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# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council



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## SHORT CUTS

### Applications taken for UP trades camp

The Upper Peninsula Construction Council, in partnership with UP Michigan Works! and local education agencies (ISDs and RESAs), is now accepting applications for their 2026 Building Trades Summer Camp.

Applications are being accepted April 1-30. The link to apply can be found at the UPPC's website, [www.upconstruction.org](http://www.upconstruction.org).

The five-week, hands-on camp runs July 6 through Aug. 5 in Marquette. It introduces high school students to careers in the union construction industry. Participants will explore multiple skilled trades, develop practical skills, and gain exposure to real-world job site environments in a structured and supervised setting.

The program is industry-developed and directly connected to career pathways in high-demand construction fields. Students will also earn \$14 per hour during the program, with an additional \$200 bonus upon successful completion. Students must commit to the full five-week program and will work one of two four-hour shifts, Monday through Thursday.

Applicants need to be between ages 14-17, an incoming high school freshman through senior, and reside within 45 minutes of Marquette.

### Amazon spends top dollar to fight unions

Amazon spent more than \$26 million on anti-union labor consultants in 2025, according to new federal disclosure forms, marking the largest such expenditure by a U.S. employer reported in a single year.

The filings with the U.S. Labor Department show Amazon hired at least six firms that specialize in helping corporations defeat union organizing campaigns. The company issued hundreds of payments throughout the year, averaging more than \$56,000 apiece – higher than the average annual wage of one of its warehouse workers.

Amazon has spent years battling union campaigns by the Teamsters, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and other unions.

Early on, much of that organizing focused on the retail behemoth's fulfillment centers, where workers pick, pack and ship orders – but has since spread to its distribution hubs and subcontracted driver network.

Bob Funk, who serves as the Executive Director of LaborLab – a non-profit that tracks the Anti-Union Consulting Industry, described the Amazon spending as “huge.” He also noted the persuader work captured in the federal filings typically does not include spending on labor attorneys who fight union campaigns through the National Labor Relations Board, which is often more expensive.

The only union to successfully organize at Amazon are 5,500 workers at the JFK8 warehouse in Staten Island, NY, in 2022. But Amazon has yet to negotiate a contract with them.

—NY Labor Today

### Quotable

“Sometimes you have to stop being scared and just go for it. Either it will work out, or it won't. That's life. Do it scared!”

Kimberly Jones (1976-)



**THE MICHIGAN BUILDING and Construction Trades Council hosted a trio of building industry leaders at its 64th Legislative Conference on March 24. Offering their insights on the state of the state's construction industry, (l-r) are Barton Malow Vice President Jim Faroh, Lansing Board of Water and Light General Manager Dick Peffley and Walbridge CEO Mike Haller.**

## ‘Healthy construction market’ seen for Michigan, driven by big data

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – A wide-ranging discussion of the state of the state's building industry – and the union trades' place in it – was held last month at the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council's Legislative Conference.

Building trades delegates to the conference got an opportunity to hear from executives from the

### New sources for trades jobs will emerge, part of ‘a shift inside the state’

two largest general contractors in Michigan – Walbridge and Barton Malow – as well as the chief of the state's largest public utility, the hometown Lansing Board of Water and Light.

“We really wanted to have a conversation about what our future looks like, what do our partners see?” said Michigan Building Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell on March 24, as he introduced the speakers. “What are things that we all can do to prepare for the workload and the opportunity that we all have, and reflect on where we've been and where we're going, and what we can do better?”

Some perspective was offered by Barton Malow Vice President Jim Faroh, Walbridge CEO Mike Haller, and Lansing Board of Water and Light General Manager Dick Peffley.

Some takeaways from the 50-minute question and answer session:

The placement of data centers big and small are a divisive issue, but they are going to be the primary driver of building trades employment in the next several years. The construction marketplace is changing and evolving rapidly. And the “three-legged stool” of owners, contractors and the building trades are doing a lot of things right in building Michigan. But there's room for improvement all the way around.

Following is an edited sample of comments from the trio of executives:

**What's the outlook for construction in Michigan over the next five years?**

**Haller:** “Five years is a bit difficult because it is so dynamic and so volatile in the marketplace. The next two and a half to three years, and I'm focusing on the State of Michigan, it should be a very healthy market. And what it's being driven by, obviously, is that dirty word in the public, data centers.

“If you think about it, if we were solely dependent on manufacturing right now, our construction industry would be approaching a recession. It's data centers that are going to take off. Health care is helping, it's kind of steady, same thing with higher ed, but the thing that is really driving it right now is data centers.

“But when you go beyond three years, I think this AI thing is here to stay. But whether the

data centers are going to be here in Michigan is a question because of public pushback, and even the volatility in politics. Changing administrations at state levels, at federal levels – no one has the crystal ball to know the impact of all that.”

**Faroh:** “For Barton Malow in the State of Michigan, I do think the next five years looks really good. Barton Malow has been blessed with a tremendous amount of growth in this decade. The reality is that growth has been driven by work outside the State of Michigan. State of Michigan content has been steady for us. We've experienced some really record growth over the last few years and we expect that work to be more Michigan-laden work.

“To Mike's (Haller's) point, the big driver being the data center work, the energy infrastructure associated with that, that's what growth is going to look like. We're seeing a shift from inside the state from traditional automotive work to energy work

(Continued on Page 2)

## Construction of big battery banks charging up with new state approvals

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Data centers aren't the only new-age, artificial intelligence-fueled construction opportunity for the building trades in Michigan.

Another growing area is the construction of “energy storage” platforms, which almost always refer to the housing of batteries.

And on March 27, the Michigan Public Service Commission approved six energy storage projects totaling 1,332 megawatts of capacity. Battery storage makes wind and solar power sources more viable, storing the energy they create and making it available when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining.

“Battery energy storage provides multiple benefits to the grid, by storing excess energy created when it's cheaper to produce and using the stored energy to provide power during times of peak demand,” the MBSC said. “Energy storage helps ensure grid resilience and speeds up the transition to cleaner sources of

(Continued on Page 2)

## Palisades plant hits another milestone

COVERT – Holtec's Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, current employer of hundreds of building trades workers renovating the facility, is closer to a restart.

How much closer was not defined by owner Holtec, which instead on March 30 announced another major milestone for the plant. “We are pleased to announce that Holtec Palisades has successfully completed passivation of its primary system,

which is an essential step to ensure long-term equipment reliability and a key milestone in the ongoing effort to return the plant to service,” the company said in a statement.

What is passivation, you ask? According to worldwide special chemical producer Orapi Applied Ltd., passivation is a process that “enhances the corrosion resistance of metals, particularly stainless steel, by forming a protective oxide layer on the surface.”

To perform passivation, Holtec said “the Palisades team brought the primary system to normal operating temperature and pressure for the first time since the plant was shut down in 2022. Establishing and maintaining these conditions allowed for precise control of water chemistry and restoration of the system's protective surfaces following extensive maintenance, inspection, and component upgrades completed over the past two years.”

Holtec, its contractor-partners and the building trades are working on something that has never been attempted in the U.S. – restarting a shuttered nuclear power plant. The Palisades plant's 777-megawatt pressurized water reactor began operation in 1971.

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IT OPENED IN 1913 AND CLOSED in 1988, after which Michigan Central train station in Detroit spent the next three decades open to the elements and rotting away. That is until 2018, when Ford Motor Co. undertook a six-year renovation that gloriously restored the three-story train station and 15-story tower above. Managing the project was the Christman/Brinker Corktown Transformational Joint Venture, which last month was awarded the nation's “Most Outstanding Construction Project of 2025” by the Associated General Contractors of America.

‘Most Outstanding’ – sounds about right

Photo credit: Ford Motor Co.

## Michigan Central work wins top AGC/Build America Award

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

DETROIT – Well, duh.

The Michigan Central Station rehabilitation project, which spanned six years and employed union crafts, transformed the long-empty, decrepit, waterlogged train station and its 15-story office tower above into a magnificent, gleaming symbol of the city's comeback.

On March 25, the train station project was named the nation's “Most Outstanding Construction Project of 2025” by the Associated General Contractors of America, selecting it from among 44 projects across 20 categories. The top prize – called the Baldwin Group Build America Award – was awarded to Christman/Brinker Corktown Transformational Joint Venture. Christman/Brinker also won a Build America Award for the best construction management renovation project valued over \$126 million.

These awards, considered among the country's top construction accolades, celebrate outstanding achievements in construction management, innovation, safety, client relations and contributions to the community. Michigan Central Station was chosen from projects across the U.S. as a leading example of one of the most extensive and intricate construction efforts in the nation.

There's a bit of Michigan bias here, but it's difficult to imagine any project, anywhere,

could surpass the transformational impact of the renovated train station.

“Winning the AGC Build America Grand Award for Michigan Central Station is a testament to what's possible when construc-

tion excellence, innovation and stewardship come together at the highest level,” said Steve Roznowski, president and CEO of The Christman

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THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL Station's concourse, above, was missing its glass ceiling, had walls covered in graffiti, and had its surfaces constantly wet with rainwater. Then came the transformation, shown below, with new glass overhead, cleaned walls and a new terrazzo floor, shown being installed by Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 2 masons employed by Michielutti Brothers Inc. in 2022.

Photos: Tradesman file



## Mildly better job numbers for U.S. construction

The trend for construction employment in Michigan saw a small increase in January, after bouncing around a bit toward the end of 2025.

The latest numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, released April 8, show that Michigan employed 199,700 con-

struction workers in January. It represented a 200-worker gain for the month (+0.1 percent) and a 900-worker gain (+0.5 percent) compared to January 2025. The year-to-year construction percentage gain ranked Michigan No. 35 among the states.

And the small spike in con-

struction employment reflected the trend nationally. The Associated General Contractors of America reported April 3 that U.S. construction employment climbed by 26,000 jobs in March, with gains in both residential and nonresidential segments.

“The increase in March more

than offset the 13,000-position decline that occurred in February,” said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. “It is especially heartening to see that the gains were present among all five subsectors of the industry.”

Over the past 12 months,

(Continued on Page 12)

## \$2 billion more for road funding paves the way for enhanced orange-barrel season

LANSING – Some good news, bad news for Michigan motorists.

First, the good news: A ton more money is being spent starting this year, compared to past years, to fix Michigan's roads. And that means road workers should have all the work they could possibly

want. The bad news, of course, are the inevitable traffic slowdowns brought about by the additional spending.

As part of the bipartisan long-term road funding plan that the governor signed into law last year, the state is investing an additional \$2 billion in Michigan's

state and local roads.

“With the start of construction season, we will fix more of the damn roads in communities across Michigan,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “I ran on fixing the damn roads, and I am proud to keep my promise and get

(Continued on Page 12)

## Viewpoints



### Tax cheats hurt construction

Every April, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters marks the week taxes are due as Tax Fraud Days of Action to spotlight tax fraud and wage theft in the construction industry. Tax fraud hurts construction workers, contractors, and all of us to the tune of \$10 billion every year.

I've written about this problem before, but today I'd like to hand off to one of our signatory contractors, John Bodary of Woods Construction, Inc., to share his perspective on how Tax Fraud impacts upstanding Michigan businesses.

John Bodary writes:

The construction industry accomplishes so many incredible feats, setting a foundation for society and providing thousands of family-supporting careers. Our industry is made up of building owners and end users, architects, engineers, contractors and skilled tradespeople. Many follow the law, play by the rules, and work together to build the world around us.

Contractors, like Woods Construction, compete vigorously to win work. We choose to partner with the unionized skilled trades to take advantage of world-class training and an efficient, safe, reliable workforce that we can count on to get the job done and done right. We care about our customers and our employees, but there are some who don't.

Unfortunately, too many contractors today are willing to exploit their workers to gain the upper hand by cutting costs in what amounts to a race to the bottom.

Exploitative contractors who commit construction industry tax fraud fail to pay workers an area-standard wage, and worse, many misclassify their employees as 1099 independent contractors. That one move lets them skirt paying for workers' compensation insurance, payroll taxes, and overtime. It's a business model based on fraud and one that puts profit over workers while undercutting law-abiding contractors.

When we bid for a job, we have to invest our time, our people, and money to get it right. We have to understand the scope of the work we are being asked to do, plan for unforeseen obstacles, secure materials, and coordinate with different trades and sub-contractors to maximize efficiency. It's a real commitment before any work is won. Let me be clear, we have no problem competing when the playing field is fair. But it's a real problem for us and any Michigan-based business like ours when our competitors cheat to win.

Engaging in tax fraud allows willing contractors to undercut legitimate businesses by 20-, 30-, or even 40 percent. It's like playing in a football game and having to move the ball 20 yards downfield for every first down, when your opponent only has to go five. At a certain point, playing becomes an exercise in futility, and the game itself suffers. The same is true in construction.

Contractors that perpetuate the tax fraud model weaken the integrity of our very industry. They make it incredibly difficult for law-abiding contractors to survive. They depress wages for workers, forcing them to rely on the public safety net to make ends meet. They fuel labor trafficking and replace Michigan workers with exploited undocumented immigrants. And, they foster a culture in our industry that prioritizes corner-cutting and hollow promises over quality, efficiency, and safety. These are the outcomes that cost us all as taxpayers.

A 2023 report by The Century Foundation found that nearly 2.1 million U.S. construction workers are misclassified or paid off the books. In Michigan, it's reported that 16.7 percent of workers are misclassified, costing state taxpayers \$243.3 million, and over \$316 million in costs evaded by unscrupulous employers.

The impacts of tax fraud can be hard to see. They are obscured by layers of subcontractors and by fenced-in job sites, and they are buried across federal, state, and local budgets. Lost tax revenue and an increased reliance on social services attributable to tax fraud impact our schools, hospitals, public safety, and more. At the same time, tax fraud pushes good contractors and good workers out of our industry, union and non-union alike.

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary of business at Woods Construction, we value our customers, our workers, and our community. As a retail and commercial construction company, we believe Detroit and Michigan are made stronger by high-quality construction projects that support local businesses and workers.

As members of the Associated General Contractors of America - Michigan Chapter, we are committed to advancing a construction industry built on fairness, accountability, and opportunity for all. Because of that, we are proud to join our partners, the Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters, in their fight against tax fraud.

Tom Lutz

Secretary-Treasurer, Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters  
From the March 24 Detroit News Labor Voices column

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor.

By mail: Building Tradesman Editor,  
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216  
or, e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

### Millions for CEO mediocrity

By Jim Hightower

Most people believe the American economy is being rigged by and for bankers, CEOs, and other super-rich elites, because... well, because it is!

With their hired armies of lawmakers, lobbyists, lawyers, and the like, they fix the economic rules so even-more of society's money and power flows uphill to them. Take corporate CEOs. While the economy is somewhere between a downer and devastating for most people, the CEO class made out like bandits, with each of the three top paid corporate honchos pocketing as much as a billion dollars in personal pay!

Are they geniuses, or what? What. All three of their corporations ended with big financial losses and declining value. So how can such mediocrity produce such lavish rewards? Simple - rig the pay machine.

Today's corporate system of setting compensation for top executives is a flimflam disguised as a model of management rectitude. On its face, it sounds good - "Pay for performance," it's called, meaning the CEO does well if the company does well.

But who defines "doing well?" The scam at most major corporations is that the standard of corporate performance that the chief must meet to qualify for a huge payday is set by each corporation's board of directors.

Guess who they are? Commonly, board members are the CEO's handpicked brothers-in-law, golfing buddies, and corporate cronies. So, they set the bar for winning multimillion-dollar executive paychecks so low that a sack of concrete could jump over it.

This is Jim Hightower saying, well, can't corporate shareholders just vote no on any executive excess? Yes, but corporate rules decree that votes by shareholders are merely advisory, meaning top executives can ignore them, grab the money, and run. The system is fixed and we need to break it!

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## 'Healthy construction market' seen for state

(Continued from Page 1)

both in the renewable space to gas projects that are being contemplated across the state. And yes, to support this new (data) market that isn't going away.

"We're spending a lot of time upfront trying to assess the labor market, and I can tell you that it's a very fluid situation. One day it's \$40 billion worth of work going on in the state, the next week we're talking \$80 billion to \$100 billion coming up in the state. So it is as very fluid situation and one that we're very proactively trying to get ahead of, and revisiting often."

**Peffley:** The Board of Water and Light right here in Lansing is growing so fast we can't keep up. Ten years ago we were the largest public utility in the state and now we're one of the largest in the country. We've quadrupled our size. And looking out five years, it's pretty easy for us working with the local trades. We do \$100 million a year just in normal work, done by the local trades. So they're always on site, so we can rely on them every year. When we spike up every three to five years, when we build a new facility, we have three year's worth of notice there.

"We have those conversations early so it's not a shock. We've always had a ready supply of workers, we've never had an issue. Looking out, we will be building more facilities. It's AI driven, this is economic development that we want.

When I talk to the folks in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, they're laughing at us in Michigan. They're saying, everybody is building (data centers and related construction) down here, just keep telling them 'no.' We're not telling them no, we have the labor, we have the customers, the contractors, the workforce, we want to them to build in Michigan."

**What is your game plan for preparing for your workforce needs?**

**Peffley:** It's short. I call you (building trades unions). It all comes down to communication, two to three years in advance if that's what we're looking at.

**Faroh:** I think it's really important that this concept is tripartite, the owners, our union partners and the contractor. Fixing a worker shortage is a simple problem, but it's a pretty complex answer how we're going to get there. And the way that we're going to solve that problem is together."

**Haller:** "It's all about communication. But you have to be preventative with communication; the devil is in the details. So you have to get information on craft curves early, because that information is going to evolve."

"We're part of it. We worked with Related (Related Digital, developer of the \$7 billion data center) on the Saline Twp. job, for over a year as part of trying to get them to come to the State of Michigan. And convincing them the only solution was doing it with union crafts. We convinced them of that. You have a commitment too. Part of what we sell as union employers is skilled crafts, and we can provide the labor, we can get the work done."

"We know it's not all on you. But you have to work hard to achieve it. But I look at local unions and regional unions like this - you're on the battlefield. International unions exist to support you. International unions need to be part of that support for these mega-projects."

**How do you deal with owner expectations?**

**Haller:** Owners have to be realistic, but an employer has to be willing to tell an owner when it's unrealistic." (Haller cited an article that was making an exaggerated point by saying it takes three years to build a hyper data center in the U.S., but a hospital can be built in a weekend in China). "They can throw people-power at it like no one has ever seen before. But what employers are faced with, are owners who really think, 'hey why can't you do things that much faster?' You cost more. And I'll be honest with you, what are we competing with in the State of Michigan? They build these hyper-scale data centers in major non-signatory areas. And actually to the owner, it costs less, and they get it done just as fast."

"That's what we're competing with. We're willing to compete on that basis. But we realistically tell customers what it's going to take, you guys have become more innovative, I can't say enough about the Washtenaw Building Trades on the site of the



DELEGATES to the 64th Legislative Conference of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council listen to a speaker on March 24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lansing.

(Related Digital) Saline Twp. megaproject. When UA Local 190 and IBEW 252 asked to put a trailer on site to mitigate problems, to talk about a culture of excellence. They want to be on safety walks. They want to address issues. That's what impresses owners.

"When I told the owners that, they're from New York, it blew them away. They're not used to unions being cooperative. They're used to picket lines in Manhattan. You need to remem-

ber the commitments we need from you - help us get the crafts we need."

**Faroh:** Honesty and transparency with our owner community. Sometimes you have to tell the owner what they don't want to hear about unrealistic expectations. It's hard, it's difficult to do that but that transparency and honesty with our trade partners to solve the dilemmas of all these strict deadlines, all these end achievements in which the owner community is looking for honest, transparency, good

communication.

**Peffley:** As an end user, communication. The owner has to be reasonable. But as an owner, when you start a project, you need to have all those expectations worked out. Can you build in this time frame? Can you get the materials in this time frame? Everything is changing out there with supply chain issues, and when they run amuck, and it will, the owner has to sit down with the contractor and come up with a reasonable solution."

## Construction of big battery banks charging up with new state approvals

(Continued from Page 1)

electricity. Energy from renewable sources paired with energy storage is significantly cheaper than energy produced from coal or natural gas, reducing costs to customers."

The energy centers will allow DTE "to improve grid reliability and drive down costs for customers," the MPSC said. The agency did not put a price tag on the new facilities.

The contracts approved by the MPSC include:

- 450 MW Big Mitten Energy Center (Huron Co.)
- 350 MW Monroe I Energy Center (Monroe Co.)
- 200 MW Fermi Energy Center (Monroe Co.)
- 132 MW Fish Creek Energy

- Center (Montcalm Co.)
- 100 MW Cold Creek Energy Center (Branch Co.)
- 100 MW Pine River Energy Center (Griatiot Co.)

The first three of the above projects, the MPSC said, will provide a combined 1,000 MW of energy storage capacity to fulfill a settlement agreement in DTE Electric Co.'s most recent approved integrated resource plan. The settlement agreement identified at least a 850 MW need for energy storage projects to fulfill the utility's electric capacity requirements.

The final three contracts listed are energy storage projects owned and operated by DTE that will serve the 1,383 MW data center being developed by

Oracle's Green Chile Ventures LLC in Washtenaw County's Saline Twp.).

Under state terms of the approval of the massive Saline Twp. data center, Green Chile Ventures will bear the costs over a 15-year period to develop the energy storage for the project. The MPSC said this is the first 332 MW of 1,383 MW of company-owned energy storage facilities that Green Chile Ventures must foot the bill to develop to match the massive data center's contracted demand.

"What we call 'progress' is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance."

-Havelock Ellis (1859 - 1939)

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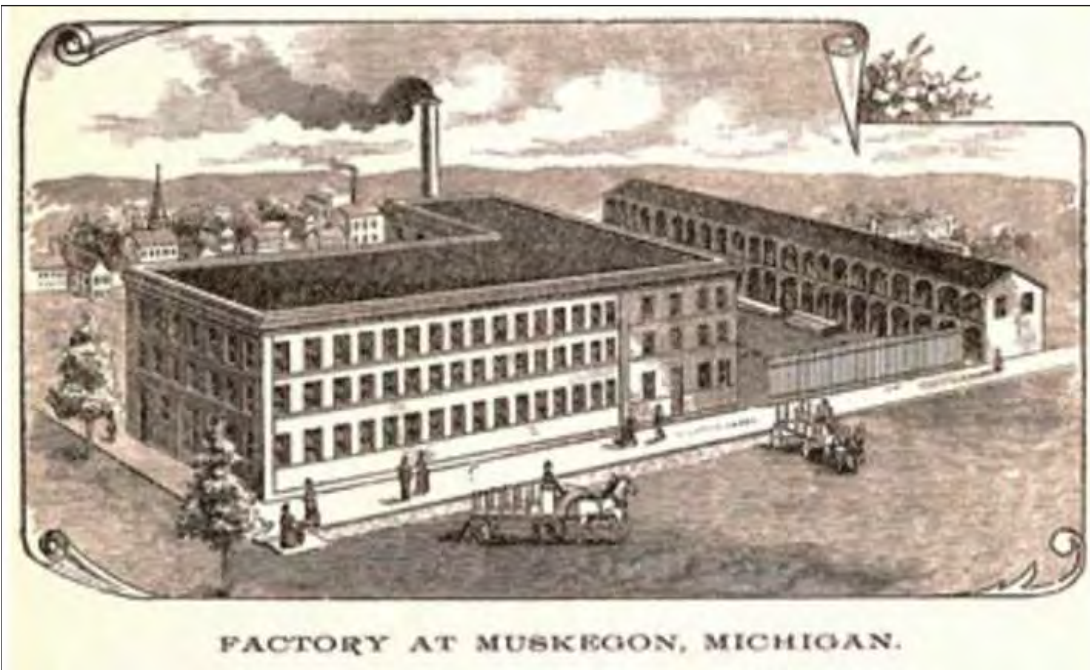


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# BUILDING MICHIGAN! Plumbing and 'plumbing' HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



FACTORY AT MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN.

LOCATED ALONG Irwin Avenue in Muskegon, the "Heap's Patent Earth Closet Co." plant operated at the site from 1886-1908, after which it was enticed to move to Grand Haven. The wood-working company was founded by William Heap (1852-1929). Originally a manufacturer of piano stools, Heap's greater notoriety came from his company's take on indoor "plumbing" – offering a wood and porcelain "earth closet" that ignored the coming revolution of water- and pipe-based indoor plumbing and instead was only a slight upgrade to the centuries-old chamber pot.

Since it became a state in 1837, Michigan has hardly been a hotbed of indoor plumbing innovation – but it wasn't for lack of effort. Here are some industry hits and misses.

BY 1885, INDOOR PLUMBING in Michigan wasn't exactly a novelty, but it was still installed in only 1-2 percent of American homes. As it was for centuries prior, the chamber pot and outhouse at the time were still overwhelmingly the default locations for humans to relieve themselves. But that doesn't mean there wasn't a company looking to improve on those backyard wooden structures covering a hole in the ground.

So, we introduce you to Heap's Patent Earth Closet Co. of Muskegon, which wasn't exactly a plumbing company, since its system of dealing with waste involved an "earth closet" rather than a "water closet." The good people at Heap's felt they had a better idea for humans to do their business indoors, but it was essentially only a minor improvement on the chamber pot.

"In the late 19th Century," wrote Laura Bien for the *Ann Arbor Chronicle*, "two University of Michigan professors of medicine and an Ypsilanti doctor championed a new sanitation technology. Despite their efforts spanning nearly 20 years, the earth closet turned out to be arguably the least enthusiastically adopted invention 1893 ADVERTISEMENT for William Heap's earth closet, which had a simple mechanical system for covering poop with soil to reduce smells until the pot could be emptied outside. A porcelain pot provided a receptacle for urine.

tion in Michigan history.

"It was an era of primitive indoor toilets connected to odoriferous privy vaults – if you were lucky. Even elegant urban houses had backyard outhouses – such as Ann Arbor's historic Kempf House.

"Patented in England in 1873 by Henry Moule, the earth closet resembled a wooden box with a rear metal hopper. The hopper was filled with clean, dry dirt. After using this commode, the user turned a small handle that dropped a small portion of dirt into the pail, covering its contents and rendering them allegedly odor-free. In time, the pail was removed and emptied, often on one's garden.

"Lower-tech earth closets without a hopper had a nearby bucket of dirt on the floor. It was a 19th-Century composting toilet."

At a statewide "Sanitary Convention" held on July 1, 1885, Ypsilanti doctor Ruth French opened the proceedings

with her talk on the "Management of Earth Closets."

U-M professor of medicine Alonzo Palmer had suggested that the routine maintenance of earth closets "is no more disagreeable than that of a stove."

"Possibly inspired in part by the Sanitary Convention's publicity of the subject, in the same year William Heap and two colleagues established Michigan's first (and last) earth closet factory," said the *Ann Arbor Chronicle* article. "Heap's Muskegon firm manufactured earth closets and piano stools."

The company advertised its earth closets until at least 1893, but ceased making them before the new century. Heap shifted to making flush toilets, later giving the business to his son.

Other Michiganders were tinkering with the devices. At least four earth-closet-related patents were filed by inventors in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Carson City, and Centreville between 1871 and 1895.

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HEAP'S PATENT EARTH CLOSET CO., Muskegon, Mich.

INDOOR PLUMBING – The first house in the U.S. with indoor plumbing is generally attributed to the Owens-Thompson House in Savannah, Ga, which was built between 1816-19 with a design that included running water, cisterns, multiple sinks, and flushing toilets (water closets) on two floors. Gutters on the roof collected rain, and the water was moved through a series of cisterns that were located throughout the house, feeding the water closets, multiple sinks, three bathtubs, and at least one shower.

The domestic plumbing concept flowed in a trickle in the ensuing decades throughout the U.S. Not until 1833 were the first iron plumbing pipes



SIMPLY LIGHT A MATCH, and your natural gas or gas-oil-fueled Kalamazoo-made 1901 model Humphrey Crescent No. 9 water heater will deliver hot water to your sink or tub in 10 minutes. Nope, can't foresee any potential deadly accidents with this setup.

installed in the White House, to bring in water for drinking and fire protection. A permanent hot and cold water system was installed later, by 1853, with the first flushing toilets appearing around the same time.

It's not clear when the first indoor plumbing systems were installed residentially in Michigan, but among the first, was the Southwest Professors' House at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. It was completed in 1852, first housing university President Henry P. Tappan and his wife Julia. Its indoor plumbing wasn't installed until 1871.

"It was the first home in Ann Arbor to have indoor plumbing – a requirement of Sarah Angell before her husband, James B. Angell, accepted the presidency in 1871," says a history provided by the U of M. As he negotiated with uni-

versity leaders on whether to accept the presidency, Angell wrote on Oct. 4, 1869: "It has occurred to me that I ought to ask you a little more definitely what you think could be done to the house. It seems to me to need absolutely, paper and paint, bath room with hot and cold water, water closet, and some arrangement for a dining room closet, and a furnace.

"My family has never lived in a house without the above-named conveniences, which the house lacks, and composed as it is of persons from very advanced age to infancy, I should not feel willing to ask them to dispense with them, unless there were an absolute necessity."

He added, helpfully: "The attic would hold a tank which could be filled from the roof." The university fathers agreed to Angell's building modification requests.



THE OLDEST BUILDING on the University of Michigan campus is Southwest Professors' House, completed in 1852. Still standing, it is the first home in Ann Arbor, and likely one of the first in the state, to have indoor plumbing installed. The work was done in 1871.



## Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT– ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED: Our next regular membership meeting will be April 27, 2026, 5:30pm at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on April 20, 2026, at 5pm at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Attention All Members, Upcoming meetings: April 27th – General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.

April 27th - following General Membership meeting – Veterans Assistant Program Committee Meeting.

April 20th – 5 pm – Executive Board meeting.

April 20th – 5 pm – The last Resolution Committee meeting.

I want to take a moment to recognize Brother Clark Gaither for his 50 years in the trade from April 1, 1976 to April 1, 2026, congratulations brother, that is quite an accomplishment!

Save the date: The Local 36 Annual Picnic will be July 25, 2026 at St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Picnic Grounds, located at 11541 21 Mile Road, Shelby, Mi. 48315. More Details with follow as the date nears. Please contact Jon Bujan (586)787-1114 if you would like to volunteer.

Save the date: The Kyle Owsley Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026 @ Links of Novi 50395 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48374. More details will be available soon.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com or Ricky Azzopardi (Local

36 Co-Chair) (586)719-7465 or email him at rickypardi@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

Local 36's website is up and running, this is still a work in progress, and we would appreciate any feedback to improve the site to work for our members and retirees. Visit www.iueclocal36detroit.org. Please be patient as we continue to improve the site. If you have any questions, contact the hall.

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you MUST report those jobs to the hall! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it MUST be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. When starting a new job please use the website job reporting at www.iueclocal36detroit.org/job-reporting. This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

If you move or your address changes, call the hall and make sure you fill out the address change form on the NEIBP website. Mail a copy to the fund office and one to the hall.

If you are going to be off with an injury (work related or non-work related), surgery or illness for a prolonged length of time, call the fund office (800)523-4702 and inform the hall. When you are off and go back to work. The weekly Income Benefit through the international has increased to \$715 weekly after the one (1) week waiting period.

The IUEC would like all active members and Probationary Apprentices to sign up for Safety alerts. The only thing you will receive are safety alerts, nothing political, just safety alerts. Text (855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.

If you are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, pre-drilled holes on machines/beams, door equipment already installed, or any other violation, take pictures and send them to the hall via email or text with the address of the job.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting January 1, 2023, and each

calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.

Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) who do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.

Attention All Apprentices, if you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJTs till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJTs, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your NEIEP emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9th day of the following month. There is NO excuse for these to be late!

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

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

If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list. We would like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it."  
– Margaret Fuller (1810 - 1850)

"I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up - they have no holidays."  
–Henny Youngman (1906 - 1998)

"Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education, and like most great things, you must cultivate a taste for them."  
–Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)

A guy goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, my butt hurts. Can you examine me?"

The doctor tells him to drop his pants and he takes a look. "Well," the doctor says, "I think I see the problem. There is a \$20 bill lodged up here."

The doctor eases the

### Just joking

twenty out of the man's bottom, only to see a \$10 bill appear, and he removes that. "Not sure what's going on, but there looks like a lot more up here!" the incredulous doctor says.

"Yup, there's more where that came from!" says man.

So the doctor pulls out more \$20 bills and a bunch of \$100 bills, one after another.

Finally the last bill comes out.

"Ah doctor, thank you kindly. That's much better. How much is there, anyway?"

The doctor removes his rubber gloves and says, "my work here is done. Why don't you count it?"

The man counts the bills and reports, "\$1,990. That makes sense. There was a lot of money up there, but I wasn't feeling two grand."

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## Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083. Use the Banquet Entrance. **This meeting is extremely important for all to attend as Union Officer Election nominations will be taking place. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. sharp. All members are encouraged to attend.** The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

**NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS:** Per Article 12 Section 5 of the Constitution and Ritual of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, this is to serve as timely notice that nominations for Local 292 Union officers will be held May 13, 2026, - at the Regular Membership Meeting Troy Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The term of office will run from the Regular Membership Meeting, July 8, 2026, to the first Regular Membership Meeting in July 2029. Candidates may nominate themselves at the nominations meeting or can be nominated by any member in good standing. A second is not necessary. Any member who is nominated for a Local 292 office and who is not present at the nominations meeting shall be dropped from the list of nominees unless within five days after such nominations (close of office at 4:00 pm on May 20, 2026) he or she notifies the Recording Secretary in writing addressed to Local 292's office (64 Park St. Troy MI 48083), or hand delivered, of his or her willingness to run for such office.

Members who are nominated for a Local 292 office, must comply with the eligibility requirements as described in the SMART Constitution and Ritual. If you do not have a copy of the Constitution, please request a mailed copy or visit our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), the Constitution is posted there as well.

**To be eligible for nominations to Local Union office on May 13, 2026, dues for the month of May must be paid in advance, that is, on or before April 30, 2026.**

To be eligible for election on June 26, 2026, dues for the month of June must be paid in advance, that is, on or before May 29, 2026. All nominees will have an opportunity to address the membership at the General Membership Meeting on June 10, 2026

Please take time to participate in this important process. Elections will be held on June 26, 2026, from 12 (noon) – 8:00 pm at The Apprenticeship School, 64 Park St, Troy MI 48083. A dues receipt is required to vote.

**RETIRES NOTICE:** The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 6/4/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. Please get in touch with the union hall via our website [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

**LOCAL 292 ANNUITY/WAGE DEFERRAL:** Beginning 1/1/26 the Annuity Fund will offer both pre-tax 403 (B) and Roth 403 (B) contribution options. Check your mail for flyers from Local 292 & John Hancock explaining the new option.

**ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS:** You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit [johnhancock.com/myplan](http://johnhancock.com/myplan) and click "register now." Be sure to choose a strong password. Keep your password safe and change it regularly. To establish your PIN by phone, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

**Important Notice: Pension Benefit Payments Transitioning to Prudential Effective 8/1/25.**

Pension benefit payments will now come from Prudential, starting with the transfer. Retirees will begin receiving monthly pension payments directly from Prudential Insurance. If your medical insurance premium was being automatically deducted from your pension, this will continue under Prudential. No action is needed. **Advantages of the Pension Risk Transfer:** Greater Long-Term Security. The pension plan is being transferred to Prudential, a highly reputable and financially stable insurance company. Prudential specializes in managing long-term annuity payments, ensuring that retirees receive dependable monthly payments for life. Prudential's sole focus is managing and delivering retirement income. This transfer places retirees' pension under expert stewardship and reduces financial risk to the Union. The amount of your monthly benefit with not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

**MEMBER ASSISTANCE: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance. UNION EAP.** Union EAP provides professional guidance for mental health, substance abuse recovery, and complex healthcare navigation for all active participants of the Health Plan. Beyond wellness, they offer expert assistance with legal consultations and financial planning to ensure you have the support you need for every part of your life, all completely confidential. Available 24/7, 365 days a year. 1-855-500-1915.

**SMOIH HELPLINE:** Call 877-884-6227/ Available 24/7. For SMART 292 Members and their families experiencing an immediate crisis or who need a helpful ear.

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

**SMART 292 APP:** Our new Local 292 App is now live. It is available to all dues-paying members. Download is available through your App Store. Search SMART Local 292. There will be a short waiting period for the verification process.

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

**SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS:** To access your MUST account, please go to [www.mustonline.org](http://www.mustonline.org) or access it through the "links" tab at [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com). If you haven't already done so, you must create an account to access your information. If you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

**DUES:** Membership dues must be paid in advance of the month for which they are due. The union hall is not open on Saturday or Sunday; therefore, if you pay dues on either of those days, it will not be processed until Monday. If you are on suspension warning, your dues are 60 days late. To avoid suspension, dues must be paid online or at the union hall by 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month. Payments received after 4:00 p.m. on the last business day of the month will not be processed and you WILL go suspended. All members are responsible for making sure any required fees, i.e. late fees or service fees, are included if paid online ([sheetmetal292.com](http://sheetmetal292.com)).

**ADDRESS UPDATES:** If you move, please contact the union hall to update your address.

**CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL:** The new Constitution and Ritual of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to [www.sheetmetal292.com](http://www.sheetmetal292.com), click on the Constitution/Ritual tab.

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

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

(Continued next column)



## Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be June 11, 2026, at 6 p.m.

- \*Zone 1 May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 2 May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 3 May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- \*Zone 3 June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- \*Zone 4 May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

\*Zone 5 June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.



SAM FULLER

Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16 Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information.

Please register on our website at [www.sheetmetal7.org](http://www.sheetmetal7.org) for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. Once you are registered it must

be approved to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

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

**Zone 1 Info:** Work in the Zone 1 area has started picking up recently and looks to remain strong throughout the year. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric and Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with Unemployment, ESTA, Insurance, or Pensions, please contact Eric or Vance for assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in any upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Zone 1 Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested).

**Monthly Retiree meeting:** 2nd Tuesday of each month 1:00 pm located at Sarah's Place 1100 Page Ave, Jackson MI 49203.

**In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders.**

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 remains the same but is looking to be picking up some steam as we get further into spring. As a reminder always keep me informed of any address or phone number changes, so we can keep them updated with the Lansing Hall and TIC Midwest. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is May 19th, 6:00 pm at the VFW. I hope to see you there. **Work Safe and Thank You, Your Brother, Mike Adams**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** Work in our area should be picking up soon. Dues are due the first of every month please make sure you are current. Please make sure you update your contact information with the Lansing office and Benesys if you moved or have a new phone number.

Meetings  
May 13<sup>th</sup> Zone 3 meeting at the Freeland hall  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> Retiree meeting is at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd  
–In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City)** Our next regular meeting is June 4th at 6pm. Work outlook for our area is steady and will be very busy with school work starting soon. With work being excessive, we still need to take the time to teach the apprentices. If there is anyone having any issues, contact me. Make sure you don't forget to schedule your physicals (one year and one day after your last). Please help support the nurses at Munson as they are working without a contract right now and good luck on the upcoming trout opener! **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

**ZONE 4 Info:** Well, spring is upon us and summer is coming up. Looks like it's going to be a busy year and we are looking forward to it. Don't forget about the Local 7 golf outing on Sept 12 at Briar Ridge golf course in Montrose, Michigan. Don't forget if you want to do upgrades, please contact the training center and ask about available dates. **Thanks your brother Scott Brotherton.**

**ZONE 5 Info:** Work in the UP should start to pick up in the next month. Don't forget to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at [www.upconstruction.org](http://www.upconstruction.org). If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. Please watch your mail as the wage allocation meeting mailer should be going out soon. It will be May 16th at 10 am at the hall in Gwinn. Reminder: 2026 union meetings at the hall in Gwinn have been changed to Saturdays at 10:00 am. The next retirees breakfast will be May 13th at The Summer Place in Republic at 10 am. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Local 7 Officers:**  
**Samual Fuller** (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) 517-882-4064

**Eric Farrington** (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) 517-242-3223  
**Vance Saunders** (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) 269-569-9200  
**Mike Adams** (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) 616-299-3752  
**Joe Dotson** (Agent-Saginaw) 989-225-0095  
**John Amalfitano** (Agent-Traverse City) 231-590-1112  
**Scott Brotherton** (Agent-Flint) 810-836-3552  
**Brandon Langenfeld** (Agent-Upper Peninsula) 906-372-9288

## Local 292 continued

p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on, April 25, May 9, May 16, and May 30.

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

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



## Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

### Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield.



JASON GRUNENWALD

**UNION HALL REGULAR HOURS** Monday through Friday 7:30 - 4:00, unless otherwise indicated.

**RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE:** 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> (annual party) & December 21<sup>st</sup>. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the local 80 retirees' association.

They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

**BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL:** Lashone will be in Monday - Thursday from 9-4pm. To schedule an appointment, please 248-813-9800 ext. 3250

**THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE:** *Michael Anderson, Brandon Ivey, Gregory DeBlauwe, Robert Abramczyk, Jackson Gray, Katherine Kuczynski, Brien Grim, Scott Thompson, Corey Lynch, Adam Kelley, Michael Dostilio, Jeffery Hellings, Michael Mallett, Michael Pilon, Tim Durocher, Michael Dows, Steven Mathys, William Nelson, Nicholas Mohr, Alan Dickson, Jared Miller, Tim Hocker, Frank Prestigiacomo, Martin Freiman, Sean Stenzel, Todd Gosney, Anthony Pichette, Shaun Barbarich, Chazz Castelluzzo, Cameron Schaffer, Anthony Caleca, James Chmielewski, Garry Sanchez and Frank Livingston.*

**RETIREMENT CLASS:** Saturday May 2, 2026 at 9am we will be hosting a FREE retirement education class with Benesys and Graystone Consulting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions about your retirement plans. Please call the hall to RSVP 248-557-7575. Spouses are welcome.

**BIRTH CELEBRATIONS:** Apprentice member Thomas Domanski and his wife are celebrating the birth of their baby boy, Richard, who was born on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:52 am. He was born 9 lbs 10.5 oz and 22 in long. Congratulations from Local 80!

**CONDOLENCES:** Our condolences go out to the family of Adam Smith. Adam had recently turned out from the apprenticeship program and passed away unexpectedly March 29, 2026 at age 24.

**GOLF OUTING: Tickets are now available & are selling fast!** Please join us on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Twp. Tickets can be reserved at a cost of \$125 a ticket. Your ticket will include coffee, donuts, a bloody mary bar, lunch at the turn, open bar until 1 hour after golf, beer & pop available on the course and a wonderful steak dinner. Please contact the hall with any questions you may have or to reserve your ticket! \*Payment must be received to lock in your ticket, there is no holding tickets without payment.\*

**DUES PAYMENTS: are due prior to the 1st of the month.** Books close at the end of business day on the last day of the month. Payments made on the 1st will be considered late. No exceptions - once the books are closed, they cannot be reopened. To help you stay on track, you will receive a text reminder before the end of the month. If you're not receiving these reminders, please contact the hall.

**WORKING IN OTHER LOCALS:** Please remember that if you are working in a jurisdiction outside of Local 80 you must call their union hall and check in as a traveler. It is the member's responsibility to do this, not the contractor's! If you have any questions please reach out to an agent.

**BENEFICIARY REMINDER:** Please ensure that you have designated or updated your beneficiary choices for all Local 80 and International Association benefits.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** If you have a new address please make sure to let the hall know. We will take care of your account with the union hall, which includes the Tradesman paper. You will also need to call Benesys at 800-400-7710 to update for insurance and pension documents.

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

**WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS:** must be reported by the steward by 3pm on Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to [staff@smw80.org](mailto:staff@smw80.org)

**LAY-OFFS:** All members must report to the Union Hall immediately upon lay-off. You must be on the out-of-work list to collect S.U.B. or SASMI benefits. It is the contractor's responsibility to issue a termination slip in accordance with our contract.

**OUT-OF-WORK LIST:** Members must re-register bi-annually: March 1 through March 20 and September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

**SUB Application Deadlines and Requirements:**  
**Submit your SUB application within 7 days of your layoff** to avoid forfeiting benefits.

**Layoff slips** must accompany your application to qualify for SUB benefits.

**Send proof of UIA benefit payments within 21 days** of the payment date to receive SUB benefits.

Send your unemployment proof to [smw80subfund@gmail.com](mailto:smw80subfund@gmail.com) or fax it to 248-557-0297. To ensure payment by Friday, proof due by **2:00 PM on Tuesdays.**

**Important:** Do not submit your UIA proof directly to the fund office. For questions, call the hall at 248-557-7575.

**SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY:** If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff.

To apply: Complete the SUB application at the hall. Provide a pay stub for the week. The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

**MEMBERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you're facing challenges in your family, relationships, or dealing with stress, emotional difficulties, grief, or substance use, please reach out to our Assistance Program Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or visit [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com). Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

**NOTARY:** We have a notary public available at the hall at no charge.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Golf Outing – July 11; Picnic – Aug. 1;

**Training Center News.**  
**Apprenticeship Entrance Exam.**

The Entrance Exam for the next **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Building Trades Apprenticeship** class is scheduled for Wednesday July 22, 2026. The deadline to apply is July 17, 2026. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by October 5, 2026. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.



**Local 190**

**Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters,  
Service Technicians,  
Gas Distribution**

UA Local 190

**ANN ARBOR – THE NEXT UNION MEETING:** is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

**UNION HALL CLOSING FOR AN UP-COMING HOLIDAY:** Our office will be closed at Noon on Friday, May 22 and all-day Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. Our thanks to those who serve. As we celebrate our liberty and freedoms, we remember and support those who protect them.

**OHIO GAS MEMBERS – WAGE ALLOCATION:** A “Special Called Meeting” for the Ohio Gas Distribution Wage Allocation effective June 1, has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2d, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meeting will take place at Local 190’s Ohio Training Ctr., 2064 Industrial Ct., Covington, OH 45318.

**LOCAL 190 SCHOLARSHIPS:** are now available at the union hall for distribution to members and their families. There are two scholarships available. One from Local 190, due back no later than June 26, emailed applications will NOT be accepted, please mail or return to the union hall. The UA scholarship is now available at the union hall for distribution. This application must be postmarked no later than June 11<sup>th</sup> and mailed to the UA Office in Annapolis, MD.

**PAY UNION DUES ONLINE:** Members can now pay your union dues online. <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security number; temporary password is the last four digits of your social security number. There is a 3% fee charged. Feel free to call the hall for a QR CODE.

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

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

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Please contact the union hall 734-424-0962 to make sure we have a current e-mail address.

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

**INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** ANNUAL physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2026. Please remember to bring in the 2026 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus [bmaus@ua190.org](mailto:bmaus@ua190.org). This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org, go to documents, health care, 2026 annual physical verification form (towards the bottom of the page)

**NEW BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD APP FOR YOUR SMART DEVICE:** Attention all members you can download the free Blue Cross Blue Shield APP on your smart device. This will allow you to see a copy of your BCBS card, review your claims, explanation benefits and much more. **Download: BCBSM Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Monday’s and Wednesday’s on Local 190’s office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.**

(Bernadette’s office entrance door is in the back of our building and is marked “Bernadette Maus – Benefits Manager”)

**MEDICARE:** When you become eligible for Medicare,

please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

UA Local 190 will be hosting the 2026 Michigan Pipe Trades State Apprenticeship Competition this year from April 22-24 at the Greater Michigan UA Local 190 Training Center. Anyone who is available to volunteer is encouraged to contact the Training Center; retirees are especially welcome to help out!

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We will be closed for lunch from Noon to 1pm. Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online.

The Training Center will no longer accept cash payments; we will accept checks or credit card payments only. We are following CDC, OSHA, MiOSHA, MD-HHS, and Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines.

**Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email:** [kristyn@190jtc.com](mailto:kristyn@190jtc.com) or mail to **8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103**

**Available Journeyman classes:**

**Lead/Asbestos/Blood-borne Pathogens Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org) 2026 **Schedule - Mondays – April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28.** Each class will start at 5:00 pm.

**First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs):** Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org) 2026 **Schedule - Mondays – April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

**Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs):** This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the basic fundamentals of SMAW (Stick), and GTAW (TIG) welding. This course will cover welding procedures (WPS), UA certifications (UA-21, UA-22, UA-41), basic metallurgy, weld process selection, machine setup, welding symbols, welding positions, welding electrodes and consumables, weld preparation, shielding gasses, and welder safety. Participants will receive training on the Lincoln Virtual welding machine (VR), before heading into the welding lab. **Call the Training Center to secure your spot, dates to be announced later.**

**Welding Lab:** Welding lab is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm. The open welding lab will run until **May 22**, closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Saturdays will only remain open with member participation. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

**ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept 8**. Courses run on **Tuesdays and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org) **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

**ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs):** ASSE PRICE INCREASE ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **May 5**. The third course starts **Oct 13**. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org) **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

**Med Gas Installer and Brazing Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2026 Schedule:** The second course starts **Sept. 1**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, **(Continued next column)**



**Local 370**

**Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service**

UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 12, 2026** and is designated a **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of wage allocation.

**Retiree Breakfast** will be on Monday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 am. (Notice not the day before meeting)

**The Ulliance Member Assistance Program** is now available to all members and retirees as of March 1st. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to [lifeadvisor.com](http://lifeadvisor.com) or call 800-448-8326.

**Upcoming Night Class Schedule:**

**April Welding** April 7<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

**STAR HVACR Prep Class** May 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. (Test on May 14<sup>th</sup>) Submit application to training dept. by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 Ext 15 or at [training@ualocal370.org](http://training@ualocal370.org)

**2021 Plumbing Code Books** now available. Cost is \$85. Check, money order or Credit Card.

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, The Building Tradesman is

## Local 190, con’t

Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**Med Gas Installer Update (8hrs):** This is a two-day course.

**2026 Schedule:** First course starts **April 28**, Second course starts **Oct. 6**. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs):** This is a four-day course. **2026 schedule:** course to be announced later.

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs):** This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2026**. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs):** This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Please register through the website: [ua190.org](http://ua190.org)

**Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.):** Journeyman members who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

**CONDOLANCES:** Our lifetime member Richard McDonald passed away April 3. Richard initiated Oct. 25, 1971, retired Jan. 1, 2008 and became a lifetime member Oct. 25, 2021. To all family members and friends our thoughts are with all of you in this time of sorrow. May all of you find comfort in loving memories.

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 7 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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

hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of Local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

**Committee and Board meetings are as follows:**

Examining Board – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 4:00pm  
FMR Committee – Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 4:00pm  
PAC committee – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00pm  
Executive Board – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00pm  
Finance Committee – Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:15pm  
JATC Committee – TBD

**ALL GM Worksites and others require Must Safety and Drug Testing:** MUST safety modules are only valid for 4 years. Call the hall to sign up for the MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.  
Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

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

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

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

**Our web site is up and running.** Check it out at [ualocal370.org](http://ualocal370.org)

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

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

Members wishing to take the U.A. welding certification test can contact the Training Center for application and testing dates.

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

If you shop on the internet, SHOP UNION MADE, log on to [www.shopunionmade.com](http://www.shopunionmade.com).

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

*“Roam abroad in the world, and take thy fill of its enjoyments before the day shall come when thou must quit it for good.”*

–Saadi (1184 - 1291)

*“The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.”*

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)



**Local 671**

UA Local 671

MONROE – The next union meeting will be held on May 21, 2026, at 7pm. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on May 21 at 5pm. If anyone would like to come in front of the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

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

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

**There will be a Special Order of Business** at the April 16 Union Meeting to allocate our \$1.80/hour raise. The next article will give you the breakdown on how the raise was allocated or contact the Union Hall for the new wage package.

**Scholarship:** Local 671 Scholarship and Benevolence Fund will be awarding scholarships this year. If selected (1) scholarship will be awarded to a qualified dependent, grandchild or spouse of a Local 671 Member in good standing. The applicants must be a 2026 graduating senior or currently enrolled as a full-time student at a college or a qualified post-secondary school.

The Local 671 Scholarship is now available. You can get applications at the Union Hall, or we can email one to you directly. If you have questions on eligibility or requirements, please contact us at the Union Hall. All applications must be turned in to the Union Hall by May 15 by close of business.

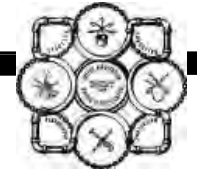
**The next Retiree Luncheon:** will be Thursday April 30 at noon at the Union Hall. All luncheons are the last Thursday of the month. I hope to see you there.

**Local 671 App:** To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Mike at the Union Hall.

**In Closing:** I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Easter Sunday. There is nothing more important than spending time with your family and loved ones during the holidays. Please never pass up the opportunity to show your family how much they mean to you, because you mean the world to them. Stay safe and use good safety practices during work and at home. Mike Jewell: email: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)

Kirk Lavoy: email: [kirk@ualocal671.com](mailto:kirk@ualocal671.com)

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



**Local 357**

**Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters &  
HVAC Service**

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00 (note new time).

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

**RETIREE MEETING:** Retiree lunch meetings will now be BREAKFAST on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone no. for the location is (269) 337-9800.

**CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change.

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

**CONDOLANCES:** Condolences to Theodore Field and the rest of his family on the recent passing of his wife, Virginia. Condolences to the family of retired member, David Kabbe, who passed away recently.

*“The beginning is always today.”*

–Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851)

## 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](http://www.ssdfighter.com)



UA Local 85

SAGINAW—The next Union Meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge, at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738.

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

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

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

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@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 No. If you have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin, (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

**JATC News:** Congratulations to our newest Journeyman Cameron Sherrick, Corbin Vanderlip and Troy Dues!

Work continues to be very busy, please keep a close eye on the website for upcoming classes. We need to continue to be trained and certified for many of these upcoming projects. If there is a specific class you need, please reach out to Training Coordinator Robert Mead at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

**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, (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 CHECKSTUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated. We will fax them down to BeneSys to keep your insurance up to date.

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will

(Continued next column)



UA Local 98

DETROIT - Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

Spring is here. Time for new beginnings, new opportunities.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:** There will be a special order of business starting at 6:00pm Thursday, May 14, 2026 immediately before our regular monthly meeting. At this meeting we will discuss and vote on allocations. Allocations may include wages, fringes, dues etc.

**Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:00pm.**

**The next board meeting is Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 4:30pm** prior to the regular monthly meeting. The Executive Board meetings are generally held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

**June 2026 Meeting Date Change: Please note the regular scheduled monthly meeting for June will be on THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 at 6:00pm.**

**Journeyman License Renewal:** Remember to renew your plumbing license by April 30th with the State of Michigan. The website is michigan.gov/lara and follow the steps to renew your license.

**Marathon Health:** Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Heights & Novi) are now open. For more information, please see their website at my.marathon.health or call 866-434-3255. Contact an officer with any questions.

**Retiree Dental:** We are proud to announce we've been able to add dental coverage for our retirees. Watch your mail in the upcoming weeks for more information.

**Retiree Luncheon:** The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at Noon.** Looking forward to seeing many of our retirees! Any questions, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

**Adopt-A-Highway:** The spring Plumbers 98/Mike Kalso Memorial Clean-Up was a success this past Saturday, April 11th. We had great participation and weather. "In union, there is strength."

Our volunteers collected over 125 bags of litter along East and West I-94 on the Roseville/St. Clair Shores border. Thank you to the following members who took time out of their schedules to make our event a success: Liam Bunte, Jimmy Cools, Alaister Corey, Andrew Crosby, Mike Economeas, Terry Fawk, Luke Garcia, Paul Gentner, Richard Gladwin, Tom Hamann, Rufus Hamilton, Jeff Kavalal, Kyle McCabe, Braeden Pittman, Paul Smith, Kortez Turner and Grant Wilcox.

**Construction Hike For Hope:** Local 98 participated in the first annual Metro Detroit Hike for Hope for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention at Belle Isle State Park on Sunday, April 12th. Hike for Hope raises mental health awareness in our communities. On behalf of Local 98, we raised over \$1200. We would also like to acknowledge and thank our members who participated: Preston Anderson, Liam Bunte, Andrew Crosby, Rory Flynn, Luke Garcia, Haily Jent, Jeff Kavalal, and Paul Smith. Special thank you to Samantha Moler from the MCA who also joined us with her family.

**Attention 98 Hockey Players:** The Local 98 Hockey team will be playing in the Hamilton, Ontario Canada Tournament May 1-3, 2026. Any Local 98 member interested in playing on the 98 Hockey Team, please contact FST Dan Nixon.

**Annual Summer Picnic** will be **Saturday, June 20, 2026** at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Boardwalk Picnic Shelter. Watch our website and social media pages for more information in the weeks to come!

**The Ulliance Member Assistance Program** is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents

## Local 85, con't

be held on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026** at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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

## Plumbers Local 98



through the age of 26. This benefit has no out-of-pocket costs and includes confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters, a discount program for goods and services, and free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

**Pipe Up** is the official podcast of the UA General President. The program offers monthly stories, skills and a look into the lives of our membership. Access the podcast at ua.org/pipeup.

**In Memoriam:** Let us remember our family, friends, brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Donald Priest, was a 31-year member and initiated on 5-5-1994; Brother John Hnatowich, was a 35-year member and initiated on 1-25-1990; Brother Verland "Don" Williams, was a 67-year member and was initiated on 4-10-1958; Brother Paul Cuchetti, was a 47-year member and was initiated on 3-8-1979; and Brother Richard Baranski, was a 75-year member and was initiated on 2-16-1950.

**Membership Dues Reminder:** Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues to avoid suspension fees and/or being expelled. If you have not paid your second quarter dues yet, please pay them as soon as possible to avoid interruption to your benefits.

**Expelled Members:** We currently have two expelled members as of April 1, 2026, Ian McCullough and Alex Uhlig.

**SUB Apps/Out of Work List.** SUB You have 48 hours to report being out of work and to fill out a SUB App whether you qualify for SUB or not. It is your responsibility to check your location on the Out of Work List. We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to: sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3:00pm to ensure ample time to process the payments. Make sure your contact information is up to date, as well as MUST and other certifications. If you have any problems with state agencies involving unemployment, or questions on MUST models and staying current, please contact Rufus Hamilton.

**Benefits.** We have dedicated BeneSys employees at the Union Hall to help with the following issues: Health Insurance, HRA, SUB, Short Term Disability, Eligibility, and Claims. In order for them to best track all issues **PLEASE CALL BENESYS at (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.** If they are on the other line, please leave a message and they will get back to you promptly.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call us. Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

Additional information can be found at www.ualocal98.org, Facebook and Instagram.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

Gary Glaser, Business Manager (313) 580-0148 gglaser98@ualocal98.org

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 dnixon98@ualocal98.org

Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 rhamilton98@ualocal98.org

Jim Cools, Business Agent (248)762-9221 jcools@ualocal98.org

Paul Smith, Business Agent (313)938-2477 psmith@ualocal98.org

Jeff Kavalal, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalal@ualocal98.org

Luke Garcia, Organizer (248) 763-2187 lgarcia@uanet.org

**In solidarity, Gary Glaser, Business Manager Plumbers Local 98!** Protecting the health of Metro Detroit since 1893.

**TRAINING CENTER NEWS: Phone # 248-585-1435** www.Plumbers98tc.org

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10th, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal busi-

ness 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

**Monthly Code Class** – Next class is April 22nd, at 4:30 pm. This is not a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul Baker** at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 to register.

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for May 5th, 2026, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday April 22nd, and Wednesday April 29th. Call the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

**CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN FALL 2026.** All classes are register and pre-pay by check or money order only.

**All Fall classes will begin the week of September 14th, with a deadline to register by August 28th.**

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

**4 hour recert class July 21 & 22** Deadline is June 19

**4 hour recert class October 20 & 21** Deadline is September 25

**ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour):** \$200

**ASSE Repairer: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must hold a current 5110 Tester Certification** \$100

**I CRA and Water Quality: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30** - \$200

**Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour):** \$200

**Hydronic Heating and Cooling:** \$100

**Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber:** \$100

**CAD/BIM:** \$100

**2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be May 2nd, 2026. \*\*You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

**OSHA Training** - OSHA 10, available as an online class for \$59 at www.careersafeonline.com This OSHA 10 class is not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. \*\*Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

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

*"The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them."*

—Sir William Bragg (1862 - 1942)

*"When we see men of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves."*

—Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

*"Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right."*

—Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992)

*"The only way not to think about money is to have a great deal of it."*

—Edith Wharton (1862 - 1937)



UA Local 636

DETROIT – **Our next Regular Meeting will be A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING for the reading of our yearly financial report on Tuesday April 21, 2026 at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.**

There will be a **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of **Contract Ratification, & Allocation** held on **Tuesday April 28th, 2026.** Being held at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center. 39000 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150. Doors will open at 6:30am, the meeting starts at 7:00am. As a reminder you must be a member in good standing to vote. Members should be prepared to present a membership card, driver's license or other form of identification. Please call the Local Union with any questions.

**The Third Annual Local 636 Scholarship Golf Outing** will be held Saturday June 6, 2026 at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford. To reserve a foursome, contact Jake Regits 248-939-6636 or Dan Gurley 248-939-5636. All proceeds benefit the Detroit Pipefitters Benevolent Fund.

**PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANDISE STORE IS LIVE!** Sign into the members section on our website www.pipefitters636.org and click the link.

**Second Annual Scholarship Contest** is upon us again. Deadline to apply is April 21, 2026. Applications will be accepted starting March 17, 2026. Applications are open to sons, daughters and grandchildren of members of Pipefitters Local 636 in good standing. Applicants must be a high school senior and be accepted to an accredited college, community college or trade school not in direct competition with the Pipefitters Industry Training Center or currently enrolled in such school. Please contact the Union Hall for more details.

**REMINDER:** Please open all correspondence with the Local Union, BeneSys, and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

Following is a list of recent Retirees who have passed their tools and knowledge to the next generation. We thank them for their time in the field advancing our trade and the Brother/Sisterhood they continue to show in our local. **Congratulations on your retirement!**

**January 1, 2026** Jeffrey Ashman, Frank Banasiak, Todd Valiquette **February 1, 2026** David Hatch, Lawrence Hale, James Juracek, Michael Johnson, James Whelan.

**Deceased Members** – Lifetime 62 Year Member Thomas Allen April 8, 2026; 46 Year Member Donald Ledford April 5, 2026; Zen Adams April 5, 2026; Lifetime Member George J Eiswirth March 23, 2026

**Our Condolences** to Gary Allen on the passing of his brother Thomas Allen April 8, 2026; Steven Isbell on the passing of his mother Deanna J. Isbell March 16, 2026 and retiree Ron Prush on the passing of his father on April 11, 2026

**Get Well Wishes to;** Robert Abfalter, Stephen Ashley, Rebecca Blair, Michael Ferrante, Robert Goodwin, Jason Howe, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, John Lilly, Anthony Lumetta, Ian Martin, Jason McKim, Roger Pruitt, Andrew Sarniak, Carlton Stewart, Fredrick Stiehr III, David Stone.

**Congratulations** to Michael & Makenzie McIntosh on the birth of their daughter Brynlie March 31, 2026.

**DUES – 2nd Quarter Dues are due now.** Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

**The Ulliance Member Assistance Program** is available to all members and retirees. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations for legal and financial matters. There is a great discount for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

**988 crisis help line.** The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available. When people call or text 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources.

**636 Retiree Association!** The next meeting will be held April 16, 2026

Informing all retirees and their significant others to attend our meetings at the Local Union Office in Farmington Hills, every third Thursday of every month at 11:00 am, excluding December. The meetings present speakers which are very helpful with regard to your retirement and officers are there to answer any questions, you are also brought up to date on the activities of Local 636. Lunch is served for \$7.00 with refreshments and desserts. Also, we have begun day trips and at this time two a year to different sites in Southeastern Michigan. Hope to see you at a retirees meeting. Secretary Michael N. Sylvester

**SUBPAY - NEWS.** Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

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

**Financial Advisor Jason May** with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management has a **new contact number 248-540-2091** or email him at jason.may@ml.com

**Defined Contribution Pension Plan.** The number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984.** Plan provider no. is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website, while logged in as a member Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the website www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys. Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the "My Dashboard" page. Here you will be able to review a snapshot of your account balance, investments, and recent transactional activity.

**Considering Retirement?** Any member may meet at the office during business hours with Jake Regits, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, to begin the process. Jake can be reached at ext. 5, to schedule an appointment so that he can get all of your paperwork in order, or if you prefer, contact our Members Phone Line 888-646-8920 at BeneSys for your retirement paperwork. **Please allow a 60-90-day notice that is necessary** to adequately process the requests for paperwork, getting the forms sent to the participant, the member completing it and returning it to the Fund Office for final processing.

**Are you "Work Ready"?** Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at **mustsafe.org** and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be "ready" when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association. **WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.**

**Training Center News.**  
Regular NIGHT WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified BRAZING CLASS: Monday and Thursday Nights 4 till 8.

ORBITAL TUBE WELDING: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with John Verran. Call Mike to sign up.

QUALIFIED BOLTING CLASS: Monday and Thursday nights from 4-8 with Kurt Moran. Call Kim to sign up.

\*\*We will accept applications for CONSTRUCTION Apprentices on May 25, 2026 thru Jun 6, 2026. ONLINE ONLY @ www.pipefitters636tc.org



## Local 174 Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

**COOPERSVILLE – MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The monthly membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

**Retiree Breakfast:** The retiree breakfast will be held **Thursday, May 7, 2026** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

**Local #174 Golf League:** The first night of golf will be Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at Hickory Knoll. Show up at 5pm with your partner we'll get everyone signed up then pair up teams and golf. If you need a partner or if you'd like to be a sub, please reach out to Jason Finch and he'll get you on the list.

**Seeking Volunteers for Operation United to Support West Michigan Veterans.**

The 2026 Operation United event will take place on **Wednesday, April 22**, and focuses on helping veterans – particularly seniors and those living with disabilities – by completing projects that improve the safety and accessibility of their homes.

Volunteer projects typically include yard work, landscaping, and minor repairs designed to make homes safer and easier to maintain.

Last year, more than 50 volunteers from Local 174 participated in the event, and we are hoping to build on that support again this year.

In addition to volunteers for projects, we are also seeking volunteers with pickup trucks and/or trailers to assist with picking up and delivering materials throughout the week.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Nate Phillips for additional information.

**2026-2028 UA Cards:** The 2026-2028 UA Membership Cards are available at the front office. If you have paid your window dues through January 2026 or beyond and have not yet received your updated UA card, please contact Therese or visit the front office to collect yours.

**Union Strong Phone App:** If you have not downloaded our app and would like to, reach out to the front office for the link or QR code.

**Plumbing Law Changes:** Starting March 20, 2025, anyone performing plumbing work in Michigan must either be registered and in good standing with the State as a plumbing apprentice or hold a current journeyman or master plumbing license. The new legislation also establishes a ratio of one journeyman for every two apprentices, with significant penalties, including steep fines and the suspension or revocation of a plumbing contractor's license for non-compliance.

This is excellent news for our industry and presents a great opportunity to expand our market share in West Michigan. Make sure that your license or apprentice registration is up to date with the State. If your license has expired or you need to register as an apprentice, you must contact the State Licensing Division at 517-241-9316.

**Contract Ratification:** At the special called meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30

\$10.80 over 3 years.

Language changes:  
Section 13.2 - reduces the number from issuing orders from 4 to 2 to receive foremen pay.

Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked.

The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

**Organizing Update:** *I wanted to thank everyone again for continuing to reach out to the unrepresentative worker, I probably fill at least a dozen phone calls a week because of you, so thank you. The biggest thing right now is experience. If you know someone that is doing our work; licensed plumbing, pipe welder, HVAC service tech - that's huge! At some point, we are going to be looking for more mechanically inclined experience, especially with all the talk about the data center projects, but right now*

*we're looking for direct trade-related experience. Again, thank you everyone!*

*Better wages, benefits, insurance you don't have to pay for, and a defined pension - the message is clear; all workers deserve a UNION! Work safe, Johnny Ortiz: (616) 307-8551.*

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

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

**FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)**

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

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

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

**Medicare Retirees:**  
Retiree First: (616) 345-0788

**Current Health Insurance Premiums:**

Active Member/Woring Retiree \$1,110.33

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10

Medicare Single \$123.63  
Medicare Couple \$247.26

Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13  
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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

**Retiree Dues:** If you are retiring, it is the member's responsibility to inform the Union Hall on the final day of work in order to request a reduction in window dues at the Retiree Rate. Additionally, it is the member's responsibility to call Ext. 17 to notify dispatch of your retirement, providing your name, phone number, contractor name, and the date of your last day worked.

**Autopay for Window Dues:** As a result of the rising postage expenses and the significant number of members who have opted for autopay, we have made a change in the way receipts are delivered. Going forward, members will receive their proof of payment via email instead of traditional mail. If you are currently enrolled in autopay but do not have an email address on record and would like a receipt, please contact our office to update your information.

**Dispatch:** We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: [dispatch@ua174.org](mailto:dispatch@ua174.org) which both offices have access to. The dispatch phone extension will switch between the two offices depending on who is on dispatch.

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

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



## Local 333 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

UA Local 333

**LANSING – May's union meeting will be held May 20, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm**  
**June's union meeting will be held June 17, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm**

**For members who have students going to college or trade schools, scholarship applications are now available by calling Joni at the Jackson office 517-784-1106 ext.4**

**New contractor's seminar will be held at 9am at Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7, 2026. If you are interested in attending, please call your regional office.**

Please remember to sign up before attending weld class. We have limited space, and only those who sign up will be allowed to attend class.

**Weld classes are ongoing.** Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lan-

### Local 174, con't

**raise.**

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

Lakeshore - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

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

**Training News:**

**FIRST AID:** First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month - unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next classes will be held Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**WELD TEST:** Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, May 12th, and the test to follow Thursday, May 14th at 5pm.

**OPEN WELD:** Available on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month; evenings beginning 04/15 at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates.

**2026 Michigan Pipe Trades Apprentice Contest:** The Training Center will be closed April 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> as the staff will be in Ann Arbor for the Contest. We will be available via email or cell phone during this time.

**WELDER CONTINUITY:** If you have weld certifications and have submitted your continuity, your welder certification status cards are now being emailed instead of sent via USPS mail.

If you have turned in your continuity but have NOT received an updated status card, please contact the Training Office to verify that we have your current email on file.

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

sing, MI. 48906.

Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Jackson Training Center. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr. Jackson, MI. 49201

Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm

Monday and Wednesday - we will schedule a class if we have sufficient sign-up

Battle Creek Weld Class (KCC) RMTc, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

Monday and Thursday 4-8pm

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

**Please sign up for classes on the website or call the Lansing Training Center at 517.323.0333.**

**Battle Creek Retiree's Breakfasts** are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

**Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson:** Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing Shopping Center.

**Lansing Retiree's Breakfast** will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 9am. 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911. Please spread the word.

*"The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and their families. This benefit includes free and confidential mental health counseling, coaching, and 24/7 crisis support. In addition, there are free 30-minute consultations on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326 or call your respective agent or Dustin at the Union Hall"*

**DO NOT opt out of health care coverage on your auto insurance. If you are injured in an auto accident our health care coverage will not cover you.**

**ATTENTION: WHEN YOU HAVE A LIFE CHANGE, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, BIRTH OF A CHILD, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICE WITH THE UPDATED INFORMATION. REQUEST NEW BENEFICIARY PAPERWORK IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.**

**DUES: Effective immediately we are no longer able to accept money orders as a due's payment.**

Congratulations to Dillon Landon and his wife Melanie on the birth of their son, Sawyer Brooks Landon, born on March 11, 2026

*"Few people can see genius in someone who has offended them."*

-Robertson Davies

**Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service Local 111**

UA Local 111

**UPPER PENINSULA - UNION MEETING:** The next Union Meeting will be held in **Marquette on Thursday, April 30** at 7:30 PM. This will be a special called meeting for wage and possible organizing contribution allocations. All members are encouraged to attend.

**REFERRAL RULES UPDATE:** Due to recent referral rules change, text messages from the Local are now more important than ever. If you are not receiving texts, call the hall to update your information.

**WORK OPPORTUNITIES:** Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line - Extension #7; Job Line - Extension #8.

**MRA FUND:** The IRS requires substantiation for all MRA debit card transactions. Many members have received request letters from Zenith American Solutions. It is YOUR responsibility to submit the requested documentation promptly. Failure to respond will result in suspension of your card until documentation is received. You can review transactions and upload documentation through the Zenith Portal or App. For assistance, call 1-866-823-4730, ext. 1.

**NEW MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Beginning December 1, 2025, our Health & Welfare Plan will partner with Ulliance to offer the Life Advisor Member Assistance Program (MAP). This confidential, no-cost benefit is available to members and covered dependents and provides 24/7 support for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eldercare or childcare referrals, and financial or legal guidance. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, crisis intervention, and community resources. To access services, call 800-448-8326 or [www.lifeadvisor.com](http://www.lifeadvisor.com).

**988 CRISIS HELPLINE:** If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 anytime to connect with trained counselors for mental health or suicide prevention support.

**MEMBER RECORDS:** Please keep your records current by contacting April or Rose with any changes to your address, phone number, email, or family status.

**LAYOFF REMINDER:** Report layoffs immediately; the day you call is the date you are placed on the Out-of-Work List.

**APPRENTICES:** You are required to attend four union meetings each year.

**WELDERS AND CERTIFICATIONS:** UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the Hall. Certifications expire every six months, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure forms are turned in on time. Please also update all

(Continued next column)



UA Local 704

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

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

Please sign up for **MDLive**. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

There will be nominations for the following positions: -examining board (2) and finance committee (1). the vote for the positions will be held on June 17 2026 poles will be open from noon until 5:30pm

Local 704 will be bringing on a full-time organizer. To be considered you must be a member in good standing and submit a three section short form letter stating 1) how you got to your current position, 2) why you are seeking the organizer position and 3) what you hope to accomplish if you were to get the position. All letters must be received at the hall no later than 4pm April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to be considered

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

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

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

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

**Jason May (Merrill Lynch):** 248-540-2091 for D.C. Fund Investment questions.

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

### Local 111, con't

Non-UA Certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA, etc.) by sending a copy to the Union Hall.

**DUES REMINDER:** Check your dues records regularly; a \$50 reinstatement fee applies once you are three months behind. Members are automatically expelled after six months of non-payment.

**SAFETY TRAINING – LOCAL 111 WEBSITE:** Visit [lu111.com](http://lu111.com) and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

**MSHA TRAINING:** Registration and cancellations are handled online at [upconstruction.org](http://upconstruction.org) under the MSHA Calendar.

*"If you're never scared or embarrassed or hurt, it means you never take any chances."*

-Julia Sorel

**BeneSys**  
45 years of providing full-service third-party administration  
BeneSys.com 877-923-6379

**BenefitDriven**  
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BeneSys Inc.  
700 Tower Drive, Suite 300  
Troy, MI 48098



## IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

**SAGINAW – UPCOMING UNION EVENTS** – The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:00pm. At this Union Meeting in May, Local 557 will be conducting the annual Wage Allocation under New Business. If you have ideas you would like to see represented in the new total package options, please reach out.

**GOVERNOR CANDIDATE CHRIS SWANSON at LOCAL 557** – IBEW Michigan has endorsed Sheriff Chris Swanson to be the next Governor of the State of Michigan. Sheriff Swanson will be in attendance at the next Union Meeting on May 5 to speak to the membership. Please be on time to the meeting so you do not miss him addressing the membership. Chris is a Union member and we have no doubt he will do great things for organized labor, if elected.

**LOCAL 557 GOLF LEAGUE** – The first night for Golf League is Thursday, April 16. Tee times at Twin Oaks Golf Club will begin at 5 pm for the first few weeks. Beginning May 7, tee times will go back to 6 pm.

**RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS & FREELAND WALLEYE FEST** – These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting. The current committee is in the process of organizing several events in the coming months. They will be looking for volunteers to march in the Freeland Walleye Festival Parade on Friday April 24. The parade starts at 6pm with report time at 5pm. The RENEW committee will also be operating a booth during the festival and is looking for more help with this as well. The Walleye Fest will also be having their Annual Union Night Event on Friday at the main tent. Discounts are available for Union members that can show their dues receipt.

**35th SENATE SEAT SPECIAL ELECTION** – The General Election date of May 5th will be here quickly. Labor Candidate Chedrick Greene and his team are looking for supporters to help canvas and get the word out to cast your vote. Volunteer opportunities are available for those that may want to help. Please consider taking some time to help in this important election.

**SAGINAW TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS BOND** – In addition to the Special Senate Election, May 5 will also be election day for the latest attempt from the Saginaw Township Schools to pass a Bond for the school's planned constructions/renovations. If you live in the township, please support this initiative. We will also need volunteers to go door to door for this cause as well. If you have time to spend on this, please get with Evan at the Hall to coordinate.

**LOCAL 557 WEBSITE OFFERING DUES PAYMENTS** – The feature to pay dues online is now fully active. The credit card fee for using this feature is also less than the normal of providing your card information to the Hall either over the phone or in-person. To pay dues online, you will need to initially set up the new service by entering your card number as the username and the temporary password is your last name and the last 4 digits of your SSN.

Upon completing this, you will then be prompted to change your password to one of your choosing. If you haven't checked this out yet, please do as it is very convenient. Logging into this member portal also allows members to check positions on the Out of Work List and Job Calls when they are available. Please note that if there are no current job calls, you will only see a message displaying basic instructions for how to take a call when they are available.

**JOB SITE SAFETY** – Job site safety is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work. All members should be as diligent as possible when

*"It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating."*

–Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

*"I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education."*

–Wilson Mizner (1876 - 1933)

it comes to making sure work is completed in a safe manner.

**LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING** – Organizing is the lifeblood of any Local Union Rex and Gus are doing great work for Local 557 on the organizing front. Organizing is a tough task. Some conversations with unrepresented workers are harder than others. Please give Rex and Gus all the help they need to succeed and get results for the Local. If you see something and wish to point it out to them, please reach out to Rex at 989-890-4578 and Gus can be reached at 989-941-8046.

**UNION HALL OPERATIONS** – Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.

**BOOK SIGNING** – If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 Book 1 referral or apprentice training assignment, you must come to the hall and register on Book 1 or the apprentice out of work list in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit and would like to be on some out-of-town Books, please call the hall to arrange this. Book 2 members can have their Union Hall send an email to either [jobline@ibew557.org](mailto:jobline@ibew557.org) or [renee@ibew557.org](mailto:renee@ibew557.org)

**WORK OUTLOOK** – Work will be picking up shortly in the area. Project Phoenix is nearing its end Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Positive news continues regarding the Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. It is the hope to have members working on this possibly this summer. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring or summer as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Township area. There is also a solar project in the works in the Fremont Township area. Battery Storage projects will also be kicking off in the near future.

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

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

**WEX APP** – You will need to download the WEX app for your phone. Search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

**JOB CALLS** – Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. **All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3.** Local 557 utilizes a bid system for job calls. If you see a call you would like, please place a bid on the telephone system and call backs will occur the next business day to fill the calls until they are gone.

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES** – Please check to see if you are current. Paying dues through the website is now the easiest option for members. Phone in card purchases are still accepted, but the credit card fee is slightly more than utilizing the website's system.

**CONTACT NUMBERS** – Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855) 633-4584. Website is: [www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
**In Solidarity,**  
**Evan Allardye,**  
**Business Manager**



IBEW Local 445

**BATTLE CREEK – First Aid/CPR/JIW training** The First Aid/CPR will be on Sept. 14, 2026, after the Union Meeting.

**IBEW 445 Golf Outing** Save the date for the IBEW 445 Golf Outing of July 25, 2026.

**Local 445 Officer Nominations.** Please plan on attending the May 11, 2026, Union Meeting. At this meeting, nominations for officers will be handled. Please consider putting your name in for Officer Elections! You have a voice in YOUR Local!!! Watch your mailboxes for additional information.

**Wage Allocation Meeting** Please watch your mailboxes for the upcoming date for the Wage Allocation meeting. The meeting will be in May 2026, but the date has not been set.

**Local 445 Election of Officers.** Please add to your calendar the elections for Local 445 Officers will be on June 8, 2026. Watch your mailboxes for additional information. You will want to attend the June Union Meeting for the results of that day's Officer Elections.

**Paying dues late** If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed a \$10.00 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

**Death Benefit Assessments** Please contact the Hall to verify if you have any Death Benefit Assessments due on your account before paying your dues so that you can add it to your quarterly due's payment.

**Organizing** If you know of any Electricians interested in joining the IBEW, please contact Travis at (269) 339-8377. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 2022 Constitution states **"The object of the IBEW is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry"**.

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

**2025 dues structure** The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of **January 1, 2026**, the following due's structure:

**JIW's:**  
Monthly \$61.00  
Quarterly \$183.00  
**Apprentices:**  
Monthly \$50.00  
Quarterly \$150.00

**IBEW Local 445 App/Website** The new app & website are now live. Local 445 Members can register to access the app. You are now able to pay your dues online via the app or website. Please visit the app & website to access the calendar of events. Please notify the Hall if you have any questions or concerns with the App or Website.

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

**Local Website** – Please check the Local 445 website for the latest information, including job postings. The Local 445 web address is [IBEW445.com](http://IBEW445.com). Make sure you check out the **Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

**2026 Personal information** Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

**Executive Board E-Board** meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. **Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Wanda Secrest**  
**Recording Secretary**

*"The man who has confidence in himself gains the confidence of others."*

–Hasidic Saying



IBEW Local 252

**ANN ARBOR – OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR IBEW LOCAL UNION 252:**

The nominations for all officers of Local Union 252 will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination, email a written statement to [252electionjudge@gmail.com](mailto:252electionjudge@gmail.com) that they will accept the nomination, or mail a written statement to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, that they will accept the nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in order of office as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years: Nominations will be taken to fill the following offices: President/ Delegate to International Convention, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary/ Business Manager/ Delegate to International Convention, Executive Board (6 to be elected), Examining Board (3 to be elected). Additionally, nominations will be held for 5 delegates to the International Convention in the manner described in Article VIII, Section 2 of the local union bylaws. The President and the Business Manager shall be candidates for delegate positions contingent with their offices as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws.

This leaves 3 delegate positions open to nominations for the at-large election. No member nominated for offices of Business Manager or President may be nominated for the at-large delegate positions if they are delegates by virtue of their offices. In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues, and has been current for two years preceding the nominations.

No Apprentice shall be eligible to hold office in the Local Union unless they have previously held a Journeyman's card at any time during their membership with Local Union 252 so that they shall remain eligible to hold office (IBEW Constitution Art. 15, Sect. 14). Pat Ulanowicz was appointed Election Judge on Feb. 8, 2026 (IBEW Constitution, Art. 16, Sect. 11, Amendment 30).

The IBEW Local 252 President will appoint Tellers as required. None of these may be a candidate for any office. All Tellers will be vetted for a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 252 by the Local 252 Financial Secretary (IBEW Constitution Art. 16, Sect. 11). In order to vote you must have a dues receipt not more than 3 months in arrears (paid through March 2026). The election of officers shall take place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at the Union Hall at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. The ballots will be counted immediately following the closing of the polls and the results shall be announced immediately after all ballots are counted.

A complete listing of the results shall be posted on all union bulletin boards, union social media, or other appropriate place by the close of business on the day following the election. In the event a runoff election is required, same shall be held a special called meeting on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Union Hall at 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI. The same rules shall apply to the runoff election as were applicable to the regular election. Members who requested an absentee ballot for the regular election will automatically receive same for the runoff. Absentee ballots shall be available to any member upon written request to the election judge.

Written requests can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, or emailed to [252electionjudge@gmail.com](mailto:252electionjudge@gmail.com). Such requests will be accepted up to 5 days prior to the date of the election. Anyone

## IBEW LOCAL 252

receiving an absentee ballot will not be entitled to vote at the polls without first presenting the election judge with their unused ballot and the envelope used in the mailing. Absentee ballots received at the Post Office after 1:00 p.m. on June 6, 2026 will not be counted. All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the Post Office. The candidate themselves may be the observer. Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted is urged to contact the election judge as soon as possible before the election is certified.

Once the election is certified, any protests of the election are to be filed in writing with the International Vice-President of the District within 30 days following the election. The decision of the International Vice-President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW. In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice-President, the member may submit his/her protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. Any questions about the conduct of the 2026 IBEW Local 252 election can be mailed to 252 Election Judge, P.O. Box 172, Adrian, MI 49221, emailed to [252electionjudge@gmail.com](mailto:252electionjudge@gmail.com), or consult by phone (517) 918-8948.

**TRAINING CLASSES 2026: All classes start at 5 p.m.**

**BICSI Installer 1** – Every Monday starting March 2 and ending June 1

**OSHA 30** – April 21, 23, 28, 30, May 5, 7, 12 & 14

**BICSI Fiber/ Tech** – Every Monday beginning June 8 and ending Aug 31

**Fire Alarm** – Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Sept 2 and ending Oct 21.

**NICET PREP** – Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information)

**CPR** – June 2 & 9, September 1 & 15, Dec. 1 & 8.

Additional classes will be added as they become available. For interest in a class not listed, call the training center. All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM.

**JATC INSTRUCTORS NEEDED:** The JATC is looking to hire additional full-time instructors. If you're interested, please submit your resume and cover letter no later than April 30, by email to [cparks@aeajtc.org](mailto:cparks@aeajtc.org), or in person/mail to AAEJATC, 13400 Luick Drive, Chelsea MI, 48118, Attn: C. Parks.

**IBEW 252 APP FOR ANDROID:** If you use an android phone, you must redownload the IBEW 252 app, which is now available in the app store.

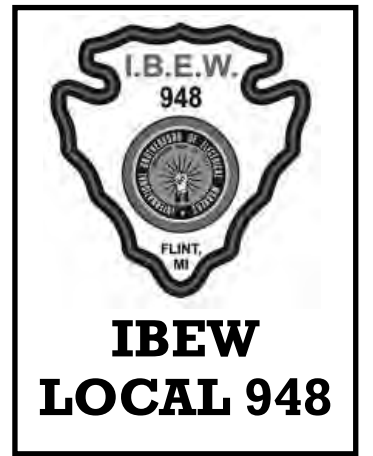
**RETIREES CARD GAME:** At 9 a.m. the first Thursday of every month Local 252 and UA 190 retirees meet at the Union Hall for cards and donuts.

**RETIREES BREAKFAST:** The Retirees' Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 160 S. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** There will be a blood drive at the Union Hall on Wednesday, April 29 from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Walk ins are welcome, or you can schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code "Jeremy".

**DETROIT TIGER'S UNION DAY:** The Union Day Tiger's game will be on Sept. 26, against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets are \$30 and include entry to the game, bus transportation, and \$10 fun money to spend at the park. The bus will depart from the union hall at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are first come, first serve, and will not be held until they are paid for. Call or stop by the union hall to sign up.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for several issues. For confidential (Continued next column)



IBEW 948

**FLINT – Meetings.**  
**Membership Meeting** – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be May 11th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

**Retiree Meetings** – Retirees will be off the next couple months, next meeting will be May 5th, 2026 at 9:00am.

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

**Work Outlook** – Our work outlook is steady with a slow ramp possible leading to the upcoming months. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and resigns.

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

**Seeking New Membership** – As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Eric Crites.

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

**New Membership** – Welcome to our latest member Matthew Banks, Chase Arevalo, & Austin Vandendries. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

**Retirees** – Congratulations to Brad King on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

**Draping of the Charter** – Our condolences to the family of David Botbyl. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

## IBEW 252, con't

dential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit [www.my-life-resource.com](http://www.my-life-resource.com) and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

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

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

**DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 3/2026, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for "A" members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for "BA" members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your second quarter dues (April through June) are due now.

**Payments for second quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:** May 13, 2026: Nominations  
June 6, 2026: Local 252 Election  
June 30, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 2nd Quarter Dues  
September 9, 2026: Retiree's Night





IBEW Local 498  
**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings. Regular E Board.** The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 5:30pm.

**The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is 7pm Monday, May 11, 2026.**

**WAGE DISBURSMENT-** We will be deciding on what we want to do with our next negotiated wage disbursement at the May meeting. The \$2.78/hr total wage package increase will have to be decide on what or how we want it disbursed. So please bring any of your ideas to the May meeting to be voted on, the wage package increase is scheduled to take place on Jun 2, 2027.

**Elections- OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS. I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION 498.** The nominations for all officers of Local Union 498 will be held on May 11, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the local meeting hall, 3912 Blair Townhall RD Traverse City MI, 49685.

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement that they will accept the nomination. NO member may be a candidate for more than one office. Anyone nominated to more than one office must choose the office for which they will be a candidate.

Nominations will proceed in the order of offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be 3 years: President; Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Delegate to International Convention; Executive Board (6 to be elected); Examining Board (5 to be elected).

Additionally, nominations will be held for 1 alternate delegate to the International Convention. Business Manager shall, by virtue of the office, serve as a delegate to the International Convention as stated in Article VIII, Section 3 of the local union bylaws. No member nominated for office of Business Manager may be nominated for the alternate delegate position if they are a delegate by virtue of their office.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of 2 years of continuous good standing in Local Union 498. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the 2 years preceding the nominations. (Apprentices cannot be nominated or elected to any office.) (See IBEW Constitution Article XV, Section 14)

As per the IBEW Constitution and our Local Union Bylaws, an election judge and tellers have been appointed prior to nominations. None of these is a candidate for any office.

The election shall be conducted by mail ballot and they shall be counted beginning at 1:00 p.m. on June 8, 2026.

All members in good standing shall be mailed a ballot not less than 15 days prior to the above specified date. Returned ballots must be mailed, in time to be received not later than noon of Monday, June 8, 2026. Instructions on the use of the mail ballot will be enclosed with the ballot. If you do not receive a ballot in the mail by May 29, 2026 please call the election judge immediately at 231-463-8751 and request a replacement ballots.

In the event a run-off election is required, same shall be held on June 29, 2026. The same rules shall apply to the run-off election as were applicable to the regular election.

All officers shall be installed and begin their 3-year terms at the regular meeting of the local union on July 13, 2026. (The date of installation must be in the month following the election and no later than the first meeting of the local union during that month.)

Candidates shall be entitled to an observer at the polling place, during the counting of the ballots and when the absentee ballots are picked up from the P.O. Box. (The candidate themselves may be the observer.)

Any member who believes a protest of the election is warranted must present their protest to the election judge prior to the certification of the election  
**(Continued next column)**



# IBEW LOCAL 58



IBEW Local 58

**DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting:** will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

**UPDATE –** Sub Pay has been resumed for Inside & Limited Energy. **If you have questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have any questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

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

**IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers-** are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers, contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** – Look at your Dues Receipt: if your paid through date shows 09-30-25, you are not current and have lapsed membership. You will have to call the Union Hall and request an E-board appointment for Reinstatement. If your paid through date shows 12-31-2025, you are not current and owe a reinstatement fee of \$30.00. It is your responsibility to pay your dues on time – this could affect your retirement or death benefit. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number.

**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** Our Annual Pin Party is happening on Saturday, April 25, 2026. If you aren't receiving a pin, you are still welcome to attend the luncheon, honorees will be our guest (with rsvp), all others will need reservations. Doors open at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. The cost is \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford, 313 408-5885.

Dues expired on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). Thanks to all of our members for your prompt dues renewals. Delinquent notices will be going out in late April.

The May Board meeting is happening Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the local union hall in the main conference room. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Details are set for our annual September Bus Trip to New York City. The trip is happening Sept. 10-16. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$1050. Send in your \$75 per person deposit (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to hold your space, send it to 22700 Grove St., St. Clair Shores, 48080. Balance of trip is due July 3. Questions, call Dave Riley at 586 206-8075.

**Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees (Fringe Benefits Office)** – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200. They also distribute the 1099R tax form for the Local 58 Pension.

**Retirement:** The NEBF pension applications are no longer available at the Local 58 union hall. They are available

## IBEW 498, Con't

Further, protests of the election may be filed in writing with the International Vice President of the district within 30 days following the election.

The decision of the International Vice President shall conclude the processing of a protest within the IBEW.

In the event the protesting member is not satisfied with the decision of the International Vice President the member may submit their protest to the U.S. Department of Labor. James D. Pierce II Election Judge Local 498

**Retiree breakfast-** Several of the retirees meet at Sparky's Diner off of South Airport road every Monday morning at 9am.

either by contacting NEBF directly at 301-556-4300 or through your online account at NEBF.com. Standard processing time for NEBF pension applications has been 90 days. Please allow at least 3 months prior to your retirement date to submit your application to NEBF directly for processing. The IBEW PBF (International Pension Benefit Fund) applications can still be obtained at the Local 58 union hall. For questions regarding the NEBF or IBEW PBF pensions, please call Rebecca at 313-963-2130 ext. 3013. Questions regarding the Local 58 Pension should be directed to the Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200.

**Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center** - Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please contact the Training Center at 586-751-6600 for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** Next meeting will be Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 5:30

Our next event is the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walleye Tournament on Saturday May 2. This is open to all members, family, friends and all Trades are welcome. There will be a fish fry at the hall with raffles, awards and Brotherhood. For details contact Mike Bellhorn at 586-612-5964.

Also the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Gaudi Memorial Golf Outing will be on Friday June 5 at the Glenhurst Golf Course. Due to the high demand of this event, we will be filling available foursomes by a lottery drawing on Friday May 8 at 12 noon. Please contact Mike Bellhorn at 586-nevolentfund@ibew58.org to be entered in the drawing.

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

**The next Entertainment Committee meeting** will be Tuesday, May 12 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

**EWMC of Southeastern MI** – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.

The fourth coin in the series for our challenge coin fundraiser is now available for sale. Our IBEW car flags are also in. We will be selling them at any upcoming union events and Membership meetings.

**The Safety Committee meeting** will be on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

**The Veterans Committee** - The IBEW Veterans Committee serves all those who have served, building community and strengthening veteran voices within the IBEW and throughout the entire electrical industry. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm at the hall with an option to attend via Zoom. At our next meeting we plan on reviewing the Veterans Committee field manual that has been put together by the I/O.

In recognition of service to country and union, all IBEW members who have served in the military can claim their free challenge coin by visiting the website: <https://ibew.org/about-ibew/affinity-groups/veterans-committees/>

**Local 58's Women's Committee** – The next meeting will be Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) Email at 58women-scommittee@ibewlocal58.org

**The Political Action Committee:** PAC meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. **The RENEW Committee:** The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local

58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

**Electrical Workers Credit Union:** Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060.

**Local 58 Senior Softball:** Looking for seniors 55+ years old to join and have some fun. Beginning in May 2026 on Monday and Wednesday mornings. For more info please contact: Dennis Schwiager 586-725-0452 or Jim Miles 586-933-3551.

**Local 58 Senior Golf:** Looking for seniors 55+ years old to grab your clubs and join us for dates of golfing and fun. Golfing starts at 9 am for each date.

May 14 – Dunham Hills 13561 Dunham Rd Hartland, MI 48353

June 11– Pontiac Country Club 4335 Elizabeth Lake Rd Waterford, MI 48328

July 16 – Rouge Park Golf Course 11701 Burt Rd Detroit, MI 48228

Aug. 13 -Rackham Golf Course 10100 10 Mile Rd Huntington Woods, MI

Sept. 17- Bee Tee Golf Course 22871 21 Mile Rd Macomb, MI 48044

Oct. 8- Sanctuary Lake Golf Course 1450 E. South Blvd Troy, MI 48084

Please contact Jeff Gregory via phone call or text @ 248-240-7449. Thank you!

**Wiremen's Golf Association (WGA) Members:** This year the 2026 Wiremen's Golf Association Tournament will be hosted by Local 306, Akron, OH on Aug. 18-21, with the optional scramble being held on Tuesday Aug. 18. The host hotel/tournament headquarters for this year is the Double Tree by Hilton in Akron/Fairlawn, OH ((330)867-5000). Entry fees for this year are \$275 per man for the Tournament and an additional \$75 per man for the optional scramble. **ALL MONIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 24<sup>th</sup> THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR MONEY IN TO EITHER RON KRAJENKE OR BRAD GARRITY BY APRIL 24<sup>th</sup> YOU WILL NOT BE ENTERED IN TO THE TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR.** If you are mailing your payment please mail to: Ron Krajenke, 20244 Edinberg Drive, Macomb, MI 48044. Questions: Ron Krajenke at 313-475-0487 or Brad Garrity at 313-850-1837.

### UPCOMING EVENT:

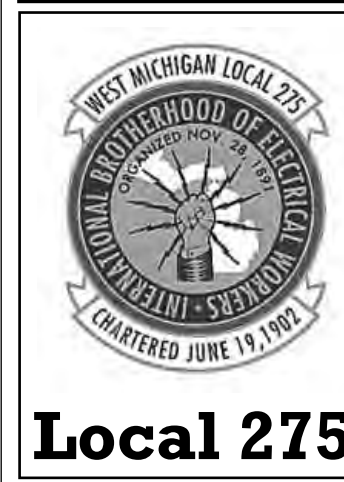
The CHOOCH Foundation is partnering with IBEW Local 58 to bring the upcoming A Mind in Motion: Mental Health Maintenance Fair to the Local 58 Union Hall in Detroit. The event will bring together trades families and community members for a day focused on mental wellness, connection, and practical support. Founded in honor of Justin Shilling, the organization was created with a clear mission: break the stigma surrounding mental health and provide real, accessible tools that help individuals and families thrive.

The CHOOCH Foundation works to ensure that support is visible, accessible, and normalized within our communities. Event Details: June 6, 2026, IBEW Local 58 – 1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226 10 AM – 4 PM

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: James Cora, Jeffery Jodway and Lawrence Surratt. We wish you all the best as you begin your new journey.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss. **Ronald "Archie" Archibald,** Pension member, 29 year IBEW membership; Former Election Judge at IBEW Local 58; **Gary Durand,** Pension member, 57 year IBEW membership; **Patricia Kilby,** Wife to Pension member John Kilby, 52 year IBEW membership; **Helen McCallum,** Widow to the late Pension member John McCallum; **Lorinda Purdom,** Widow to the late Pension member Kenneth Purdom; **Carl Valensky,** Pension member, 37 year IBEW membership; **Laurence Vezina,** Pension member, 44 year IBEW membership; Son to the late Pension member Conrad Vezina; Brother to Daniel Vezina, Pension member, 48 year IBEW membership and David Vezina, JIW; Uncle to Steven Vezina, JIW.



IBEW 275

**MUSKEGON – Work in the jurisdiction** remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275. We have solar calls coming weekly for both Hart and Freshwater solar as well as local contractors picking up jobs.

**Please join us for the next Building Corp meeting** before the union meeting on May 12 at 6pm. We will be discussing the 3 options that the body voted on at our prior meeting. **Please note the change of the meeting date for both Building Corp and Union meeting to May 12 at Local 275's hall.**

**Allocation Meeting:** Allocation for the final year of our current agreement will be held at the next union meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Location of the meeting will be the UA 174 in Coopersville. Please note the IBEW hall will be open until 6 for those that need to pay dues.

**Golf Outing:** Please join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual IBEW Local 275 golf outing on Saturday June 13 at Gracewil Country Club in Grand Rapids. It will be a shotgun start at 9am, and 18 holes with a cart is \$55. You must register and pay with Kaleb Kerkstra by no later than June 5. To register, call or text Kaleb at 231-780-7625.

**Volunteer Info:** With the new year please keep in mind volunteer reward points have reset. We will keep updating any opportunities for volunteer events as we get them.

**West Michigan RENEW/EWMC:** Meetings will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app. The EWMC have a challenge coin that is for sale at the hall as well! \$20, cash only while supplies last. Please note that May's meeting will be in person at the hall.

If you have any interest in helping re-launch the Local 275 Renew committee, please reach out to Mark at the union hall.

**Veterans' Committee:** Meeting will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6pm. Please keep an eye on the app for locations.

**Training:** Code update will only be available online only going forward. Please go to the JATC website at [www.wmjeatc.org](http://www.wmjeatc.org) and click the Code Update Course link to sign up. The cost for members is \$40.

The JATC is now offering master's Exam Prep courses. Reach out to the JATC for more information. [wmjatec@gmail.com](mailto:wmjatec@gmail.com)

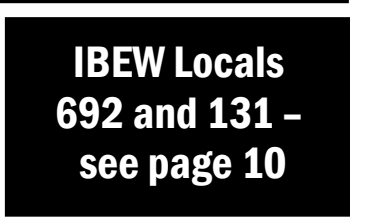
Anyone interested in signing up for Foreman training or Steward training, please reach out to Jonas at the Hall to get on the list.

**General Info:** If you want to get added to our blast email list, please reach out to Nicole at the Hall to get on the list.

The Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

Monthly dues are still \$50.90 per month, and as of this writing we have not heard of an increase. If you pay for 1 years dues at once, there is a challenge coin that can be picked up at the hall.

**Delinquent Members:** At the time of this writing the following members are 3 months or more behind on dues: Ruben Cortez, David Burkholder, Matthew Dobb, Ronnie Dunmore, Shaun Hart, Alan Kimball, Cade Koehler, Kevin Koon, Wage Langdon, Ken Mabs, Mike Nielsen, and Chris Hanson - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.



IBEW LOCAL 906

### UPPER PENINSULA— MEETINGS.

There will not be any unit meetings for the month of May:

There will be a general membership meeting held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm EST. This meeting will be held at the Marquette Township Community Center located at 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, MI 49855.

Allocations for the Inside Division will take place at this general membership meeting so we encourage everybody to attend!

**Work Outlook-** Work is starting to pick up. Upcoming projects include Amazon warehouse in Escanaba, Harden Hall 1<sup>st</sup> floor remodel in Marquette, VA Hospital in Marquette, Crystal Falls Compressor Station, Tilden Mine Tray Replacement.

We currently have a 1 man call for J. Ranck Electric in Sault Ste Marie and a 4 man call for Michels Power in Crystal Falls. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in either of these calls.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email [cfeuryibew906@gmail.com](mailto:cfeuryibew906@gmail.com) for all book 2 signings.

**Union Hall Hours of Operation-** Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

**Merchandise-** To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app. We have some new shirt designs so please be sure to take a look!

**Retiree Lunch-** There is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

**Website/App-** We have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at [ibew906.org](http://ibew906.org) and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you are in arrears, you will not be able to pay on the app or website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

**RENEW-** There is a RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers) zoom meeting held the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm est. To get the zoom link please reference the calendar section of the app or website.

**Union Dues-** A friendly reminder that dues are \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment. There will be no Dues increase for 2026. If you are paying for the whole year at one time you receive a free tee shirt.

**Fringe Benefits-** Please make sure to make sure your beneficiaries are updated, especially if you've recently been married, divorced, had children etc. Beneficiary forms can be obtained at the union hall.

**New Journeyman-** Congratulations to local 906's newest Journeyman, Phillip Hood and Samuel Peterson.

**CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL**

**Aluminum - Copper - Brass  
Nickel - Alloys - Carbide  
Radiators - Lead - Batteries**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>McNichols</b> Scrap Iron &amp; Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) <a href="http://mcnicholsscrap.com">mcnicholsscrap.com</a> <b>(313) 365-6100</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Detroit</b> Iron &amp; Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) <a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a> <b>(313) 841-5100</b></p>
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**IBEW Local 692**  
BAY CITY – The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Message from the Business Manager.** Brothers and Sisters, Allocation of wages will occur on May 4 at our general membership meeting, 60 P.M. at 1300 West Thomas. If you are a member in good standing and have an idea as to how you would like to see our raise distributed, please let me or one of your other agents know. This is your union, please be involved.

I have been having conversations with Training Director Casey Stoike and his team circling around the opportunity of offering classes to our membership who have surpassed the apprenticeship school in their career. The upcoming opportunities approaching for continuing education in the electrical industry are Arc Flash Training and also a class on Medium Voltage Terminations.

The first class revolves around Arc Flash Safety. The Arc Flash course will teach proper personal protective equipment, safety boundaries, and various other safety related topics revolving around Arc Flash potential. Please Contact Training Director Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A date for this class will be determined once we have the number of members interested.

A medium voltage cable terminating class will also be held in the near future. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Training Director Casey Stoike at (989) 686-4890. A certificate of completion will be offered upon completion of course. A class date will be determined once the class has been filled.

**The 2026 IBEW International annual golf tournament** is being held in Akron, Ohio followed by Columbus Ohio in 2027. This year's 3-day tournament will be held Aug 19-21. Included are 3 rounds of golf and a banquet on the last day with awards and prizes. Additionally, open bar daily with food and snacks, all for \$275. Interested members can contact Terry Brandenburg (586-854-3447). **Registration deadline is June 1.**

**Work Report.** The work report in our jurisdiction remains solid.

**AZCO** continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in this spring. Work being called off for weather conditions has recently been an issue on this site.

**B a y Valley Electric** will be starting a nice dorm project in Alpena. **Clements Electric's** work at the Mersen in Bay City and Midland's Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as work at the Bay County Health Department is wrapping up. Work on a mixed-use development in Downtown Bay City has started. Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission projects have been secured with work to start soon. Clements was also awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

**Conti Electric** will have shutdown projects ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility, also some work at Michigan Sugar. Phase 3 of Little Trout Solar in Hawks has commenced and may require additional manpower.

**Countyline Power** has secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

**Nelson Electric** is still on site at Bay City Powertrain and has access control and security work at the Amazon warehouse in Clare.

**Northern Power** has secured summer work at Alpena Schools. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and has secured Alpena's Meijer remodel set to start in April. **S&G and Hardies Electric** are keeping their crews busy through winter on various projects.

**Swan Electric** has secured a decent upcoming project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg.

**Teds Electric** continues work at Clare Schools.

(Continued next column)



**IBEW Local 131**  
Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

**IBEW Local 131**

**KALAMAZOO—Solidarity Education Dinner – On April 22 @ 6PM** we will be hosting an educational dinner at the Hall. Topics will include issues that affect Local 131 from a community perspective. This includes trends in the construction industry, local markets, labor policies, and how we can improve Local 131's culture and solidarity on the issues that affect us.

**IBEW Local 131 App and Website Launch:** Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131". You can create a log in on either the web page or the app and it will work for both platforms. The app allows members to bid available jobs, access the contract, by-laws, benefits information, licensing information, Ulliance services, our calendar of events and much more.

**Ulliance** is Local 131's Member Assistance Program that offers mental health counseling, financial planning, legal assistance, divorce support, substance use support, parental counseling, elder care advice, and much more. If you or a friend could benefit from support, please call 1-800-448-8326 to speak with a professionally trained advisor and counselor today.

**2025 DBRF assessments** have begun appearing on monthly dues payments. The anticipated assessment will be \$70 (\$10 for each qualified retiree in 2025). This assessment will appear in your next monthly dues payment, if you have not already paid it.

The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Monday May 4 @ 6PM. **Allocations will be decided at this meeting and Smoke Down BBQ will be catering.** We just got unofficial news last Thursday, that we should expect a \$0.15 increase for healthcare contribution.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> 5PM @ the hall.

**Veteran's Committee Meeting:** May 7 @ 5PM, American Legion Post 49, 129 Michigan Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

**The Executive Board:** meeting will be held on Monday, April 20.

**Brotherhood Night** is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the Month @ CJ's beginning at 3:30. 1027 Schuster Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Keep an eye out for location changes on the Local's FB page.

**Hall Hours:** Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM – Lunch hour between 12:30 and 1:30

**Upcoming Events:** Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

General Membership Meeting – May 4<sup>th</sup> (Official) Steward Training – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Allocation Meeting – May 4, SMIKE Down BBQ will be on site, so come hungry

Retiree Quarterly Meetings – June 3 @ 3PM, Union Hall – meeting to discuss union issues

New General Membership Meeting date (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month) begins June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM Local 131 Picnic – August 1<sup>st</sup>

**Local 131 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – (Tentative) Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> @ Gun Lake Casino**

Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – October 10<sup>th</sup>

**Work Outlook:** Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. As work slows down there, more members are taking calls at Palisades

(Continued next column)

**IBEW 692, continued**

**Van Ert Electric** continues work on their solar project in Gladwin, calls for this project have been coming in.

Consumers Energy has recently announced plans for future work in our jurisdiction. Essexville's Karn site plans to add a new battery storage facility and two new gas-fired turbines to replace units 3 & 4. Three large solar sites will start civil and dirt work this spring and require substantial manpower in 2027. Those sites are in Prescott, Spruce, and Harrisville.

If you are looking for work,



**Local 149**  
Roofers & Waterproofers

**Roofers Local 149**

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216.

The Mid-Michigan meeting is scheduled for Tues., May 12, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

**Detroit Wage Allocation Proposals.** The proposals to determine what to do with this year's \$2.10 raise are as follows.

**Proposal 1-** \$1.00 Check, \$0.93 Annuity, \$0.07 Vacation, \$0.10 DET Training Center

**Proposal 2-** \$2.00 Check, \$0.10 DETJATC

**Proposal 3-** \$0.10 Health & Welfare, \$2.00 Pension

**Proposal 4-** \$1.00 Check, \$0.18 Annuity, \$0.07 Vacation, \$0.10 DETJATC, \$0.25 Health & Welfare, \$0.50 Pension

The Union Hall highly recommends Proposal 1. It is the smart, long-term choice for our Members. Proposal 1 is the responsible, balanced, member-focused choice. If you have any questions regarding the proposals, please contact the Union Hall at 313-961-6093.

**Voting on the proposals** is scheduled for the Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216, from 2:00pm thru 7:00pm.

**Mid-Michigan Wage Allocation Proposals.** The proposal(s) to determine what to do with this year's \$2.90 raise will be in the next Building Tradesmen Paper. You can also contact the Detroit & Mid-Michigan Hall on 4/15/2026 to find out the proposals this publication was sent to The Building Tradesman Newspaper on 4/13/2026. Voting on the proposals is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 810 Tacoma Ct, Clio, MI 48420.

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Scholarship.** Local 149 and the Roofing Industry Promotion Fund (RIPF) have opened applications for the Scholarship Grant Program, continuing their shared commitment to supporting educational opportunities within the roofing industry.

This year, four scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to eligible students who are currently enrolled in, or planning to attend, an accredited college or university. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible.

**Eligibility includes:**  
- Three scholarships for dependents of active members of Roofers Union Local 149  
- One scholarship for dependents of office employees of RIPF member contractors

Applicants must submit a typed essay along with a completed application form, which includes the student's contact

information, intended college, chosen field of study, and parent or guardian's name and employer. How to win. Individuals interested in obtaining one of four scholarship grants, should submit an essay to the Joint Scholarship Committee. The essay should contain 250 words or more. You may select one or more of the following topics:

- Roofing Technology – Old vs. New
- Roofing Safety – Safety practices and their importance
- Roofing Impact – What does roofing mean to you, based on your life experiences?
- Roofing Ethics – Is my parent and/or guardian in a job that matters to society?

Deadline: All materials must be received—not postmarked—by Monday, June 1, 2026 via mail, or email. Submission Address: Local 149 Scholarship Grant Program, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 8155 Annsbury Drive, Suite 104, Shelby Twp., MI 48316. Email: heather.hadley@smrca.org

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

**Mid-Michigan Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368 to make arrangements.

**Out-Of-Work.** When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

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

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

The publication above is as 4/13/2026, 1:00pm

**In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149**

**IBEW 131, continued**

Nuclear Facility. The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady through spring. Palisades recommissioning work continues to require manpower with PCI Energy, Champion, Martell, and Allied Power still placing requests. That work is expected to continue until at least June.

Liberty Solar Project is expected to need 70 wiremen at peak, but its anticipated April start has been pushed back to at least August. This is due to local political opposition. The politics around solar, like everything else, has become rife with disinformation, hyperbole, and an unbalanced focus on NIMBY issues. All while ignoring the very real need to increase our electrical capacity and infrastructure.

**Retirees' Lunches at the following Locations:**  
May 20, Yogi's Diner, 2070 East "VW" Avenue, Vicksburg, MI. @11AM  
June 17, Roxie's Breakfast & Lunch, 4010 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. 11AM  
Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage, MI @ 10 a.m.  
On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cekola's Pizza, 3112 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

**Members Three Months in Areas or More:** Mathew Alworden, Chad Arlington, Grant Beach, Kenneth Chamberlain, Josh Cook, Andrew Gunning, Scott Hunter, John Kiel, Eric Lockwood, Marty Maher, James Pecho, Joseph Pineda, Jeremiah Pojar, Joseph Selles, Michael Uminn

–Jonathan Current, Business Manager, IBEW Local 131

information, intended college, chosen field of study, and parent or guardian's name and employer. How to win. Individuals interested in obtaining one of four scholarship grants, should submit an essay to the Joint Scholarship Committee. The essay should contain 250 words or more. You may select one or more of the following topics:

- Roofing Technology – Old vs. New
- Roofing Safety – Safety practices and their importance
- Roofing Impact – What does roofing mean to you, based on your life experiences?
- Roofing Ethics – Is my parent and/or guardian in a job that matters to society?

Deadline: All materials must be received—not postmarked—by Monday, June 1, 2026 via mail, or email. Submission Address: Local 149 Scholarship Grant Program, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 8155 Annsbury Drive, Suite 104, Shelby Twp., MI 48316. Email: heather.hadley@smrca.org

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

**Mid-Michigan Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368 to make arrangements.

**Out-Of-Work.** When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Detroit Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (313) 961-6093 ext. 0 to be put on the out of work list. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

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

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

The publication above is as 4/13/2026, 1:00pm

**In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149**



**Michigan Painters**  
District Council

**Painters DC 1M**

WARREN – Dear Members: DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org

**DC 1M UNION CARDS\*** Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:



**ROBERT GONZALEZ** Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/UPGRADE CLASSES

**FTI APPRENTICESHIP WARREN LOCATION:** Drug and Alcohol Awareness April 16<sup>th</sup>, time: 5pm

Aerial Lift Certification April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, time: 5pm And Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>: 9am

**FTI APPRENTICESHIP OWOSSO LOCATION:** Fall Protection April 18, 9am Drug and Alcohol Awareness April 28, 5pm

Architectural Drawings May 13, 5pm, and May 16, 9am

Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information or to sign up. (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdc1m.org

**D BAR A MIX FIX 2026** The Mix Fix at the D – A Scout Camp is Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Flyer and info info come.

**SICKNESS AND DEATH** Local 357 Retiree Phillip Dupuis passed away. He was our oldest active life-member with 72 years of service. Keep his Family in your thoughts and prayers.

**PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP.** Painters District Council 1M APP info:

- For IPHONE go to IOS store,
- For ANDROID go to Google Play store
- Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP
- Username: your member id#
- Password: painters

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

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!**

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

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**District Council 1M**

**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

**Meeting date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.

**Place:** 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

**Local Union 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 –** Ed Bracamontes

**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



## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

**DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, May 19, at 7:00 pm. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting that day at 5:30 pm. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.**

Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!

April 2026  
**James Davis-25 Years**  
**Christopher Richardson-40 Years**

Bro. Luciano Crapanzano passed away on March 31, 2026. He was a 31-year member. Please keep the Crapanzano family in your thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Miles Crowther passed away on April 8, 2026. Please keep the Crowther family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you haven't updated your MUST profile, please log in to MUSTsafe.com to update your MUST username and password.

Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opciami.org

Please get in touch with the local at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to aajrouche@opciami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustsafe.com to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to the members' email addresses.

**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.

**Beneficiary Reminder:** Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice, especially after a divorce, on all your OPCMIA Local 514, 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 benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

**All members need 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.**

**Death Certificates:** Please always notify the Union Hall by phone when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of the Death Certificate for any deceased active or retired member.

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

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

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

Please refer to the website for updated information.

**O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Members 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 negatively impacting our market share. This year's work forecast looks better than last year's. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fined. Let's work together to secure our future!!

We must stay vigilant in our efforts 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!



## Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2 –

WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** Monday, April 20th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** Tuesday, April 28th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 1300 W Thomas Street, Bay City, MI 48706

**METRO DETROIT CHAPTER:** Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, at 5:30pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

**ANN ARBOR CHAPTER:** Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, at 6:00pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter, MI 48130

**FLINT CHAPTER:** Wednesday, May 6th, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

**LANSING CHAPTER:** Wednesday, May 6th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

**KALAMAZOO CHAPTER:** Thursday, May 14th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

**—APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL:** We have moved the Apprentice Hours Portal to a new platform called WorkHands. You should have received an email or text message with an invitation to join the platform.

All monthly hours must now be submitted through the WorkHands app. After you submit your hours, they will be reviewed by your foreman or superintendent, who will complete an evaluation of your progress before forwarding them to the Training Center.

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month.

If you need assistance accessing the portal or help submitting your hours, resources are available online at: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>

You may also contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382 for additional support.

For more information about the Training Centers, please visit: <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>

**BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS:** Both of 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 Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 training classes.

**UNION DUES:** Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

**TEXTING PROGRAM:** 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 text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following:

Text 2MI to 50607

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!

**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.

(Continued next column)



Laborers Local 1191  
(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

**LABORERS RISING:** is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

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

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

**All Monthly General Membership Meetings:** are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change. **The May General Membership meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for June will be held on the 5th of June, 2026. Please be advised that the July 2026 Membership Meeting will be moved to July 10, 2026, in observance of Independence Day.**

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The Retiree Council Meeting for April 2026 is scheduled for April 24, 2026. The May Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled May 29.**

**Union Dues For 2025:** Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

**Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments:** According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

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

**New Projects:** Members are urged to report the start of any/all new projects to the Local Union. Members working for a contractor who may be looking to hire additional laborers are urged to call the Union Hall and help a brother or sister get referred out (Continued next column)

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!**

**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.

**Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at [www.mltai.org](http://www.mltai.org) to schedule appointments for modules. 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 MLTAI's online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47**

**Heat and Frost Insulators 25**

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## Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

**Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47**

**LANSING – The next Special Called Meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall located at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.** Please note, this is a Mandatory Meeting for All Apprentices. The purpose of the Special called meeting is to amend Article 19 (Special Benefits) of the Rules of Procedure.

Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoff's to the Union Office. Leave the start/layoff date and the name of the contractor along with your name.

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

If you are Non-Active retiree or Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving the Building Tradesman please contact the Union Office to let us know.

The Funds Trustees have waived the 79 hour rule for all Retirees effective July 1, 2025.

**DENTAL BENEFIT CHANGE NOTIFICATION:** Starting January 1, 2026 all Active and Retired Participants will now have Delta Dental as your Dental Provider. You will be receiving a welcome packet along with your card in the mail shortly if you have not already. Your dental information will no longer be attached to your health insurance card. The card you are being provided will not be necessary when using Delta Dental services, providing your Social Security number/card to a participating provider will be sufficient. Any Annual or lifetime benefits that were already utilized with Blue Dental will be carried over to the new coverage. If you have any further questions please call our Pension/Welfare Trustee Joshua Kroell, (989) 385-2671.

Invites for our 25th Annual Picnic have been sent out. This year's picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13. In order to make sure we have enough Food and Drinks for everyone please mail back your RSVP's before May 4. The picnic will be held at Fitzgerald Park (site 6), 133 Fitzgerald

(Continued next column)

**Local 47, continued**

Park Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

We are not taking Reservations for this year's Golf Outing, which will be held on Saturday, July 18. If you would like to participate please Call or Text the Union Office at (517) 708-0665 with the names of your team along with whether each person would like Chicken or Steak for dinner. The cost of this years outing is \$85/person or \$340/team. Please do not wait until the last minute to call in your team, spots fill up fast, and be sure to have your team in no later than July 3.

Congratulations to Javier Hidalgo and Sara Bradley on the birth of their son Elliot on February 25, 2026.

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked. Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds  
6525 Centurion Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917-9275  
Toll Free Number: (800) 323-8079  
Telephone Number: (517) 321-7502  
Email: [joshkroell@insulators47.com](mailto:joshkroell@insulators47.com)

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616-375-0538)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office, or go online to [insulators47.com](http://insulators47.com) to fill out an Application.

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

**Local 1191, continued**

to work. The next time, it may be your name on the list when that call comes in for work.

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**Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47**

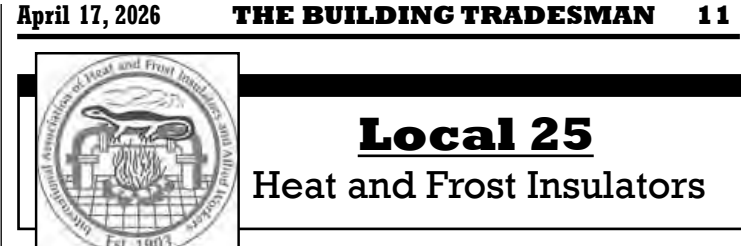
**Heat and Frost Insulators 25**

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## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

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## Local 169 Boilermakers

### Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **May 8, 2026, at 8 pm** at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall, 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park.

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate of \$5.85 for 2026.

**Dinner Dance information:** May 16, 2026, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The cost for a room is \$279 make sure

you use boiler-maker code **BM051526**. There are a limited number of rooms, so please book soon. Cut off date for the rooms is April 23, 2026. If you plan on attending, please send a check or money order in the amount of \$50 to the union hall with the number of attendees for you. We need you to send checks to confirm your attendance as it gives us an accurate number of people eating. We will return your check to you when you arrive. If you use a money order and show up, we can put it towards your monthly dues.

Attention area 1 apprentices we will have an obligation of new members at our May membership meeting, please make an effort to attend this meeting.

Congratulations to Matt Root, he will be representing our Local at the regional apprentice competition in Hobart, Ind. the first week of June. We wish him luck. Ballots were mailed out on March 25 for the delegates for the 35<sup>th</sup> Convention. Please make sure you vote and return before April 23. OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – [www.boilermakerslocal169.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) for more information.

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent,



MICHAEL  
CARD

Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880. Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

**Retirees:** Retiree luncheons **Area 1** Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar located at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale.

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

**Area 3** Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on April 15, at the Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission Street, Mt. Pleasant, Mi. 48858. As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

**Area 4** Retirees' lunches are on the first Tuesday of the month at 11am in Rapid River at Jacks Restaurant 7898 S. Main Street, Rapid River, MI. Area 4 retirees also meet in Marquette on the

second Tuesday of the month at 11am at Crossroads Bar on the corner of County Rd 553 and County Road 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50.00 XL and smaller \$55.00 for 2XL, \$60.00 for 3XL and \$70.00 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Please contact the Union Hall for details.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at [www.boilermakerslocal169](http://www.boilermakerslocal169) or on our Facebook page.

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

Any member needing the services of a Notary Public can do so at no charge at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. Please call ahead to ensure availability.

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

## \$2B more for road funding

(Continued from Page 1)

it done with this year's balanced, bipartisan budget. We're making a historic nearly \$2 billion investment to fix state and local roads, create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, and lower costs for drivers across Michigan."

Since 2019, the governor and Legislature have worked together to deliver seven balanced, bipartisan budgets that invest more than \$31 billion to fix Michigan's roads and bridges.

With the current 2025-26 budget, Michigan will spend a record \$5.4 billion of its own funds (not including federal dollars) this year on the roads. The amount is 15 percent more than the previous peak in 2019.

"The start of construction season isn't just good news for our roads, it's good news for Michigan families, Michigan workers, and Michigan communities," said Rob Coppersmith, executive vice president of the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association. "This boost in investment was decades in the making, and it happened because leaders finally put Michigan ahead of politics."



PALISADES BREATHES AGAIN – Steam rises from the nuclear plant during scheduled system heat-up and testing trials, marking a key milestone in the plant's restart program. Photo credit: Holtec

## Palisades hits another milestone

(Continued from Page 1)

It operated for more than half a century before being shutdown in May 2022 by then-owner Entergy, who said its operation was no longer commercially viable. But backed by state and federal funding and a move toward clean energy, new owner Holtec decided a restart did become

commercially viable.

"The completion of primary system passivation reflects the diligence and technical rigor our team is bringing to position the plant for safe, reliable operation for decades," said Holtec International President Kelly Trice.

"Ensuring long-term safety and reliability remains the central

focus of our restart mission, and we continue to execute this work with the care and precision it warrants."

Other recent accomplishments at the plant include completing more than 300 inspections of piping and welds, as well as reinstalling the main turbine generator.

## Mildly better job numbers for U.S. construction industry

(Continued from Page 1)

U.S. construction employment totaled 8,330,000, adding 57,000 jobs – a gain of 0.7 percent. This outpaced the 0.2 percent increase in total U.S. nonfarm payroll employment.

Specific statewide employment numbers in the industry continue to be released late due to the government shutdown last fall and ongoing funding lapses at the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"January was a good month for construction employment in many states despite harsh weather in much of the country," Simonson said. "However, continued employment gains will depend on having enough workers with the right skills, especially to build data centers and power projects."

Between January 2025 and January 2026, 38 states added construction jobs, 11 states shed

jobs, and employment held steady in one. And in a positive sign, the states that dropped construction jobs for the month saw relatively mild losses.

Among the states, the largest 12-month percentage gain occurred in West Virginia (+5.9 percent, +2,100 jobs), followed by Illinois, Missouri, Nevada (all +3.2 percent, +3,500 jobs). The largest percentage loss was in Oregon (-3.4 percent, -3,900 jobs), followed by Alaska (-3.1 percent, -600 jobs), and New Mexico (-2.5 percent, -1,400 jobs).

The general uptick in early 2026 construction employment combines with a similarly mild rise in the Dodge Momentum Index. The Dodge Construction Network reported on April 7 that its Momentum Index for construction activity rose 1.8 percent from February to March.

"Planning momentum in March was powered almost

entirely by data center projects, with most other sectors easing back," said Sarah Martin, associate director of forecasting at Dodge Construction Network. "For some categories, this reflects a natural reset after the outsized growth in late 2025. But for others, elevated macroeconomic risks are likely beginning to feed into planning decisions."

Meanwhile, construction pay numbers in the U.S. are solid. The AGC reports that average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory employees in construction – including most onsite craft workers and many office staff – rose to \$38.62 in March, an increase of 5.0 percent over the past year.

Average pay for these workers is now 20.4 percent higher than for all private sector production and nonsupervisory employees

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## Local 25 Iron Workers

**Iron Workers 25**  
NOVI – The April Union Meeting is Monday April 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm and will be in-person only. All Union Halls will be open for in-person only. Please join your fellow brothers & sisters for camaraderie and solidarity! As always, we will have pizza on hand.

We continue to communicate through the PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails. You can download our APP for android on google play or for iPhone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. Or sign up via our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)).

The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday April 30, 2026 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

**Local Union Election of Officers and Delegates to Convention will take place on Friday May 15, 2026.** This Election cycle will be a hybrid election (as has been done the last 2-election cycles) with the option to vote by mail or to cast your ballot in person. Voting in person, will take place in all Union Halls from 7am to 7pm Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. A member is considered "eligible" to vote who is in good standing. Union Dues must be paid through April 2026 or better.

Apprentice, pre-apprentice, probationary, honorary and lifetime members, not being full dues paying members, are NOT eligible to vote. Ballots have been mailed to all those of Journeyman status; and those ballots are provided with a self-addressed stamped envelope with which to return your vote.

Keep a look out for your ballot. Any Journeyman who does not receive a mail-in ballot or needs a duplicate due to damage or improperly marked ballot, should immediately contact the Business Manager (Michael Randick) at the Union Hall 248-344-9494 who will immediately notify the Chief Judge of Election. Deadline to make contact for this purpose is May 1, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Further instructions for voting are included with the mail-in ballot. Please account for sufficient mailing time as all ballots are due back to the Post Office by Friday end of Business Day on May 15, 2026 (4:00 pm est). Any ballots received after this time will be null & void.

**A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 8am to 12 noon;** to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

**A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday May 6, 2026 from 8 am to 12 noon.** If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

**June vacation check schedule:**

*The cut off for any early checks before the freeze period takes place is May 6, 2026 and this will be the last early check processing before the semi-annual disbursement for June 6<sup>th</sup> 2026.*

The last day to call to have your June vacation check pulled is Tuesday June 2 at 12 pm (Noon). Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, by 2:00 pm. All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday June 2.

**All members that a receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be transferred on Friday, June 5.**

All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday June 6, 2026.

**The 2026 Iron Worker Picnic** will be held on Saturday June 20 at the Local 25 Training Center, Wixom MI. Starting time approximately 11 am. Bounce house, music, food, face-painting, lots of fun!

**If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.**

**Resumes:** We are accepting resumes for an Instructor at the Wixom Training Center. The instructors job description can be found in the member only section of our website ([www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org)). Testing and resume must be completed and turned in by Friday May 1, 2026. Please

contact the Wixom Training Center at 248-960-2130 to set up an appointment.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a variety of training requirements, offering over 100 online courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: <https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/> The username is the member's book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN.

**Apprentices:** located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website ([ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org)); to view the 2025 or 2026 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule.

Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website ([ironworkers25.org](http://ironworkers25.org)) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DENNIS O'DOWD SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:** Johnathon Keller, son of John Hall #1353559; Julia Mattson, daughter of James Mattson #1239831; Gavin Howery, son of Terry Howery #1249168; Lilly Goss, daughter of Kevin Goss #1516832; Elizabeth Maisano, daughter of Stanley Weglarz III #1448141; Elaina Morley daughter of Bo Morley #1306245; Fenton Gustincic, son of Robert Gustincic #1391565; Morgan Laupinchler, son of Brian Laupinchler #1252611. Kylee Aguirre, daughter of Eric Aguirre #1291512. We wish you all the best in your college endeavors!

**24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues:** Pay via our APP or website [www.ironworkers25.org](http://www.ironworkers25.org). The phone no. is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

**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 open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).

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

**FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:** 800-572-8553 or 248-347-3100 and follow the prompts. Hours 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. 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.

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: [my.wexhealthcard.com](http://my.wexhealthcard.com) (where you can create a log-in)

Check your online benefit information: [ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/](http://ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/)

**HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail** – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three years.

**The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club's** meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday April 21 at 10 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, May 5 at 8 am. All are welcome.

**DEADLINE NEAR: Local 25 Retirees' Club 2026 Scholarship:** Completed applications due by 5pm EST April 30, 2026. Questions: please contact John Miller: **Prefer that you TEXT TO: (734) 812-8036.**

**The West Michigan Chapter Retirees** breakfast will meet Tuesday May 5 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, MI 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will July 16 at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are Welcome.

**The Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9 am April 17, 2026 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, MI. All are welcome.

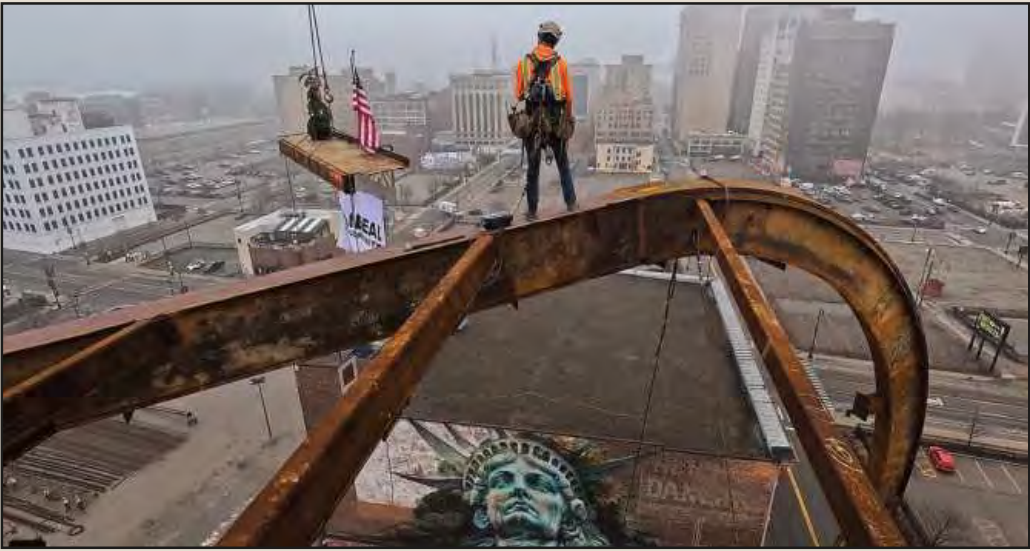
**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: [www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/](http://www.bcbsm.com/behavioral-mental-health/)** Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041 Substance-use-disorder.

**When the World feels Heavy:** FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis. Call or text 988. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

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

**In Memory:** Almon Bridges #746162 passed away March 16, 2026 at the age of 82. He was a 46-year member. Gary Buccafurri #865616 passed away March 21, 2026 at the age of 76. He was a 54-year member, survived by his wife Pamela. Frederic Halberg #640919 passed away March 30, 2026 at the age of 84. He was a 66-year member, survived by his wife Rilla Jo. Marty Kloostra passed away Monday April 6, 2026 at the age of 83. He was an ironworker with Local 340 and is survived by his son Craig Kloostra; owner of Bee Steel. **Our sincere condolences to all of the family and friends on the loss of your dear loved one(s).**

This information is as of Submission Time for this Article (April 13, 2026 9:00 AM E.S.T.).



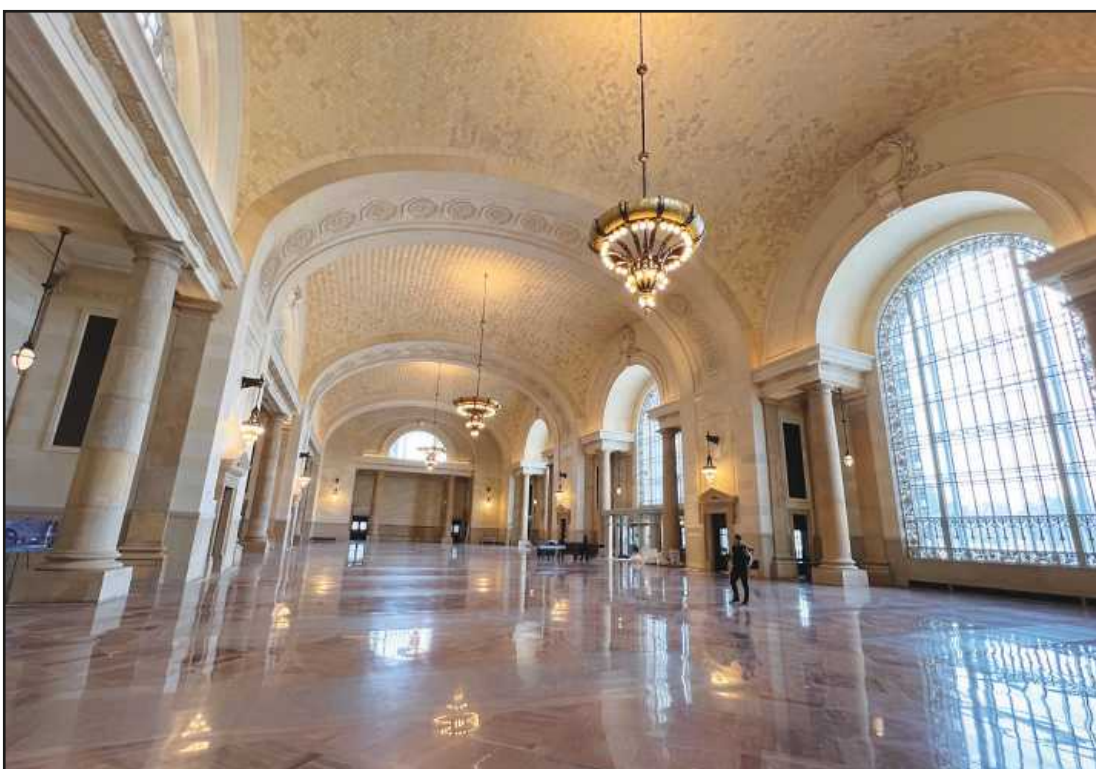
## Steel is set on Center for Innovation

The steel is up on the University of Michigan Center for Innovation in Detroit. Last month, said Ideal Contracting, "our team joined project partners to celebrate a major milestone: the topping out of this transformative development. "The final piece of steel was lifted into place with the expertise of Iron Workers Local 25 and Operating Engineers Local 324. Their skill helped cap off a unique and challenging structure that will soon serve as a world class hub for graduate education and workforce development right here in Detroit. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to bringing this visionary project to life."

Walbridge is managing the entire project. According to the University of Michigan, the project broke ground in December at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and West Columbia Street. The 200,000-square-foot building will be the first of three buildings to be constructed on the site, with the other two — an incubator space and a residential building — developed at a future date.

"UMCL," the U-M said, "will be a world-class research, education and entrepreneurship center designed to advance innovation and talent-focused community development to propel city, region and statewide job creation and inclusive economic growth by stimulating economic development in Detroit."

Image credits: Ideal Contracting



THE MAGNIFICENTLY RESTORED Michigan Central Station waiting room. Writes Dan Austin for *Historic Detroit*: "As one would walk into the building's centerpiece, the main waiting room, with its marble floors and soaring, its 54½-foot ceilings echoed with the sound of a bustling city on the move. The waiting room was modeled after the public baths of ancient Rome and stretches the length of the building. Covered by Guastavino tile vaults divided by broad coffered arches, the waiting room was decorated with marble floors, bronze chandeliers, gargantuan 68-foot Corinthian columns, and three arched 21-by-40 foot windows flanked by four smaller windows ornamented with lovely wrought iron grilles."

Photo: Tradesman file

## Michigan Central work wins top AGC/Build America Award

(Continued from Page 1)  
Co. "This project challenged our team in every way, and I couldn't be more proud of how our people and partners rose to meet that challenge while honoring a historic landmark that means so much to Detroit."

Michigan Central opened in 1913 and was the tallest train station in the world at the time. It closed permanently in January 1988 after the last Amtrak train departed. The 640,000-square-foot Beaux Arts landmark then remained vacant for the next three decades. The former station's broken windows, graffiti, and scavenged interior made it the foremost poster child of Detroit's "ruin porn" – empty buildings that became targets of photographers documenting the city's demise.

In conjunction with the AGC, the Baldwin Group Build America Awards said the group "highlight the nation's most significant construction projects. A panel of judges, representing all areas of construction, evaluated an impressive number of submis-

*"Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."*  
–Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

sions this year, assessing each project's complexity, use of innovative construction techniques and client satisfaction, among other criteria.

The awards, which were announced during the association's annual convention in Orlando, Fla., are considered by many to be the most prestigious recognition of construction accomplishments in the U.S."

With the assent of Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford, the automaker acquired the 30-acre property in 2018 that included a former Detroit Public Schools book depository. Following the estimated \$950 million renovation and transformation – and now called "Michigan Central" – Ford is using the Corktown neighborhood property as a technology and cultural hub.

"Ford Motor Co. has been a pillar of our community for more than a century," said Brinker CEO Larry Brinker, Jr. "We are inspired every day by working with clients whose vision and impact reach far beyond the intricacies of the buildings themselves. While we bring technology and innovation to every project, it is still the craftsmanship and wisdom that comes with that, that allows us to restore buildings like Michigan Central Station.

"The most exciting part is training that next level of people who can continue to learn the trade and fill those shoes of those who have come before them."

The project faced significant challenges, including dealing with serious structural damage to the intricate 29,000-tile Guastavino tile-domed ceilings, restoring eight acres of masonry surfaces and sourcing 600 tons of replacement limestone by re-opening the original stone quarry. The joint venture organized more than 120 company partners.

The project team, Christman said, "worked to preserve and replicate historic materials while integrating contemporary materials and technology."

"Michigan Central Station demanded an exceptional degree of diligence and informed decision-making that surpassed standard rehabilitation efforts," said Austin Giesey, senior project manager and historic preservation specialist at Christman/Brinker. "We utilized a combination of established preservation methods and advanced technologies to safeguard existing elements, restore missing features and thoughtfully incorporate modern systems within the building's historic fabric."



## Outdoors



# Protecting Michigan's wildest place

By Kerry Heckman  
Michigan DNR

Deep in the Upper Peninsula's Huron Mountains, among the wildest of Michigan's wild places, the rugged Michigamme Highlands is comprised of vast forests, remote lakes, cold trout streams, moose-inhabited swamps and granite outcroppings.

Now, 73,000 acres of what is arguably some of the most important forest land in the Great Lakes region has been protected and is available for Michigan's residents to enjoy – forever.

With funding entirely from grants and donations, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has acquired a working forest conservation easement to secure these rights for the public while also supporting the state's forest products industry.

**The property.** The sweeping views are spectacular from the top of Mt. Arvon, which, at 1,979 feet above sea level, is Michigan's highest natural elevation. Rolling forests stretch for miles until they meet the dark blue waters of Lake Superior. On a clear day, the Abbe Peninsula can be seen jutting out into the lake in the foreground while the Keweenaw Peninsula dominates the horizon. The Huron Islands can also be seen rising out of the cold Lake Superior waters.

As beautiful as this view is on a warm summer day, it doesn't hold a candle to the breathtaking panorama on a sunny fall day during peak color – an experience that few Michiganders have yet had the opportunity to enjoy.

The forested peak of Mt. Arvon and its spectacular views are just one of the many incredible features of the Michigamme Highlands property. The 73,000-acre tract includes 37 miles of winding rivers, 220 miles of perennial streams, 96 lakes and ponds, and over 13,600 acres of wetlands. Coaster brook trout, brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, Coho salmon, pink salmon, largemouth and smallmouth bass and northern pike can all be found in these waters.

The tract also contains 4,800 acres of deer wintering complex,



AN AUTUMN VIEW from Mount Arvon demonstrates the spectacular scenery of the area.

areas that provide both the food source and thermal cover that are critical to the survival of white-tailed deer during the harsh Upper Peninsula winters. Wildlife is abundant across the property, which provides habitat for a variety of species including moose, black bears, pine martens, fishers, wolves, grouse, eagles, hawks, owls and local rarities like boreal chickadees.

Nearly two miles of the Yellow Dog River flow through the property, immediately adjacent to and downstream of the federal McCormick Wilderness, where the river is designated as a Wild and Scenic River.

All these facets of the Michigamme Highlands property make it a truly exceptional landscape.

**The vision.** The Lyme Timber Co. is a forest land investment company that manages 1.3 million acres of timberland throughout the U.S. In the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin, it manages nearly 625,000 acres through its local operating company, Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands.

With a staff of 25 foresters and other professionals, Lyme Great Lakes focuses on sustainable timber production in this region – working with over 42 contractors and 55 sawmill customers – while seeking opportunities to permanently conserve these forests.

The vision for the Michigamme Highlands project began in 2021. With its long history of

permanently protecting working forests throughout the nation, Lyme Timber approached the DNR about the potential to do a large-scale conservation project on the company's property.

Specifically, there was interest in protecting the property through a working forest conservation easement. This type of conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and either a government agency or a land trust that promotes ongoing sustainable forest management while permanently limiting certain uses of the land, specifically those that would have a negative impact on values such as forests, wildlife habitat and water features.

Conservation easements last forever and remain in place regardless of who owns the land.

While Lyme Timber will continue to own and manage the property, thus maintaining local tax revenue, the conservation easement rights, including the rights for public access, will be held by the DNR on behalf of Michigan residents. This vision ensures all the special features on the land are protected forever, and it secures the right of the public to use these lands for recreation, including hunting and fishing.

**The conservation easement.** Bringing this vision to reality, Lyme Timber and the DNR developed the Michigamme Highlands conservation easement. Its tenets include:

- Permanent requirements to ensure long-term sustainable forest management and sustained economic benefits for the area. The easement requires that future timber harvests occur at a sustainable level. An estimated annual economic benefit of approximately \$4 million to Baraga, Iron and Marquette counties is anticipated through forest management activities and the many associated jobs in the regional forest products industry.

- Full nonmotorized recreational access for the public maintained across the entire property for uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, kayaking, biking, skiing and hiking.

Also included is permanent access for motor vehicles on over 61 miles of roads that were not previously secured for the public. Remote recreation areas have also been established to provide opportunities for remote hunting, fishing and hiking with limited impacts from motorized activities.

Protection of wildlife habitat and water quality for the numerous lakes, ponds, rivers and streams on the property.

- Protection of, and permanent public access to, the peak of Mount Arvon.

- A requirement that the property remain as one large parcel of land and cannot be divided or developed – preventing additional fragmentation.

**Partnerships.** Many partners came together to ensure

the success of the Michigamme Highlands project.

**U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Forest Legacy Program.** The purpose of the program is to provide federal grant funding to states to protect environmentally important forestland from being converted to nonforest uses. The program provides 75 percent of the funding necessary for states to protect forest land and ensures that it is sustainably managed forever.

"By permanently conserving this working forest," said Ken Arney, Regional Forester with the USDA Forest Service, "we have helped to secure forest products in perpetuity, as well as protect water quality and wildlife resources and provide new public outdoor recreation opportunities. All of this has a positive economic impact on the region. There is truly something for everyone in the Michigamme Highlands project."

The Michigamme Highlands project ranked No. 2 in the country among those competing for Forest Legacy Program funds. Over \$15 million in grant funding was awarded to the Michigan DNR for this project.

**The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** was established in 1976. The intent of the Trust Fund was to use royalties earned from the development of state-owned minerals to acquire land for public recreation and natural resources protection.

The completion of a project as monumental as the 73,000-acre Michigamme Highlands conservation easement is the perfect way to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Trust Fund's conservation work.

**In 2005, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** partnered with Walmart to establish the Acres for America program, which is focused on conserving wildlife habitat.

"The Michigamme Highlands project exemplifies the Acres for America program's commitment to large-scale, lasting conservation," said Chris West, Acres for America program director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. "By conserving more than 73,000 acres through a working forest easement, this effort safeguards the rivers, wetlands and forests that support wildlife species including coaster brook trout, moose and northern long-eared bat.

"It shows how conservation

and sustainable use can go hand in hand – protecting critical fish and wildlife habitat while keeping working forests working, supporting local economies and guaranteeing public access for hunting, fishing, hiking and other outdoor recreation across this extraordinary Upper Peninsula landscape."

The Michigamme Highlands project was awarded \$550,000 from the Acres for America program and \$450,000 from the Life Time Foundation for a total \$1 million award from the Foundation.

After years of building a strong partnership and working closely with Lyme Timber, ensuring appropriate protections for the high-value natural resources on the Michigamme Highlands property, guaranteeing sustainable forest management, securing public recreational access and negotiating the transaction, the DNR, on behalf of the public, brought the process to a successful conclusion and completed the purchase of the Michigamme Highlands conservation easement on March 30, 2026.

"We are thrilled to have helped to achieve this important milestone for Michigan's working forests and are particularly proud of the strong partnership we have established with the DNR," said Sarah Kitz, managing director at Lyme Timber. "The Michigamme Highlands conservation easement will leave a lasting legacy that benefits Michigan's forests, the public, the regional forest products economy and the environment – at scale."

**What's next.** With the acquisition of the Michigamme Highlands conservation easement complete, recreational access has been secured and the public is welcome to come and explore this wild and beautiful land in the western Upper Peninsula.

The DNR now has an obligation to conduct annual monitoring on the property to ensure that the terms and conditions of the conservation easement are being met.

"It is seldom that the opportunity to secure public recreational access and protect forestland at such a large, landscape level comes along," said Scott Bowen, DNR director. "When we can protect critical deer wintering complexes, wildlife and fisheries habitat and help to secure sustainable forest management and support the forest products industry at the same time, as we have done with the Michigamme Highlands project, it is truly extraordinary."

## ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

### Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS

BOILERMAKERS

ELECTRICIANS

INSULATORS

PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

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

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

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

#### \$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

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

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

**CONTACT GPW TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF 100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MESOTHELIOMA!**

For nearly 20 years GPW has offered this FREE resource and guide to mesothelioma victims. Call 800-799-2234 or visit [www.gpwlaw-mi.com](http://www.gpwlaw-mi.com) to request a FREE copy today!



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