



SHORT

CUTS

Overdue hike set for jobless benefits

LANSING – The maximum weekly rate for state unemployment benefits increased on Jan. 1, to \$530, up from \$446.

The boost is part of bipartisan legislation signed into law by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in December 2024 to provide increased financial support for unemployed workers. The increase was triggered by an updated unemployment law that went into effect in April 2025, which set annual increases in the weekly benefit rate and the amount for each dependent. It also extended from 20 to 26 the maximum number of weeks someone can collect benefits.

According to the Michigan Unemployment Agency, claims filed in 2026 will qualify for the \$84 weekly increase. Claims filed before Jan. 1, 2026, will not see a change in the approved weekly benefit rate. The UIA said not everyone receives the maximum weekly benefit rate; how much an individual is approved for is based on their wage history.

Also increasing on Jan. 1, 2026, is the amount an unemployed worker receives for each dependent (up to a total of five). That rises to \$19.33 per dependent, up from 2025's \$12.66 for each dependent.

The news gets even better for jobless workers: The maximum weekly unemployment benefit rate will increase on Jan. 1, 2027, to \$614, and the amount per dependent goes up to \$26. Beginning in 2028, the maximum weekly benefit rate and dependent amount will be adjusted annually based on the federal Consumer Price Index.

When the unemployment law changes took effect in April 2025, the maximum weekly benefit rate increased to \$446 from \$362, which had been the rate since 2002.

Minimum wage hikes are stimulus checks

Michigan is one of 19 states that increased its minimum wage effective Jan. 1. And the collective power of those wage hikes will inject about \$5 billion into the paychecks – and then the greater economy – from the 8.3 million workers who receive the pay raises.

That's the word from the labor-backed Economic Policy Institute, which said "for the first time, there will be more workers in states with a \$15 or greater minimum wage than in states with the federal minimum of \$7.25."

Remarkably, and sadly, 16 states as of last year still had a \$7.25 per hour minimum wage law – which amounts to refusing to improve the federal minimum wage. Thirty four states, including Michigan, adopted laws to have a higher minimum wage. Michigan's minimum wage rose to \$13.73 per hour on Jan. 1 from \$12.48 in 2025.

"Minimum wage increases are an essential tool for putting money in workers' pockets," the EPI said. "As concerns about rising prices and affordability dominate the news cycle, it is critical to recognize that 'affordability' is a function of both prices and wages. And while prices in most cases are unlikely to decline significantly, policymakers can make decisions that boost wages for workers."

Quotable

"New year — a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours."

—Alex Morritt (1963-)

AT 11 STORIES, THE BELLE is hardly the tallest building in downtown Detroit, but the redevelopment of the 1926 tower and its neighboring structures will anchor a long-neglected stretch of streetscape along Broadway. Formerly the Broadway Exchange Building and then the Harvard Square Center, The Belle is being transformed into residential space with street-level dining and retail. The building is being developed by Bedrock with construction management by Roncelli.



Rehab of ‘The Belle’ checks off another historic renovation target

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – Given the abysmal, neglected state of so many of the city's historic buildings downtown two decades ago, it's remarkable that today, developers are running out of targets to refurbish.

One of the final downtown opportunities for historic renovation is at The Belle, an historic mid-rise tower whose ongoing renovation is being underwritten by owner Dan Gilbert and his development

team at Bedrock Detroit. Opened in 1926 at 1346 Broadway on the east side of downtown, a renovation of the 11-story "The Belle" and its conversion into commercial and residential space has been ongoing for well over a year by Roncelli, its subcontractors, and building trades union workers.

"The Belle, formerly Harvard Square Center, is a residential conversion currently under development," says Bedrock. "Located along Broadway Street near Harmonie Park and Library Park in Detroit's emerging entertainment

district, The Belle offers 42 residential units across 51,000 square feet with street-level retail and dining opportunities. The building draws inspiration from its 1920s heritage and blends it with a modern edge and eclectic finishes in the Beaux-Arts architectural style."

Located in what was once the city's "Paradise Valley" – an area that was once a thriving African-American residential and commercial business district – the development of The

(Continued on Page 3)

2025: A good year in the building biz

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

What can you read into the state of the U.S. construction industry headed into 2026? The most recent numbers point to more strengths than weaknesses, and some uncertainty.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) economic numbers released on Dec. 16 helped fill in the month-long information gap created by the federal shutdown, and we will get an even better idea of the trend line when more numbers are released Jan. 9. What those December numbers show is a post-pandemic construction economy that still has legs, with construction still a good place to seek employment.

"Construction employment rebounded in November and

continued to grow faster than overall nonfarm payrolls," said Macrina Wilkins, the AGC's senior research analyst, on Dec. 16. "The underlying trends still point to steady demand for non-residential construction, even as parts of the residential market remain soft."

The BLS reported that construction employment increased by 28,000 positions in November, outpacing the rate of overall nonfarm payroll growth. Over the prior 12 months, industry employment increased by 58,000 jobs, or 0.7 percent, slightly exceeding the 0.6 percent year-over-year growth rate for total U.S. nonfarm employment.

The AGC said "the construction sector continues to experience acute labor shortages as

the pool of lawfully authorized workers continues to shrink."

The apparent ongoing construction labor shortages are also helping to boost wages. Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory employees in construction rose to \$37.83 in November, an increase of 4.3 percent over the past year. This exceeds the 3.9 percent gain in private-sector wages overall while maintaining a wage premium of roughly 19 percent over the broader private sector, the AGC said.

There were signs of economic softening in construction and in the overall economy. The U.S. jobless rate rose from 4.4 percent in September to 4.6 percent in November, the highest

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Dems build platform to build labor's prospects

By Mark Gruenberg
Press Associates Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – While Congress's Democratic leaders still can't figure how and when to combat Donald Trump – much less his Republican sycophants across the aisle – the House's Congressional Labor Caucus is building a platform of positive pro-worker measures for the party to run on next year, and enact should it win control of Capitol Hill in the autumn of 2026.

That's even though the lawmakers know the measures

they're pushing, with the Protect

The Right To Organize (PRO) Act in the lead, have zero chance in Congress in 2026 – and that even if they win pro-worker majorities in 2027, anti-worker White House occupant Trump would veto their bills.

Still, the measures are meant to indicate the party, or at least its rank and file, means to do something to combat corporate corruption, greed and control of Capitol Hill.

First out of the box will be the PRO Act, introduced early last year by Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., and almost all the House Democrats. It'll be reintroduced in 2027, since it's gone nowhere in this Republican-run Congress.

The PRO Act, organized labor's top legislative cause, would rewrite basic federal labor law to try to level the playing field between bosses and workers.



With ‘financial pathway secured,’ Palisades plant ready for mini reactors

By Marty Mulcahy, Editor

COVERT TWP. – The Trump Administration has mostly disowned the development of green energy production – with the notable exception of nuclear power.

The administration has opened its arms in welcoming –and helping to fund – new nuclear power sources, as no less than 15 reactors in the U.S. are slated to come online in 2026. Among the first in line to split atoms in 2026 will be the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant, which was shut down in May 2022 but is currently undergoing renovations to bring it back online this year. The 777-megawatt pressurized water reactor will be the first in U.S. history to be brought back online after being decommissioned.

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Trump continues to bust unions – and union jobs

Union coverage for TSA workers revoked, again

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – Continuing to be Scrooge for workers, the union-hating Trump regime has axed the contract for the nation's 47,000 blue-shirted Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) – the airport screeners – again.

Trump Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is "announcing a lump of coal right on time for the holidays: That she's stripping those same dedicated officers of their union rights," said American Federal of Government Employees (AFGE) President Everett Kelley on Dec. 12. It's "an illegal act of retaliatory union-busting that should cause concern for every person who steps foot in an airport."

AFGE has also been Trump's prime target. He's gone so far as to declare the union as an enemy. In her Dec. 12 statement, Noem called being unionized "incompatible with national security... wasteful and time-consuming."

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler denounced Noem's edict,

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Wind projects blown away:

‘These aren’t hypothetical jobs’

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) – The AFL-CIO, North America's Building Trades Union, the IBEW and the BlueGreen Alliance – a Steelworkers-crafted coalition of unions and environmental groups – condemned President Donald Trump's cancellation of federal permits and leases for five big offshore energy wind farms, effectively shutting them down.

The cancellations, including a halt to one almost-complete project in Long Island Sound, will cost tens of thousands of construction and manufacturing jobs and hundreds of later operating jobs. Trump didn't mention that. The unions did. (Michigan is also affected. See Viewpoints on Page 2).

Sean McGarvey, the North America's Building Trades Unions president, said Trump "has again chosen politics" over U.S. workers, their future and the economy. "Shutting down offshore wind projects doesn't just pause construction. It kills

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Healthy Work, Healthy Mind:

State takes deeper dive into helping workers’ well-being

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Falls, "struck-by" and electrocutions are perennially the leading causes of injuries and fatalities in the construction industry, but there's an entire subset of difficult to detect maladies among building trades workers and the rest of the American workforce.

We refer to mental health, and it's increasingly getting attention among employers and government agencies striving to help afflicted workers find a better place when they're dealing with psychological issues and personal crises.

The latest effort comes from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), which has introduced "LEADS" – Learn, Educate, Act, Deploy, Study – a new statewide program from their "Healthy Work, Healthy Mind" initiative. It's a program intended to help



employers assess workers and improve mental health and well-being in the workplace.

"Keeping workers healthy – physically and mentally – is good for our families, our businesses and our economy," said Susan Corbin, LEO Director. "Michigan is proud to lead the way in showing how mental health belongs at the center of workplace safety and success."

Introduced on Nov. 20, LEADS is described by LEO as "a structured, evidence-based model that helps employers strengthen workplace mental health through education, engagement and measurable change." LEO has been recruiting employers to enroll in the four-month pilot program, which begins in early 2026.

The program will engage small- and mid-sized employers across Michigan, with a focus on those in areas of high socioeconomic needs. Participating organizations will complete assessments, receive expert-led training and implement workplace strategies to enhance communication, safety and support.

Construction workers die by suicide at a rate approximately four to five times higher than the general population. Nearly 6,000 U.S. construction workers died by suicide in 2022. To date, construction contractors in Michigan have taken some steps toward identifying mental health issues among

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A RENDERING of the first two Holtec SMR-300 units are shown in the "back yard" of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant site in Covert Twp. These will be the first SMRs installed in the nation.

Viewpoints



Clean energy jobs = our jobs!

For more than 100 years, the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have worked hard to keep the U.S. and its vast industries powered. Through our efforts, we’ve not only secured fairer wages and safer working conditions but also played a crucial role in the clean-energy transition. This transition has strengthened our economy and diversified our energy supply, but now, because of President Donald Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” those gains are being reversed.

To put it simply, Trump and his allies are destroying local, good-paying jobs by gutting funding for Michigan’s clean-energy projects. Now, throughout the state, layoff notices are piling up. At Michigan facilities owned by GM, Avencez, and Dana Inc., just to name a few, workers who once made everything from EVs to battery parts have been let go.

On top of that, many projects that were planned or underway before the passage of the Big Ugly Bill have since been cancelled or delayed. Cancelled projects include what would have been a major battery factory in Detroit, a solar-manufacturing facility in Lansing, and a battery-parts facility in Independence Twp. Although it’s only a partial list, those three projects alone represent more than \$300 million in lost investment and more than 1,250 lost permanent jobs. We have the Big Ugly Bill to thank for that.

Additionally, Trump has harmed our state’s economy with a slew of executive orders and chaotic policymaking. For starters, his administration froze clean-energy investments that Congress had previously approved. And when challenged on this, his administration had no contingency plan for how to restart the funding and send those resources where Congress had intended.

That funding could have poured directly into our communities, creating job opportunities and stability for workers and their families alike. But this administration seems unconcerned with how everyday people are doing. They’re more focused, it seems, on enriching the already rich and breaking their promise to uplift the blue-collar workers who supported Trump in droves last year. These workers, including many of our members, supported him solely for the promise of job security and strong, living wages. But a year later, that’s not the reality our members face.

Our members and their families deserve stability, not chaos and confusion. In total, we’ve seen \$56 billion of planned investments and nearly 5,000 jobs in Michigan disappear in front of our very eyes. In the midst of a global trade war, one would think America would invest in domestic manufacturing and the building trades. Instead, good jobs are being eliminated in favor of white-collar polluters who have never done a day’s worth of the physically demanding, skilled labor that we have done for decades.

Investments in clean energy have also been few and far between since November 2024. Since then, the industry has been attacked by misinformation spread far and wide by this administration, causing potential investors to become skeptical or scared of the political and economic fallout of continuing to fund clean-energy projects.

The economy is only as strong as its workers. And if the Trump Administration continues attacking projects that create good jobs for working-class people, our economy will be at a severe disadvantage. It’s clear that the domino effect is actively at play, and it’s even clearer that there is a broader economic concern leading well into the future.

To save our collective futures, it’s time to re-start support for clean energy, rather than attacking job opportunities in this sector. The Trump Administration’s recent actions and future intentions set up electrical workers to fail and energy prices to increase, all while destroying America’s historic industrial power and the people who continue to energize our national economy.

Ryan Charney, Bay City
President of Michigan State Conference of the IBEW, and
IBEW Local 692 Business Manager

Palisades plant ready for mini reactors

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Located along the Lake Michigan shoreline about five miles south of South Haven, the Palisades plant property is also getting a pair of new next-generation SMRs – small modular reactors – which will nearly double the site’s generation capacity. And to seal the deal, Trump’s Department of Energy announced on Dec. 2 that it would invest \$400 million for the installation of the SMRs.

“President Trump has made clear that America is going to build more energy, not less, and nuclear is central to that mission,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. “Advanced light-water SMRs will give our nation the reliable, round-the-clock power we need to fuel the president’s manufacturing boom, support data centers and AI growth, and reinforce a stronger, more secure electric grid. These awards ensure we can deploy these reactors as soon as possible.”

Just like the project to re-start the original Palisades reactor (it first came online in 1971) is an historic first, so too is the use of the SMRs – the west Michigan nuclear plant will be the first in the nation to utilize them. SMRs, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, are advanced nuclear reactors limited to 300 megawatts per unit that are

physically a fraction of the size of a traditional nuclear reactor. They’re factory-assembled and modular for transport to a location for installation.

Palisades owner Holtec International purchased the plant in June 2022 and originally intended to decommission the facility. But significant state and federal resources were made available to Holtec to re-start the



CONDENSATE PUMP motors are shown being removed for refurbishment last year from the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.

AI bots are out to take even more jobs

By Jim Hightower

Look out – the corporate cat is out of the bag!

This particular “cat” is the fast-metastasizing software technology called “artificial intelligence.”

A cadre of multibillion-dollar high-tech giants have surreptitiously been advancing AI for a couple of decades, literally creating a new, autonomous species of thinking beings. These are computer-powered humanoid bots, increasingly-able to do the intellectual, creative, managerial, and other complex jobs that millions

of human beings now do.

The billionaire pushers of this brave new bot economy know that this amounts to placing a neutron bomb in the American workplace, so they have intentionally lied about its job-obliterating impact. However, after years of hush-hush development, the AI technology is now so advanced and the corporate investment in it is so gargantuan that the perpetrators no longer care what the public thinks.

This year, Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Oracle, and other Silicon Valley oligarchs have been feverishly dumping hundreds of billions of dollars each into a global corporate gold rush to supplant humans with AI bots in practically every economic sector. They expect to automate

half of all entry-level white-collar jobs within five years. And one Silicon Valley outfit (bluntly named “Mechanize”) calculates that its plan “to fully automate work” can be achieved within 30 years. Indeed,

BotWorld is now urging today’s AI technology to create super-intelligent systems that can out-think humans.

Yes – bots themselves are working to produce more powerful bots to speed up AI’s bot takeover of work.

This is Jim Hightower saying... If you think that, surely, this isn’t really happening, note that Trump’s GOP Congress recently imposed a 10-year ban on any state laws attempting to regulate AI. Just unleash the bots... and see what happens.

Palisades plant and then supplement it with the SMR units. The Biden Administration fronted a \$1.52 billion federal loan, while the State of Michigan committed \$300 million to re-start the plant.

A Dec. 2 corporate statement from Holtec upon announcing \$400 million federal grant said “we are delighted and honored to have been selected as a recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Tier 1 ‘First Mover Team Support’ award under the U.S. government’s ‘Generation III+ Small Modular Reactor Pathway to Deployment Program.’” Fittingly, the twin-unit SMR-300 plant has been named Pioneer 1&2, which captures its trailblazing mission to spearhead the rise of the SMR industry in the U.S. and the world.

“With the financial pathway secured, we look with guarded confidence to implement our ‘Mission 2030,’ which contemplates the Pioneer reactors being brought online in the first years of the 2030s.”

Just joking

A guy got mugged by a trumpet, a French horn and a violin. Police said it was an orchestrated attack.

...

Police say a petite psychic escaped their custody last night. They’re now looking for a small medium at large.

...

Two police cars showed up at my neighbor’s house a few doors down. I went outside and asked my other neighbor across the street what happened. “I guess the wife attacked her husband with a guitar!” he said. “She was taken away in handcuffs.”

At her arraignment, the judge asked the woman, “first offender?”

She responded, “no your honor, first a Gibson, then a Fender.”

“Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute.”

–Josh Billings (1818 - 1885)

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Union coverage for TSA workers revoked

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which Trump policy ordered, as “an outrageous attack on workers’ rights that puts all of us at risk.” She added: “TSA officers organized for years to secure this collective bargaining agreement to ensure they have a voice on the job and keep our nation’s air travel safe. They just worked for six weeks without pay during the government shutdown.”

Shuler pointed out that TSA officers managed the holiday travel rush, and now don’t know what their jobs will look like in 2026.

This is the Department of Homeland Security’s second attempt to union-bust at TSA. In March, Trump initially canceled the TSA’s collective bargaining agreement with the federal government, as he similarly yanked the union contracts of 1 million or so other federal employees. In June, a federal judge temporarily reinstated the blue-shirts’ union rights. The U.S. Supreme Court later made a blanket ruling temporarily lifting lower court injunctions, effectively allowing the union-busting. And when an appropriate case makes its way to the Supreme Court in 2026, a majority of justices are widely expected to permanently uphold Trump’s cancelation of the federal workers’ collectively bargained contracts.

Noem declared the TSA screeners’ current seven-year contract, signed in 2024, dead. The TSA reached the labor deal in May 2024 with AFGE after nearly a year of negotiations with the Biden Administration. Workers got enhanced shift trade options, increased allowance for uniforms and the addition of parental bereavement leave and weather and safety leave as part of the labor deal.

In the Trump regime equivalent of declaring an impasse in contract talks, Noem will replace it on Jan. 26 with an imposed “frame-work” governing the screeners. It will have “alternative procedures” to “address employee concerns,” TSA Trump regime officials said.

The TSA and its parent, the Department of Homeland Security, were formed by the Bush Administration in 2001 following the Sept. 11 al-Qaeda attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

Shuler said Noem’s second elimination of the TSOs’ contract should shove the Senate to pass the union-friendly Protect American Workers Act, which a bipartisan group of House lawmakers approved – over GOP leadership and Trump regime opposition. It would restore all the contracts Trump has trashed, covering a million federal workers.

“Prior to having a union contract, many employees endured hostile work environments and workers felt like they didn’t have a voice on the job, which led to severe attrition rates and longer wait times for the traveling public,” said Hydrick Thomas, president of AFGE Council 100, the TSA’s sector of the union. “Since having a contract, we’ve seen a more stable workforce, and there has never been another aviation-related attack on our country. Council 100 is going to keep fighting for our union rights so we can continue providing the very best services to the American people.”

Wind projects: ‘These aren’t hypothetical jobs’

(Continued from Page 1)

thousands of good-paying jobs on projects that were legally permitted, fully vetted, fully funded, and already underway,” he said. “These aren’t hypothetical jobs. They are real paychecks and billions in investment. Freezing them now is not a careful review. It is political gamesmanship that creates chaos for workers and the economy. This decision throws American blue-collar workers out of work, increases energy costs, and hands China a strategic advantage.”

Trump used “national security” as a reason, saying the wind farm blades would interfere with submarines’ radar surveillance for enemy vessels, notably along the East Coast. The BlueGreen Alliance called that laughable. “The administration claimed offshore wind turbines interfere with military radar systems,” the Alliance said. “The claim lacks credibility since all the projects were approved in coordination with the Department of Defense.”

Trump “paused” federal leases for the Revolution Wind, Sunrise Wind, Vineyard Wind 1, Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind, and Empire Wind 1 projects. “Once operational, these projects have the ability to provide six gigawatts of energy, enough to power more than 2.5 million homes with clean, reliable energy,” the Alliance said.

“President Trump’s attempt to abruptly scuttle East Coast wind projects, leaving thousands of workers in limbo, is irresponsible policy that threatens to take America backward,” said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. “Our economy is in a fragile state as unemployment rises and electricity and other prices spike. Destroying good union jobs on projects that are poised to meet demand and deliver electricity to the grid makes no sense.”

Trump has two other, unspoken, reasons for spiking the gears of the offshore wind turbines. One, the *New York Times* pointed out in its “Deals” column, is personal hatred. Trump has expressed hatred for wind farms because at least one looms over his Turnberry Golf Club’s coast in Scotland. He also has expressed hate for anything his Democratic successor and predecessor, Joe Biden, undertook, particularly green energy projects.

His hate in turn jibes with well-heeled fossil fuel firms’ campaign contributions to the GOP, the party’s denial of global warming and its “drill, baby, drill,” mantra, which Trump repeated on the campaign trail.

IBEW President Kenneth Cooper called the pause on offshore wind permits “a direct attack on American workers, U.S. energy security and affordability, and our nation’s economic future. Offshore wind projects represent thousands of good, union jobs for IBEW members who spent years training to build and maintain this infrastructure” and “tens of billions of dollars in private investment that strengthens domestic supply chains and reduces reliance on foreign energy sources.

“These projects have already been through extensive environmental, safety, and national security reviews, and halting them now creates uncertainty, stalls job creation, and hands a competitive advantage to other countries like China that are racing ahead in clean energy development.”

“To throw these important projects into chaos while American families are already feeling the strain of high energy prices defies logic,” Cooper continued. “These are the very projects that can quickly add capacity to the grid and begin to help meet skyrocketing demand.”

“The U.S. is facing a historic increase in electricity demand,” Lara Skinner, executive director of the Climate Jobs Institute at Cornell University, told ABC News. “One of the main reasons electricity prices are increasing in the U.S. is because we’re not building and producing enough electricity.”

Vegas. Dingell is the latest in a dynasty of strongly pro-worker lawmakers – she followed her spouse who followed his father, John Dingell, Sr. – from Detroit. Norcross is the former president of the South Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council.

Their legislation would impose much higher fines, in many cases reaching six figures, on firms which violate workers’ rights, and not just in organizing and bargaining. Violators of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, child labor laws, farm worker protections and illegal denial of minimum wages, overtime or

State takes deeper dive into helping workers’ well-being

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their workplaces.

Individual contractors in Michigan’s construction industry, especially in collaboration with MIOSHA, an agency within LEO, have come up with new ways of helping workers find help if they need it. In various states, including Michigan, the second week in September has been deemed suicide prevention week, with jobsite visits and talks from professionals who can point struggling trades workers in the right direction to get help.

“By teaming up with MIO-SHA and our partners across the industry, said Don Staley, senior vice president and safety director at The Christman Co., “we are working to break the silence, end the stigma, and make sure every worker knows they are supported and never alone.”

Employers participating in the LEADS program will designate a “champion” to coordinate efforts, review policies and ensure that mental health remains an ongoing organizational priority. The model emphasizes continuous improvement through data-driven evaluation, helping businesses measure progress and outcomes.

“Healthy Work Healthy Mind represents our next evolution in supporting working people and employers as they address the challenges of mental health in the workplace,” said LEO Deputy Director of Labor Sean Egan. A union electrician, Egan is former business manager of Muskegon IBEW Local 275. “Over the past three years, we’ve built a strong foundation through research, education and collaboration. Now, with LEADS, we’re taking the next step – turning knowledge into action.”

“Healthy Work Healthy Mind” statement of purpose says it will host monthly webinars, coordinate expert speakers across the state, publish a comprehensive statewide report on workplace mental health and will drive ongoing efforts “that connect employers with tools and best practices to reduce workplace stress and improve resilience. The program proves that when Michigan invests in people’s mental health, the entire business community grows stronger.”

A number of project partners are on board with LEADS, including the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, Dr. Michelle Kees with the University of Michigan’s Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Family Depression Center, Dr. Michelle Kaminski with Michigan State University’s School of Human Resources and Labor Relations, and Dr. Ashley Nixon with Wil-lamette University.

In addition, LEO’s efforts continue to have ongoing support from the state AFL-CIO, Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, and business groups.

“Construction workers experience one of the highest suicide rates in the country – a crisis that demands action,” said Steve Claywell, Secretary Treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council. “That’s why I’ve welcomed LEO to speak at our conferences and to our members: their work is saving lives. LEADS is another powerful step forward. It gives workers and contractors the tools to recognize stress, support each other and build jobsites where mental health is treated as a core part of safety. Every worker deserves to go home healthy, mentally and physically.”

both, would get soaked. And not just firms, either, but individual corporate CEOs and honchos, board members, managers, and line supervisors would be forced to pay. Many of the fines would begin at \$50,000 per instance-and go up.

The third piece of legislation, which Labor Caucus members unveiled just before the holiday recess, would revise, expand and improve the 37-year-old Worker Adjustment And Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, also known as the plant closing law.

Unions strongly supported the original WARN Act, which



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

Local Union 2353
Business Rep: Tony Parker
Meeting date: 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Place: District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.

2025: A good year in the building biz

(Continued from Page 1)

level in four years. Meanwhile, the construction industry’s jobless rate in November was 3.9 percent.

And in the realm of U.S. construction starts, the industry saw a significant month-to-month drop of 20.5 percent in November, although for the 12 months ending November 2025, total construction starts were still up 5.7 percent.

“A lack of megaproject activity contributed to a weak November for construction starts,” said Eric Gaus, chief economist at Dodge Construction Network on Dec. 22. “There were only two structures over a billion dollars. Looking through the noise of the last two months, the trajectory of the last half of 2025 has been much better than the first half.”

On a year-to-date basis through November, Dodge said total U.S. construction project starts were up 5.1 percent from 12 months prior. Nonresidential construction starts were up 4.7 percent, residential starts were down 4.9 percent and nonbuilding starts (usually infrastructure) were 17.5 percent higher over the same period.

The effect of President Trump’s ever-changing use of tariffs and their effect on industry goods prices, his dislike and de-funding of green energy projects, his disdain for infrastructure projects started in the Biden Administration, and uncertainties over interest rates, immigration policy, and worker availability all weigh on the prospects for construction in 2026.

Deloitte’s 2026 *Engineering and Construction Industry Outlook* said prospects for U.S. commercial construction activity are “cautiously optimistic, with data center and energy infrastructure expansion providing continued momentum. Projects in early planning stages could be affected by signs of evolving government policies or economic slowdown. Interest rates, inflation, and consumer sentiment will likely be closely monitored by developers of manufacturing, retail, and office properties.

“Conversely, signs of rapid economic strengthening or targeted government incentives could accelerate activity.”

mandated that a firm with at least 50 workers give 60 days advance notice of a plant closing or major layoffs at a specific worksite to both workers and local officials.

That notice to workers would let them have time to hunt for new jobs or, if unions represent them, negotiate severance packages. The notice to local officials would give them time to implement measures to help the workers – or to find alternative buyers for the threatened plants. But 37 years of experience and the changing nature of workplaces revealed

holes in the law, say its sponsors, Democratic Reps. Dingell

of Michigan, Nikki Budzinski of Illinois and Emilia Sykes of Ohio.

Its penalties for failing to warn workers are too light to deter lawbreakers – a problem with all labor laws– and it doesn’t protect tech workers or workers who toil for a firm but offsite and remotely. Sixty days advance notice isn’t enough, and it doesn’t protect part-time workers or apply to company subsidiaries, the three said.

Some progressive states enacted their own mini-WARN acts. New York’s also covers workers who lose jobs due to bosses’ replacement of them by



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

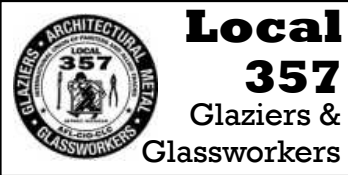
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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



Local 357
Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers 357
WARREN – Happy Holidays!!!

We had a terrific turn out at the December Holiday meeting, with well over 100 in attendance. It was nice to see everyone.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, at 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI, 48088 at 5 pm. If you are a member in good standing, please feel welcome to attend. Please make it a priority to attend.

We still have several Local 357 members currently laid off. Please make every effort to make sure your certifications are up to date. This will help get you back to work.

The IUPAT pension has updated the pension website. There is new information that could be helpful. iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It’s called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app.

Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member ID printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it’s a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

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

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088.

Make checks payable to: DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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

– Business Rep. Don Stepp

Dems build platform to build labor’s prospects

(Continued from Page 1)

If the Democrats take control of the House, the Senate or both in 2027, that won’t happen – though a GOP Senate filibuster might kill it before it ever lands on Trump’s desk.

Next would come legislation, introduced in early November, by the Labor Caucus leaders, Reps. David Norcross (D-N.J.), Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), and Mark Pocan (D-Wis.). Pocan is a member of the Painters. Horsford is a former top official of Unite HERE Local 226 in Las

Vegas. Dingell is the latest in a dynasty of strongly pro-worker lawmakers – she followed her spouse who followed his father, John Dingell, Sr. – from Detroit. Norcross is the former president of the South Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council.

Their legislation would impose much higher fines, in many cases reaching six figures, on firms which violate workers’ rights, and not just in organizing and bargaining. Violators of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, child labor laws, farm worker protections and illegal denial of minimum wages, overtime or

both, would get soaked. And not just firms, either, but individual corporate CEOs and honchos, board members, managers, and line supervisors would be forced to pay. Many of the fines would begin at \$50,000 per instance-and go up.

The third piece of legislation, which Labor Caucus members unveiled just before the holiday recess, would revise, expand and improve the 37-year-old Worker Adjustment And Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, also known as the plant closing law.

Unions strongly supported the original WARN Act, which

of Michigan, Nikki Budzinski of Illinois and Emilia Sykes of Ohio.

Its penalties for failing to warn workers are too light to deter lawbreakers – a problem with all labor laws– and it doesn’t protect tech workers or workers who toil for a firm but offsite and remotely. Sixty days advance notice isn’t enough, and it doesn’t protect part-time workers or apply to company subsidiaries, the three said.

Some progressive states enacted their own mini-WARN acts. New York’s also covers workers who lose jobs due to bosses’ replacement of them by

artificial intelligence. Hawaii, New Jersey and Maine require firms pay severance to workers who lose their jobs due to plant closings.

But a national law is needed, the three said. Their Fair Warning Act would require 90 days’ notice of plant closings.

Both Budzinski and Dingell said their legislation would, in Dingell’s words, “give workers and families the notice and respect they deserve when facing job loss. It also holds employers accountable for the consequences of abrupt and mass layoffs.”



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 514

DETROIT – The January membership meeting is cancelled due to the MITA conference and the World of Concrete conference.

Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!

January 2026

Ruben Salinas-25 Years

Henry Williams-25 Years

Bro. Quirno Longo passed away in December. He was a 66-year member. Please keep the Longo family in your thoughts and prayers.

Marcus Martinez is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator; he can be reached at (313)-350-0389 or by email: mmartinez@opciami.org

Please contact the local at 248-548-0800 or you can email your updated information to: abest@opciami.org Please send your updated information in a timely manner.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Must-safe.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 members email address.

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 individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

Death Certificates: Please always notify the Union Hall with a phone call when a member of the Local has passed away and submit a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired member.

Attention all Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplastertraining.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 Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

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

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

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

Please make sure that we have all of your current contact information, address and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated for your health (Continued next column)



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

Warren, MI 48091

ALL FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED – EXCEPT FOR THE MARQUETTE CHAPTER AND HOUGHTON MEETINGS – DUE TO THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 7, 2026.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Clarence Logan** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 9/18/2025. Brother Logan had been a member for over 56 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Bruce Coggin** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 9/24/2025. Brother Coggins had been a member for 48 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Fred Bridge** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 11/11/2025. Brother Bridge had been a member for over 39 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother James Dixon** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 11/12/2025. Brother Dixon had been a member for nearly 27 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Lee Wagner** (Bricklayer and Stone Mason) who passed away on 11/19/2025. Brother Wagner had been a member for over 60 years.

APPRENTICE HOURS

PORTAL: Turning in hours monthly on the Engage Portal is a requirement of your apprenticeship in order to keep up with your raises. This is all completed online must be filled out with details of what you have done for the month. If you need assistance getting access to the portal or need help on how to turn in time there are resources available online or please contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382. They can be found at <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources>. For more information on 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.**

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.

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

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE: The IUBAC Member Assistance Program has a number of services available for free or at a discounted rate to BAC members and their families. These confidential services can be seen at <https://bacweb.org/member-service/member-assistance-program-map> and are also available via telephone at 1-833-MAP TALK (1-833-627-8255) Monday – Friday 8 am – 7 pm. These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION.

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362
Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550
International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)
Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954
Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954
Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

Happy New Year! From the Officers and Members of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers Local 149. May 2026 be a great, safe, and prosperous year for you and your family.

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Feb. 3, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Mid-Michigan. The Mid-Michigan informational meeting is scheduled for Tues., Jan. 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brothers.

Brother Thomas Konen was 79 years old and a 50-year member. Brother Konen passed on 10/6/2025.

Brother Kenneth Dinnan was 87 years old and a 46-year member. Brother Dinnan passed on 11/22/2025.

Rest in Peace Brothers, thank you for your years of service.

Thank you to the members who have paid their Union Dues a year in advance. By paying your Union Dues a year in advance, you are saving our union money. To pass these saving along to our members, we will be giving a "I paid my Dues" t-shirt to anyone who's dues are paid up to 12/31/2026 and beyond. In order to be eligible, members must pay their 2026 dues in full by Jan. 31, 2026. To receive your 2026 "I paid my Dues" t-shirt, please contact the Union Hall (313.961.6093 ext. 0).

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

Detroit Training Center Information. The next term for all Detroit Apprentices will be as follows:

Apprentice 2 & Single Ply
1- Monday, January 19, 2026

Apprentice 1 & Single Ply
2- Tuesday, January 20, 2026

BUR 1 & Steep Slope 1-
Wednesday January 21, 2026

BUR 2 & Steep Slope 2-
Thursday, January 22, 2026

Apprentice 7 & 8 Hands On + Safety & Health- Thursday, January 22, 2026.

All classes begin at 6:30pm
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 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.

Reminde. 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 1/5/2026, 2:00pm

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

January 9, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 5

Laborers'
International
Union of
North America

LiUNA! LOCAL 1191

Feel the Power

Laborers' Local 1191

(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

****HAPPY NEW YEAR! The Executive Board, Officers and Staff of Laborers' Local 1191 wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!**

LABORERS RISING: 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 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.

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, located at 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 February General membership meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2026. The General Membership Meeting for March will be held on the 6th of March, 2026.

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Local Union, located at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The Retiree Council Meetings resume beginning in January 2026, on January 30, 2026. The February Retiree Council Meeting is scheduled for the 27th of February, 2026.**

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!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

Important Notice Regarding Dues Payments: According to the Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member will be suspended by the International Union without notice. **To better serve our membership, the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.**

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

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

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must

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

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

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

Death Certificates: Please always submit to the Local Union a copy of a Death Certificate for deceased active or retired members. **FYI: The death certificate is required for any designated beneficiary to receive available benefits.**

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

IMPORTANT UNION BENEFIT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Michigan Laborers' Fringe Benefits Funds (Annuity, Insurance, Pension)

* Telephone: (877) 645-2267

* Fax: (517) 689-6016

*Website: www.michiganlaborers.org

*Delta Dental: (800) 524-0149

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Pension)

*Telephone: (248) 641-4942

Metropolitan Detroit Laborers' (Healthcare)

*Telephone: (800) 228 0048

REMERICA
HOMETOWN

930 W Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
Cell: (734) 664-9090
Office: (734) 459-6222
Email: [louwasik@remerica.com](mailto:louwwasik@remerica.com)
Website: hometownmoves.com



Lou Wasik
Realtor

Longtime
member of
Heat & Frost
Insulators
Local 25





IBEW 557
SAGINAW – The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 6 pm.

MEETING PARKING - To help the congestion around the Hall on meeting night, members may park freely on the property directly west of the Union Hall as the acquisition of the property has been completed 100%.

LOCAL 557 OFFICERS PALs CLASS – The PALs class for Local 557 officers will be offered on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6pm. Approximate length for the course will be 2 hours. Pizza will be provided. This class is offered for compliance with the International Office’s mandate issued earlier this year for ALL OFFICERS to attend. Of course, it is available other rank and file members as well. Please join us.

POKER NIGHT RETURNS – Back by popular demand for 2026! The first scheduled Poker night of the year will be **Thursday, Jan. 15. Start time is 6pm.** Please come out for some friendly games between Brothers.

LOCAL 557 RE-VAMPED WEBSITE & PAYING DUES ONLINE – 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.

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES – Local 557 has again sponsored the Saginaw Spirit through the Labor-Management Committee. Season tickets will continue to be given away at Union meetings for the remainder of the season. Upcoming games with blocks of tickets and the Eagle’s Nest are on Feb. 22, and March 14. If you picked up some of the tickets for games through the Hall, please make the plans to use them or drop them back off at the Hall for others to use if your plans have changed.

PROJECT PHOENIX- Work on the Mega Project has slowed. There was a call for the project recently, but it is difficult to tell if there will be more hiring for the project. Members on the project currently should have a good chance of remaining there for a good portion of the winter and into the spring.

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

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

WORK OUTLOOK- Other than Project Phoenix, work has slowed for the winter. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs. Positive news continues to flow regarding the Downtown Saginaw Medical Diamond. It is the hope to have members working on this come spring. J. Ranck Electric has another large solar farm set to begin in the spring as well. This project will be in the Ingersol Twp. area.

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.

Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – We hope you all had a wonderful and prosperous Holiday Season! We are setting plans and dates for 2026. Below you will find some important dates in the coming year. We will have more on that in the coming weeks, so check your email for important updates.

DBRF Assessment: Earlier this year, a new bylaw was approved to increase the Death Benefit Retirement Fund to \$10 per member for each retiree/decedent with 10 years continuous good standing prior to retirement/death. This benefit is to be assessed once per year at the end of the year. This means each member will be assessed \$10 for every Local 131 member who retired or died as an active member after April 25. \$3 will be assessed for retirees and decedents prior to April 25. DBRF assessments will begin appearing on dues payments in January. The anticipated assessment will be \$73.

The next **General Membership** Meeting will be held on Feb. 9 @ 6PM.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at **CJ's at 5 p.m.**

Veteran's Committee Meeting: Jan. 8 @ 5PM

The Executive Board meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026

Brotherhood Night is on the 2nd and 4th 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 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM

Upcoming Events:
Retiree Quarterly Meetings – TBD

Pension Self Direct – March 25th @ 730PM

Spring Member Orientation Breakfast – March 21st

Solidarity Education Dinner – April 22nd

Allocation Meeting – May 4

Steward Training –TBD–June Local 131 Picnic –August 1st

Local 131 110th Anniversary – TBD (Fall 2026)

Fall Member Orientation Breakfast – Oct. 10

We will release a full 2026 calendar later this month – keep an eye out for it in your email!

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to have work for the foreseeable future, and likely into spring of 2026, paying \$57.78/hr. **The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be steady until spring.** Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026. There are also tentative plans for solar farms in the jurisdiction, so 2026 may prove a very busy year for Local 131.

Solar Fields, Data Centers, and infrastructure: There are many projects in our area being cancelled or rejected due to local opposition, usually based on bad information and reactionary politics. To help secure work and build prosperity for our Local and our community, please speak up and participate in local meetings and board hearings.

Retiree's Lunches at the following Locations:

Jan. 21, Lunch at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 6700 Westnedge Ave. Portage, MI. 49002

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Rd., 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. Ninth Street, Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

Members Three Months in Arrears or More: Jeff Berner, Jacob Borys, Christian Buckhold, Tyler Hall, Adam Hofacre, Robert Dalecki, Jacob McPherson, Matthew Pellicano, Justin Prisk, Jacob Rhoda, Jason Streit, Herbert Sykes, Noah Valerio, Cory Werner-Hoskins, Joseph Zirkelbach.

*Jonathan Current
Business Manager
IBEW Local 131*



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting: will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way. Your patience is appreciated!

UPDATE – Sub Pay is currently paid for Inside ONLY. Limited Energy Sub Pay has resumed. If you have any 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.

Our **Store** will be **Closed** from Dec. 17 until Jan. 12, 2025.

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase, if you would like to purchase a brick, please contact the Union Hall for an Order Form. 7x9 brick pavers can have up to 6 lines of lettering and 17 spaces per line, \$100.00 Donation per Brick. NOTE: No symbols or clipart can be added to brick pavers. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers please contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

Local 58 Dues Department – Happy New Year! Look at your Dues Receipt - if your paid through date shows 09-30-2025, you are not current and will have a reinstatement fee of \$30.00. If you are paid through 6-30-2025, you have lapsed your membership and will have to see the Executive Board. Please call the union hall to make the appointment. 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: The January Board meeting is on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026. Meeting starts are 10 a.m. in the main conference room at the Local Union Hall.

Our January Luncheon is happening on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Mama Mia's Livonia, 27770 Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$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 at 313 408-5885. All retirees are welcome!

Syl Ludwic is working on the Florida Luncheon that happens in February 2026. He would appreciate input from you Florida folks, with attendance low this past February, he is considering a venue change, his two possible places are Melanie's Seafood Co., 120 E. Park Ave., Lake Wales, FL 33853 or Harborside, 2435 7th St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880. Please check out their menus, Send Syl Suggestions, (sludwic@gmail.com) or 352-250-1178). He would appreciate thoughts about whether to continue the luncheon, and these potential venues.

Dues expire on 12/31/2025, dues are \$8 per person (spouse is an additional \$8). A renewal form is in the November Newsletter (will also be in the December and January Newsletters) and send your dues (checks payable to the Retirees Association) to the address above, Attn: Retirees. Thanks to all of our members for your prompt dues renewals. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, luncheons alternating from the west side of town to the east side. We also host a spring Pin Party, our annual August Picnic, and our Christmas Party in early December. For the travelers among us, we also have an annual September Bus Trip, New York City is the destination of the 2026 trip. Details are being worked out. Come join us, we always have a great time.

Electrical Workers' Joint Boards of Trustees – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Fund 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): Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund will have their next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Our next event will be the 23rd Annual Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Local 58 Union Hall. Raffle tickets are \$20 per ticket and entrance fee is \$20 at the door. The doors will open at 4pm. Grand Prize is a 75-inch tv and theatre recliner as well as numerous other prizes.

The 3rd Annual John Mayerik scholarship will be available soon. Please be on the lookout for more details to follow.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Local 58 is very active with community service in the Metro Detroit area and has a variety of upcoming projects that require the help of volunteers and helping hands. Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering.

The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, 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, Jan. 19 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.

We are moving forward with our challenge coin fundraiser. The third coin in the series 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 EWMC “What Up Doe?” jackets have been ordered.

Thanks to all who participated in both of our EWMC International Day of Service projects.

It's time to get prepared for the 2026 Annual EWMC Leadership Conference. Our chapter always makes a positive impact on the Conference, and we will continue the tradition. Please be on the look out for any emails from Kelly Lynch with Conference information and respond accordingly.

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

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

The Veterans Committee - is meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

Local 58's Women's Committee – The next committee meeting is Thursday, Jan. 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org

Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 27 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 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.

NEW SYSTEM UPGRADE! You will notice several changes in (Continued next column)



IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT - Meetings.

Membership Meeting – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be January 12th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings – Retirees next meeting will be February 3rd, 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 re-signs.

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

Seeking New Membership– As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer 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 Maxwell Cavric. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

Retirees – Congratulations to Larry Richter 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 Markee, Phillip Rozier, Robert Shourd. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.

IBEW 58, con’t

cluding: Account Numbers- Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system upgrade. Checks-Your MICR line will change to a 14-digit format (currently 8) You can continue to use your current checks. New checks will have the updated MICR. Online Banking- Starting 11/4/25 members will be required to re-enroll in our new online banking. Visit our website at ewcu.net and click on the Online Banking button. You will need to enroll by selecting the “First time user” link and then follow the onscreen instructions to have a unique code emailed or texted to you. New Mobile App- Our current mobile app has been deactivated as of 6/30/25. Our new Mobile Banking App should be available from your app store shortly after our system upgrade. Please be on the lookout for communications at ewcu.net.

In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 4.99% APR.

Who’s your Beneficiary? Here are some tips to help make sure your account is up to date with us. Review your beneficiaries periodically, especially if a life change occurs. Be sure the wording is correct, especially if you name more than one beneficiary.

Be sure to keep the Union Hall updated with **any** changes to your phone number, address, email and beneficiaries. If your marital status has changed, please be sure to update any beneficiary forms.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: William Asbury Jr., Alan Austin, James Bickley Jr., Victor Furnari, Douglas Hurd Jr., David Kwiatkowski, Bruce McFadden, Patrick Stover, Robert Weber and Robert Welton.

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.

William Aquin, Pension member, 28 year IBEW membership; **James C. Baudino**, Pension member, 70 year IBEW membership; Father to JIW Mark Baudino & the late Pension member James “Michael” Baudino; (Continued next column)



Local 275

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – Work

Outlook: 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. Hart Solar is just starting to have calls regularly, and Freshwater solar will begin manning up soon. Please consider helping man these calls if you can.

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 4th 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.

Veteran's Committee: Meeting will be held monthly on the 4th 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.wmejatc.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. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmejatc@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: For those who are not aware Walter has decided to go back to the field to work with the tools. We would like to thank him for his many years as an organizer and agent and wish him success.

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

For any members still using the 1-800 number to call the Union Hall Offices, please note that we removed that line several months ago. If you are having trouble reaching the office, please double check that you aren’t using that number.

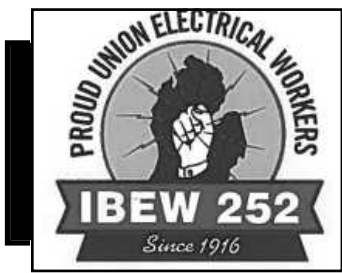
As a reminder, the Local Union Hall offices have changed their hours. The offices will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm.

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 three months or more behind on dues: David Burkholder, Henri Creed, Breydon Daniels, Dan Heeringa, Andrew Holmes, Damien Keglovitz, Andrew Kruthoff, Jeremy Rinehart, and Kyle Vanderlaan - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

IBEW 58, con’t

Brother to Joseph Baudino, Pension member, 43 year IBEW membership; Son-in-Law to the late Pension member Jerome Berlin; Grandfather to JIWs James Berlin, James “Joey” Baudino, Michael Baudino & Campbell Kinch; **Donald Beauchemin**, Pension member, 73 year IBEW membership; **Nancy Christians**, Spouse of Donald Christians, Pension member, 47 year IBEW membership; **Frederick Griffin**, Pension member, 63 year IBEW membership; **Robert Haggart**, Pension member, 58 year IBEW membership; Father to JIW Grant Haggart and Grandfather to JIW Connor Haggart; **Jerald McCoy**, Pension member, 68 year IBEW membership; **Karen Meininger**, Widow to the late Pension member Armand Meininger; **Joseph Reott**, Journeyman Inside Wireman; **David Sackett**, Pension member, 74 year IBEW membership; and **Shirley Weber**, Widow to the late Pension member Ronald O. Weber; Mother to JIWs Robert “Bob” Weber and Brian Weber.



IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANNARBOR – MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MAN-AGER: Happy New Year! As we roll into 2026, I want to thank everyone for all you do every day! 2026 promises to be a very busy year for Local 252. The work outlook is very robust. The Saline Data Center will provide over 5 million labor hours for us in the next 2 years! Although “The Barn” is the talk of the town right now, we must never forget how important it is to maintain our relationships with current customers. To keep our strong market share we can never forget about our loyal customer base that has provided labor hours for us for decades.

Please look after each other on the jobsite and check in on those that are going through tough times. Work safe and have a great 2026!

Ryan Husse
Business Manager

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR EARNED SICK TIME ACT (ESTA): We need official complaints filed with the State of Michigan if you are being denied earned sick time from your employer. NECA has dropped their appeal but is still refusing to acknowledge the ESTA in our jurisdiction. We need as many complaints to the state as possible. To file a complaint please use one of the following options:

- Online (fastest method): www.michigan.gov/wageclaim
- Fax: 517-763-0110
- Mail: Wage & Hour Division, P.O. Box 30476, Lansing, MI 48909-7976

- In Person-- Lansing or Detroit BY APPT. ONLY 530 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48933 (Mon through Friday; 8am- 4pm) 3026 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 2-750, Detroit, MI 48202 (Mon and Wed only; 8:30am- 4pm)

Please reach out to the hall if assistance is needed.

BE SURE TO KEEP BENEFICIARY FORM UPDATED: A friendly reminder that beneficiary forms are available at the fund office **AND** at the hall for anyone that may need to update beneficiary information. If your information needs to be updated, it needs to be updated at **BOTH**. **TRAINING CLASSES 2025: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM**

Transformers/Grounding & Bonding- January 5, 12,19, February 9, 16 & 23

EPRI Part B- January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17. (Ten classes total from Jan 13-Mar 17)

Conduit Bending- Every other Thursday beginning on February 12 and ending April 2. (6 classes)

Masters Prep- 6 Classes beginning March 2 and ending April 6.

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

Journeymen Prep- June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14 & 21

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

CPR- March 3 & 10, June 2 & 9, September 1 & 15, December 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.

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.

EWMC CHEF’S CHOICE COOK OFF: Join us February 21, 2026 from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. Cook and bring your favorite and best recipe(s). The best savory and sweet dishes will be voted on with a reward for the winners. Please have an ingredient list for allergy purposes.

This event will be on the same day as the RENEW Euchre/ Cribbage Tournament. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Yohance Jennings (313) 283-3294

or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

RENEW BENEVOLENT EUCHRE & CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT: Join us February 21, 2026 from 4-9 p.m. at the Union Hall. Stop in and play some card games. Tournament winners will receive gifts. If you’re willing to help with set up, run games, clean up, or to make a donation please contact Dan Beck (810) 858-0033. This is the same day as the EWMC Cook Off.

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

RETIREES’ BREAKFAST: The Retirees’ Breakfast will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at **9:00 a.m. (new time)** at Leo’s Coney Island, 160 South Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. There is parking and entrances at both the front and rear of the restaurant.

M.U.S.T DRUG TESTING: Please make sure your MUST drug testing is current as you cannot work on a U of M project or several other projects in the jurisdiction without being current. Local 252 has a zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use.

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

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Local 252 partners with Health Management Systems of America to provide Employee Assistance for several issues. For confidential 24/7 assistance, call toll-free 1-800-847-7240, or visit www.my-life-resource.com and use username: hmsa, password: myresource for more information.

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

AT&T DISCOUNT: Union members can save up to 15% on the monthly service charges of qualified wireless plans, or unlimited calling for \$15/mo. for AT&T Wireless Home Phone plans. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT with discount code 4924966.

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. For a full list of required documents please contact the Union Hall.

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

CONDOLENCES: The Local sends our sincere condolences to the family of David Tumey, who passed away on December 31, 2025.

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 12/2025, 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 first quarter dues (January through March) are due now. **Payments for first quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 8, 2026: Super Bowl Party

February 21, 2026: EWMC Chef’s Cook-Off & Cribbage/ Euchre Tournament

March 31, 2026: 11:30 a.m. Deadline for 1st Quarter Dues



IBEW Local 498

“Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949”

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Feb 9, 2026, @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Feb 9, 2026.

Resale Items –We still have Tee shirts for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

show up at Sparky’s.

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

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

Email Addresses - Any member that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or



IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.**

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. You have my sincere wishes Brothers and Sisters for a very Happy New Year! It is my hope the New Year brings you and your family all unfound prosperity.

Work Report. The work report in our jurisdiction continues to be very strong. Many calls have been very difficult to find the amount of help needed. Calls that may require additional manpower include:

Motor City Electric is finishing up work on the new line at Bay City’s GM Powertrain site. **Nelson Electric** and **Superior Electric** also have ongoing projects at Powertrain. **Nelson** also secured the Delta College S-Wing lighting upgrade.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy’s Karn Solar site in Essexville. More calls are expected in mid-December and may continue into January.

Van Ert Electric has begun work at their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected late December or early January.

Countyline Power has ongoing work at the Bay City and Mt. Pleasant Water Treatment facilities and Harrisville Pumpstations. Countyline Power has also a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar in Bay City.

Clements Electric’s work on the Midland Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues, as does work at Mersen USA and Bay County Health Department. Contracts for Oddfellows Hall in Midland, a housing development in Downtown Bay City, Bay City Animal Control and Bay County Road Commission have all been signed with work to start soon. Another housing complex in Auburn is also underway. Work also continues at Mersen for Clements along with being awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City **Conti Electric** has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility. **Escon Group** is ramping up work within the I-Park and Consumers Energy service centers.

Master Electric continues work at Clare County Road Commission. **Ted’s Electric** has work in Mt. Pleasant and Clare Schools.

Bay Valley Electric is continuing work at Bay Valley Resort.

John’s Electric has work through the winter at Clear Lake and Hoefft State Parks. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg.

Northern Valley continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda’s Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls. **J. Raymond Electric** has a project at Warbler’s Cove Campground near Rose City.

We do need some wiremen to man our local work or market share will be lost. Open calls continue to be available on a weekly basis. We saw this scenario play out in our past, let us not repeat our mistakes. Rest assured, your organizers will be working diligently to fill all open calls with qualified hands by any means necessary. If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use extension #1.

In Solidarity,

Ryan Charney

Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers’ Report. New Member Orientation will be scheduled this winter. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course. A newsletter, *New Member Minute*, has been created to inform wiremen and apprentices about topics such as benefits, contracts, dues, referral procedures, etc. All members are welcome to request being added to the list to receive these informative newsletters by emailing organizers.

PAL and COMET training sessions will continue, all members are welcome to attend. Dates and times will be shared in future *Building Tradesman* articles.

Any non-licensed member looking to study for their state electrical license exam (outside of the apprenticeship) is welcome to attend Code Navigation classes at the JATC every second and fourth Monday at 4 PM. This class is designed for accelerated apprentices (CWs) and will be taught by former Training Director Stephen Pahl.

If you need help renewing your State Electrical License, please call the hall. Licenses must be renewed before January 1st to avoid a \$50 late fee.

Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions regarding organizing or work reports around the state. Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 252.9225

Union Dues. There is no dues rate increase for the 2026 calendar year. Monthly dues will remain at \$49.20.

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

Retirees Lunch. The January retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. Thursday, Jan.15, at The Creek Grill, located at 1259 S. Poseyville Road in Midland.

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

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

Important links & numbers

Health Plan & Pension Fund

855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

www.michiganelectrical.org

NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300

IO Pension: 202.833.7000

the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Fax# 1-952-854-1632 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

3001 Metro Drive Suite

500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES: Jan 1, 2026 – \$164.10/Quarter.

Info Updates –Any member with a new address, phone number, email address, etc. should contact Local 498 with these changes.

Please remember it is your responsibility to pay your dues on time.

Remember to check the hall recorder at night after 4:00pm for any jobs that might be available. 231-943-4980 ext. 2#

done in person, over the phone, or on the app/website.

Work is currently slowing down for the winter season. Currently we have a 1 man call for Northern Power on Mackinac Island. Reminder that there is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11 am EST.

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 and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

There is a 2026 Negotiations Survey under the Announcements tab on the Website and App, we encourage everybody to submit what they would like to see in these upcoming negotiations.

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

A friendly reminder that monthly dues increased \$1.00 effective July 1, 2025 bringing the monthly dues total to \$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 have a change in information please make sure to let the hall know.

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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.

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- WE WILL PERSONALLY REPRESENT YOU
- OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

www.ssdfighter.com



Local 357

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Jan. 13** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

K-WINGS HOCKEY NIGHT: Local 357 will be participating in a “night out” K-Wings Hockey Game on **Saturday, Feb. 7** at **7 pm**. Tickets will be at the K-Wings WILL CALL window. Please call Lori at (269) 679-3708, or email her at lhatfield@ualocal357.com on or before **Monday, Feb. 2**, to reserve your tickets.

HOLIDAY PARTY: We give a special Thank You to Mark Little and his wife who did an **OUTSTANDING** job with this year’s Holiday Party. It was well attended and a lot of fun for all the members that could attend. We will be looking forward to next year’s event.

APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS: Qualified applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be at least 18 Years Old and graduated or graduating in 2026
2. Be willing to serve an apprenticeship
3. Have a desire to work in various conditions and weather
4. Be able to pass a drug test
5. Be willing to submit to a background search and have no felony convictions
6. Be willing to attend some mandatory night classes

Qualified applicants must provide the following documents:

1. A copy of your high school diploma (If your Graduation Date is NOT on your high schools transcripts) or GED equivalent
2. A copy of your high school transcript of classes and grades
3. A copy of your birth certificate

Absolutely no copies will be made for you! Interested persons may pick up an application by showing a driver’s license, beginning **Feb. 3, 2026**, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed from **Noon to 1 pm**) at the Union Hall, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087. Note that NO EARLY APPLICATIONS are given out.

All applications must be picked up by the person who is applying! NO EXCEPTIONS!

Applications along with the three documents from above must be returned to the Schoolcraft location by 4:30 pm on **Feb. 28, 2026**. Only complete applications with all documents will be considered. Absolutely no mailed, faxed, or e-mailed information will be accepted. All applications and documents must be hand delivered by the applicant to the Union Hall.


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

RETIREE MEETING: 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. Phone no. for the location: (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).**

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to David Perkins and family on the birth of a son, Charles

(Continued next column)



Local 190

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – UNION MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

2025 CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS: Please go to our website, under events for the Christmas Party Photos, a QR code has been added.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES: who are planning on taking the journeyman upgrade test need to get their Letter of Intent sent to Roy Musgrove, Pat Duffy or the Gas Distribution Examining Board members. The letters are due by the end of December. Please mail to Local 190, 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48106 Attn: Pat Duffy.

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 5 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.* Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

PAY UNION DUES ONLINE: Members can now pay your union dues online. <https://mtp.ua190.org/mtpweb> Username will be your full social security no., temporary password is the last four digits of your social security no. 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.

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

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

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

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

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. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org

2025 HEALTH COSTS: Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2025 health costs personally, you must submit information to the Union Hall 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to the attention of Bernadette by Feb. 15. If you

Local 190

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

have any questions please feel free to contact Bernadette at 734-424-0962 EXT 3.

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 at Local 190’s office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1-4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

MEDICARE: When you become eligible for Medicare, please contact Bernadette Maus at our Fringe Benefit office 1-888-390-7473.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY: Applications will be available for the Plumber/Pipefitter Apprenticeship Program for Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC. Applicants may apply online, starting Jan. 2 until Jan 31, 2026, at <https://www.ua190.org/apprentice-application.aspx> the link will be in the upper right of the page listed and on the UA 190 home web page. Online applications will only be accepted. Applicants must submit all required documents and testing fees before Feb. 1, 2026, to be considered.

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. **Check your Certifications to make sure that you are current!**


Please submit all continuities, certifications and licenses to the Training Center, so we can keep your profiles up to date. Email: 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 2026 **Schedule - Mondays – Feb. 16th, April 20, July 20, and Sept. 28, 2026.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - Mondays – Feb. 23, April 27, July 27, and Oct. 5, 2026.** 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 **Jan. 5 until May 22, 2026**, 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.



Local 85

Plumbers & Steam Fitters

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026**, at the Union Hall, at 3535 Bay Rd. at 7:00 PM.

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 csteele@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 at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

JATC News: 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, (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 at (989) 799-5261.


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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

THE NEXT RETIREE LUNCHEON will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603. We ask if you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

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



Local 111

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 111

UPPER PENINSULA – UNION MEETING: The next Union Meeting will be held in Escanaba on Thursday, January 29th at 7:30 PM. It will be a special-called meeting to vote on referral rule changes. All members are encouraged to attend.

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.

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 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 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 under the MSHA Calendar.

“A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past, he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future.”
–Sidney J. Harris (1917-1986)

“The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.”
–Walter Bagehot (1826 - 1877)

“He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself.”
–Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)

“We are all here for a spell; get all the good laughs you can.”
–Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

“Seize the moment of excited curiosity on any subject to solve your doubts; for if you let it pass, the desire may never return, and you may remain in ignorance.”
–William Wirt (1772 - 1834)

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Local 357, continued

Congratulations to Christian Stinson on his recent marriage to Stephanie.

Congratulations to Derrick Miller on his recent marriage to Mia.

CONDOLENCES:

Condolences to Ben Brown and the rest of his family on the recent passing of his mom.

Condolences to the family of retired member, Darold Dispennett, who passed away recently.



Plumbers Local 98



UA Local 98

DETROIT - *Membership of Plumbers Local 98.* The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you all enjoyed your holiday season and are looking forward to 2026!

We'd like to congratulate Rob Moses on his well-earned retirement after 37 years with Plumbers Local 98. You've served this union with grit and heart – as a delegate, as vice president, and these last six and a half years as our organizer, you fought for our members every single day. Enjoy the next chapter – you've more than earned it. Cheers to a great career and an even better retirement!

New UA Membership Cards: New cards have arrived. All members who are current on their membership dues for 2026 may stop in the hall to pick up their new cards.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026 at 6pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Feb. 5 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.

Beginning Jan. 5, 2026 and ending Jan. 23, 2026, we will be accepting resumes for our full-time organizer position. If you're ready to stand up for workers, help grow our membership, and fight for fair wages, benefits, and safety on the job, we want to hear from you. This is a hands-on role — organizing drives, outreach, membership recruitment and representing skilled tradespeople. Deliver your resumé along with a brief cover letter outlining your labor-organizing passion and experience to Business Manager Gary Glaser. Join us – and help build a stronger, united workforce.

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members, retirees, spouses/domestic partners and dependents 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. A Ulliance Representative will lead off our Jan. 8 membership meeting to present and answer any questions.

Annual Chili Cook Off: 98's entertainment committee will be hosting a chili cook off before our Feb. 12 membership meeting from 4-5:30pm. It's free to enter and we will have prizes for first through third place. Call BA Jimmy Cools for any further information.

Ready to Work Program: Visit our website and select the *Ready to Work* link under Resources to complete your application and upload the required documentation for payment consideration. All materials must be submitted by close of business on Jan. 31, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute – deadlines don't negotiate. If you have questions, contact a Business Agent and they'll point you in the right direction.

Retiree Luncheon has been postponed until March 2026. The retirees have decided to forego the monthly lunch meetings for January and February 2026 meetings. The monthly luncheons will resume for the spring in March 2026. Please watch the *Tradesman* article, check the Local 98 website and Facebook page. Any question, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

Apprentice Clothing Drive: Join us in helping our apprentices get the work clothes they need to succeed! Drop your donations off at the hall during business hours. Apprentices can pick up what they need at the January and February monthly meetings.

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.

Membership Dues Reminder: Friendly reminder to stay up-to-date on your membership dues. Local 98 will be offering members who pay in full for the 2026 calendar year, or sign up for automatic deductions, a complimentary gift. Members may mail payment, pay online, come into the hall or call the hall the to make a payment.

Snowbirds: If you would like to temporarily change your address for correspondence from Local 98, and BeneSys, please

call the hall to avoid delays in receiving your mail.

Expelled Members: We currently have four expelled members as of Jan. 1, 2026: Bren Kubik, Matthew Scott, Nicholas Slating and Douglas Voakes.

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.

We are currently looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call us.

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have recently passed: Brother Vernon Abbe, a 67-year member, he was initiated on 4-10-1958; and Brother Ronald Figas, a 56-year member, he was initiated on 10-23-1969.

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.

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

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

Hoping everyone had a great holiday season and is off to a great 2026!

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, July 10, 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 business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is Jan. 14, 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 Feb. 3, 2026, we have an available evening to come in and practice for it, Wednesday, Jan. 21, and Jan. 28. **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.

OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on **Wednesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.** 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.

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

All Spring classes will begin the week of March 2, with a deadline to register by Feb. 13.

All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 14, with a deadline to register by Aug. 28.

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: *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 April 21 & 22 Deadline is March 20

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

4 hour recert class Oct. 20 & 21 Deadline is Sept. 25

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

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

ICRA 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 Jan. 10. 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.

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.

“Laughter is the closest distance between two people.”

–Victor Borge (1909 - 2000)

“The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity.”

-George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

“I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - everyone hasn't met me yet.”

–Rodney Dangerfield (1921 - 2004)

“People often say that ‘beauty is in the eye of the beholder,’ and I say that the most liberating thing about beauty is realizing that you are the beholder. This empowers us to find beauty in places where others have not dared to look, including inside ourselves.”

–Salma Hayek (1966-)



Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – Our next Regular/Special called Meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026 at **St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.**

There are two special called meetings. Jan. 20 for a vote on an amendment to a by-law, and Feb. 3rd is the election for UA Delegates at St. George Romanian Cultural Center.

PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 636 ONLINE MERCHANTISE 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!**

Dec. 1, 2025; Lloyd Tanner. **Jan. 1, 2026;** Todd Valiquette.

Deceased Members – Lifetime Member Matthew Carden Sr. November 19, 2025; Lifetime Member Garrett Smith December 5, 2025; 38-Year Member Curtis Ruppel December 8, 2025 brother of Keith Ruppel.

Our condolences to Brother Richard Kizer on the passing of his wife Ruth Dec. 14, 2025; Brother Adam Dueweke on the passing of his mother Denise J Dueweke Dec. 8, 2025; Brother John Abdo on the passing of his father William Abdo Nov. 17, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to: Robert Abfalter, Rebecca Blair, Ian Campbell, Matthew Carden II, Gregory Firth, David Fox, David Hatch, Jason Howe, James Juracek, Raymond Kuhowski Jr, Clifford Liptak II, John Lilly, Charles Lozon, Ian Martin, Daniel Mosey, Dung Phan, Roger Pruitt, James A Robinson, Fred Stiehr, David Stone, Eric Swinburnson, Michael Trybuski, Andrew Wisneski.

DUES – 4th 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.

January 9, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9



Local 671

UA Local 671

MONROE – The **next meeting will be held on Jan. 15, 2026, at 7pm.** The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **Jan. 15, 2026, at 5pm.** If anyone would like to come to the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

ATTENTION: This paper is to serve as official notice to the membership. Also, please refer to our website <https://www.unitedassociationlocal671.com/>.

Retiree Health Care: Retirees, please be advised that the self-pay amounts increased beginning Jan. 1, 2026. For information on what your new self-pay amount will be, contact Carly at the Union Hall.

Be advised that our Retiree Health Care is changing from United Health Care to Humana. You should have received your new insurance card in the mail. If you have not received your Humana insurance card, please contact Retiree First, 734-234-6496.

Health Insurance: You should have received your MRA/Wex card in the mail by now. You can use this card to pay for medical bills or Dental and Vision. If you use it for Dental or Vision, make sure you inform Carly at the Union Hall. It is important that you retain and keep track of all receipts when using your MRA card. If you need assistance with your card, you can call TIC at 517-321-7502. Make sure you only use your card for qualified purchases or payments related to medical care.

Condolences: It is with heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Eric (Rick) Holloway on Dec. 12, 2025. Rick was a member of Local 671 for almost 47 years and will be truly missed by all who knew him. The funeral arrangements were in Wilmington, N.C. in December. Please keep Rick's family in your thoughts and prayers.

I also express our condolences to Brother Andy Nelson on the passing of his father. Please keep his family in mind during this difficult time.

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.

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

The next weld test will be scheduled at a later date. You must sign up ahead of time for the test. Please contact Justin.

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

In Closing: I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope 2026 brings health, wealth and happiness to all our members and their family. We have a lot on our schedule for 2026 and if you would like to get more involved with your Union, please contact me and we can discuss all the opportunities to help make your Union better.

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

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



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UA Local 333
LANSING – **January’s union meeting** will be held January 21, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

February’s union meeting will be held February 18, 2026 at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.

The 2026 UA General Convention will be held in 2026. Nominations of delegates will be held February 18, 2026 union meeting, elections will be March 18, 2026 at our union meeting. All members that are eligible to be nominated and vote will receive a letter in the mail. Please check the mail for your letter with the date and time for the election.

UA Sec 15: All delegates to the convention shall be elected by secret ballot. Nominations of delegates shall be held by a Local Union at least 25 days prior to the election. At least ten days prior to the nomination meeting, notice shall be mailed to the last known address of all members in good standing of the Local Union setting forth (1) the date and place of the nomination meeting, and stating that the delegates to a convention will be nominated at the meeting; (2) the notice shall also state the date, time, and place of secret ballot election of delegates to the convention; and (3) The notice should state also that in the event of a tie and a runoff election is necessary, then the date, time, and place of the runoff shall be so stated.

Protests of an election of delegates to the United Association Convention shall be processed under the provisions of Section 125 of this Constitution.

UA Sec 16: The candidate or candidates receiving the highest numbers of votes in the delegate election shall be declared the elected delegate or delegates. The candidates receiving the next highest votes shall be alternates, by descending numerical order, and shall act in case of the inability of any regular delegate to attend the convention.

UA Sec 17: No member shall be eligible as a delegate or alternate unless he shall have been a good standing member of the Local Union which he is to represent for at least two continuous years previous to his election and he remains in good standing from the date of his election through the period of the convention.

UA Sec 18: The duties of weekly salaried elected officers of Local Unions shall also include serving a delegate to the United Association convention for his Local Union.

Note: The interpretation of this section shall not mean that all weekly salaried elected officers are automatically delegated to the United Association Convention if the number of weekly salaried elected officers in a given Local Union exceed the number of Delegates the Local Union is entitled to. As defined in Section 12.

UA Sec 19: The Recording Secretary of each Local Union shall, after the election of a delegate or delegates, immediately forward the to General Secretary-Treasurer upon the official credential form and names, card numbers , and addresses of the members elected, and the General Secretary-Treasurer shall submit same to the Credentials Committee of the United Association.

The new membership card will be arriving soon. You must pay into 2026 before receiving your new membership card.

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

Winter 2026 classes

- Welding Lansing Jan. 5th 10 weeks
Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm
Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm
- Welding Jackson Jan. 5th 10 weeks
Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm
Tuesday and Thursday 4-8pm
- Welding Battle Creek Jan. 5th 10 weeks
Monday and Thursday 4:30-8pm
- Med-Gas Lansing Jan. 7th 7-8 Weeks
Monday and Wednesday 4:30-8:30pm
- Backflow Lansing Jan. 13th 7-8 Weeks
Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:30pm
- Tube Bending Jan. 19th 4-5 weeks
Monday and Wednesday 5-8pm
- Trimble Basic TBD

Sign up online

- Advanced Blueprint Class Jan.13th

Sign up online

Orbital Welding: Signup online, and you will be contacted.
Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will be scheduled once we have enough members signed up.

Pipefitter Math, Advanced Pipefitting, CPR/First Aid, Backflow and Med-Gas will be scheduled when we have 6 or more signed up. You will be called when the class is scheduled.

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 Diana at the Lansing Training Center 517-323-0333. Even though the Training Center sends everyone’s continuities to be renewed, between changes of addresses and the Post Office, there is plenty of room for error. It is the member’s responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

Please sign up 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. Please spread the word.

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.

“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.

We would like to remind everyone that if you have a has a life change: address, phone number marriage, divorce etc. Please contact your regional office with updates or requesting new beneficiary paperwork.

“Hanging is too good for a man who makes puns; he should be drawn and quoted.”
–Fred Allen (1894 - 1956)

“You can’t help getting older; but you don’t have to get old.”
–George Burns (1896 - 1996)

“Setting a good example for children takes all the fun out of middle age.”
–William Feather (1908 - 1976)

“It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don’t. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever.”
–Philip Adams

“Tact is the knack of making a point without making an enemy.”
–Isaac Newton (1642 - 1727)



UA Local 370

FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13th, 2025**, and is designated as a refreshment meeting.

Wednesday, January 28th at 4:00pm we will be hosting our second **Retirement Education Seminar** at Local 370, 2151 W Thompson Rd. We will have professionals from the pension department and the healthcare department. Our 401k financial planner will also be in attendance. If you are retiring in the near future or already have retired, please join and bring your questions. Spouses welcome.

Congratulations to brother Kevin Gaby on the announcement of his retirement. Kevin has loyally served as Training Coordinator/ Instructor at Local 370 for 25 years. With that being said, Local 370’s JATC is in search of its next Building Trades Apprentice Instructor. If you are interested, please contact Ashley in the training department. Interviews for this position will be Tuesday, February 24th.

Saturday, February 7th, 2025 Local 370 will host our annual Service Award banquet and Holiday celebration. We decided to move the date to February so we can celebrate in the new meeting hall. The location will be at our hall/ training center at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton MI. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:00pm. The service award ceremony will begin at 6:00 with dinner following. Please call Karla or Kyara at the hall to reserve your spot.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, January 12th at 9:00 am.

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 or call 800-448-8326.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

Jan. Welding January 5th thru January 29th. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

Weld Test Saturday, January 31st at 7:00 am

Med Gas January 5th thru March 5th. Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 Ext 15 or at 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 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, January 13th,2025 at 4:00pm
FMR Committee –Tuesday January 13th,2025 at 4:00pm
PAC committee – Tuesday, January 13th,2025 at 5:00pm
Executive Board –Tuesday, January 13th,2025, at 5:00pm
Building Committee – Tuesday, January 13th,2025 at 6:00pm
Finance Committee -Tuesday, January 13th,2025 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 MUSTBSAFE.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
(Continued next column)



UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday January 14, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Congratulations to Aaron Hogan and his family on the birth of their daughter Xavia Hogan.

Nominations for delegates to the 41st UA convention will be at the February meeting which will be on February 4th 2026 at 5:30 PM. The election will be held on March 11. Further details to follow.

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.

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 370, con’t

1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.

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

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

Mobile App. Our mobile app. Is now available for download on you 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.

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

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

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 and fleece caps \$5.00. Pocket Tee shirts are available for \$10 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.

T.I.C. fringe administrators’ toll free no. is 1-888-797-5862.



Local 174
Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE – **The monthly membership meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at 7 pm 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.

The retiree breakfast will still be held Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Condolences: It is with sadness that brother Allan Kebless (12/4/25) and Larry Strockis (12/5/25) passed away. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

41ST UA GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATES NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE. **United Association Local 174.** This constitutes your official notice of the nominations and election for Delegates to the 41st UA General Convention in August 2026 pursuant to Sect. 15 of the UA Constitution.

NOMINATION MEETING. Nominations for delegates to the UA Convention will be held at the date, time, and place indicated below. The number of Delegates to which Local 174 will be entitled will be determined by applying the formula set forth in Section 12 of the UA Constitution based on Local 174’s March 2026 Cash Sheet. Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be elected in order of votes received.

Nominations for Delegates will be held as follows:

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: 1008 O’Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404

Self-nominations and nominations of another member may also be made in writing, provided they are received by Office Manager Lisa Johnson no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026. Written nominations should include the current address, phone number and Book Number of both the nominator and the nominee and should be signed by the nominator. Self-nominations, by definition, do not need to be signed by a separate nominator – only the self-nominator.

Candidates for delegate positions may accept nominations in person at the Feb. 3 Nominations Meeting or they may submit a signed written acceptance, before the meeting, which should include their current address, phone number and Book Number. If a member submits a signed written acceptance indicating that they will accept a nomination for Delegate and no member nominates them for Delegate at the Nominations Meeting, the written acceptance will be treated as a self-nomination.

Eligibility to Nominate. Persons nominating candidates must be a journeyman member in good standing or an apprentice member in good standing who has successfully completed his or her third apprenticeship year at the time of nominations. As provided in Section 160(a) of the UA Constitution, any member who has entered business legitimately for himself/herself, or who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry, shall not have the right to participate in Local 174 affairs, and thus may not nominate candidates, unless six months have passed since his/her business or financial interest in such business has terminated.

Eligibility to Be Nominated. No member shall be eligible to be nominated for Delegate unless he or she shall be a journeyman member and shall have been a member of the UA and Local 174 in good standing for at least a period of two years immediately prior to the date of the election, Tuesday March 3, 2026. Any journeyman member who owes or has paid a reinstatement fee within a period of two years immediately prior to Tuesday March 3, 2026. shall not be eligible to be nominated for the position of Delegate. Under Section 160(c) of the UA Constitution, no member who holds a financial interest in any business directly connected with the plumbing and pipe fitting industry may run for or serve as a Delegate.

Note that those who are elected to serve as Delegates must remain in continuous good standing through the Convention in order to serve. If a member elected to serve as a Delegate loses good standing between be-

ing elected and the Convention, the highest vote-getter from the unsuccessful candidates will serve as an Alternate Delegate in his/her place.

ELECTION. The election for the position of Delegate will be conducted by secret ballot on the date and at the time and location set forth below:

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026. **Time:** 7:00 p.m. **Place:** 1008 O’Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404

RUN-OFF ELECTION.

If two or more candidates for Delegate receive the exact same number of votes and the Election Committee determines that, based on Local 174’s likely allotment of Delegates under Section 12 of the UA Constitution and the ranking of the candidates, it is possible that one of the candidates may ultimately serve as a Delegate while the other candidate may ultimately serve as an Alternate Delegate, a Run-Off Election shall be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at the Local 174 Hall, 1008 O’Malley Dr., Coopersville, MI 49404, unless all candidates agree to determine their respective rankings based on a coin-flip or drawing of straws.

A Run-Off Election will not be necessary if, for example, three candidates tie for the second highest number of votes because there is no chance that Local 174 will have less than 4 Delegates to the Convention based on the formula set forth in Section 12 of the UA Constitution.

A meeting of candidates for Delegate will be held immediately after the Nominations Meeting. Candidates should make every effort to attend this meeting.

All inquiries regarding the election should be directed to Office Manager Lisa Johnson.

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.

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1st, 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: Happy New Year to all! Update on Moore Mechanical: On 12/5 Moore Mechanical signed a Voluntary Recognition Agreement recognizing LU 174 as the bargaining representative for the Grand Rapids plumbers. This is a huge victory for the workers and LU 174! The workers spoke and now their voices will be heard!

One of the biggest things the plumbers at Moore Mechanical wanted...opportunity. Opportunity to get the training we have, opportunity for opportunity! All workers deserve opportunity! “We’re all doing the same work, we’re just not all getting the same wages, benefits and opportunity!” 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.***

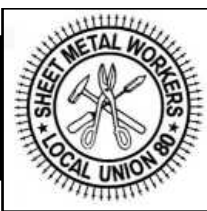
Hiring Rule Reminder: As per section 5.8 of the CBA, the 50/50 hiring provision applies only to jobs working under the Local CBA. Any national agreement jobs calling for manpower are not eligible for the 50/50 provision.

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 class will be held Thursday, February 12th, 2026.

ORBITAL WELDING: Previously scheduled to begin in December, postponed due to lack of interest. Will reschedule with enough interest to fill a class.

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, Feb. 10, and the test to follow Thursday, February 12th at 5pm.



Local 80

Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

REMINDER: Keep up on wellness visits/annual check-ups. Many ailments that plague us as we age can be prevented if treated in time.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th 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, Jan. 20 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

TRUSTEE ELECTION: OFFICIAL NOTICE: The Trust Fund election will be held at the Jan. 27, 2026 membership meeting. You will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2026 through January 2029.



JASON GRUNENWALD

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

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: Monday Feb. 16, April 20, June 15, Aug. 17, Oct. 19 (annual party) & Dec. 21. 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: William Bradfield, Gerald Fecteau,

Joshua Webb, John Montgomery, Dean Mattern, Lawrence Ateman, Jeff Czerwinski, Richard Ashby, Eric McPherson, Sean Mulligan, Colton Roberts, Donald Roberts, Michael Cassani, Michael Garttelle, Andrew Abke, Joshua Black, Donald Kunkel, Michael Marsh, Matthew Rushlow, Billy Smith Jr., Donald Jones, Raymond Yee, Gerald Sirois, Edward Jones, Matthew Theriault, Stephen Korbiak, Steven Valente, William Harding, Allen Tremberth, Joshua Nidiffer, Daniel Niksa, Larry Morris, Charles Hemple, Mark Vella, Daniel Newton, Rick Nixon, John Good, Edward Ballach, David Sarney, Ronald Kelpin, Mark Harper, Kenneth Robins, Kenneth Imhoff, Rainer Becker, William Mozurkewich, Attilio Lucci, John Willecocks, Rex Kanitz, Ralph MacFarland, William Fecteau, Palmer Bentsen, Jacob Knapp, Richard Beres, Fred Wayman, David Tims, Matthew Treffa, Matthew Wardrop, Tharon Neil, Robert Elmendorf, Frank Stumpf, Harley Dennis, John Beaudrie, Harry Morgan, Anthony Iapalucci, George Huyghe, Greg Houle, David Bates, Steven Roth, Todd Hull, Alex Afelt, David Domanski, David Yelencich, Michael Livingston, Stephen Timoszyk, Charles Holsing, Michael Hayter, Richard Abrams, Timothy Kapala, Kevin Koslowski, Timothy Nester, Willard Sarach Jr., Daniel Bogan, Patrick Cregeur, Emil Ketelhut, Robert Monette, Anthony Nevedal, Charles A. Mack, Scott Kahn, Lee Woolsey, James Peters, Gregory Chervinsky, Douglas Haines, James Caris, Thomas Robinson, Richard Ashby, Jonathan Holland, Russel Reichenbach, Michael Lemieux, Michael Morris, Jason Bular, Robert Trella, Richard Schroudt, Brian Arndt, John Styles, Donald Poyle, Russell Vincent, Gordon Mathes, Vincent Mandarino, Andrew Mondro, Robert Chamberlin, Daniel Frazier, James McGraw, Daniel Willacker, Frank Bruneel, Brian Walewski, Brian Depew, Jay Petit II, Stanley Chrabaszkeski, Robert Rajter, Leo Matusik, John Rejc, William Ujaque-Alvarez, John Hyatt, Charles Latour, Kevin Stuss, Thomas Urbaniak, Rudolph Schniers, Gerald Rajter, Ronald Raspbury, Darren Davidson, Joshua Nidiffer, Matthew Whiteford, Charles Reeves, Michael Burzynski, Justin Gallerani, Jacob Bak, Christopher Pope, Ryan Spaulding, Edward Zabik, Jared Clark, Lawrence Schafer, Montaque Bailey, Michael McLay, Dante Valente, Edward Guirey, David B. Morris, Ronald Goodnough, Michael Bayus, Jonathan Heath, Quinn Gattari, Edmund Ajlouny, Brian Claum, William Karl, John Cieszynski, Danny McDole, Jeffrey Scherrer, Michael Ganhs, Tim Willis, Ralph Moreno, Richard Capek, Mark Hensen, Larry Robinson, Alexander Chambo, Edward Rakes, James Woodruff, Jesse Warr, Matthew Hatmaker, Tim Young, Sean Gilliam, Nathan Bourcier.

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.

ADDRESS CHANGES: If you have a new address please 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.

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

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 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. Mention Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 when you call.

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Entrance Exam Information. The Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Apprenticeship Entrance Exam is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026. The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 23. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by April 1, 2026. Applications must be submitted in person and are accepted by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Local 80 Training Center at (586) 979-5190.

Upgrading Classes. Upgrading Classes for the Winter 2026 term begin the week of Jan. 19 and enrollment starts Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule. To enroll in a class, call the training center starting at 7:30am - 586-979-5190.



Local 292

Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Jan. 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083** 1 block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Thursday, Jan. 27, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 4/2/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. We will see you in the Spring. Please get in touch with the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

HEALTHCARE DEPENDENT ELIGIBILITY AUDIT: The Health & Welfare Fund has contracted with Part D Advisors, Inc. (PDA) to handle the details of this dependent eligibility audit. PDA will be mailing you a dependent eligibility verification form. You will need to complete and return that form along with legal documents to verify that your dependents meet the Plan's definition of an eligible dependent. The mailing will include a list of the required documents. You also have the option to submit the documents electronically.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPENDENT AUDIT IS MANDATORY. Please call the Hall if you have not received a notification.

LOCAL 292 ANNUITY/WAGE DEFERRAL: Beginning 1/1/26 the Annuity Fund will offer both pre-tax 401 (K) and Roth 401 (K) 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 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 will not change. The payment schedule will continue on time and in full.

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

SMOHIT 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.

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Applications are being accepted for the Sheet Metal Scholarship program, beginning Sept 1, 2025. Applications must be received by Feb 15, 2026. Eligibility requires that an applicant be an active member, a covered employee, or a dependent spouse or child under the age of 25 of a member or covered employee. The applicant must also be a full-time student or be accepted to be a full-time student at an accredited college or university. Obtain an "Application Request Form" by visiting <https://smart-union.org/why-join-smart/scholarships/sheet-metal-scholarship-programs/> click on the "Sheet Metal Scholarships" tab to download the form or call 202-662-0858 to request the application form by mail.

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.

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – 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 or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

DUES: Membership dues 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).

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

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.

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

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on. January 10, January 24, January 31, February 7, February 21, and February 28. 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.

January 9, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 11



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 Feb. 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 January 8th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 January 20th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 January 14th at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)

*Zone 3 February 5th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 January 13th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 February 7th at 6:00 p.m.

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 for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order 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 in order to equalize pay and eliminate the incentive to subcontract outside of your area.

For more information visit the official website at www.labelitscanitreport.com and download the official app by texting "SMART" to 90975.

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

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 with a few members off. Thank you to everyone who came out to the Christmas party, great food, prizes and conversation. Our next scheduled Zone 2 meeting is Jan. 20, 6:00pm at the VFW Post 3195 in Norton Shores. If your employment status changes please let me know and apprentices also let Tanner know as well. Early reminders for your 2026 calendars, Local 7 picnic is July 18th and the Local 7 golf outing is September 12th. **Thank you and work Safe, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and New Year's.

Work in our area will be slow starting the New Year, when work becomes available in other areas I will let members on the out of work list know.

Our next Zone 3 meeting in Freeland is January 14th

If your contact information has changed please contact the Lansing office (517)882-4064

Please make sure your dues are current.

Next Retiree meeting is April 7th at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd

– In Solidarity, Joe Dotson

ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City) Our next meeting will be February 5th at 6 pm. Work is still slow with only a few projects starting up. If anyone needs any help on unemployment or insurance, please contact me.

The new SASMI boot program, along with our own insurance program, requires a physical each year so please schedule it soon. Anyone planning to retire soon should let Joe or I know at least three months in advance so we can get all the paperwork in order.

– In Solidarity, John Amalfitano

ZONE 4 Info: Remember if you are laid off please call me so I have your name on the list. We are a little slow at the moment in Zone 4 I will let anyone know if there are any calls on the travel bank.

Thanks, your brother Scott Brotherton

ZONE 5 Info Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that updated. Have a safe 2026 everyone.

– 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**

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Local 169

Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169
ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **Jan. 9, 2026 at 8 pm** at Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Dr., Allen Park, MI 48101.

Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate \$55.85 for 2026.

We will have a special called meeting on Feb. 2 at 7 pm for nominations of Local Lodge officers. Nominations for delegate to the 35th Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular scheduled Union meeting March 13 at the Union Hall.

We are scheduling an MSHA class for the upcoming Tilden Mine work. Any member that requires this training should contact Area 4 Business Agent Jim Calouette or contact the Union Hall to be added to the list. You will be informed of the time and location of the training once the class is filled.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more information. Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, 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 11:00 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar located at 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, Michigan 48122.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on January 22, 2026, at The Beaverton Tavern. The address is 102 W. Brown Street, Beaverton, MI 48612. 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 Rd. 480.

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$50 XL and smaller \$55 for 2XL, \$60 for 3XL and \$70 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 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.

Member, Russell Lewis passed away on Dec. 25, 2026 after a long battle with glioblastoma. Please keep his family in your



Local 25

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25
SOUTHFIELD – **UNION MEETING:** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033.

We will be having a \$5.00 per ticket 50/50 raffle with the proceeds going to the Breath of Life Foundation to help with the research of Mesothelioma, lung cancer and other asbestos related diseases.

MEMBERS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE US: It is with our sincere condolences that we announce the passing of retired members Bruce Smith and Jean Marie Furby. May they Rest in Peace.

ELECTIONS: Congratulations to the following recently elected members:

- Executive Board-** Mark Grzelak, Gerald Strunk
- Pension Trustee-** Connie Vincent
- Welfare Trustee-** Mark Grzelak
- S.U.B. Fund Trustee-** Mark Grzelak
- J.A.T.C. Trustee-** Mark Grzelak
- Union Fund Trustee-** Connie Vincent

Entertainment Committee- Connie Vincent, Dan Stevens

SGT-At-Arms- Damion Hunter

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Another successful Christmas Party was held at the Laurel Manor on Saturday, December 13, 2025, with more than 150 people in attendance. A sincere thank you to the Entertainment Committee for their dedication and hard work in organizing this wonderful event. We would also like to acknowledge everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to help make the evening so special. Proceeds from the raffles and 50/50 drawing greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund.

CONTACT UPDATE: We are now using admin@heatfrostinsulators25.org as our primary contact email for all communication with the Union Hall. Please update your contact information accordingly.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25’s Constitution & Bylaw’s Article III Section 5. failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of \$50. Future failures to report job starts will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President. **PLEASE** call in all job starts so we can avoid fining members.

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

M.U.S.T. SAFETY MODULES: If you have modules expiring, contact the Union Hall to have the testing authorization turned on. Please keep in mind, any modules completed outside the quarter requested in, will be paid the following quarter.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within 48 hours. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic \$50 fine.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information.

“Men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting a particular way... you become just by performing just actions, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave actions.”
–Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

“All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.”
–George Orwell (1903 - 1950) *Animal Farm*

“The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30% of their ice cream.”
–Bill Murray (1950 -)

“When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.”
–John Muir (1838 - 1914)



Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators 47
LANSING – The next Notified Meeting will be held on Friday, January 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall, at 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices for the Election of Officers. The Purpose of this meeting is for the Installation of New Officers.

*Please make sure to call or text ALL Start/Layoffs to the Union Office. Leave the start/layoff date and the name of the contractor along with your name.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo

calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. 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.

We would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holidays!

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 (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. (800) 323-8079**

Email: 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.

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

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office, or visit 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.”



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICINE is making its first foray into Oakland County, with the construction of the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care. The steel erection is proceeding on the 225,000 square-foot project under contractor Bristol Steel, with the entire project being managed by Walbridge and Roncelli.

Photo credit: Roncelli



Elevator Constructors

Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36
DETROIT – **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED;** Our next regular membership meeting will be **January 26, 2026, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **January 19, 2026, at 5pm** at the same location. Anyone interested in being a mentor, our next Probationary meeting will be **February 2, 2026, at 5pm** at the hall. 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, If you are unloading a job and you find the fishplates already attached to the rail, predrilled 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.

2026 wage rates, zone sheets and dues card increases were mailed out a few weeks ago. If you didn’t receive them, contact the hall and we will get you copies.

The latest changes (inserts) to the Local Constitution and Bylaws are available at the hall.

4th quarter dues are due at the end of the month, don’t wait till the last minute to send them in.

The **Picnic assessment** will be (\$45) per member and be assessed with fourth quarter dues.

The is a (\$25) Death Assessment per member for the Death Benefit Fund that will be assessed with fourth quarter dues.

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.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison was appointed to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans. You don’t have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran’s benefits has done for him and I’m a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at

sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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 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 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 email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org with job name, address, names of mechanics and apprentices on job, mechanic’s phone numbers, how many teams, type of equipment installing, how many stops and jobsite hours.** This will help us keep track of jobs easier than just calling the hall.

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic’s Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting Jan. 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. If you passed the mechanic’s exam in 2025 you are not **required** to complete it till 2026 but we encourage you

to complete it so you can get in the habit of doing it.

NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants’ Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that 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 extend our sincerest condolences to the MacDonald family after the passing of Honorary Brother John MacDonald. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

We would also like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list.

“There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else.”
–James Thurber (1894 - 1961),
“Whenever you find that you are on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”
–Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

“Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it.”
–W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965)

“We should every night call ourselves to an account; What infirmity have I mastered today? What passions opposed? What temptation resisted? What virtue acquired? Our vices will abort of themselves if they be brought every day to the shrift.”
–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

“If you scatter thorns, don’t go barefoot.”
–Italian Proverb



ON THE RISE at the former Kmart headquarters site in Troy is the new University of Michigan Health Specialty Care project. The \$250 million project is being managed by Walbridge-Roncelli Healthcare Partners

Photo credit: Roncelli

New life at former Kmart HQ site: U-M Troy Specialty Care Center rises

TROY – The Walbridge-Roncelli Healthcare Partners construction management team is progressing, as the winter weather allows, on the new University of Michigan Health Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg Troy Center for Specialty Care project at West Big Beaver and Coolidge roads. The \$250 million health care facility is being built on a portion of the land formerly occupied by the old Kmart headquarters. Ground was broken on the project at an Aug. 6 ceremony, and the trades have rapidly moved to get much of the structural steel in place.

“We are making progress on the Troy center for specialty care, a major addition to our statewide

network strategy of bringing our world-class care close to home,” said Marschall S. Runge, CEO of Michigan Medicine, dean of the U-M Medical School and the school’s executive vice president of medical affairs. “We continue to expect this is a starting point for a broader and deeper U-M Health presence in southeast Michigan.”

Expected to open in spring 2027, the four-story, 225,000 square-foot facility will “enhance access to specialty clinical services” U-M said.

Programs planned in the facility include advanced cancer care services, musculoskeletal/sports medicine and reproductive medicine. Additional diag-

nostic and therapeutic services will include an ambulatory surgery and procedure center, infusion suite and imaging services including CT, MRI and mammography.

According to the U-M, Kenneth Eisenberg donated \$25 million to support the construction of the multidisciplinary clinical facility, part of a \$40 million gift to the university.

Part of the gift will support mental health research through a U-M center in Ann Arbor that already bears their name, the Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg and Family Depression Center. Founded in 2001, it was the nation’s first multi-disciplinary depression center.



A RENDERING of the completed project.



Iron Workers 25
NOVI – **The January Union Meeting is Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 at 7:00pm** and will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will also be available.

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).

The Flint Steward meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 5:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, Jan. 26 at 6 pm. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 29 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 28 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 Feb. 4 from 8 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

If you have moved recently, be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.

BY-LAW(S) Proposals will be due in the Novi Union Hall ON OR BEFORE 4:00 pm Jan. 26, 2026. This meeting will be the first Reading of any proposed by law(s) and Union Meeting starting at 7pm. If you plan to mail in a proposal, please make sure it arrives several days earlier than Monday 1/26/2026. We’ve noticed mail has been slow in Michigan, so please be aware!

February’s Union meeting will be Monday Feb. 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm. This union meeting will be the second Reading of any proposed by law(s). The third Reading will be during March’s

informational meeting, Monday March 9, 2026, with the Vote date of March 11th, 2026.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a myriad of training requirements. 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

The 2026 Dennis O’Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is available on the member only section of our website and APP; or you can call Mary at the Novi Union Hall to request one 248-344-9494. All requests must be made by Friday, March 6 and all Completed applications are due by March 13, 2026. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying active/working members of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

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, go to our website (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) 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.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. The phone number is 866-635-

2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) **from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).**

The **Iron Workers’ Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees’ Club’s** meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday Jan. 20 at 10 am. The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 8 am. All are welcome.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, Feb. 3 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 Jan. 15 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 will be held 9 am Jan. 16 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton. All are welcome.

In Memory: Journeyman IW John Wall #1310695 passed away Nov. 22, 2025 at the age of 60. He was a former member for about 22 years. Honorary IW Charles Street #1073347 passed away Dec. 6, 2025 at the age of 82. He was a 30-year member of Local 340/25. Lifetime IW David Spaulding #660404 passed away Dec. 9, 2025 at the age of 84. He was a 65-year member of Local 25, survived by his wife Darlene. Dave served as Detroit Business Agent from July 1989 to July 1991, and he will be missed by all his fellow ironworkers who knew him. Lifetime IW James Scott #995440 passed away Dec. 9, 2025 at the age of 67. He was a 47-year member of Local 25, survived by his wife Cathy. Lifetime IW Marshall Runnals #807558 passed away Nov. 25, 2025 at the age of 76. He was a member of Local 25 for 56 years, survived by his wife, Drusilla.

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 (Jan. 5, 2026 11:00 AM E.S.T.).

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS

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ELECTRICIANS

INSULATORS

PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS

SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

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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.

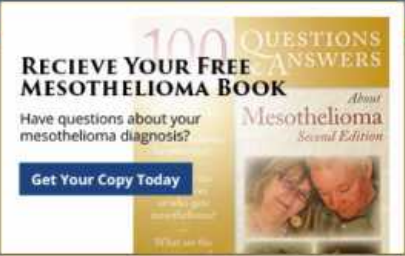
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Outdoors

Pigeon River Country + 8,850 acres



By Kerry Heckman
Forest Land Administrator
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

One of Michigan’s crown jewels – the Pigeon River Country State Forest, known as the “Big Wild” due to its wilderness-like character and home to Michigan’s elk herd – just got bigger, and Michigan’s residents are the proud new owners.

On behalf of the public, using grant funding and private donations, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has acquired 8,850 acres of land, including over 14 miles of trout streams, three lakes and suitable habitat for a variety of wildlife, including elk, black bear and white-tailed deer.

The forest. While visiting the area following World War I, author Ernest Hemingway said, “that Barrens Country is the greatest I’ve ever been in,” describing the pine barrens and forests east of Vanderbilt in Michigan’s northern Lower Peninsula.

This same area that made such an impression on Hemingway would become the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Over a century ago, the Pigeon River Country State Forest, or PRC, as it is also known, was established by setting aside nearly 6,500 acres of land that the state acquired through tax reversion.

Championed by P.S. Lovejoy, Michigan’s first Game Division chief, intentional acquisitions and additions grew the PRC to approximately 111,000 acres. In 1918, elk were reintroduced in the area through the relocation of seven Rocky Mountain elk. This effort was very successful, as the elk herd has now grown to around 1,100 animals.

Today, the PRC is known for its three blue ribbon trout streams – the Pigeon River, Black River and Sturgeon River, numerous lakes and sinkhole lakes, remote recreation opportunities and variety of wildlife such as bobcat, pine marten and numerous birds including loons and bald eagles.

The property. The Black River Ranch was first acquired from the government in 1911 by



THE BLACK RIVER RANCH includes the Black River, the East Branch of the Black River and Stewart Creek, all blue ribbon coldwater trout streams. (Photo courtesy of Little Traverse Conservancy)



ELK GRAZE on the Black River Ranch property. (Photo courtesy of the former landowner).

Edwin George, who, after camping on the shores of Silver Lake in 1910, became determined to acquire all the property surrounding the lake and along the corridors of the Black River and the East Branch of the Black River.

Historically, the property was logged during the lumbering era in the late 1800s, contained farming and livestock operations beginning in 1914, hosted students researching the fish, wildlife and plants beginning in the 1930s, and most recently has served as a hunting and fishing retreat.

At nearly 8,850 acres, Black River Ranch is one of the last remaining large, intact, forested tracts in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula.

This breathtaking property contains over 14 miles of rivers and streams, including the Black River, the East Branch of the Black River and Stewart Creek. The Black River, considered the premier brook trout stream east of the Mississippi River, is the only

river managed exclusively for native brook trout in the Lake Huron basin. The property also includes the entirety of three lakes, including the 150-acre Silver Lake.

Located in the heart of Michigan’s only elk herd range and adjacent to the Pigeon River Country State Forest on three sides, the property sees extensive elk use throughout the year.

During a period of extensive elk poaching on state forest land in the 1960s and 1970s, the property served as a refuge for much of the elk herd, assisting in ensuring its survival.

Bugle Hill, the high point on the property, is named after the call of bull elk used to establish dominance over other bull elk and attract cow elk. The sweeping vista from the hill offers a stunning view of the Black River Valley and miles of wilderness and forests.

The opportunity. In early 2019, following an inquiry from the landowners, Little Traverse

Conservancy contacted the DNR to determine the state’s interest in acquiring Black River Ranch as an addition to the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Given the chance to protect such an exceptional piece of property rich with natural resources, the DNR quickly made it a priority to pursue this opportunity on behalf of the public.

“LTC has a long-standing partnership with the Michigan DNR and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Together, we have accomplished some landscape-level conservation while providing more opportunities for people to enjoy what makes northern Michigan so special,” said Kieran Fleming, Little Traverse Conservancy executive director. “We are proud to work with landowners who have cared for their land, sometimes for generations. In this case we’re happy to help the seller navigate their options knowing that conserva-

tion was a natural fit for them.”

Partnerships. Between 2020 and 2023, a variety of grant funds and private donations were secured, which enabled the DNR to present a formal offer to the landowner in 2024 to purchase the property. All the money used for the purchase of the property came from grant funding and donations from nonprofit organizations and private individuals.

Forest Legacy Program. The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to provide federal grant funding to states to protect environmentally important forest land from being converted to nonforest uses.

Funding for the program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service, is provided through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is revenue the federal government receives from offshore oil and gas leases.

The Forest Legacy Program provides 75 percent of the funding necessary for states to acquire forest land and ensure it is managed sustainably forever.

The Black River Ranch project ranked ninth in the country when competing for FLP funds. Over \$10.6 million was awarded to the Michigan DNR for the project in 2022.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. In 1976, to resolve concerns related to oil and gas development on state forest land in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was established. The intent of the trust fund was to use mineral royalties earned from the development of state-owned minerals to acquire land for public recreation and natural resources protection.

Providing funding for the acquisition of Black River Ranch brought the trust fund full circle with an opportunity to invest in the protection of land in the Pigeon River Country, where the trust fund originated. The trust fund awarded over \$5.3 million for the project between grants in 2020 and 2023.

Private funds. As a partner on the project, Little Traverse Conservancy served a vital role in bringing the project to a successful conclusion. In addition to supporting both the landowner and DNR throughout development, negotiation and completion, the

conservancy also worked to secure private funding for the project.

In addition to contributing its own funds, the conservancy also arranged funding contributions from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the J.A. Woollam Foundation.

Given that the Black River Ranch provides critical habitat in the heart of Michigan’s elk country, it was a natural priority for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to be involved. This contribution is the largest investment that the group has made in land protection efforts in Michigan.

The final piece of funding was provided through the generosity of the landowner, who agreed to sell the property at a price lower than the appraised value to ensure the protection of this incredible tract of land. This bargain sale was pivotal to ensuring the DNR was successful in purchasing the property.

The years of working together, building partnerships and negotiating the transaction came to a successful conclusion as the DNR, on behalf of the public, completed the purchase of Black River Ranch in December.

The future. With the addition of Black River Ranch to the Pigeon River Country State Forest, DNR staff will now begin the work of assessing the buildings, roads and other infrastructure on the property.

The land is now open for all legal hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, berry picking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities. All nonmotorized use is welcome. Motorized use is limited until the DNR completes an inventory of the existing roads on the property and develops an access plan. There will be an opportunity for public involvement in developing the access plan.

“The purchase of the Black River Ranch is rare in that it exemplifies the broad array of values that we cherish in Michigan,” said Scott Bowen, DNR director. “The protection of precious natural and cultural resources, opportunities for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational pursuits, and the sustainable management of a healthy forest, all for the current and future generations of Michiganders to enjoy.”

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