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SHORT CUTS

Detroit Labor Day Parade is back on

The Detroit Labor Day Parade is back in 2022.

Unless Covid infection numbers spike like crazy over the next two weeks, the Labor Day march along Michigan Avenue will return for the first time since 2019. That's the word from the City of Detroit, which is responsible for granting parade permits.

The parade will proceed as usual along Michigan Avenue at Trumbull with the traditional 9 a.m. start. Participants can gather at their usual staging areas north and south of Michigan Avenue.

Hope to see you there. First celebrated in the US in 1882, Labor Day was started as a holiday to celebrate the hard-working American worker.

The Detroit parade will join numerous other Labor Day events in communities around Michigan, which we will detail in our next edition.

Starbucks unions on winning streak

Despite rampant company labor law-breaking, and an adamant vow by firm CEO Howard Schultz to never accept unions, workers at more than 200 Starbucks stores from coast to coast have voted to go union, Workers United and other sources report.

But in a measure of the lengths the firm will go to stop organizing at its stores, the number of unfair labor practice cases already filed with National Labor Relations Board regional offices, 263, exceeds the number of stores where the workers have won, so far.

"Starbucks has fought workers tooth and nail," More Perfect Union, which also aids the Starbucks workers' grassroots organizing drives, tweeted. "It has forced workers into hostile meetings, sent them anti-union messages, cut their hours, threatened them, and fired them."

"It's illegal to fire workers for being involved in union activity," it added. "Starbucks does not seem to care. The company has fired at least 55 pro-union workers. Some of the 'justifications' have been absurd. One worker got fired for being 'early' to work."

Starbucks's labor law-breaking is so widespread the NLRB has filed a national complaint against the coffeeshop chain for its "fervent union-busting" Harvard University's *OnLabor* blog reports. The case is pending. Nevertheless, more than 5,080 Starbucks workers now toil in stores that went union. In 52 of the wins, the votes were unanimous.

The 200th win overall occurred July 22 in Cleveland, and workers at between 116 and 123 more Starbucks stores have filed union recognition election requests with the board. Those stores employ at least 2,815 workers.

"This goal seemed deeply improbable just a few months ago, when there were exactly zero Starbucks locations unionized," Harvard Law School labor scholar Kevin Wang wrote in its *OnLabor* blog. "But the steady flow of victories since has transformed the idea of winning a union vote at a Starbucks from seemingly impossible to almost inevitable."

(From Press Associates)

Quotable

"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."

— Jim Carrey (1962-)



THE BULK CARRYING freighter CSL Niagara rises through the Soo Locks in front of a Local 324 crane operator at the controls of a Manitowac 4000W. The second phase of the construction of a new lock in Sault Ste. Marie has been under way for the past year under the contracting team Kokosing-Alberici LLC.

Construction advances on new Soo lock

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

SAULT STE MARIE — Phase One, complete.

That's the world from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, which announced that work to deepen

the upstream channel as part of the construction for the new Soo Lock was substantially complete, with the last underwater rock dredged on July 22.

"We are waiting on final survey results and anticipate they will show the deepened areas as

complete, really only have some punch-list type items, groundskeeping and site cleanup remaining," said project Supervisory Civil Engineer Rachel Miller. Phase 2 is already under way.

(Continued on Page 13)



WITH THE FIRST PHASE channel deepening complete at the Soo Locks, the trades turn their attention to the second phase — rehabilitating the upstream approach walls. That phase of the project started last year and is being undertaken by Kokosing-Alberici. "That's rehabbing the walls leading to the lock," said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Engineer Kristina Schnettler, to Operating Engineers Local 324, "because those walls are over 100 years old and in disrepair."

Photo credits:

Dan McKernan/Operating Engineers Local 324

Judge puts pause on minimum wage hike, sick leave mandate

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING — Put a pause on those fatter minimum wage paychecks and paid sick time for some Michigan workers.

Ten days after a ruling by Michigan Court of Claims Judge Douglas Shapiro put into effect a statewide \$12 per hour minimum wage and paid sick leave requirements for employees at small businesses, he issued a ruling on July 29 that puts his decision on hold and maintains the pre-July 19 status quo.

So, Michigan will maintain its current \$9.87 per hour minimum wage and lack of sick leave provisions until Feb. 19, 2023, likely a move to give the matter time to move up to review before the Michigan Supreme Court.

Following howls of protest from the state's business community after his initial ruling, Shapiro said there are "justified concerns regarding the ability of employers" and the state to "immediately accommodate" the changes. Justin Winslow, president and CEO of Michigan Restaurant and

Lodging Association applauded the decision, and said it has "successfully prevented the immediate economic decimation of full-service restaurants."

As we reported in our last edition, the Republican-led Legislature in 2018 pulled off some unprecedented shenanigans to usurp a successful petition drive, which would have placed the higher minimum wage and sick leave time provisions on the statewide November 2018 ballot. The petition by Michigan One Fair

(Continued on Page 3)

State links with Lake Michigan EV charging routes

LANSING — Charge! Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Aug. 3 announced that the State of Michigan would join the Build Lake Michigan EV Circuit Tour, a consortium of neighboring states that will install a network of electric vehicle chargers around the Great Lake.

The EV chargers will be built on roads spanning 1,100 miles of

driveable shoreline around Lake Michigan. The partnership between the governors of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin is intended to help EV drivers find new roads as part of a "new eco-tourism attraction," according to the bipartisan group.

"Today, Michigan is proud to lead the Lake Michigan Electric Vehicle Circuit Tour, a part-

nership between fellow Midwestern states to grow our economy, create more good-paying jobs, and lead the future of mobility and electrification," said Whitmer. "With this announcement, we are putting the country on notice that the Midwest is the place to be for clean energy and small business growth. The circuit

(Continued on Page 13)

Lots of tool time at U.P. trades camp

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

GLADSTONE — It's a new twist on summer camp — without the swimming, campfires and nature hikes.

Instead, a six-week summer camp experience for 26 Upper Peninsula high school students in July and August has involved activities like swinging hammers, drilling screws, bending conduit and sweating copper pipe. The students were screened and invited to seek the exposure to some of the tasks and skills necessary to work in building trades careers, and the Upper Peninsula Construction Council (UPCC) made the connection with contractors and trades unions a reality.

"We're offering the students a snapshot of what it takes to apply for and participate in an apprenticeship program," said UPCC Executive Director Mike Smith. "We're providing the safety training, the financial help and resources and the training to give them an idea of what it would be like to work in the trades."

Held at the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 7 Training Center, this is the first summer camp of its kind in the U.P.

(Continued on Page 2)

ELECTRICAL DOs and DON'Ts are explained by DJ Dean, in black, of IBEW Local 906, to students at the Upper Peninsula Construction Council's Summer Camp.

Photo credit: Mike Smith/UPCC Council's Summer Camp.



First-ever effort targets wage-cheating employers in Washtenaw County

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

ANN ARBOR — The issues of widespread wage theft and employer misclassification of workers may someday get addressed by the state Legislature, if a worker-friendly majority is ever elected.

One model they might be able to use comes from Washtenaw County, where a first-of-its-kind in Michigan county-wide agreement was signed July 26 between the county Prosecutor's Office and the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division. It initiates a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) formally establishing "a collaborative partnership to

enforce workers' rights, conduct joint investigations, and share information," says the prosecutor's office. "The MOU will expand and improve the protection of Washtenaw County's workforce, and level the playing field for responsible employers."

Signed in the IBEW Local 252/UA Local 190 union hall, the agreement is expected to close enforcement gaps on cheating employers and allow for joint investigations between federal and county officials.

Broadly defined, wage theft is a term for an employer basically stealing money, labor, time, and opportunities from workers. For decades, the nation's labor unions

(Continued on Page 3)



SURROUNDED BY supporters of paying fair wages, Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit holds up a signed memorandum of understanding between his office and the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division establishing a partnership to enforce workers' rights, share information and conduct joint investigations. The event was held on July 26 at the joint IBEW Local 252/United Association Local 190 union hall near Ann Arbor.

UIA gets OK to suspend garnishment of jobless \$ for 391,769 claimants

LANSING — The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) on July 27 secured a second approval from the U.S. Department of Labor to suspend wage garnishment and tax return receipts, providing added relief for 391,769 workers who received federal jobless benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The continued suspension of garnishments, the UIA said July 27, "is key to UIA's continued progress in granting overpayment waivers to claimants who were asked to repay some or all of the federal benefits they received." The pause in collection activities expires Oct. 31, after the first related pause expired halted in May. Both were authorized by the U.S. Department of Labor and apply to jobless claimants who received federal jobless benefits in the pandemic, such as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, but were later told that they were overpaid.

"My top priority is to help Michigan families. When we work any claim we recognize that each one represents a worker who has fallen on hard times, and a family that needs help to put food on the table, pay bills and keep a roof over their heads," said UIA Director Julia Dale. "The suspension will put money back in the

pockets of people who needed pandemic unemployment benefits and followed the rules when they asked for help. This federal action will allow us the time we need to evaluate claims for overpayment waivers, which we will be announcing soon."

Dale announced in late July waivers on approximately 7,300

(Continued on Page 3)

Supremes rule state is liable for false jobless fraud charges

LANSING — The Michigan Supreme Court ruled July 26 that jobless claimants who were falsely accused of fraud between 2013 and 2015 — many of whom lost homes, cars, good credit ratings and often financially wrecked as a result — can sue the state for monetary damages.

It was a 4-3 opinion, with the four Democratic-appointed judges in support.

"If our Constitution is to function, then the fundamental rights it guarantees must be enforceable," Justice Megan Cavanagh wrote in the majority opinion. "Our basic rights cannot be mere ethereal hopes if they are to serve as the bedrock of our government. This Court has not only the authority, but also the primary responsibility of interpreting and enforcing our Constitution," she added. "... The state is prohibited from violating the rights the Constitution guarantees. If it does so, it is liable for the harm it causes."

The state Unemployment Agency has had its own massive failings in recent years, especially related to the enormous jobless benefit-paying backlog during the height of the Covid pandemic. But the false fraud unemployment scandal reviewed by the Supreme Court dates back to the Rick Snyder administration, when a computer glitch allowed the issuance of false fraud notices on a massive scale. An agency internal review in 2016 found that nearly 21,000 workers — 93 percent of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Viewpoints



CEOs aren't 670 times smarter

Working families are getting hammered by inflation while corporate leaders and politicians are calling for belt-tightening. But there's one group of Americans that's actually profited from increasing prices. Big company CEOs have enjoyed soaring pay, even as their employees have been struggling to keep their families safe and their bills paid.

Look at Target, for example. Last year, the median Target worker salary did not even keep pace with inflation, rising by less than 4 percent to just \$25,501. Did the giant retailer lack the money to make sure wages kept up with rising prices? No, just the opposite.

In 2021, Target spent \$7.2 billion of their extra cash on stock buybacks. That would've been enough to give every one of their 450,000 employees a \$16,000 raise.

When a company repurchases their own shares, it does nothing for workers. Instead, it makes rich CEOs even richer by artificially inflating the value of their stock-based pay. Last year, Target CEO Brian Cornell made \$19.8 million, which is 775 times more than the median pay for his employees.

How do CEOs get away with making hundreds of times more than their workers? Corporate pay practices are still based on the ridiculous notion that the "genius" in the corner office is almost single-handedly responsible for company value. This was always pure nonsense, but during the pandemic it became even clearer that lower-level workers are essential to their companies and our whole economy.

Target is just one example of corporate America's obscene disparities. At the Institute for Policy Studies, we looked at 300 low-wage employers and found that the average gap between CEO and worker pay rose to 670 to 1 in 2021. That was up from an already obscene 604 to 1 the year before.

And among the companies where worker pay fell below inflation, about two-thirds spent huge sums on stock buybacks to further enrich their CEOs. With such extreme unfairness, it's no wonder we're seeing record numbers of workers quitting their jobs and a surge in unionization. One recent poll shows 87 percent of Americans view the growing gap between CEO and worker pay as a problem for the whole nation. What can we do about it?

Workers can fight for equitable pay through collective bargaining. In other countries with higher unionization rates, CEOs tend to earn much less than their U.S. counterparts. In Canada, for example, the share of workers who are union members is about triple the rate in the United States, while average CEO pay there is less than half the U.S. level. But policymakers need to step up as well.

On Capitol Hill, one pending bill would use tax incentives to encourage companies to narrow their divides – the wider the gap between a company's CEO and worker pay, the higher their corporate tax rate. But companies with narrow gaps wouldn't owe an extra dime.

President Biden could also take action on his own without waiting on Congress. For instance, he could make it hard for companies with huge pay gaps to land lucrative federal contracts. That would have a big impact, because federal contractors employ an estimated 25 percent of the private sector workforce.

Biden could also ban contractor CEOs from personally profiting from stock buybacks. And he could order contractors to be neutral in union organizing drives. That would help combat the union-busting we've seen at some major federal contractors, like Amazon. These kinds of executive actions would build on Biden's executive order requiring federal contractors to pay a minimum of \$15 an hour.

By wielding the power of the public purse against excessive CEO pay, the president could strike another blow against extreme inequality. All workers, up and down the corporate ladder, deserve a fair share of the wealth they create.

Sarah Anderson, Institute for Policy Studies via www.otherwords.org

Lots of tool time at summer trades camp

(Continued from Page 1)

Smith, in his first year on the job at the UPCC, sponsored a similar project in the past, when he was labor liaison for the Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and United Way.

In the spring, the UPCC and its construction contractors and building trades union partners put out a call to local high schools around Gladstone for students to register to participate in the camp, slated to run from July 11 to Aug. 18. Smith said they had 48 applicants, who were screened by Michigan Works!, the Delta/Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, the UPCC and the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council.

Smith said the students who were chosen earned \$12 per hour, paid for through UPMI Works, fundraisers and donations. They have been working four-hour shifts per day, Monday through Thursday, with two shifts scheduled. They were provided "soft skill" training in areas like interviewing, financial literacy and resume-writing, but also safety training, and then a taste of the "hard" skills which are ubiquitous in the building trades.

Various trades representatives – organizers, journeymen, apprenticeship instructors, retirees – acted as instructional staff in their various crafts. The current training site is structured to provide different crafts their own set of days at the site. "I've learned how to put up walls, drill into concrete and just have a blast," said student Noah Pendergraft to *Upper Michigan Source*. Added student Werner Seawright: "People feel like you need to go to college right after school to be successful but that is not true. I feel like trades are just as good as college, you can make just as good a living."

Megan Boddy, talent services manager for Michigan Works!, said the summer camp event is "really important to us as an organization because we want to provide the local youth with opportunities to explore different careers, and the trades are a really prominent industry in the U.P. and provide a really great source of income for families and provides self-sufficiency. Four-year colleges aren't for everyone, and



TALKING TO HIGH SCHOOL students at the Upper Peninsula Construction Council Summer Camp in Gladstone is David Pederson of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 111. Photo credit: Mike Smith/UPCC

UPCC Summer Trades camp is providing those who might not want college to seek a different path."

Smith said the UPCC and its knowledge of skilled trades will open up pathways to different careers.

The U.P. council, jointly led and funded by area building trades leaders and union contractors/associations, has been in place since 1984 to promote the

common interests of labor and management. Smith said this and future events will allow the trades and their contractors to establish "constant contact" relationships with the students, and hopefully becoming a conduit for new apprentices.

"We're not talking about jobs here, we're talking about careers where once you complete

your apprenticeship program you're going right into the field as a journeyman for the remainder of your career," Smith said.

The summer camp is expected to be a "first annual" event, and is expected to move to various sites around the U.P. in coming years in order to expose more students to building trades careers.

Medical debt malpractice

By Jim Hightower

Many big business CEOs turn out to be grifters who rip off consumers, workers, and others. But the corporate con artists I consider most vile are those who profiteer from people's health care needs.

We've had such infamous, high-profile scammers as Medicare fraudster (and now Florida Senator) Rick Scott, Big Pharma price gouger Martin Shkreli, and the Sackler family of opioid pushers. Even worse, we now face an industry-wide epidemic of insurers, hospitals, and others that are pushing higher costs onto patients and then systematically pushing those who can't pay the full inflated tab into debt schemes.

With bloated interest charges, payments go on for years. Now wonder medical bankruptcies are soaring.

The most significant statistic in today's avaricious world of health care finance is this: Half of U.S. adults don't have the money to cover a \$500 medical bill. Thus, as the system keeps jacking up its prices and profits, millions of families are forced by illness or injury into the dark valley of debt, inhabited by ruthless debt collectors employed by the medical establishment.

But wait, you say, I have health insurance! Still, ever-rising prices and out-of-pocket insurance requirements can put you into debt, too. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that 6 out of 10 working-age adults with health coverage went into medical debt in the past five years. Most perversely, health care debt prevents many people from getting health care.

One in seven Americans say the corporate system has refused

care to them because they have unpaid medical bills, and two-thirds say they've put off care because of the fear of crushing debt.

As one expert puts it: "The No. 1 reason – and the No. 2, 3, and 4 reasons – that people go into medical debt is they don't have the money. It's not complicated."

To help stop the health industry's grifters and profiteers, go to RIPMedicalDebt.org. (via www.otherwords.org)

"Stress is an ignorant state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important."

–Natalie Goldberg

"Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us."

–Henrik Tikkanen

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: The Packard Plant HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A MODERN VIEW of the Packard Plant ruins in Detroit. Designed by Albert Kahn with a groundbreaking reinforced concrete structure, the plant made Packard cars until 1956, except during World War II, when it made P-51 Mustang fighter engines. In its heyday, the plant employed 40,000 workers. For a time until the late 1990s, the site was used for storage, chemical production, and even parties, before closing for good in 2010, as scavengers, graffiti artists and paintball players had the run of the grounds. The plant employed as many as 40,000 workers.

Photo credit: U.S. Library of Congress

Of all the abandoned buildings and industrial ruins that have littered our great state, the Packard Plant in Detroit may be the biggest, most notorious, most dangerous, most graffiti-decorated - and perhaps the most fascinating - that's still standing. But likely not for long.

Spread across some 80 acres on Detroit's east side, the plant has not produced a Packard since the 1956, and has mostly sat empty and open to scrappers since the last major tenant left in 1999.

"The Packard Plant eventually grew to 80 some buildings spread across 80 acres," says Dan Austin's *Historic Detroit*. "It continued making quality cars for decades, as well as engines for World War II, but ran into trouble when it bought the Studebaker Corp. in 1954. The merged company never turned a profit. The Detroit plant closed when the last true Packard was produced in 1956. The name itself was discontinued two years later.

"Parts of the complex were later turned into the Motor City Industrial Park, but it was closed by the city in 1999. Scrappers then set to work, literally ripping the place apart, turning it into 3.5 million square feet of rubble and ruin."

Today the Packard name is largely associated with the industrial ruins, but it wasn't always so.

"The Packard motor car enjoyed the pinnacle of automotive prestige for most of the company's lifespan," according to *The History of Packard*, by Classics & Beyond Auto Gallery. "Packards can arguably be considered the Rolls Royce of North America, with an exclusive heritage of extraordinary quality and luxury, and a price tag to match."

The first Packard was developed as a luxury car from day one, and the first model was built in Warren, Ohio by brothers James and William Packard in November 1899. The first vehicles were built under the name of the Ohio Automobile Co., but switched to Packard Motor Car Co. in 1902.

A group of investors convinced James Ward Packard to move the new car company to Detroit, and he bought land on a 40-acre site along Grand Boulevard.

"Then-president of the company, Henry Joy, looking for a fresh take on factory buildings, enlisted local architect Albert Kahn to design the company's complex," says *The Packard Plant Project*. "The first nine buildings on the site were built between 1903-1905. These followed the typical mill-style factory buildings of the time, with cramped rooms, wooden columns, floors, and ceilings, and very little natural light. Due to the large amount of wood used in construction, these buildings were fire hazards."

The *American Institute of Institute Guide to Detroit Architecture* said the Packard complex was the first large-scale auto plant built in Detroit.

"The Packard complex included 10 buildings," the Guide says. "The first nine were con-



THE INTERIOR of the Packard plant, during production.

Photo credit: Detroit Free Press

structed using the venerable timber system that built the mills and factories of the first industrial revolution. In Building 10 Kahn designed an efficient frame and floor structure in concrete, a material known well to the Romans but long abandoned. Kahn's innovation was the addition of steel reinforcing, which added considerable strength to the concrete. The new composite material could not only carry weight more economically than timber, but was more fire resistant as well. In fact, the "Kahn-trussed bar" was primarily invented by Kahn's younger brother Julius... The architecture developed here eventually became a factory design standard world-wide."

The reinforced concrete design would influence factory construction the world over. "This was a game-changing first for plant construction and made him (Albert Kahn) the auto industry's go-to guy for factories," says *Historic Detroit*.

While parts of the plant collapsed over the years or are in danger of collapsing, the fact that the bulk of the Packard complex is still standing is due to the strength of the Kahn system of reinforced concrete. Re-bar wings, set at 45-degree angles, strengthened the concrete and prevented its shearing at weak points. A Pratt Truss formed between the bent wings and the concrete further made the system resistant to shearing.

"This design," says *The Packard Plant Project*, "allowed for much larger loads to be carried on concrete, larger spans between support columns, and increased use of fire-safe materials. Utilizing his brother's Kahn Bar and the technical advantages it gave, Albert Kahn designed Packard No. 10 to be built using only reinforced concrete, allowing for the large open spaces and floor-to-ceiling windows that he wanted to provide for workers, along with much safer working conditions. The design for Packard No. 10 changed the way industrial buildings were designed and built. It was the first industrial building to use reinforced concrete for floors, ceilings, and columns."

The heyday of the Packard Co. was in the 1920s and 1930s. They advertised "Ask the man who owns one." They made big, sleek cars, and the first car to drive a U.S. president to his in-

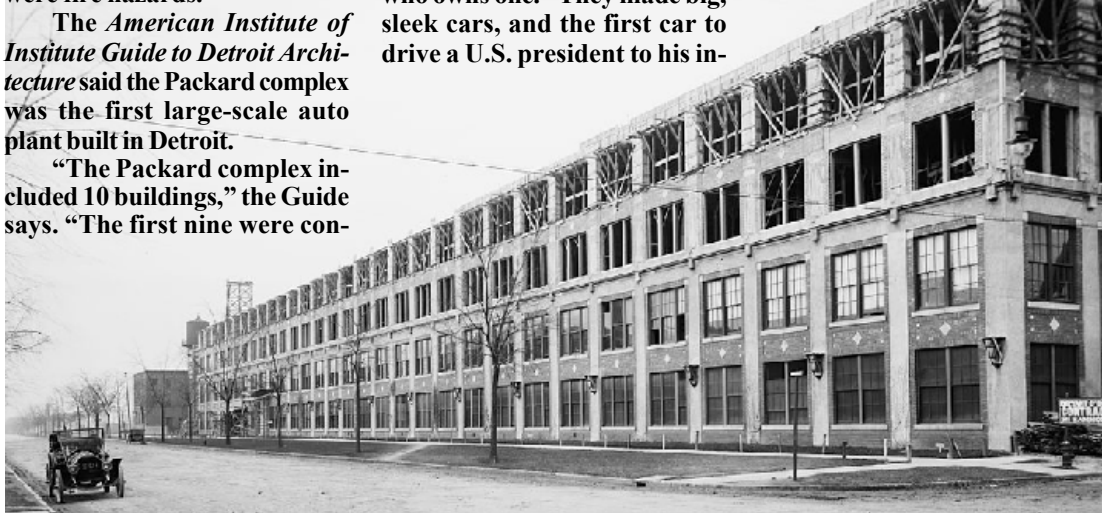
auguration was a Packard, chauffeuring Warren G. Harding in 1921. It was the first brand to bring a steering wheel (not a "tiller stick") to a vehicle, and then the first to install air conditioning.

In the 1930s, Packard tried to "expand their appeal to a less premier market," said Classics & Beyond Auto Gallery, offering the popular lower-priced "Packard Six" in 1938. It was well timed for the tough economic era, but after World War II the company's dueling products with similar styling "diminished the cachet of the brand. Packard bought Studebaker in 1954 in an effort to compete with Ford and GM, hoping to align several brands and build a strong company with vertical appeal, but the effort failed and the business folded." The last Packard was built in Detroit in 1956, and in Ohio in 1958.

"When the Packard plant closed in 1956, the Detroit economy was booming," says *Detroit's Spectacular Ruin The Packard Plant*. "The plant closing was a bump in the road and a blow to the workers and stockholders of Packard, but Detroit's 'Big Three' were there to entice Packard customers and offer jobs to those with automotive experience and skills. The Packard property would be sold or leased to others and, whatever the economic damage, people felt that it would heal."

It didn't. Only portions of the property were occupied through the ensuing decades. In 1999 the city informed tenants they had to vacate the premises for the building to be demolished, but it wasn't. In 2010, the final tenant of the Packard Plant, left the site. Urban scrappers started numerous fires at the ruins, and stripped it of anything valuable.

Peruvian developer Fernando Palazuelo bought the plant in 2013 and set out to save what he could, and rehabilitate the plant into a \$350 million, mixed-use site. It never materialized. This year Palazuelo ignored a court order to demolish dangerous sections of the plant. On July 26, the Detroit City Council approved a contract of nearly \$1.7 million with Homrich to partially demolish the plant, with plans to send the bill to Palazuelo.



ONE OF THE 10 PACKARD PLANT buildings erected in the Detroit complex, nearing completion. The photo is dated between 1900-1910.

Photo credit: U.S. Library of Congress

First-ever effort targets wage-cheating employers in Washtenaw County

(Continued from Page 1)

have complained about the "independent contractor dodge," wherein unscrupulous employers decline to classify their full-time or nearly full-time workers as "employees." Instead, they classify them as independent contractors, or 1099 employees, which keeps the workers off a company's regular payroll, thereby denying them access to health insurance, retirement and other benefit plans. Those companies are thus able to avoid paying workers compensation and unemployment insurance.

It all adds up to more than just workers getting screwed and having to fund their own health insurance and retirement plans, while cheating them out of benefits if they are injured on the job.

In the construction industry, misclassifying workers as independent contractors gives unscrupulous contractors an enormous economic advantage in winning contracts - allowing them a financial advantage to

outbid contractors (often union contractors) who play by the rules and treat their employees fairly.

"The Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to pursuing justice when people are harmed, and I am excited that we have made further progress in fighting for worker protection," said Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney Eli Savit. "This MOU provides another tool to work with federal partners to hold accountable those who have imposed unlawful financial or economic harm to their employees."

Wage theft is a massive problem. According to one report, Michigan employees lose \$429 million a year to minimum wage violations alone. Another way to put this is employers violated the law in order to put more money into their own pockets.

The Prosecutor's Office said the total value of wage theft in the United States (\$15 billion) is more than the total value of all property crimes in the United States (\$12.7 billion) - more than

every robbery, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft combined.

The MOU was formally signed on July 26 at the joint International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 252/UA Local 190 union hall in Washtenaw County. Labor leaders from across Washtenaw County joined the Prosecutor's Office and the DOL for the signing.

"This is a first-of-its-kind agreement between the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division and a Michigan county, and it will facilitate coordination on investigations by federal and Washtenaw County agents as they collaboratively determine if local or federal enforcement actions are needed," said federal Wage and Hour Division Regional Administrator Michael Lazzeri in Chicago. "Our partnership will allow our organizations to better protect workers in the county while holding employers accountable when they violate workers' rights."

UIA gets OK to suspend garnishment of jobless \$ for 391,769 claimants

(Continued from Page 1)

overpayment claims that waived \$53.2 million in repayments. In May, UIA applied waivers to 55,000 claims totaling \$431 million. A total of \$484.2 million in overpayments have been waived on 62,300 claims this year.

The suspension through Oct. 31 halts collections on unemployment benefits programs launched under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and its extensions: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Mixed Earnings Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) and federal reimbursement for the first week of benefits.

Because those programs were federally funded, the UIA is required to actively collect overpayments, unless specific suspensions are obtained from the federal government.

The UIA said the suspension does not apply to:

- Claims determined to be fraudulent or being investigated for fraud.
- State unemployment insurance program overpayments.
- Delinquent debts owed to other states or federal agencies.

The collections suspension does not stop agency collections activities such as existing wage garnishments, intercepting federal tax returns, deducting a percentage from current unemployment benefit payments, or recovering overpayments for other states. Collections of overpayments made before the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 will not be suspended.

UIA will continue to review all overpayment claims to see how many more may be eligible for waivers.

Many of the overpayments were the result of confusing directions on the forms filled out by applicants seeking assistance. The state Unemployment Agency acknowledged that there were "unclear instructions regarding gross earnings versus net earnings."

If claimants qualify for a waiver, UIA will notify them through an online message to their Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) accounts and by a letter mailed to the address on file. There is no application process. If a waiver does not apply, collections will resume.

Those with questions about the suspension or overpayments can go to Michigan.gov/UIA and click on the Schedule an Appointment link to speak with a staff member either in person, by phone or online. Claimants can also call UIA's Customer Service at 1-866-500-0017.

Since July 2021, the UIA has waived more than \$4.35 billion in overpayment debt related to federal pandemic jobless benefits programs on more than 407,300 claims.

Judge puts pause on minimum wage hike, sick leave mandate

(Continued from Page 1)

Wage would have gradually raised the minimum wage to \$12 by 2022, and importantly, would have tied future automatic increases to the inflation rate.

However, prior to Election Day, the Republican-controlled Legislature actually adopted the two initiatives - which prevented the measures from seeing statewide votes. Then, after Election Day, during the Lame Duck session that year, the GOP changed the law they had just adopted. They approved the minimum wage to increase gradually to \$12.05, but that rate would only take effect in 2030. The GOP also removed the automatic yearly increase in the rate for inflation.

The GOP lawmakers also altered the paid sick-leave law, effectively exempting small businesses from the law. Republican lawmakers called it an "adopt and amend" strategy. Democratic lawmakers referred to it as "review and screw."

Most employers have already raised minimum wages to \$12 per hour or higher. And the legal action over this case could nullify the ongoing "Raise the Wage" ballot initiative aimed at the 2024 ballot, to lift Michigan's minimum wage to \$15 an hour over a five-year period. Depending on how this plays out in the courts - it is sure to be judicially reviewed up to the state Supreme Court - that petition effort could be voided by changing a law that no longer exists.

Supremes rule state is liable for false jobless fraud charges

(Continued from Page 1)

cases reviewed - had been falsely accused of fraud over a 22-month period. In some cases the state demanded tens of thousands of dollars to be returned. Many workers had to declare bankruptcy.

Making the state liable and then potentially put on the hook for reimbursement via lawsuits following those false fraud claims marks new legal territory following this *Bauserman v. Unemployment Insurance Agency* decision.

Dissenting Justice David Viviano wrote the expanded liability to the state's taxpayers comes "without any legal grounding." He added in his opinion: "I believe that it is a violation of the separation of powers for courts to create causes of action for money damages for constitutional violations. The fashioning of remedies for constitutional wrongs is the work of the legislative branch, not the courts."

Michael Pitt, who initiated the class action lawsuit several years ago on behalf of thousands of individuals falsely accused by the state's unemployment software system, told the news service MIRS that he was "ecstatic" about the decision.

"It's just a beautiful recognition of the concept that without an appropriate remedy there are no rights," Pitt said. "The Michigan Supreme Court has distinguished itself once again in being a leader in recognizing that people's rights are the most valuable thing a government can protect."

Just joking

A man walks into his bedroom and sees his wife packing a suitcase

He asks, "What are you doing?"

She replies, "I'm off to New York. I read that prostitutes there get paid \$400 for doing what I do with you for free."

Later, on her way out, the wife walks into the bedroom and sees her husband packing his suitcase.

"Where are you going?" she asks.

"I'm coming with you! I want to see how you live on \$800 a year!"

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Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.

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Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 7pm at the Assembly Hall, 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The Union office will be open until 6:55 for the purpose of collecting dues.

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting in July the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows: 1st year \$2.75/2nd year \$2.23 /3rd year \$2.22 \$7.20 over 3years.

The only language change is adding essential workers to the 10% hazard pay language. Thank you to the bargaining committee for their work on negotiations and to the members of Local #174 for continuing to prove their value day in and day out.

Dave Reynolds Memorial Golf Outing: The Local #174 Golf Outing took place on Saturday Aug. 6 at the Falls at Barber Creek. We had 25 teams competing this year. Congratulations to this year's winners: Shane Shook, Brianna Lampe, Terry Brown, and guest Rusty.

Muskegon Labor Day Parade: The parade will start at 11am downtown Muskegon. You can pick up your t-shirt and hat starting at 9am in the parking lot across from the CIO Hall on Western. After the parade there will be a community picnic at Hackley Park.

West Michigan Labor Fest 2022: This year's Labor Fest will be held Downtown Grand Rapids from 11am – 5pm at Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Event details can be found at westmichiganlaborfest.com. We will be meeting at Local 174's booth at 11am for shirts and hats and will be available from 11am – 1pm. Volunteers are still needed to help make this event a success, contact Nathan Phillips for details.

Organizing Update: Brothers and Sisters if anyone has any information about jobsites with non-union workers present or mechanical contractors, please reach out to me 616-307-8551. We are having an Organizing Blitz Aug 15-19, the goal is to visit as many jobsites as we can where there are non-union workers present. I strongly feel that communication from the workforce, those in the trenches, is essential for successful Organizing.

You may be working on jobsites with non-union employees and more often than not they're curious about our pay or "scale" to us. With our recent July 2022 contract we are at \$39.89/HR on the check, and our total package with benefits is \$64.41.

Typically this is the attention getter for the non-union worker, my hopes are to get them in contact with me so I can further elaborate on the benefits of being a Union member beyond the wages, the training, benefit breakdown and representation. The best salespeople for Unions are our members. I've been visiting job sites, speaking to non-union workers, doing house calls after hours, continuing Organizer training and taking part of Blitzes (multiple organizers/agents teaming up to cover more ground) It's been very busy but rewarding when you can help families reap the rewards of Union labor.

Thank you, Brother Johnny Ortiz LU 174 Organizer

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.

Retiree Breakfast: Will be held on Thursday Sept. 8 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Contact Information: If you have a change in contact information or to verify your contact info PLEASE CONTACT CAMI so we can keep our system up to date.

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

PAC Cards: Since the elimination of prevailing wage, the race to the bottom on wages and benefits for publicly funded

projects has begun. Our political focus over the years to come will be electing people who support prevailing wage and wage standards in general. To do that we need to raise our PAC card participation. We currently have less than half of the local contributing to our PAC. Your PAC contribution DOES NOT COME OFF YOUR CHECK. When you sign the PAC card it allows us to move money from your working dues over to our PAC. Please call Cami today and find out if you have current PAC card on file.

Medicare Retirees: Effective Jan. 1, 2021 your insurance premiums will be reduced by approximately 12.5%. New rates are as follows:

Single Medicare \$262.55
Retiree and Spouse Medicare \$525.09
Retiree and Non-Medicare Spouse \$677.55

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NON Medicare Retirees

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

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 that you are no longer eligible to attend Local Union events, such as meetings, picnics, awards banquets, and Christmas parties.

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 that gets into trouble. Please contact Ryan Bennett if you see another local's contractors/members 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.

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

Phone (517) 321-7502
(855)40-PLUMB Toll Free
(517) 321-7508 Fax

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

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

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

Out of work list: Please remember to call extension 17 when you are laid off. You must call line



Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Plumbers and Pipe Fitters 333

LANSING – August's union meeting will be held Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911 at 7:30pm.

September's union meeting will be held Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906. Dinner and refreshments will be at 6pm.

Scholarship awards for the 2022-2023 year will be sent to the applicants during the first two weeks in August. If your student has not received his/her award by August 20, 2022, please call Joni at 517-784-1106 ext.#4.

Please check your certifications such as Backflow, Med-Gas, Weld, etc. for the expiring dates. If a recertification class is needed please check the website, or contact the Training Center at 517-323-0333.

Masters test prep is Mondays and Wednesdays every week at the Lansing Training Center.

Correction: CSD-1 class will be held October 4,5,11,12 from 5pm to 8pm, each evening located at the Lansing Training Center. Please sign up online or call Diana at (517)323-0333.

WELD CLASSES: Fall weld classes will begin the first week in September. If you're interested in taking the weld class please sign up at www.ua333.org or call Trent or Diana at 517-323-0333. There is a \$25.00 fee, please call your respective hall to pay for the class.

Lansing: (Tuesdays & Thursdays) Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906.

Jackson: (Tuesdays & Thursdays) 3101 Industrial Allied Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201.

Battle Creek: (Mondays & Thursdays) (KCC) RMTTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Weld Tests are the second Tuesday of each month at the Lansing Training Center.

If you are interested in signing up for classes please go to our website at www.ua333.org or call the Training Center (517) 323-0333.

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL CERTIFICATIONS: Per the UA, as of January 2019, all Braze and Weld Certifications shall be updated within 120 days of their expiration date, or you will lose your certifications. Check the date(s) of your Certifications, if they have expired please contact Diana at 517.323.0333. Though we send out everyone's continuities to be renewed; between changes in addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. **Ultimately it's the member's responsibility to make sure their certification(s) are current and updated**

NOTICE! The Jackson area Retiree Breakfasts are back! The next breakfast will be Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a new location. Restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing shopping center. If you have any questions or need directions just contact Joni at 517-784-1106 ext#4. Please pass the word to fellow retired members.

Lansing Area Retirees Breakfast: With the Lansing Hall renovations finally behind us, we are going to host a breakfast at the Lansing Hall for ALL retirees that would like to make the trip. It will be held on Aug. 26 at 9 am at the Lansing Hall. **Please call Debra if you are able to attend so that we can plan the food quantities accurately.** Thanks and we hope to see you there

Attention: If you have made any changes with your address, email address, phone number, or there is a birth, death, married, divorce, remarried or to change your beneficiaries. Please contact the Lansing office to give the update and have the necessary documents processed to make the changes.

Our thought of comfort and condolences goes to Louise Wagaman on the loss of her husband Battle Creek member Luther Wagaman who passed away July 25, 2022. He was a member of Local 333 for 62 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this sorrowful time.

Thank you everyone who attended and contributed to the Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 333 Golf Outing. Your support makes a difference in the success of this event. We are truly lucky to have people like you who are committed to Local 333.

Local 174, continued

17 to be put on the available to work list. When you leave a message, please speak clearly. Any member who goes to work without a referral is in violation of our Collective Bargaining Agreement and Article XXXI of our Constitution and By-Laws. Please contact the Union Hall to find out your position on the out of work list.

Training News:

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month, from 5:00p-9:00p. The next class will be held Thursday, September 8, 2022 and Thursday October 13, 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.

"That is the greatest fallacy, the wisdom of old men. They do not grow wise. They grow careful."

—Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961)

August 12, 2022



Local 85 Plumbers & Steam Fitters

Plumbers and Steamfitters 85

SAGINAW - The next Union Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at the Union Hall located at 3535 Bay Road starting at 7:00 PM.

The next Northern Informational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Northern Facility located at 2476 Industrial Dr. in Grayling, Michigan.

Ladies Auxiliary: We are always looking for new members for our Ladies Auxiliary. If you or a family member are interested in joining, please contact Sue Najawicz at (989) 781-4277.

The Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at the Clare County Fairgrounds located in Harrison, Michigan from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. After being postponed for the past two years during covid, I look forward to getting together for this great event. Volunteers are needed! Please call the hall at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510.

Please note: **Our new mailing address** for all correspondences 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.

The new Facebook page is live. If you are currently on the Local Eighty-Five Facebook account, invites were sent to have you join the new site. UA Local 85 page is our public Facebook account. UA Local 85 Members Group is our new members only Facebook. On this page, we will have important messages and reminders specific to our membership. Please like both and let us know what you think.

JATC News:

Plumbing Code Updates: UA Local 85 JATC will be holding the 2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Update on August 20th or August 27th at Local 85 Meeting Hall located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603 at 7:00 am.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register visit: www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members. Log in with your username (first initial last name) and password (two zeros followed by your card number). After logged in, navigate to the Training page under Local 85 Members and click on the MPC Update class you are interested in taking. You will need the following information to sign up: Email address, Name as it appears on your plumbing license, UA ID Number (Card Number), MI Plumbing license number, mailing address.

There is no cost for this class. However, if you are interested in purchasing the new 2018 Michigan Plumbing Code Book it will be available at a cost of \$89 (cash, check or money order made out to UA Local 85 JAC. No credit or debit cards.)

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

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 address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

Beneficiary Cards: Please call the Union Hall for any changes in beneficiary information at (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: All retiree luncheons are postponed until further notice. Please check the ualocal85.org or Facebook for all up-to-date information.

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



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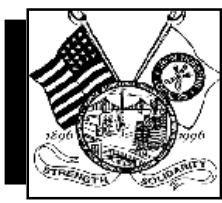
To each of our Members, Clients and Vendor partners impacted by COVID-19, our thoughts are with you. Rest assured knowing that BeneSys is working hard on your behalf while we navigate these difficult circumstances together.

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Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers Local 25

NOVI – Awards Night will be held on Monday, August 29, 2022 at the Novi Union Hall. Eligible members have been mailed a letter which should have been received by now. We will have a social hour with snacks/beverages starting at 5pm. Awards ceremony starts at 7pm. Then at around 8:30pm the Retiree Club will raffle off the Ironworkers Commemorative shotgun. All are welcome. (Awards Night supersedes the August Union Meeting).

The 38th Annual International Iron Workers Festival will be held August 12-14, 2022 in Mackinaw City MI. Please plan ahead and reserve your hotel room(s). For more information, please go to www.mackinawchamber.com or contact Mike Christensen 989-751-5082.

The Next Novi Union meeting will be Monday, September 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm. (in-person and ZOOM). All union halls will be open to host in-person union meetings for September. Come out to see your fellow brothers & sisters in person, enjoy some food & drink with us!

Steward meeting(s): NO Flint Hall Steward Meeting in August. The Saginaw Hall Steward Meeting will be August 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm. The Lansing Hall Steward Meeting will be Monday, Sept 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

Stewards' Notes: 1) The link for Online Steward Report forms is found in the upper right-hand corner of our website www.ironworkers25.org. LOG-IN DIRECTIONS will follow once you click the link that reads "Electronic Steward Reports." These forms are much easier than the paper forms, we encourage you to give it a try if you have not yet done so. 2) PLEASE be sure to check dues for members and boomers too AND BE SURE ALL BOOMERS HAVE SIGNED BOTH THE RECIPROCAL AND THE ASSESSMENT-TARGETING. 3) All members please be sure to keep your Union dues paid up to date as it is criteria for working. You can be asked to leave the jobsite if your dues are not current. 4) Doby/Travel Service Dues are \$10.00 per week.

Save the Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022 – The Annual ICIF Fundraiser will be held at the Novi Union Hall 4:00pm. Tickets will be \$25.00 each once they are available. Join us for food, drink and camaraderie. We will also raffle some great prizes as we've done in the past!!

The Ironworkers Local 25 APP & Website is functioning as normal again. All members are able to access the log-in section again. All members can sign up for our Alerts & E-mails via our website (www.ironworkers25.org). We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS.

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.

Pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD: Any member who has a 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-April 30).

New Apprentice Applications are being accepted BUT you MUST go to ironworkers25.org, print the application, gather documentation then phone the school for an appointment; no walk-in foot traffic. The Wixom Training Center – Phone: 248-960-2130

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

To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to the ironworkers25.org to view the block schedule. The 2022 Raising Gang Training schedule is one the website. Please call the school to make up days Do not just show up and expect to be allowed to stay.

The Iron Workers' Local 25 Retirees' Club: The Novi Chapter Retirees meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 10:00 am in Novi. All are welcome. The Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday September 6, 2022 at 9:00 am.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday Sept 6, 2022 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. Future meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month. All are welcome.

The Bay City Chapter: The next quarterly meeting will be October 20, 2022 at 1:00 pm at the Bay City American Legion Post 18, 700 Adams Street, Bay City, Michigan 48708. All are welcome.

The Downriver Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:00 am at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. Future meetings scheduled every quarter going forward. All are welcome.

(NEW) Dial 988 for help in a Time of Crisis. Call 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. 988 connects cell phones & land lines to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7. Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential. Alternately 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

In Memory: Harold Cooper #689386 passed away July 26, 2022 at the age of 79. He was a 60-year member. He was elected as Business Agent of Local Union No. 25 from 1973 to 1983. In 1983 he was elected and served as Vice President and Business Agent until February 1987. On February 2, 1987 he was hired as a General Organizer of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers and also became the President of the District Council of Michigan-Great Lakes and Vicinity and held those positions until his retirement in February 2004. For the 1991, 1996 and 2001 International Conventions he served as a member of the Convention Coordination Committee. Harold was predeceased by his son, Apprentice Thomas Cooper #1145946, and by his wife Janette. Harold leaves behind many friends in the ironworking industry. Elmond Hamilton III #1291867 passed away suddenly July 27, 2022. A former Local 340 member with 20 years in the trade, he was age 44. Elmond is survived by his fiancé, Juana Rivera, his children, his nephew Ironworker Christopher Wright #1533178 and many friends and family in the Ironworking Industry. David Molnar #974331, former Local 575 member passed away August 1, 2022 at the age of 63. He was a 45-year member. He was a devoted husband to Joleen, his wife of 40 years. David also leaves behind his brother ironworker George Molnar #893172 and many family members who loved him. Apprentice Garrett Kroczaleski #1586594 and 2-year member passed away unexpectedly on August 1, 2022 at the age of 22. He leaves behind parents & siblings who loved him dearly, as well as his fellow apprentices, and his uncle JIW Kurt Kroczaleski #1253608. 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 (Aug 8, 2022 12:00 pm E.S.T.).



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is scheduled for Aug. 16, 2022 at 7 p.m. There will be a BBQ cookout before the meeting starting at 5 pm. Come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE LABOR DAY MARCH SEPT. 5, 2022 we will be gathering at the corner of Trumbull and Porter at 7 a.m.

Membership gold cards- Congratulations! Joseph Sykes-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.micementplasterer-training.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.opcmiam.org.

Please refer to website for updated information.

OPCMIA Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint. 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 non-union will be brought up on charges and fines will be enforced. Let's work together to secure our future!!

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

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date, there are some plant jobs that do require the MUST modules. You can go online at: www.must-online.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 (Continued next column)



BAC Local 2

WARREN/LANSING – 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 6:00 PM, 119 S

Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855 BBQ Dinner served from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 2022 CHAPTER MEETINGS METRODETROIT

CHAPTER: Tuesday, September 06, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, September 06, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, September 07, 2022 at 7:30 PM, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Toivola, MI 49965

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, September 08, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

LANSING CHAPTER: Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, September 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

SAGINAW CHAPTER: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 1300 W. Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

TRAVERSE CITY CHAPTER: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI 49686

DETROIT LABOR DAY PARADE: The Labor Day Parade will be held on Monday September 05, 2022. Look for the Local 2 Stake Truck parked along Michigan Avenue. We will be there at 7:00 AM. Step Off for the Parade is at 9 AM. There will be no motorized vehicles allowed this year. We encourage members to bring their families to walk in the parade.

Watch our Facebook page for updates!

DEATHS REPORTED. Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Brother Todd Garling** (Bricklayer) who passed away on July 19, 2022. Brother Garling had been a member for 25 years.

WEBSITE UPDATES: Be sure to check out our new website at 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. If you haven't registered yet, now is the time. Spots are going fast!

Local 2's 9th Annual Membership Golf outing will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Hawk Meadows Golf Course in Howell.

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

Local 514 cont'd

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.

Bricklayers and Allied 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 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.

BAC 2 MI TEXTING PROGRAM. We have been communicating by text message more frequently with our membership lately. We 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

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948
 FLINT – Our September Union Meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, at 6pm.
 Our August Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 22 2022, at 4:30 pm.
 The Next Retiree Club Meeting will be Tuesday, August 16th, at 8:00am then Tuesday, September 6th, 2022, at 9:00am.
 Do not forget to check our website for new content. Be sure to log in to see all the new con-



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANNARBOR - ELECTRICAL VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING PROGRAM (EVITP) The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment Act passed last year will provide millions of labor hours for the IBEW! We need to be ready for the installation of upcoming electric vehicle charging stations. This training is critical to securing this work. Please call the JATC and get on the list to get the EVITP training.

BESURE 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 beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated it needs to be updated at BOTH.

TRAINING CLASSES 2022: ALL CLASSES START AT 5 PM
 1. CPR/FIRST AID: Tuesdays, Sept. 6 & 13, Dec. 6 & 13
 2. BICSI IN101 Installer 1: Mondays, Aug. 29 thru Dec. 5. GOOD FOR 35 BICSI CEU's!

3. EVITP Electric Vehicle: Mondays, Aug. 15, 22 & 29
 4. EVITP Electric Vehicle: Mondays, Sept. 12, 26 & Oct. 10
 5. Journeyman License Prep: Thursdays, Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 13 & 20
 6. Conduit Bending: Wednesdays, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 19 & 26
 7. Instrumentation Part A: Mondays, Oct. 3 thru Dec. 19

There will not be a code update required in 2022. We will offer classes as soon as the state adopts a new NEC 2020 or 2023.

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. Masks must be worn at all times in school.

Retirees' 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.

Retirees' Breakfast: The Retiree's Breakfast will take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances in both the front and rear of the restaurant.

Annual Picnic: This year's picnic will be at 12 p.m. on Aug. 20, at Apple Creek Campground, 11185 Urban Rd., Grass Lake, MI 49240. Campsites are available. Contact Travis Stachlewitz to reserve (734) 985-8025. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, and to help during the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Union Hall (734) 424-0978 or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

Union 4 Life Charity Golf Outing: This year's golf outing will be on Sunday, Sept. 18 at Stonebridge Golf Club, 1825 Clubhouse Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 and is open to all union members and others. Registration 8 a.m., Tee-off at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$100 per player, \$400 per team. Includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, and two drink tickets. Tournament will be played in scramble with 4-person teams. If you do not enter a team list, you will be placed with others. Contact Hope Salyer with any questions at hopes@aaejatec.org or (734) 475-1180. Register online at union4lifefcharity.com or make checks payable to "Union 4 Life" and mail to 13400 Luick Drive, Chelsea, MI 48118.

Retirees' Night: This year's retiree's night will be celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 14. Please make every effort to attend. This meeting is in honor of our retired members who have worked so hard to make the Local what it is today. Members receiving their 50 year pins are: Ernest Aldrich, Richard Aseltine, John Briston, Cecil Coronado, Richard Cunkle, Gary Kittel, Dale Nowak, Jimmie Snyder, and Thomas Squires. Members receiving their 55 year pins are: Robert Hendricks, Tommie Hutchins, Stanley Kasprzycki, Larry Lange, David Ollila, Richard Peruski, Terry Phillips, Rodolfo Rodriguez, and Keith Vandenbosch. David G. Alstrom is receiving his 60 year pin. Gerald Brittain is receiving his 65 year pin.

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 no.: (517) 306-0144.

Local 252 Website, App, and Facebook Under Construction: More updates to follow.

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.

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

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to Steve Brzezinski and his family for the passing of his stepson, Colin Smith on July 24, 2022. Colin was a union roofer and is survived by his five-year-old son, Caden, his mother, Wendy, and his father, Tommy.

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 6/2022, your dues are not current. "A" members pay \$119.25 per quarter for 2022. "BA" members pay \$61.80 per quarter for 2022. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your third quarter dues (July through September) are due now. **Payments for third quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Friday, September 30, 2022.**

tent. www.local948.com.

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

2023 – Monthly Dues – Journeyman \$45.70 a month – Apprentices, CE, Sound Tech \$42.70 a month

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

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

Gregory Remington Business Manager

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



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS MICHIGAN

IBEW 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the September monthly membership meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Sept. 12, 2022.** Hopefully we will see everyone there.

Executive Board Meeting. The August Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, August 15, 2022.**

Message from the Business Manager. A bylaws change was proposed and will be voted on at the next general membership meeting on Sept. 12, 2022. The proposed change will increase the Local Death Benefit from the current rate of \$5 to the amount of \$10 per death. Please consider attending the next meeting to vote on this proposal.

Message from the President. Just a reminder that we have a block of rooms at the Doubletree set aside for the Oct. 7 retirement party. These rooms must be reserved one month prior to the party (by Sept. 7) or the rooms will be released.

Reservations can be made by calling the Doubletree Hotel directly at (989) 891-6000.

Work Report. Ongoing projects in our jurisdiction that may require additional manpower include: Clements Electric - Liberty Bridge (short calls) and 7 Mile Grow Facility in Bay City as well as Kalitta Air's new hanger in Oscoda. Conti Corporation – multiple projects in Midland's I-Park as well as the grounding and bonding at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Nelson Electric – GM Powertrain work starting Labor Day thru the end of the year. Swan Electric – Multiple DTE natural gas pumping stations throughout Zones 1 and 2. J.Ranck Electric – continuing work on phase 1 of the SK Siltron semi-conductor chip manufacturing facility, the second phase of which is valued at over \$300 million and slated to kick off in January 2023. Goyette Mechanical continues PFAS filtration and mitigation work in Oscoda.

Countyline Power has secured upcoming wastewater treatment facility work at Sagining Eagles Landing in Standish, multiple pump stations in the Mt. Pleasant and Clare areas, MDOT Welcome Center remodel in Clare, and runway lighting at Gladwin Airport.

Bay City's Karn 3 & 4 seems to be remaining operational until 2031, which will likely lead to multiple electrical projects this Fall. Robinson Industries in Coleman plans to rebuild facilities damaged in their recent fire, our contractors are expected to secure that work and hire late this year. Northpointe Distribution Center (Frito Lay) will be awarded shortly, signatory contractors are likely to secure the electrical work.

Projects that are currently bidding include East Tawas Wastewater, Bay City State Park Welcome Center, Mio DNR Field Office, and Soaring Eagle Reservation Education Center, all of which are Prevailing Wage projects. Midland City Hall and Isabella County administration buildings re-lighting projects and the Oscoda Holiday Inn Express are also out for bid.

Future projects we are keeping an eye on include Ascension Emergency Room, Waiting Area and Medical Office Building in Standish, Ascension Birthing Center in Tawas, North Peak Brewing in Bay City, and further De-sugarization Process upgrades at Michigan Sugar.

Rest assured both organizers and myself are working very diligently to secure whatever work is being bid in our jurisdiction for our membership. Detroit, Traverse City and Lansing may soon have calls getting into Book II if you are looking to travel. Please contact the hall if you would like to sign any books.

In Solidarity,
Ryan Charney
 Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers Report. 692's Organizing team continues to reach out to unrepresented workers in our jurisdiction about the benefits of joining the IBEW. The third quarter of 2022 will see demand for local manpower increase considerably. Sister Local 498 also expects to need help manning projects in their southeastern region, which provide opportunities to 692 members residing in Isabella, Clare, and Gladwin counties. The ability to provide adequate manpower to larger-

projects that we should be made aware of.

Brian Klele 989.252.9225
 Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131

Union Dues. 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.*

2022 Dues
 Monthly \$41.20
 Quarterly \$123.60
 6 months \$247.20
 Yearly \$494.40

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

Local 692 Retirement Party
 This year's party will be held on **Friday, Oct. 7.** It will be located at the DoubleTree in Bay City. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this great event to honor our retirees!

Retirees Lunch. There are no scheduled dates in August; lunches will resume again in September.

RENEW. Our annual Bags for Brotherhood event will take place on Sept. 17, 2022. Please come out and support us!

It is the goal of the RENEW committee to increase younger members' involvement in their local union. If you are a member in good standing, 35 years old or younger and would like to participate in 692's RENEW committee, please contact Jacob (989.316.6811) or Cody (989.600.4643) for more information. RENEW meetings are held once a month following our general membership meeting.

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
 IBEW Local 692 989-684-4510
www.ibew692.org
 Health Plan 517-321-7502
www.mielectricalhealth.org
 Michigan Pension Fund 517-321-7502
www.michiganelectrical.org
 First time logging in, use your Social Security Number in the "ID Box"
 NEBF/NEAP: 301-556-4300
 IO Pension: 202-833-7000



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Labor Studies Center

Register NOW for Fall Labor Classes!

Scholarships Available!

Labor School

- The online leadership certificate program consists of ten, 5-week courses.
- Basic Grievance Handling, Your Rights in the Workplace and Building the Union.

Advanced Labor Leadership Academy

- Fully online and consists of five, 5-week courses.
- Transformational Leadership, Strategic Planning, Media Matters, Advanced Grievance Handling and Powerful Presentations.

For More Information and to Register

Follow the QR code or register directly at go.wayne.edu/LaborSchoolreg. Call the Labor Studies Center office for more information 313-577-2191.



I WARRIOR STRONG
labor.wayne.edu



IBEW 665

LANSING – IBEW LOCAL 665 HAS MOVED! Local 665 has moved from our home of over 50 years! Our new location is: 5710 Ivan Dr., Lansing, MI 48917.

WORK OUTLOOK: Local 665 is expecting excellent employment for our local members through the summer and we anticipate needing help on several projects from our travelling brothers and sisters. Work is looking very busy for this summer and beyond.

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.lejatec.org and navigate to the application page on the website. Applications are accepted on the first Monday of each month.

FIRST AID / CPR. First Aid / CPR is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 18 at the JATC. Please contact Sara at the JATC to sign up. The Lansing Electrical JATC phone number is 517-483-9688.

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS. Please contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or the completion of 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: 3rd quarter should be paid at this point. We are currently at death benefit #330. Please check your dues receipt to ensure you are current.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE: of Local 665 members who have passed away this year. May their memory be eternal.
 DB 330 - John Freshwater - 07/26/2022
 DB 329-Dale Cole - 09/07/2021
 DB 328-Keith Reimel - 05/04/2022
 DB 327-Elden Rockafellow - 02/11/2022
 DB 326-Victor St Clair - 03/09/2022



**Local 169
Boilermakers**

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on Aug. 12 at 8 p.m. It will be in Area 1 at the Boilermaker Union Hall, 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101.

Current Union dues for 2022 are \$52.35 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 OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more info.

Congratulations to all our graduating apprentices. Good luck in all your future endeavors in Boilermakers Local 169. We are proud of all of you!

Save the dates:

Area 4: Annual picnic will be August 20, at Pioneer Trail Park, 6822 US-2 Gladstone, MI 49837. Food and drink will be provided. We are excited to see everyone!

Area 3: Annual Picnic will be August 27 at Lake of Dreams Campground, 1000 S. Fenmore Rd., Merrill, MI 48637. Food and drink will be provided, and we can't wait to see everyone!

Labor Day: This year's Labor Day Parade is currently scheduled to take place on September 5, 2022. It's been two years since we've been able to represent our local on Labor Day. Please make every effort to attend the parade and lunch at the Union Hall following the parade. Further information to follow.

Retirees: Retiree luncheons have resumed. The Area 1 Retiree luncheon is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the Brown Derby Bar, 10661 W. Jefferson, River Rouge, Mi.

Area 2 Retirees are holding luncheons on the first Thursday of every month at 11 am 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' lunches are the third Wednesday of each month. Next luncheon is Aug. 17 at 11 am, at the Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

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

Hoodies have been restocked and are available in sizes ranging from medium through 3XL. Cost is \$40. Payments can be made with cash, check, or credit. If you live out 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.

Our two-week apprenticeship training session will be this August. The CommonArc test will follow. Apprentices should plan accordingly. Apprentices will be notified of times and dates.

CommonArc testing will be taking place this year on August 15-August 17, 2022, at the Training Center. Any journeyman interested in testing should contact B&G Processing at 586-477-1562

Due to continued demand, the Boilermakers Local 169 Welding Committee will be holding a stainless steel and Inconel weld certification test with B&G Processing. All carbon steel, certified tube welders are encouraged to participate. Boilermaker signatory contractors are seeing an increased demand for these welding skills as we continue working in emerging industries.

As our industry changes, we must continue to develop the skills that make us the best choice for our owners and contractors, just as we have done for over 125 years. Further details will be forthcoming.



Summer Camp

NEARLY THE ENTIRE GAMUT of building trades crafts were represented at the first annual Upper Peninsula Summer Camp held in July and August. The event allowed high school students to get exposed to hands-on training in the construction crafts. It is hoped the event will act as a conduit for a new generation of unionized building trades workers in the Upper Peninsula.

Photo credit: Mike Smith/UPCC

Labor leaders say there's much to like about Inflation Reduction Act

WASHINGTON (PAI) – A budget deal brokered between Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and key dissident Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia would let Medicare negotiate lower drug prices with Big Pharma, impose a minimum 15 percent corporate tax on billion-dollar firms, and allot \$369 billion for energy security and to battle climate change.

As a result, President Joe Biden accepted this Inflation Reduction Act, with those provisions and a little more. He realized it's the best he could get out of an evenly split Senate, blessed the agreement and urged lawmakers to quickly OK it. The Senate adopted the plan after a marathon session to overcome the 50-50 tie in that chamber, broken by votes from Vice President Kamala Harris.

Biden wasn't the only person involved in the long battle over what began as his Build Back Better plan – but got constantly whittled down – to accept the final compromise.

The AFL-CIO, building trades unions and green groups got on board. So did congressional Democrats, seeking a big-ticket success to prove to voters that they can govern even with a slim majority and should retain power this fall.

Said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey, on Aug. 7: "the Senate brought millions of construction workers, union and non-union alike, one step closer to the promise of a career in the middle class. President Biden can fulfill that promise with his signature if the House passes the Inflation Reduction Act as soon as possible this week."

"This legislation stands to be a historic victory for building trades working families because of critical strong labor protections included in over \$300 billion in tax credits for clean energy infrastructure projects. Such protections guarantee these projects will create middle-class, family-sustaining career opportunities in cities and towns across America."

"From nuclear, wind, solar and EV charging stations to hydrogen, carbon capture, battery storage plants and the installation of energy efficiency technology in commercial buildings, building trades working families are poised to be the real winners from this bill. Therefore, we strongly urge all members of the House to support the Inflation Reduction Act's passage when it comes to the floor."

The measure, officially a budget "reconciliation" bill, can't be filibustered. It would also cut Medicare's spending on prescription drugs for the elderly by \$288 billion. "With this agreement, we have a chance to make prescription drugs cheaper by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower

prices," Biden said after phone talks with the two lawmakers. "And we can lower health insurance costs for 13 million Americans, by an average of \$800 a year, for families covered under the Affordable Care Act," Biden added.

He has a big stake in that area. As Vice President, Biden lobbied the ACA through a reluctant Senate more than a decade ago, when the measure topped President Barack Obama's legislation list.

"We will improve our energy security and tackle the climate crisis – by providing tax credits and investments for energy projects" including clean energy. "This will create thousands of new jobs and help lower energy costs in the future," Biden predicted. Analysts said its clean energy tax credits and other measures would cut carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030.

The \$739 billion measure aims to cut the federal budget deficit by \$300 billion over 10 years, also satisfying key swing vote Joe Manchin (D-West Va.). That cut will help fight inflation, Biden stated. Rising prices are currently the No. 1 problem on voters' minds heading into the mid-term election.

The AFL-CIO and Service Employees President Mary Kay Henry both praised the agreement, though Henry criticized omission of federal subsidies – and \$15 an hour wage standards – for child care, home care and elder care workers, most of them women of color. Manchin demanded axing that aid earlier in the long-running saga.

"Congress understands we urgently need economic solutions that offer real help for working families," the AFL-CIO said. "Taking steps to lower health care costs and address our broken tax code that allowed the extremely wealthy and the biggest corporations to avoid paying their fair share will deliver fundamental economic change in our nation."

"The energy provisions will leverage more than \$1 trillion in private investment, create millions of jobs and cut climate pollution by 40 percent. Importantly, the tax incentives as currently written include labor standards and domestic content requirements, which would create good-paying jobs in construction and manufacturing. These actions will spur the clean-energy transition we need to address the climate crisis."

"Congress must advance the Inflation Reduction Act as quickly as possible," Henry stated. She said it would cut the costs of healthcare premiums and make prescription drugs "more affordable for millions of families while finally holding big pharmaceutical companies accountable." She promised SEIU

would continue to fight for aid for the care workers.

Henry also praised the measure's "large-scale investments to address the crisis of climate change. She said that spending on related projects "will create hundreds of thousands of good union green energy jobs. Even better, it will be paid for by raising taxes on giant corporations that have made record profits by increasing prices and holding down our wages."

Manchin, from a major coal state, also blessed the climate change provisions, as long as all fossil fuels are in an all-of-the-above energy policy that funds every source from wind to oil to coal to solar to nuclear to gas. Coal is still a heavyweight West Virginia industry. Coal barons are among his big campaign donors.

He called that policy "commonsense solutions through strategic and historic investments that allow us to decarbonize while ensuring American energy is affordable, reliable, clean and secure."

"We must stop pretending that there is only one way to combat global climate change or achieve American energy independence," said Manchin, the Senate Energy Committee chair. "This legislation ensures the market will take the lead, rather than aspirational political agendas or unrealistic goals," the senator said, in a slam at the Green New Deal.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers President Lonnie Stephenson issued the following statement upon the announcement on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022:

"The IBEW's 775,000 active and retired members strongly support this breakthrough agreement that fights inflation and delivers the tools to take on climate change. It pairs the historic clean energy investments necessary to reduce carbon emissions by nearly 40 percent by 2030 with labor standards that promote family-sustaining union jobs. The agreement also makes important strides in deficit reduction already underway, which will help bring down inflation."

"This historic legislation delivers funding to support clean energy projects that will create new union jobs, lower energy costs and curb the climate crisis while average American households making less than \$40,000 a year will see no increase in taxes. Corporations, however, will pay their fair share. The proposal also boosts renewable energy production, carbon capture and nuclear energy, which are necessary provisions for increased domestic energy security. Crucially, it incentivizes the purchase of electric vehicles for the charging network that IBEW members are already constructing."



Painters District Council 1M

PDC 1M
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DC1M FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/iupat1m
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Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989)695-6888

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL SMART PHONE APP. Painters District Council 1M is pleased to announce its 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:** The 2022 Labor Day Parade will be taking place Monday, Sep. 5. Staging Area will be at the IBEW Local 58 parking lot in Detroit. All Members should meet there between 7-am. The Parade will commence at 9am.

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.



District Council 1M MICHIGAN

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Our next scheduled union meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022 at 6pm. Please attend.

We will be attending, and walking at this year's annual Detroit Labor Day Parade, Monday, Sept. 5.

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 48098-066; 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 MICHIGAN

Local 591 Sign, Pictorial & Display

Sign Pictorial & Display 591
WARREN –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 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, call Jeremy Haviland, 586-899-0183, or Keith Anderson, 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: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

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.

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"Genius is only a greater aptitude for patience."
–George-Louis Leclerc de Buffon

"For four-fifths of our history, our planet was populated by pond scum."
– J. W. Schopf

"Ultimately, we all have to decide for ourselves what constitutes failure, but the world is quite eager to give you a set of criteria if you let it."
– J. K. Rowling,

"Miracles: You do not have to look for them. They are there, 24-7, beaming like radio waves all around you. Put up the antenna, turn up the volume - snap... crackle... this just in, everyone you talk to is a chance to change the world..."
– Hugh Elliott

Laborers' International Union of North America
LIUNA! LOCAL 1191
 Feel the Power

Laborers 1191
DETROIT - Monthly Membership Meetings: Union meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Union hall (except for holidays), next membership meeting will on the September, 2nd 2022.

Retirees: Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11:00 a.m. at the Local Union Hall, located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard Detroit Michigan 48208.

Union Dues For 2022: Effective January 1, 2022 regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00.

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

Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! Upper right-hand corner Pay Dues tab, and follow the instructions... Please also check out our website and "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

NOTICE: The Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

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. Members who sign up for Vacation monthly dues deduction and pay (6) months at a time will receive a 1-month rebate!!! To better serve our membership, we are accepting Credit & Debit payments.

Vacation Monthly Dues Deduction Authorization: Members may revoke vacation monthly dues authorization at any time by signing a vacation deduction cancellation form. This cancellation form must be sent to the Local Union 1191 office, however understand that Local 1191 needs to have this form on file at least sixty days before the next vacation checks are distributed for the months of May or November.

Vacation Check Direct Deposit: If your mail delivery is slow or your mail is getting lost, then it is highly recommended to get your vacation check direct deposited into your bank checkings or savings account. A Payee Deposit Agreement must be completed and signed, and the member must return the payee deposit agreement at least 60 days before the following vacation distribution for the month of May, or November to Michigan Laborers Vacation Fund, 6525 Centurion Dr. Lansing Michigan 48917.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.mustsafe.com to see how many modules you have.

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 visit the training school website www.mlta.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and apprentices may still obtain training through MLTA's online training at <https://lms.mlta.org>. Types of training you can take include: Asbestos Awareness-Silica Awareness-Infectious Disease Awareness-Respirator Awareness-Hazard Communication-Blood borne Pathogens Awareness-Covid-19 Awareness-Lead Awareness.

NOTE: Classes & Certifications contractors have been asking for are: OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors License, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools, Gps Location. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not! FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. Also be sure to Check & Update your Skills regularly.

Roll Call: All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first five 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.

Members are urged to report new project starts to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

CONTACT NUMBERS.
 Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension & Vacation)
 *Telephone: (877) 645-2267 *Fax: (517) 321-7508
 *Website: www.michiganlaborers.org
 *Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149
 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)
 *Telephone: (248) 641-4942 *Fax: (248) 813-9898
 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)
 *Telephone: (800) 228 0048
 Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Vacation)
 *Telephone: (877) 645-2267
 *Web Site: www.metrodetroitlaborers.org

BENEFICIARY REMINDER: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all of your LIUNA Local 1191, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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. Staging will start at 7 am so please arrive early as some roads will be closed. We will meet at the Hall before the parade and the Roofers will be hosting food and refreshments after.

Sept. 17, 2022 The Union Golf Outing will be held at Bay Pointe Golf Club, 4001 Haggerty Road, West Bloomfield, MI. 7:30 am Registration - 8:30 Shotgun start. If you are interested in playing, please contact Bill Avery at (586) 713-8830 or Ron McKay at (248) 830-6408 or call the hall for more information. The cost is \$80 per person, please make checks out to Ron McKay. This outing is coming up fast so please get the monies in for your foursome as soon as possible!

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, Classes will be starting Monday Aug. 15, 2022, contact your teacher or the hall if you need more information. Check your NEIEP emails frequently for additional information. OJT forms need to be completed by the 9th day of the following month. July forms should be completed by Aug. 9, 2022. 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. 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 these forms, so do the test correctly no matter how long it takes!

Local 36 is working with Local 85, Lansing and the EIWPFF 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.

An email was sent out earlier this week with contact information to be updated. If you didn't receive this email contact the hall so we can get you on future emails and update your other information.

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!



THE SOO LOCKS is hosting tons of heavy equipment in recent months, with more than 30 Operating Engineers Local 324 members on the job. Here we see a lock in operation with the International Bridge in the background.
 Photo credit: Dan McKernan/Operating Engineers Local 324

Construction advances on new Soo lock

(Continued from Page 1)

Trade West Construction, Inc., of Nevada began deepening the upstream channel May 4, 2020, employing substantially Operating Engineers Local 324 members at the controls of the heavy equipment. Using a submersible excavator attachment called a hydraulic ripper, the equipment operators broke up bedrock approximately six feet thick over a three-quarter mile long stretch, primarily sandstone, from the north channel, to a 30-foot depth. The channel depth is needed to accommodate the largest Great Lakes freighters.

The new Soo Lock project involves the combining of two existing locks into one larger lock, which will twin the existing Poe Lock - the only conduit at the Soo that allows for the passage of the largest 1,000-foot freighters. A second lock has been sought for decades as a twin for the Poe, to be used during maintenance or as a backup in case of mechanical failure or sabotage.

"The New Lock was first authorized in 1986. That's 36 years ago," said New Lock at the Soo Chief Mick Awbrey. "It went through a series of changes and reauthorizations, then the Corps of Engineers was able to begin construction in 2020. Reaching substantial completion of this first phase of construction is a monumental milestone."

In all, around 300,000 cubic yards of material, including bedrock and overburden was removed using the ripper, stone grinders and excavator buckets during the first phase. These operations were all done from barges. The material removed from the channel was placed onto the Northwest Pier's west end to act as a windbreak for passing ships. The largest rock weighed 55 tons.

Two major phases of the project remain for the New Lock. Phase 2, rehabilitating the upstream approach walls, began in 2021. Following the winter downtime, season two work began again this year in mid-April. This work stabilizes the existing approach walls to allow modern vessels to tie up and wait their turn to pass through the New Lock. The Phase 2 contractor is Kokosing-Alberici LLC, a joint venture of Kokosing Industrial of Ohio and Alberici Constructors of Missouri. They are on track for completion by summer 2024.

The Army Corps-Detroit District awarded Phase 3 on July 1. It is the largest and most complicated phase and involves constructing the new lock chamber and rehabilitating downstream approach walls.

More than 88 percent of commodity tonnage through the Soo Locks is restricted by vessel

size to the Poe Lock. The new lock project will construct a second Poe-sized lock, 1,200 feet by 110 feet on the site of the existing decommissioned Davis and Sabin locks.

"We'll build coffer cells to block off and dewater the construction site," said Miller. "Power needs to be rerouted through the facility, the Sabin Lock chamber demolished, a new 1,200 foot by 110-foot chamber constructed, the Davis Lock filled in, a new pump well installed and the downstream approach walls

rehabilitated." The Soo Locks are situated on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Marys Falls Canal. According to a 2015 Department of Homeland Security study on the impact of an unexpected Soo Locks closure, the Soo Locks are nationally critical infrastructure and the reliability of this critical node in the Great Lakes Navigation System is essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security.

Lake Michigan charging routes

(Continued from Page 1)
 will allow travelers to experience Lake Michigan and visit countless communities in and around the route."

The Lake Michigan EV Circuit Tour will provide electric vehicle drivers a long-distance vacation opportunity with no range anxiety. The chargers will be installed in key coastal communities at lighthouses, state parks, breweries, vineyards, restaurants, and other small businesses. They will also be meshed into existing charging infrastructure networks at large entertainment attractions in cities along the route including Chicago, Milwaukee, and Green Bay.

Many of the network's chargers are operable today, and drivers can expect the remainder to be installed within the next few years.

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What we do



Outdoors

Investing in Michigan's fisheries



By Sarah Lapshan
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

Ed Eisch knows fish. After 30-plus years working in the state's fish production program – doing just about every job from technician to hatchery biologist, and now overseeing the entire effort – Eisch understands even the smallest details of what it takes to keep the state's six fish hatcheries humming.

Those Michigan Department of Natural Resources sites, in Alanson, Beulah, Harietta, Manistique, Marquette and Mattawan, produce the fish eggs and fry that ultimately stock state lakes, streams and ponds, complementing natural fish production in these waters. That includes an average of 6 million to 7 million trout and salmon coming from the DNR's cold-water facilities each year.

Eisch is confident that recent state investment in the fish hatcheries will not only keep the lights on, but also positively influence fisheries.

"Replacing roofs, repaving parking lots ... some of that stuff isn't very exciting, but it's all part of protecting our investment in these facilities," he said. "Other improvements have a direct impact on the quality and health of fish. Our current feeders are ancient, well past their expected life. Replacing feeders in at least two facilities will give us much better feed conversion rates, more efficient use of our feed dollars. That means bigger, healthier, more robust fish."

All six hatcheries have infrastructure needs, and all are set for some level of improvements – but Wolf Lake, in Mattawan, probably will see the most changes. One of the biggest is the proposed construction of a new, \$6 million cool-water facility for rearing walleye and muskie.

"This is key because it's going to allow us to physically separate our cool-water rearing from cold-water rearing, and that's a big biosecurity improvement, especially where viral hemorrhagic septicemia is concerned," Eisch



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter holds a brown trout from the Au Sable River as Randy Claramunt, the DNR's Lake Huron basin coordinator, looks on during survey work.

MDNR photo

said. "It will also secure our steel-head rearing even more."

The DNR is looking at biosecurity boosts at several locations: things like recoating the insides of rearing units and adding UV filtration to remove pathogens from the water.

"Recoating is important because the old coating starts to peel away and that creates divots in the units, which make great spots for waste material to collect and for bacteria to grow," Eisch said. "Recoated rearing units provide cleaner places for fish to thrive."

Some projects include maintenance and replacement of wells, possibly some dredging of ponds – more flow means healthier, fitter fish.

Other planned work is more structural. Visitors to the Platte

River hatchery in Beulah might see areas where the rebar is exposed because the concrete is crumbling. These are needs that have to be addressed and fixed now, or else the buildings will face replacement down the road. That's a much more expensive proposition.

The DNR also will target electrical distribution systems for repairs and upgrades, especially at Wolf Lake and Platte. Those systems (each at least 40 years old) have aging components including switch gears, buried electrical lines that are replaced as they fail, transformers, motor control centers – big, important components that, in the end, add up to hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars.

"It's all critical to securing state fish production," Eisch said.

"Making sure that our electrical distribution systems are performing at peak is something we are committed to investing in."

An eye toward efficiency. Investment is everything, but DNR staff always look for ways to leverage every last dollar. That's especially true around the fish hatcheries, where, Eisch said, he's been known to hold things together with "baling wire and duct tape," and hatchery system utility costs can edge north of a million dollars per year.

"Everything we do is done with energy efficiency in mind. Whatever we can do to bring those costs down, so much the better," he said. "If we're looking at replacing a pump, for example, the intent is to replace it with a high-efficiency pump that reduces the electrical draw."

A department-wide initiative to identify more energy-efficiency opportunities has influenced other changes. Some hatcheries' heating boilers and other components are being replaced with high-efficiency units to reduce natural gas and propane use.

As part of the FY 2022 budget, the department received \$2 million in capital outlay funds toward solar energy installations. Five of the six hatcheries will get them. Eisch said he is hopeful the DNR will see a sizable decrease in utility expenditures as a result of that investment.

In the DNR's overall push for greener operations, the Fisheries Division is right in the mix. A series of upgrades completed last year at the Thompson hatchery in Manistique included a new backup generator, construction of a new cool-water fish production facility, and improvements to the existing facility that will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead production for decades.

At Oden, in Alanson, the visitor center already has a solar installation. Though it is smaller – more of a residential-scale installation – it has significantly reduced expenditures there. An electric vehicle charging station is planned there, too, for visitor use as part of the state's larger

campaign this year to place such stations at a dozen state parks (and Oden) along the proposed Lake Michigan EV circuit.

Eisch said he knows these investments aren't going to change the number of fish the DNR produces, but they will address needs that have been unmet for a number of years.

"What these changes will do is secure our level of fish production, going forward for decades. It's going to make us more efficient and our product better and healthier," he said. "Just putting the fish in the water doesn't get it done. The fitness of the fish that we stock is critical to the program. We need to know those fish are available to anglers and they're catching good, high-quality fish."

A new approach to the Au Sable. Another department initiative seeing success on an iconic Michigan river has the capacity to better position other watersheds and fish populations. More than halfway through a two-year pilot project that applies structured decision-making to assess the resilience of the Au Sable River in the face of existing and emerging threats, results are promising.

Randy Claramunt is the DNR's Lake Huron basin coordinator. He and Tammy Newcomb, DNR senior executive assistant director, are department leads working with Michigan State University experts on structured decision-making and a group of stakeholders representing the U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Trout Unlimited, the North Branch Area Foundation and fishing groups, among others. The DNR has additional representation from its fisheries, forestry, wildlife and executive divisions.

To understand where structured decision-making fits in, Claramunt said it all starts with a stream.

"If you restore a fish population in a stream, especially in a cold-water stream, the next logical jump is to habitat protection for that stream," he said. "If the fish don't have the cold water, woody debris and water quality, you're going to be continually restocking that stream. Making that stream self-sustaining is the goal, but to get there you need to attack the in-stream habitat and the watershed."

The challenge? None of that happens in a vacuum. A change

on one branch of the river has implications downstream. In-stream habitat has to be holistic and consider the entire watershed.

"A watershed like the Au Sable River is the most dynamic stream in the state," Claramunt said. "From the headwaters in the North Branch to the main stem through the 'Holy Waters' down past Mio Dam where it's open to Lake Huron – that river changes dramatically, and boy, does it have amazing trout fishing."

Unfortunately, it's also a river experiencing several threats: thermal changes, climate change, flooding events, continued sedimentation ... threats that aren't going away.

"The question was, if we're going to do habitat restoration or enhancements to improve the resiliency of the Au Sable River – which is, for the most part, a self-sustaining, incredible fishery – how do we pursue that resiliency," Claramunt said.

The rise in challenges, paired with an already over-stretched fisheries management staff and a passionate stakeholder base, presented an opportunity to try structured decision-making on the river.

The group uses data, population estimates, quantitative measures, values and qualitative input from the stakeholders, and then assesses the risks of different decisions.

And when it comes to the Au Sable River, no one wants to make decisions that are high-risk. The goal, instead, is decisions with a far higher likelihood of reaching desired outcomes.

"The Au Sable is an incredibly beautiful, unique and valuable river. But structured decision-making has never been applied to a river system like this," Claramunt said. "In my opinion, the Au Sable is the most dynamic river system for cold-water trout. If we can successfully use SDM here, now all of a sudden, we can apply it to the Pine River, to the Cedar River, and to a number of brook trout streams across the U.P."

The Au Sable research, hatchery investments, energy upgrades and work done across all levels of the DNR with support from valued partners are all in service to healthy, world-class fisheries and the people who love to fish our waters season after season.

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