and receive credit for 12 months. An entire year for half the price!!

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS. Both Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org> to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2022 online training classes.

DETROIT IMI TRAINING CENTER. To schedule appointments at the Metro Detroit Training Center, please contact Howard Hipes directly at (517) 749-1102.

APPRENTICE WORKSHEETS. Turning in monthly worksheets is a requirement of your apprenticeship. Apprentice Worksheets (Continued next column)

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 174, continued

(Continued from Page 8)
 sage, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

Training News:
FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next classes will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022, and Thursday, September 8, 2022. The Training Center will be closed to daytime classes the month of August beginning Monday, August 1st and will reopen Tuesday September 6th.

Open Welding on Wednesday nights is currently cancelled until further notice. If you have a certification that has expired in the last few months and have questions regarding recertification, please contact the Training Office. Many certifications have extended grace periods on expiration dates.

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

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



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36
 DETROIT—ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED that our next regular **Membership Meeting for Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, will be cancelled. Our next scheduled Membership meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 25, 2022 at 5:30pm at 1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI.** Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

Reminder to all Members, the Labor Day Parade is scheduled for Sept. 5, 2022. Please arrive early as some roads will be closed down because of the parade.

Sept. 17 we will be having a golf outing at Bay Pointe Golf course in Commerce Township, if interested check your email for contact info or call the Hall for more info.

We have the new Constitution and By-Laws (revised edition October 2021) along with the new NEBA Agreement July 9, 2022 to July 8, 2027 books at the Hall.

Attention All Apprentices, Orientation will be held on Monday August 1, 2022 and Wednesday August 3, 2022 as the fall semester classes will be starting. Check your NEIEP emails for additional information frequently. OJT forms need to be completed by the 9th day of the following month. JTF forms to be completed by August 9, 2022.

Check your pay stubs every week to make sure they are correct, we have been having a lot of complaints from or members regarding payroll and vacation check issues.

Attention All Temporary Mechanics, your Temporary Mechanic's Agreement **MUST** be signed by the end of each month. If you can't make the union meeting to sign your agreement then come down to the hall the next day.

Attention All Members, All testing must be done according to Michigan State Code and your company's MCP, remember YOUR license is being put on the forms so do the test correctly no matter how long it takes!!

Local 36 is working with Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPJ on holding Code Outreach classes on Monday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Reviewing and answering any questions pertaining to Michigan and Detroit Elevator Codes. Contact the Hall if you are interested and the link will be sent for online or phone participation. We are also holding code book layout sessions monthly, this is a great class for all members so you can reference the codes easily for testing, maintenance, construction or studying/taking the State/City tests.

Check your pay stubs every week to make sure they are correct, we have been having a lot of complaints from or members regarding payroll and vacation check issues.

If anyone is interested in QEI training, please call the Hall so we can build a potential class list.

We wish to extend a get well to all Brothers and Sisters on our sick list. Be safe and stay healthy!

BAC Local 2 continued

MUST be filled out completely and submitted online. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/member-resources>. For more information on the Training Centers visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

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

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

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

Please submit your address by sending an e-mail to information@bricklayers.org and in the subject line place "Local #2 e-mail address" then type your name, phone number and e-mail address in the body of the communication. We appreciate your time and effort in helping us accomplish this task.

BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We (Continued next column)



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514
 DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2022 at 7pm. There will be a BBQ cookout before the meeting starting at 5pm. Come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters
 Our thoughts and prayers go out to the retirees that you all are safe and well.

Membership gold cards-Congratulations!

- Joseph Damron-25 Years
- James Miller-25 Years
- Jose Salinas-25 Years

Congratulations: To Business Manager Henry Williams on his appointment to the position of Deputy International Representative of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association.

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/register and select register now.

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

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

Attention all Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice monthly work form instructions."

You will be able to put in your hours so Larry can keep track for your raises. Any questions please feel free to contact Larry with any questions you might have.

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

The Local's website is: www.opcmiami.org.

Please refer to website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan.

We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are having a negative impact on our market share. The work forecast this year looks better than last. Members working nonunion will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!!

We must stay vigilant in our effort to promote our trade. If you are working in a crew of 5 or more an Apprentice must be on the crew. Help out! Call the Local at (248) 548-0800. Training is the key to our future!!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.mustonline.org Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

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

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

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

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

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

encourage our members to sign up to receive our text messages by

- texting 2MI to 877877
- You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)
- Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION
 BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
 Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (800) 531-2244
 Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension & Vacation Fund – (248) 813-9800
 Cement Pension & Holiday Funds – (248) 645-6550
 CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362
 International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

"If you have accomplished all that you planned for yourself, you have not planned enough."
 – Edward Everett Hale (1822 - 1909)

"Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records."
 –William Arthur Ward

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

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



Painters District Council 1M WARREN - Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org
DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m
DC 1M UNION CARDS*



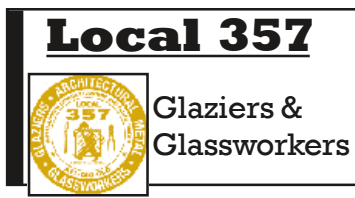
ROBERT GONZALEZ Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
 Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP
 Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its' all new APP.

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore
 Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP
 Username: your member id#
 Password: painters
 With this APP you can access training classes, Local Union meeting times and dates, receive alerts, and communications from your Union, etc.

LABOR DAY PARADE IS BACK ON SEPTEMBER 5TH
 Members mark your calendars. Labor Day Parade 2022 will take place on Monday, September 5th. Our staging area will be in the parking lot of IBEW Local 58.

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. Work safe.



Glaziers & Glassworkers 357 WARREN – Monday July 4th was a paid holiday. We hope that everyone had a safe, enjoyable long holiday weekend

Our next scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday Aug. 1, 2022 at 6pm. Please attend. The F.T.I. of The Great Lakes District Council 1 Michigan is looking for a full time glazier apprenticeship teaching instructor for the Warren, Mi training center.

Interested candidates must be a member with a minimum of five years in the union, must also have an extensive background in the glass, and glazing industry. If you believe that you possess the skills to prepare the next generation please send your resume to the Director of Training Shawn O'Neill dot@iupat dc1m .org

We will be accepting resumes now until July 22,2022 with interviews following.

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

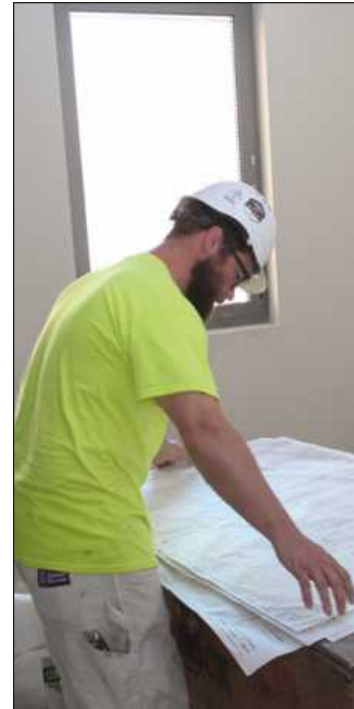
Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M in care of Glassworkers #357.

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 48098-0666; phone number: 248- (Continued next column)



MUDDING A PATIENT ROOM wall at the Caro Psychiatric Hospital project is Nathan Phillips of Michigan Painters District Council Local 18023. He's employed by Commercial Contracting Corp.



WHICH COLOR GOES WHERE? That's being determined by Sam Thibeault of Michigan Painters District Council Local 1052. He's employed by Hock Painting, working on the first floor of the Caro Psychiatric Hospital project.



Sign Pictorial & Display 591 WARREN – There will be no August meeting, the next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday Sept. 6, 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 who 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, or Keith Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.

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

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

"When life hands you a lemon, say 'Yeah, I like lemons. What else ya got?'"
 –Henry Rollins

"It is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end."
 –Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)

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 Dates of Employment: _____ thru _____

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Outdoors

A Lake Superior egg hunt



By Shawn Sitar
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries researchers go to great lengths, or sometimes deep waters, to seek answers to their questions. Recently, an interdisciplinary team of scientists aboard the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' research vessel Lake Char discovered the deepest occurrence of lake char (or lake trout) spawning in the Great Lakes at a depth of over 400 feet off the north side of Isle Royale in Lake Superior.

Until this study, the spawning location and habitat of the deep-water lake trout was a mystery. Lake Superior is the last lake to retain the deep-water subspecies of lake trout, the siscowet, which is also the most abundant type found here due to the lake's vast depth. This diehard animal can be found at depths starting around 130 feet out to the deepest location in the entire Great Lakes – 1,320 feet – which was documented first by this research team back in 2006.

However, where these fish spawn and lay their eggs was a mystery until this recent discovery.

Lake trout, the top native predator in the deeper waters of the Great Lakes, play a critical role in the stability of the ecosystem by helping to "manage" the prey species.

Lake Superior was the only Great Lake not to suffer extinc-



A SISCOWET LAKE TROUT, released from the research vessel Lake Char with a surgically implanted acoustic transmitter, is shown near Hawk Island at Isle Royale National Park in 2018.

Photo credit: Andrew Muir, Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

tion of lake trout and today likely has the most abundant native lake trout population in the world, serving as a learning ground to help recover the species in the other lakes.

As part of a Great Lakes Fishery Commission-funded study, an interagency team of researchers from the GLFC, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observing System, Michigan State University, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and the DNR Marquette Fisheries Research Station embarked on a labor-intensive project in 2018. The team deployed advanced acoustic telemetry and underwa-

ter drone technologies to track, locate, identify and verify where siscowets spawned in the far-off reaches of Lake Superior at Isle Royale National Park.

First, the mission was to find a spawning population of siscowets.

Lake trout typically spawn in the fall on rocky lake bottoms; however, the research vessel Lake Char team had discovered a spring-spawning group of siscowets (the first and only documented population in the Great Lakes) at Isle Royale back in 2008.

Based on this information, the scientists returned to Isle Royale in 2018, where they cap-

tered both spring- and fall-spawning siscowets, fitting fish with acoustic telemetry – or tracking – tags, and simultaneously the team deployed an array of about 90 acoustic receivers. This array recorded the positions of the fish and was the deepest-ever deployment of acoustic technology in the Great Lakes, at depths over 325 feet. The idea was that the tagged spawners would reveal to the researchers where the tagged fish congregated to lay their eggs.

Deploying the array in deep water was no easy task, requiring the team to collect and transport over 28,000 pounds of boulders to Isle Royale to anchor the deep underwater receivers. Receivers are signaled to release and float to the surface for recovery, but because they had to be in the water over the winter, a surface buoy could not be used as an anchor. Since the anchors had to be abandoned, Lake Char Captain Chris Little came up with the simple solution of using rocks, as they are environmentally safe.

Fortunately, the National Park Service had the vessel Angelique – a former military landing craft that has the lift capacity to handle such a heavy payload – to assist with moving the rocks.

After tagging the fish and

getting the tracking array set, the team had to patiently wait. The unattended receivers collected information to pinpoint the exact locations where the tagged fish were spawning. They collected data on the positions of the fish through the end of 2020, and once analyzed, the data pinpointed target locations for the next phase of the study.

A deep-water remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, was deployed from the Lake Char to seek evidence of spawning. The telemetry data revealed a few very pinpointed concentrations of spawning fish at around 330 feet for the spring siscowets and at about 90 feet for the fall spawners.

In June of 2021, the team deployed the ROV at the target sites, and for the first time in history, found the deepest lake trout eggs ever recorded in all of the Great Lakes. The team also deployed nets, capturing sculpins (small, bottom-dwelling fish) and small lake trout with siscowets' eggs in their stomachs, further verifying these deep-water spawning sites.

The mystery of where deep-water lake trout spawn was solved! Further research is necessary to understand the adaptations and factors necessary for young lake trout to survive in such a harsh environment, which will help those in the lower Great Lakes seeking to fully restore the abyssal areas of their ecosystems.

Lake trout are highly adaptive cold-water fish that have di-

versified into numerous ecotypes to adapt to the key habitat variable of the Great Lakes – depth. Historically, deep-water ecotypes existed in all the Great Lakes, but they were driven to extinction in the late 1940s due to the combined effects of excess commercial fishing and the invasion of the parasitic sea lamprey.

The extinction of lake trout in the four lower Great Lakes led to the historic, disastrous changes in the food webs, requiring the intervention of stocking non-native salmon to control the invasive alewife that permeated the lower lakes. Subsequently, natural resource agencies began an international, collaborative effort to restore lake trout by regulating commercial fishing, managing sea lampreys and stocking hatchery fish.

In recent years, these efforts have finally borne fruit, with some natural reproduction of lake trout occurring first in Lake Huron and now in Lake Michigan. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are further behind in the process.

The fishery management plans in all of these lakes call for stocking deep-water forms of lake trout in deep-water areas, and that's where this project comes into play. The findings of this study will help fisheries managers know where best to stock and what is needed for success.

Learn more about DNR research that provides crucial information on how to manage Michigan's fisheries at Michigan.gov/FishResearch.



SUTURING A SISCOWET Lake Trout is Tom Binder of Michigan State University. He was surgically implanting the trout with an acoustic transmitter aboard the research vessel Lake Char in 2018.

Photo credit: Andrew Muir, Great Lakes Fishery Commission



RESEARCHERS ABOARD the vessel Lake Char deploy an ROV for a dive mission to search for deep-water lake trout eggs in Lake Superior on the north side of Isle Royale.

Photo credit: Michigan DNR

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