



VOL. 75, NO. 1

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January 9, 2026

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 (Continued on Page 4)

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 disdained 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.

(Continued on Page 2)



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.

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 Federation 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, (Continued on Page 4)

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 (Continued on Page 4)

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 (Continued on Page 4)

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

(Continued from Page 1)

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 restart 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 In-

ternational 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

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.

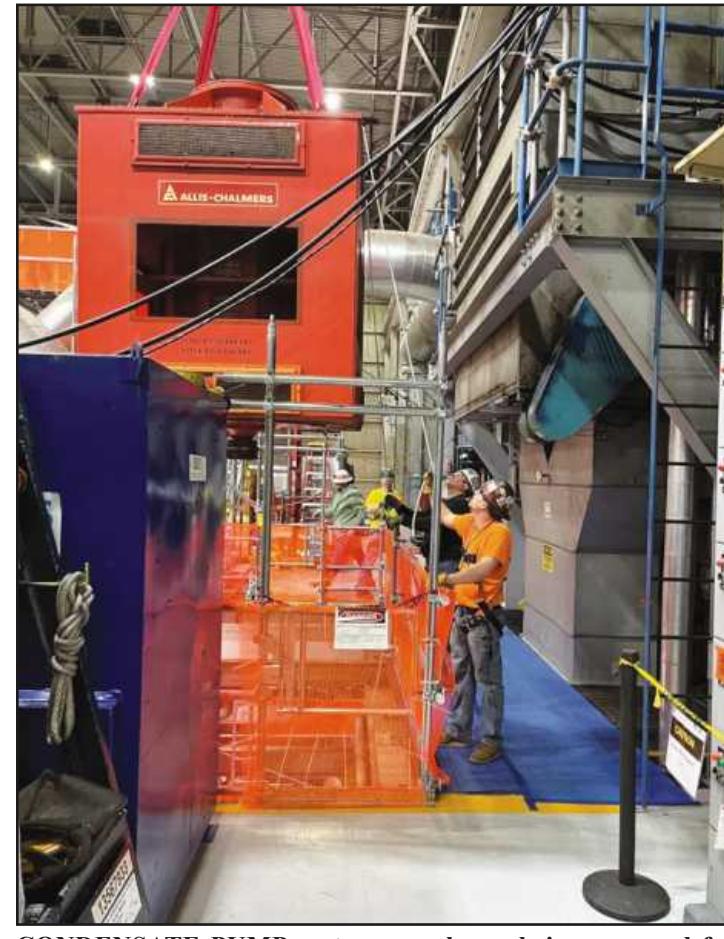
Two police cars showed up at my neighbor's house a few doors down. I went outside and asked my other neighbor across the street what happened. "I guess the wife attacked her husband with a guitar!" he said. "She was taken away in handcuffs."

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)



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.

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STEEL FRAME construction is shown on what was originally the Broadway Exchange Building, on Sept. 24, 1925. Today being renovated and renamed

The Belle, the building housed a wide variety of tenants over the years, and was an anchor structure in the Broadway Avenue Historic District. Its street was also part of "Paradise Valley," a thriving African-American business district in the 1940s and 50s. The building's buff-colored terra cotta and marble exterior created a gleaming 11-story tower that introduced significant height to the eastern edge of Detroit's downtown.

Photo credit:
Detroit Public Library,
Manning Brothers
Collection

When it comes to Detroit's collection of tall buildings, the "The Belle" makes a slender, lesser mark on the city's skyline than some of the other high-rises downtown.

But it's the kind of building that leaves an important mark in other ways – for the past century it has been a mid-rise pillar on Broadway Street, adding architectural interest to the downtown's eastern edge while helping to anchor a business district that could be transitioning into a new purpose. The building, notably, escaped demolition. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Bedrock Detroit is renovating and re-purposing the 11-story building, creating lofts and retail space within its walls under a new name, The Belle. It's not the first name change: it was originally the Broadway Exchange Building, then the American Radiator Building, and in recent decades, it has been the Harvard Square Center.

"This stately Italian Romanesque skyscraper was designed by 'the dean of Detroit architects,' George D. Mason, who designed the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, the Detroit Masonic Temple, the original Hotel Ponchartrain and many more landmarks," says *Historic Detroit*.

Historic Detroit said the 135-foot tower was built for Mrs. Clara Scherer, the widow of Hugo Scherer, and was ready for occupancy in early



May 1926. Hugo had made his money as a manufacturer of automotive parts.

"Built as an office building with commercial space in the lower floors, the Broadway Exchange Building replaced a three-story commercial building," *Historic Detroit* said. "It housed professionals such as architects, engineers, lawyers, and doctors, as well as firms such as marketing and insurance companies and Realtors.

"The largest tenant of the first and second-story commercial space was the American Radiator Co. and its successor, American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. (following a 1929 merger with the Standard Sanitary Co.), which operated a showroom/store in 1927 and, beginning in 1929, branch office in the building into the 1940s."

The City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board said the building has a concrete and steel frame clad in buff terra cotta, with variegated mauve-hued marble in the mezzanine level on the street facade and in concrete and beige brick on the other facades. The tall and narrow Italian Romanesque-inspired facade displays three vertical banks of paired windows that, flanked by elongated 'columns,' rise from the fourth through the 11th floor. At the top of each bank is a pair of round-headed windows below a centered rondel. The whole capped by an arch springing from the capitals beneath. Crowning the

façade is a low gable. The facade, virtually unaltered above the modernized street level, displays a wealth of decoration in terra cotta."

According to an April 2023 filing with the Detroit Historic District Commission by Kraemer Design Group, the following history of the building was provided:

"Designed by the Detroit architectural firm of George D. Mason & Co. Architects and completed in 1926, the Harvard Square Building replaced an earlier three-story commercial building. The Broadway Exchange Building was constructed with commercial spaces in the basement, a first floor, and mezzanine levels. The upper floors of the 11-story building housed offices for a wide variety of professionals such as engineers, lawyers, doctors as well as insurance companies and Realtors. The attic floor provided space for mechanical equipment.

"The building name changed to the Phillips Building in the 1950s, and finally the Harvard Square Centre Building in 1977."

The building has been vacant since the late 1990s, with the exception of the Paris Bar nightclub on the first floor, which closed in 2015.

Dan Gilbert's Bedrock LLC purchased the property for \$6.25 million in 2017. Completion of the ongoing renovation by Roncelli and its subcontractors is expected later in 2026.



EARTHWORK is shown on land that would support the Broadway Exchange Building, on June 15, 1925.

Photo credit: Detroit Public Library, Manning Brothers Collection

Rehab work on 'The Belle' checks off another historic renovation target

(Continued from Page 1)

Belle will include 8,000 square feet of ground-floor and mezzanine retail and dining space topped by 42 studio, one-, and two-bedroom residential units on floors 2-10.

"The legendary Paradise Valley has always been a staple of Detroit's entertainment scene," said Kofi Bonner, Bedrock's chief executive officer. "Bedrock's meticulous restoration of The Belle complements development efforts

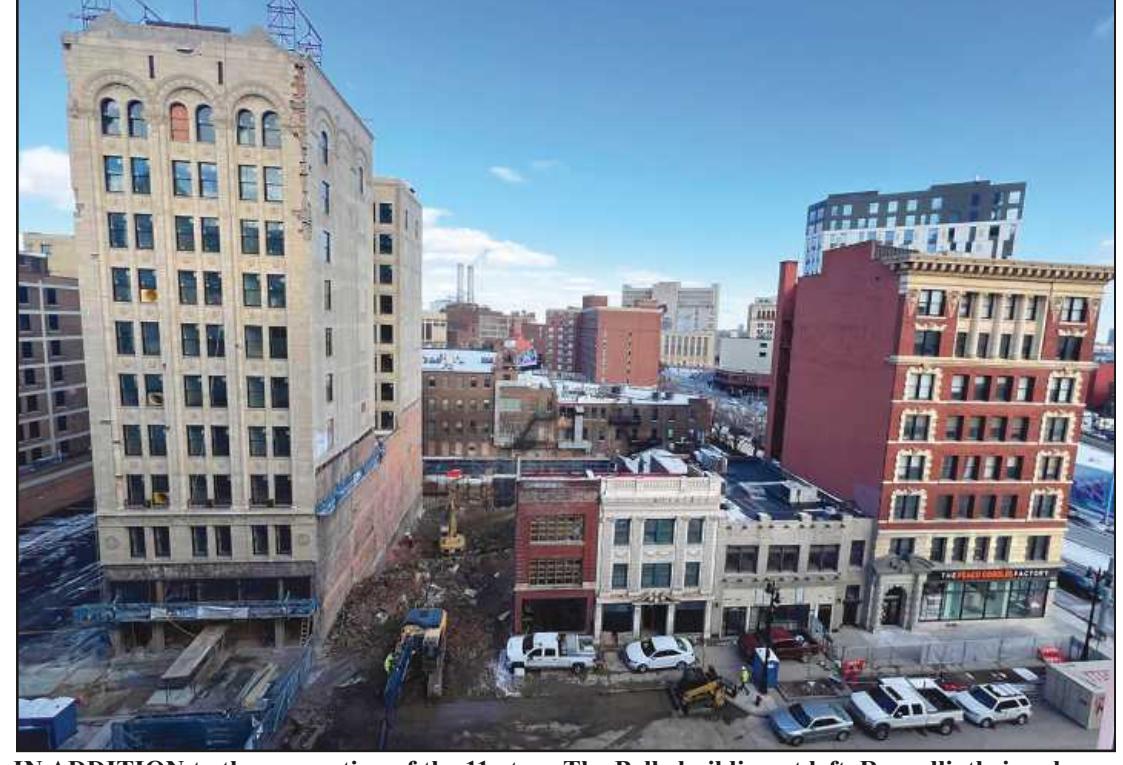
to bring modern and affordable living amenities to the Broadway Corridor." Some of The Belle's residential units include set-aside units for affordable housing.

Roncelli said the renovation includes facade restoration, as well as "window replacement, life safety equipment, all major mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems replacement, interior buildouts and remediation of lead and asbestos."

Construction started in Sep-

tember 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in 2026. Bedrock declined to allow us access to the project to take photos.

Downtown Detroit's comeback would have been highly improbable without Bedrock, whose projects – which almost exclusively use union labor – include new construction, adaptive reuse and a portfolio totaling more than 21 million square feet of office, retail, residential, industrial, hospitality and parking.



IN ADDITION to the renovation of the 11-story The Belle building at left, Roncelli, their subcontractors and building trades workers are also undertaking the rehabilitation of three abandoned structures facing Broadway Street. The project consists of combining the three Detroit buildings and their Broadway addresses: 1322 (MacDiarmid Candy Co. Building), 1326 (Reckmeyer Building), and 1332 (Michigan Cut Flower Exchange Building). All have historic designation within the Broadway Avenue Historic District. Going forward it will be collectively called The Reckmeyer project. The buildings in this district were built from the 1890s to the 1920s. At right, anchoring the southeast end of the Broadway block is the red-faced Harmonie Centre, also known as the Breitmeyer-Tobin Building, a 1906 eight-story commercial building that has been refurbished.

New life coming to Broadway block

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – There's a bonus project going on down the street from The Belle, which is the most prominent building that's being renovated along Broadway Street, northwest of Gratiot.

Construction of an innovative, mixed-use development called "The Reckmeyer" is also ongoing. It's a \$22.6 million project in Detroit's Broadway Historic District that will preserve portions of a trio of derelict buildings and add a nine-story tower that will offer more housing opportunities downtown.

The project includes ground-floor retail space and resident amenities like a fitness center and community room. It's being developed through a partnership between developer Basco, Kraemer Design Group, Roncelli Inc. and other

stakeholders, including the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

The project will restore two historic building facades at 1322-1332 Broadway and add an eight-story residential structure with 80 apartments. The developer said 20 percent of units will be offered at deeply affordable rates – around \$1,000 monthly for one-bedroom apartments at 60 percent area median income.

"It is going to fill the hole that sits here between the downtown area and the stadium district," said former Mayor Mike Duggan when the project was announced. "Who wouldn't want to be in a downtown apartment at \$1,000 a month, a couple blocks

from the stadiums?"

The project is part of the rebranded Paradise Valley Cultural Entertainment District, and is down the street from the Detroit Opera House, and an easy walk to Comerica Park. The project will also include "The Belt," a reimagined pedestrian alley featuring dozens of artworks and food stalls.

"This process started in 2017," said Roger Basmajian, founder and CEO of Basco. "We wanted to create density while keeping our promise to the city not to tear these buildings down. We've created a super-steel structure within the building that's tucked back about 15 feet and goes up nine stories."



A RENDERING of the completed The Belle tower, at left, as well as the "Reckmeyer" development next door. It includes renovation of the lower street-facing structures and new eight-story residential structure.

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ISSN-007-3717
is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council
Steve Claywell
Secretary-Treasurer
Greg Herman
President
The Building Tradesman is published bi-weekly (every other Friday) by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, Detroit office, 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216
Printed at Grand Blanc Printing, a union shop
Periodical mail postage paid at Detroit, MI and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
send postage returns to:
The Building Tradesman

1640 Porter St.

Detroit, MI 48216

Phone: (313) 961-3800

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(734) 558-6955

Subscription Rate \$15 annually

(group rate for unions)



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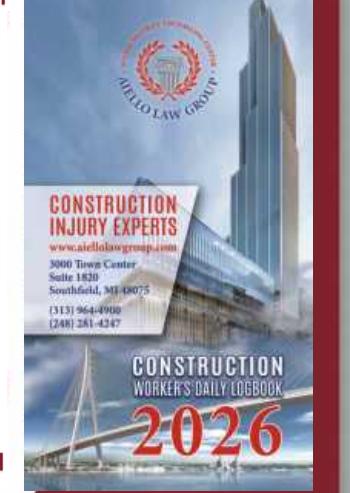
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Union coverage for TSA workers revoked

(Continued from Page 1)

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 cancellation 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 "framework" 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 show 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."

Dems build platform to build labor's prospects

(Continued from Page 1)

the panels' two GOP chairs. 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

State takes deeper dive into helping workers' well-being

(Continued from Page 1)

their workforces.

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 MIOSHA 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 Willamette 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."

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

both, would get socked. 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



Michigan Painters
District Council



Painters DC 1M
WARREN - Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupatdc1michigan.org

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474

extension 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/ UPGRADE CLASSES

WARREN

FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

• Saturday Jan. 17 - Lead Worker -9am

• Wednesday, Jan. 21 - Lead Worker Part 1

- 5pm

• Wednesday, Jan. 28 - Lead Worker Part 2

-5PM

OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Thursday, Jan. 22, Lead Worker Part 1 - 5PM

Saturday, Jan. 24, Lead Worker - 9AM

Thursday Jan. 29, Lead Worker Part 2 - 5PM

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

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

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

For IPHONE go to IOS store,

For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

Search for "Painters and Allied Trades" download APP

Username: your member id#

Password: painters

With this APP you can access

training classes, Local Union

meeting times and dates, receive

alerts, and communications from

your Union, etc.

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

OUT OF WORK/ BACK TO WORK:

To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

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."



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

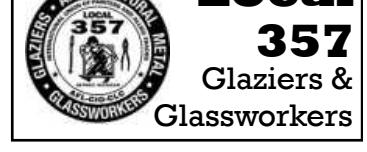
WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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



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



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. Quirino 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@opcmi-ami.org

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

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustbsafe.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.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice".

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

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

Please refer to the website for updated information.

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



BAC LOCAL 2
WARREN – HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES! HERE'S TO A SAFE AND HEALTHY 2026!

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

MARQUETTE CHAPTER:

Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 at 7 PM, 119 S Front St., Marquette, MI 49855

HOUGHTON MEETING:

No January meeting. The next Bi-Monthly Meeting is scheduled for

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 PM, 37737 Hwy 26, Toivola, MI 49965

SAGINAW CHAPTER:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026 at 6 PM, 1300 W Thomas St., Bay City, MI 48706

SEMI-ANNUAL MEET-

ING will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 10AM, BAC Local 2 Union Hall, 21031 Ryan Road,

Local 514, con't

care and pension and also if you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please contact the Local and we will change your addresses with all of the fund offices.

Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons: You are able to find out more about Fund investments, change your investments, obtain your balances, and, during regular business hours, speak to a representative by contacting Principal either via its website, www.Principal.com or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: Principal.com

**If you are a first-time user, go to [Select Get Started.](http://Principal.com>Welcome</p>
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Enter your first name, last name, date of birth, mobile phone number (this is the quickest way to verify your identity), and your ID number (this is either your Social Security number or a specific ID provided by your employer) or ZIP code.

Agree to do business electronically and click Continue.

If you don't provide your mobile phone number, you'll need to answer a few personal questions as an alternative way to confirm it's really you.

Create a unique username, set a secure password, and add your email address.

Select and answer three security questions to use if you need to call us.

You now have access to your online account, and you'll get a confirmation email within a few minutes.

The first time you log in, you'll need to choose where we send you verification codes (text message, voice call, or authentication app) and how often you want to use them.

Feel free to call Principal at 1-800-547-7754 and speak with someone between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday-Friday with any questions regarding online access.

As always, if you have any questions or need help on any matter relating to the Fund, you can contact the Fund Office for assistance at (248) 645-6550 or 5600 New King Dr. Ste 330 Troy, MI 48098 48025-4524 The Fund Office's business hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

Please make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Any changes to your beneficiaries can be made at the Local. If you have questions concerning your pension benefits,

Road Builders can call: Toll Free at 1-877-876-9357 or (517) 321-7502.

Plasterers and Commercial Cement Masons can call: (248) 645-6550 for pension and annuity, and Toll Free 1-877-876-9357.

All Plasterers and Cement Masons can contact (517) 321-7502 for health & welfare information now through Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

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 Coggins** (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

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 & Waterproofer Local No.149



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofer

Roofers 149

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

Happy New Year! From the Officers and Staff of Laborers' Local 149, 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.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTA's online training at <https://lms.mlta.org>. Types of training you can take include, 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.mustbsafe.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.



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.

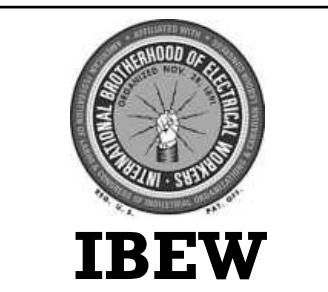
BOOKSIGNING – If you are a Local 557 member and receive a lay-off while working on a 557 referral, you must come to the hall and sign Book 1 in-person. Many Locals throughout the State of Michigan will continue to accept fax/email initial book signings. If you are interested in this reciprocated benefit 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 rene@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 Ingolsol 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 Allardycy, 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, 49001.

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.

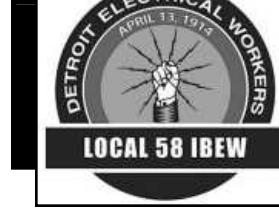
Political Action Committee: PAC meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom and in person at the Hall at 5:30 pm. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrars@ibew557.org.

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 131 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.

NEWSYSTEM UPGRADE! You will notice several changes in

**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 paused 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 Ludwig 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, (sldwic@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 (DEWB): 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 lookout 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 registrars@ibew557.org.

The RENEW Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

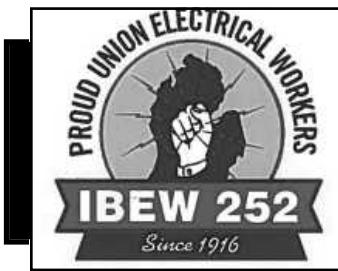
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Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is <http://WWW.EWCU.NET> (313) 963-6060.

NEWSYSTEM UPGRADE! You will notice several changes in

(Continued next column)





IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR - MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER: 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, 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



IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

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.

DOES 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.

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.

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or Dan Beck (810) 858-0033.

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.gtrc.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



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

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 Oddfells 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 Hoeft State Parks. **Swan Electric** has secured a decent project at TCE Charlton in Joliettesburg.

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.

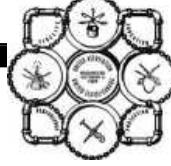
Retirees Lunch. The January retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. Thursday, Jan.15, at The Creek Grill, located at 1259 S. Poseyville Road in Midland.

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

**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)



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 Musgrave, 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.

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 UA190 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. 16, 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.

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 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, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution

Local 190

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.

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

ASSE Backflow Certification (40hrs):

This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2026 Schedule:**

First course starts on **Jan 6**. The second course starts **Sept. 8**. Courses run on **Tuesdays and Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org. **Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.**

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs):

ASSE PRICE INCREASE

ASSE has increased the retesting fee to \$85 for this recertification.

Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110).

2026 Schedule:

First course starts **Feb 10**. The second course starts **May 5**. The third course starts **Oct 13**. Courses are on Tue and Wed and start at 5 pm.

Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org.

Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs):

This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas Certified.

Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry.

2026 Schedule:

First course starts **March 10**. The second course starts **Sept.**

1. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants.

Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs):

This is a two-day course.

2026 Schedule:

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

The second course starts **Sept.**

1. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants.

Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org.



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 résumé 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 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 Veakes.

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 gglaser@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 Kavalar, Business Agent (313) 938-1554 jkavalar@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-)



January 9, 2026

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9

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 MERCHANT- DISE 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 Valquette.

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.

98 crisis help line. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention.

With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available.

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

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held Jan. 15, 2025

The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

SUBPAY - NEWS. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org. For direct deposit information, please contact the Union Hall or BeneSys.

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

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.

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The number for the Voice response unit is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local's Website, while logged in as member Just click on the "Defined Contribution login here tab" and it will take you to the website [www.accountplannace](http://www.accountplannace.net/benesys)



Local 333

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

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 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)



Local 370

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and HVAC Service

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 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 your cell phone. Go to the app store and search **UA Local 370**.

Download the app and sign in. You can read the latest Building Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues.

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 1-888-797-5852.



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.



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.

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 Gartrell, 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 Willcocks, Rex Kanitz, Ralph MacFarland, William Fecteau, Palmer Bentzen, Jacob Knapp, Richard Beres, Fred Wayman, David Tims, Matthew Trelfa, Matthew Wardrop, Tharon Neil, Robert Elmendorf, Frank Stumpf, Harley Dennis, John Beaudrie, Harry Morgan, Anthony Ipalucci, 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 Sarrach 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 Schroud, 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 Chrabaszek, Robert Rajter, Leo Matusik, John Rejc, William Ujaque-Alvarez, John Hyatt, Charles Latour, Kevin Stuss, Thomas Urbaniak, Rudolph Schniers, Gerald Rajter, Ronald Raspberry, Darren Davidson, Joshua Nidiffer, Matthew Whiteford, Charles Reeves, Michael Burzynski, Justin Gallerani, Jacob Bak, Christopher Pope, Ryan Spaulding, Edward Zabik, Jared Clark, Lawrence Schaefer, Montague 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 Chumbo, 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.

RETIREES 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 with 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 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 4 February 5th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 5 January 13th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 6 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.labelitscantripreport.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



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 on 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 Ingwersen 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 Ingwersen 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."

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

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—John Muir (1838 - 1914)



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 VAP National Chair @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donald, 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

500 16th Street, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48901.

Members will be able to receive a \$1000.00 scholarship to the IUEC VAP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474.

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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 be 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 BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS
PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

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

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

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

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

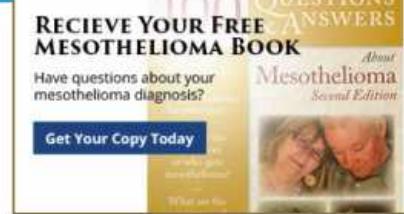
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Outdoors

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.

"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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