

# THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council

VOL. 74, NO. 22

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65 Cents

October 31, 2025

## SHORT CUTS



### Candidates endorsed for Nov. 4 election

A list of endorsed candidates in Michigan for the Tuesday, Nov. 4, General Election can be found in this edition on Page 4.



Candidates are reviewed and endorsed by local councils of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, based on their past or anticipated support of issues of importance to organized labor.

### More 'trauma' coming to federal workforce

The month-long government shutdown has continued throughout October with no let up in sight as of press time. White House budget director Russel Vought said on Oct. 15 that he expects more than 10,000 additional federal workers to lose their jobs as a result.

Presumably the permanent layoffs will be a positive for Vought. In October 2024 he was caught on video saying about the federal workers: "we want the bureaucrats to be traumatically affected. When they wake up in the morning, we want them to not want to go to work, because they are increasingly viewed as the villains. We want their funding to be shut down ... We want to put them in trauma."

Approximately 300,000 federal civilian workers are due to leave their jobs this year due to a downsizing campaign initiated by the Trump Administration. About half of those are voluntary, the other half were firings imposed by the work of DOGE, Trump's Department of Government Efficiency.

Now Trump is using the shutdown as an impetus to cut more federal jobs.

"We want to be very aggressive where we can be in shuttering the bureaucracy, not just the funding," said Vought. "We now have an opportunity to do that, and that's where we're going to be looking for our opportunities."

### Miners gather to demand silica rules

Outside of the Department of Labor on Oct. 21, America's coal miners had a message for President Donald Trump: Start enforcing black lung protections.

The crowd of 50 miners and supporters, a handful of whom carried oxygen machines with them, were gathered outside of the agency to urge the Trump Administration to enforce silica regulations that were meant to take effect this spring.

The silica standard from the Biden Administration limited exposure to 50 micrograms – a rule especially vital to miners and other occupations like bricklayers and laborers. The Biden Administration said the rule would prevent more than 1,000 deaths and 8,700 cases of black lung.

But the Trump Administration froze the rule and numerous other health and safety regulations.

### Quotable

"In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would have to believe it. It was inevitable that they should make that claim sooner or later: the logic of their position demanded it. Not merely the validity of experience, but the very existence of external reality, was tacitly denied by their philosophy. The heresy of heresies was common sense."

—George Orwell, (1903-1950) 1984



THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE was expected to open this fall, but the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority on Oct. 14 announced a new timeline, with construction expected to be complete by the end of the year, and the opening of the bridge sometime in early 2026. Work on the span began seven years ago, and the bridge was connected over the middle of the Detroit River in July 2024. At the middle of the deck span, Gordie's Bridge is 138 feet over the Detroit River; lower than the nearby Ambassador Bridge's height of 152 feet over the river. For Great Lakes boat nerds, the ship captured motoring past the span is the Canadian-flagged, 639-foot-long freighter *Northern Venture*. Photo credits: Bridging North America

## Completion is close, but still work to do on Gordie Howe

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

DETROIT – Are we there yet? No, it's going to be a while longer.

For the first nine months of 2025, the highly anticipated opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor was expected to take place sometime this fall. That changed on Oct. 14, when the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority announced that traffic would not pass over the span until early next year. The authority said in late September that the bridge is about 98 percent complete – but 2 percent of a \$6.4 billion project is still a considerable chunk of work.

"The project team is progressing well toward construction completion this year with opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge as soon as early 2026," said Heather Grondin, chief relations officer (Continued on Page 2)



THERE HAVE BEEN A number of construction milestones in the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge – with perhaps the greatest highlight the June 2024 "mid-span closure" involving the placement of the final beam connecting the U.S. and Canadian sides. At peak employment, more than 2,500 building trades workers have toiled on site at the bridge site, with more than 11,000 employed in connection with the construction.



SPEND \$6.4 BILLION on a new international bridge, and you get much more than just the prominent 722-foot towers and half-mile of bridge deck between them. The Gordie Howe International Bridge project also includes 13 buildings erected across the 167-acre U.S. port of entry – one of the largest in North America. There is also a maze of new interchanges shown here on the Detroit side to directly connect traffic to and from I-75 and surface streets. Modifications have been made along nearly two miles of I-75, and include construction of more than a dozen road and pedestrian bridges ranging in length from 100 to 1,700 feet.

## U.S. construction starts rise 6.7% year to year

Total construction starts rose 3.1 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.26 trillion, according to an Oct. 19 report by the Dodge Construction Network.

Compared to September 2024, total U.S. construction starts

were up 6.7 percent. Residential starts declined 1.4 percent, and nonresidential starts increased 6.8 percent. Nonbuilding starts (usually infrastructure) were up 16.7 percent over the same period.

From August to September, nonresidential building starts

rose by 11.9 percent, residential starts improved 3.6 percent, and nonbuilding starts fell 6.2 percent.

"September construction starts data marks the third month of steady improvements," said Eric Gaus, chief economist at Dodge. "However, a 3 percent

## With delays noxious for new union contracts, Congress takes a look

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

A new bipartisan bill in the U.S. House would put first-contract negotiations on the fast track, aiming to take away union-busting delay tactics after employees organize.

"It takes an average of 458 days to get a first contract – and that's if you get a first contract," said Rep. Donald Norcross, a member of Folsom, N.J., Local 351 and the only IBEW-represented electrician in Congress, citing a *Bloomberg Law* report. "It's not by accident that this happens."

Norcross' bill, the "Faster Labor Contracts Act," calls for a set timeframe for first-contract negotiations, beginning with a deadline to start talks within 10 days of a bargaining unit's election certification. If an agreement can't be reached by Day 90, negotiations would move to federally supervised mediation.

If talks remain stalled by Day 120, the parties would then have 14 more days under the act either to agree on a three-person binding arbitration panel or to have the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service appoint a panel for them. That panel's decision would become the bargaining unit's first two-year agreement.

"The bill is virtually identical to the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act's First Contract Arbitration provision,

with one crucial difference: it has a chance of becoming law in today's Congress," writes Tascha Shahriari-Parsa for the *OnLabor* blog. "Whereas the PRO Act (Continued on Page 2)

## GOP bill sponsor downplays use of immigration to fill construction jobs

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

For well over a decade, the U.S. construction industry has been dealing with a chronic labor shortage. The dearth of new workers in the industry has spawned all manner of workforce development efforts, including outreach to high schools, participation in career fairs, and advertising.

Now comes a new effort: giving a legal pathway for foreign construction workers to enter the American workforce via the "Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act" that was introduced Sept. 23 in Congress. These days any legislation that has the term "immigration" attached to it is automatically a touchy subject, but this one is coming from a Republican lawmaker – who is reticent to tout his sponsorship of that portion of the bill.

Two major contractor groups, however, have no qualms about (Continued on Page 4)

## New state plan gives college credit for union coursework

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

LANSING – For a high school senior – or really anyone seeking a career path – it used to be a this-or-that, black-or-white choice between starting a college curriculum or going directly into the working world, perhaps via a trade program. Now, the barriers separating college and apprenticeship schools are becoming a thing of the past.

That's because the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) on Oct. 21 announced the launch of a new initiative to award college credit to state residents who complete building trades' registered apprenticeship programs. That means that if you have completed a building trades union apprenticeship program, you have already earned college credits toward a degree – if you choose to seek a degree.

"Registered apprenticeships are a powerful way for Michigan workers to earn while they learn, gaining real-world skills and credentials," said LEO Director

Susan Corbin. "Now, with the College Credit for Apprenticeship initiative, apprentices can also earn college credit for their on-the-job training, opening doors to degrees and certifications that strengthen careers, support employers and continue building a skilled, adaptable workforce across Michigan."

This initiative was created and launched in conjunction with the Michigan Workforce Development Board, a governor-appointed advisory body comprised of business, labor, workforce and education leaders that provides strategic leadership, oversight and recommendations to support a workforce that is innovative and aligned with the needs of employers and workers across every industry. The board also advances the Statewide Workforce Plan, which includes Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "60 by 30 Goal," to increase the number of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree to 60 percent by 2030.

"Awarding academic credit for registered apprenticeship students makes it more affordable and attainable for them to achieve a college degree or certificate, and ultimately, a well-paying career," said Michigan Workforce Development Board Chair Jeff Donofrio. "This is another step on the right path to establishing more seamless connections between work experience and higher education – a (Continued on Page 3)

## Michigan road funding bill signed: get ready for new jobs, traffic woes

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

CLINTON TWP. – Well, Michigan, we wanted the damn roads fixed. And while November typically marks the end of the orange barrel season, the availability of new state money means there is going to be significantly more road work in 2026 and beyond.

The Michigan Legislature's 2024-25 budget includes an additional \$1 billion in road spending for the 2025-26 fiscal year, increasing to \$1.8 billion by 2029, then maxing out at an additional \$1.9 billion per year. Independent and state-sponsored studies have said the state needed to allocate an additional \$3 billion per year to the roads to keep them

sustained in good condition, but reaching nearly two-thirds of that goal is a remarkable bipartisan accomplishment after state lawmakers have been ignoring significant road funding hikes for decades.

"I ran on fixing the damn roads, and I'm proud to keep my promise and get it done," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at an Oct. 13 signing event for the legislation funding the (Continued on Page 4)

AN INFUSION of \$1 billion this fiscal year into fixing the state's roads will boost road worker employment, and perhaps the manufacture of orange barrels.

Photo credit: MDOT



Viewpoints



Unsheath union pensions

Pensions are not considered the sexiest corner of the labor movement. But they are one of the most important.

Pensions are where all the money that workers fought so hard to earn is going. Union researcher Chris Bohner has calculated the combined financial assets of American unions at about \$35 billion, but the total assets held by collectively bargained pension plans stand at trillions of dollars. Until we shift the perception of pensions from “a delicate resource that we must hoard” into “a weapon,” the working class is leaving a chunk of its power on the table.

There are three concentric circles of thought about what we can—or should—do with workers’ pensions. The first is the mandate to grow the funds enough to support retirees. Pensions spend gobs of money on sophisticated advisors and hedge funds and private equity to hit annual returns; in aggregate, it’s a big waste. Studies show that, in the long run, pensions could put their money into simple, low-cost portfolios and make about the same returns. The majority of the brainpower dedicated to workers’ retirement helps Wall Street more than workers themselves.

The second way to look at pensions is: How do we ensure working-class money is not invested in companies that oppress the working class? One of capitalism’s greatest tricks is its sleight-of-hand with workers’ retirement savings. By transforming union members into investors, a private equity firm can say that layoffs and wage cuts actually benefit workers, through pension investments. This act of playing retirement fears off between groups of workers is poisonous to solidarity and the collective interest of the working class.

For unions to allow themselves to be seduced into institutionalizing this practice, by claiming it’s necessary, is not just moral malpractice — it is also false. By avoiding exotic “alternative” investments— and instead sticking to simple, index-based portfolios — union pensions can turn the tables on predatory firms, which seek to use labor’s capital to undermine labor power. These firms need our money to operate. We can make demands of them. Private equity firms and others that treat workers badly should simply be cut off from pension funds. The loss is theirs.

The final frontier of thought about the labor movement’s pension money is the realization that it can be used for more than just dreary investments and retirement checks. Unions must think creatively about the staggering pool of capital they command. If a pension’s financial returns are high enough, many unions think its job is done. In fact, such large pools of capital have much more potential. When negotiating all sorts of priorities, that capital represents leverage. When facing hostile forces, it represents power. And when organizing the unions of the future, it represents resources.

Organized labor’s single most pressing need is to create more union members. In 2024, union density fell to its lowest point in a century, at under 10 percent. If we do not organize millions more workers, we are doing nothing but running out the clock on the very existence of union power.

No, the situation is not as simple as just dipping into pensions to hire more union organizers. But an entire world of possibility opens for unions if they treat the challenges of investing pension funds as political problems to be solved, rather than unshakeable laws of nature. Do you know who wants to ensure that all that union pension money cannot be leveraged to help the broader labor movement? MAGA Republicans! Indeed, the entire Republican crusade against “ESG investing”— short for prioritizing environmental, social and governance criteria— should be understood as terror over the latent power of capital for political progress.

Let’s not forget the central insight of the labor movement: We are all in this together. We need to take care of our retirees. Their resources can also help seed the ground for the next generation of unions. Whether that means starting our own investment firms that channel our pension money into union-friendly companies, or waging war in the courts and in Congress to break free of pretextual chains under the guise of “fiduciary duty” (which purport to tell pension trustees they cannot think holistically about the impact of their own investments), the first step is to change the way we think about what working people’s pension funds are for.

The question is not, “How do we earn 7 percent a year on these investments to pay out retirement benefits?” That’s the easy part. The real question is, “How do working people use their accumulated material gains to make the world better for all working people?”

The class war looks a lot sunnier with trillions of dollars on your side.

Hamilton Nolan  
from In These Times

Rethinking immigration

It is often underrecognized how much population aging is currently reducing the growth rate of the U.S. labor force and will continue to pull it down in coming decades. The share of the population that is over the age of 65 (when labor force participation tends to take a steep fall on average) is rising rapidly.

This share of population over age 65 was 12.4 percent in 2007, 17.9 percent in 2024, and will hit 21.2 percent by 2035, according to the Congressional Budget Office. A recent Economic Policy Institute report assessed trends in U.S. labor force participation. One upshot of this research literature is that even the most ambitious policies to boost the labor force participation rate of the current U.S. workforce would not materially change these trends.

Any decline in labor force growth necessarily leads to a decline in the rate of growth of gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is the product of the number of hours worked in an economy multiplied by productivity (the average amount of output generated in an hour of work). If the number of work hours falls because the labor force shrinks, this essentially translates one-for-one into slower aggregate growth.

Policymakers who do not want to see the pace of GDP growth shrink relative to the past history of U.S. growth really only have one option: allowing larger flows of immigration. Absent this, other policies to boost the U.S. labor force — while they might be wise along many margins — will not restore overall GDP growth to anywhere near its historic pace.

The Congressional Budget Office is currently projecting annual labor force growth of 0.5 percent on average between 2025 and 2035. Yet in demographic projections, the CBO forecasts that immigration will account for essentially 100 percent of total U.S. population growth over this time span, and well over 100 percent of population growth after 2031. Given that 75-80 percent of immigration flows are people between the ages of 20 to 64, this means that the U.S.-born population of those between the ages of 20 and 64 — the vast bulk of the potential labor force — is forecast to shrink in every year for the next decade.

There are reasons besides its mechanical connection with overall GDP growth for a country to want the labor force to grow steadily. One reason is that a rising ratio of nonworkers to workers can make some social insurance systems (like those that provide retirement income or health care to older workers) more challenging to maintain. Given the value of these systems to the nation’s welfare, anything that makes them easier to sustain would be welcome.

Finally, any policymaker wanting to make large claims about the pace of overall GDP growth that will occur under their watch is obligated to make them consistent with basic facts about labor force growth, potential productivity growth, and the potential effect of policy on each of these. The degree to which labor force growth over the next decade in the U.S. will be quite slow relative to the historic past, and the pretty low possibility that even ambitious policy changes outside of immigration policy can change this is important information in this context.

Josh Bivens  
Economic Policy Institute

Completion close for Gordie’s bridge

(Continued from Page 1)

for the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, in an e-mail to media. “The exact opening date will depend on our ongoing quality reviews, testing and commissioning. We also need to give sufficient time for our operating teams and border agencies to be ready to operate this new and modern land border crossing between the U.S. and Canada.”

The bridge authority’s October construction update said at the bridge site, “ongoing activities include the installation of fencing, signage, lighting and systems such as fire suppression and drainage.” In addition, “approach and back span activities are ongoing.”

“Behind the bridge,” at the massive, 167-acre U.S. Port of Entry, the authority said “construction activities remain ongoing for interior and exterior components of the buildings and structures,” as “crews continue to work on landscaping while furniture is moved into various buildings.”

And with work at the bridge site’s Michigan Interchange with I-75, construction continues at a host of street locations, and “this month,” the authority said, “the focus is on paving, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.”

Construction on the six-lane bridge began in 2018, with the Canadian government footing the entirety of the bill for the project. (The government will be reimbursed over time through toll collections). The cost of the bridge and related work has risen by \$700 million from its original estimate, and the entire project — since delayed by the pandemic and other factors — had been projected to be complete a year ago.

When complete, the Gordie Howe International Bridge will be a six-lane crossing over the Detroit River connecting the City of Detroit with Windsor, Ontario. The 1.5-mile crossing will be the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America, with a main span of just over a half-mile. The bridge

Just joking

A woman walks into the downtown social services office, trailed by 15 children. “WOW!” the social worker exclaimed.

“Yup, they’re all mine,” sighed the mom, answering the quizzical look from the social worker.

She looked over the gaggle of kids. “Sit down Kelly,” the mom said. All the children rushed to find seats.

“Well,” said the social worker, “you must be here to apply for benefits. First, I’ll need all your children’s names.”

“Let’s start with my oldest — he’s Kelly.”

“And who’s this young man?”

“Well, this one is Kelly, also.”

The social worker raises an eyebrow but continues. One by one, through the oldest four, all the boys are all named Kelly.

“Now as for my daughters, this is my oldest girl, Kelly.”

“All right...” said the caseworker, “I’m seeing a pattern here. Are they ALL named Kelly?”

Mom replied, “well, yes — it makes it easier. When it is time to get them out of bed and ready for school, I just yell ‘Kelly!’ And when it’s time for dinner, I just yell ‘Kelly!’ and they all come running. And if I need to stop the kid who’s running into the street, I just yell ‘Kelly!’ and all of them stop. It’s the smartest idea I ever had, naming them all Kelly.”

The social worker shrugs, thinks this over for a bit, and says tentatively, “But what if you just want ONE kid to come, and not the whole bunch?”

“Ah, that’s what makes it so easy,” said the mom. “Then I call them by their last names.”

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will also feature a nearly 12-foot-wide pedestrian/cycling path.

The bridge’s deck is supported by 216 stay cables, connected to the top of the 722-foot-tall towers on either side of the Detroit River.

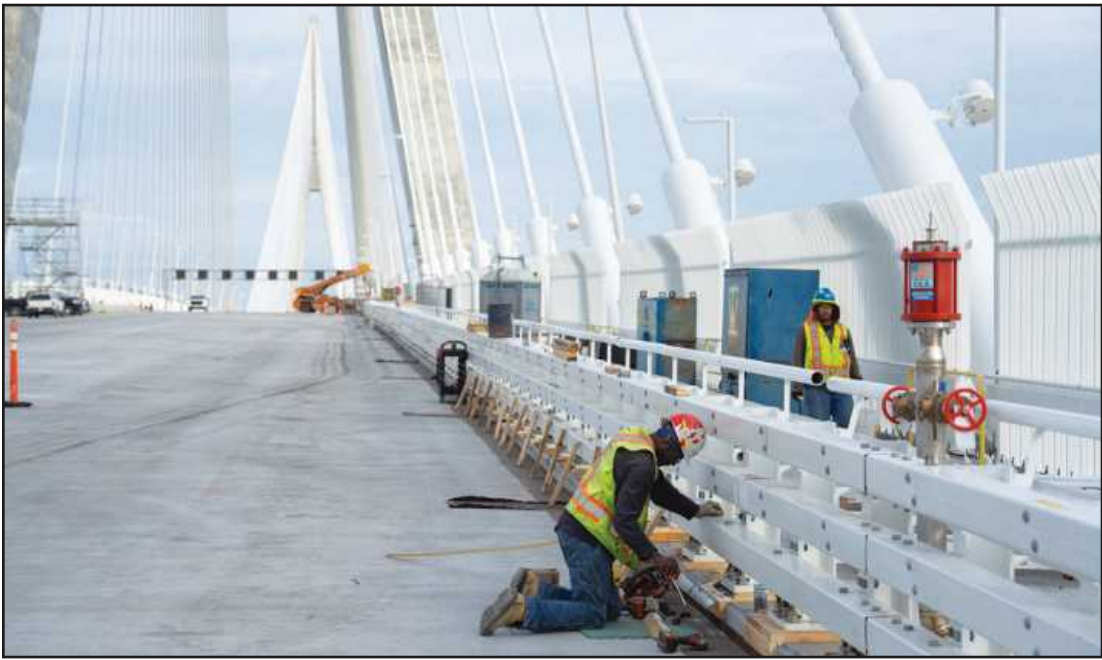
The project also includes building new ports of entry, as

well as connections to I-75 in southwest Detroit, and direct access to Highway 401 in Canada.

The Michigan interchange with I-75 will include connecting ramps to and from the U.S. Port of Entry and local roads. To accommodate the new ramps to the port of entry, modifications

have been made along nearly two miles of I-75. New work includes a dozen roadway and pedestrian bridges ranging in length from 100 to 1,700 feet.

The two sides of the bridge deck are now connected over the Detroit River, with all stay cables having been installed.



RAILING WORK on the Gordie Howe International Bridge has been one of the final tasks being undertaken by building trades workers at the site. It has been an all-union project on both sides of the bridge.  
Photo credit: Bridging North America

Congress looks at contract delays

(Continued from Page 1)

had no Republican sponsors in the Senate and only three in the House, the FLCA already has 12 Republican sponsors in the House and two in the Senate.”

“Companies of all sizes mistreat workers and disrespect organized labor with stalling tactics because they know they can,” IBEW Government Affairs Director Dean Warsh said at a Sept. 16 Capitol Hill event announcing the bill. “The Faster Labor Contracts Act is sensible legislation that will help working people, as well as the NLRB, by setting firm and enforceable contract negotiation timelines.”

Norcross is a journeyman inside wireman and former Local 351 business representative who has represented New Jersey’s First Congressional District since 2014. Joining him to announce the bill was the principal cosponsor, Republican Minnesota Rep. Pete Stauber, whose labor bona fides include union membership as a minor league hockey player and, later, as an officer with the Duluth Police Department.

“America’s workers are the backbone of our economy, yet far too often, they are met with silence or stalling tactics from employers when negotiating their first union contract,” Stauber said. “As a former police officer who organized my union, I’ve seen firsthand how unfair and frustrating this process can be for some. That’s why I am proud to partner with Rep. Norcross to hold employers accountable and ensure workers have a real voice at the negotiating table, because when our workers succeed, our entire nation succeeds.”

Ironworkers President Eric Dean and Teamsters President Sean O’Brien also were on hand to deliver remarks in favor of the FLCA, while nearly 50 members of several unions stood on risers behind the speakers and held up posters in support of the bill.

The Norcross bill is the House companion to a bipartisan Senate measure introduced in April by Missouri Republican Sen. Josh Hawley and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. (D)

The anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors, naturally, oppose the bill. “This House bill mirrors deeply flawed provisions found in the radical Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the discredited Employee Free Choice Act — both of which were rejected by Congress in the past for good reason,” said

ABC President and CEO Michael Bellaman. “The FLCA would mandate binding arbitration after just 120 days of bargaining—a process that disregards the unique needs of individual workplaces and hands unprecedented power to federal bureaucrats.”

The ABC complained that

the bill would “impose unrealistic, arbitrary deadlines requiring employers to reach an agreement in first contract negotiations with newly elected unions.” What the ABC didn’t do was offer their own timeframe for employers to agree to a contract.

(The IBEW contributed)

Government for and by the rich

By Jim Hightower

Washington’s MAGA government is shoveling massive giveaways of public money to corporate elites. Worse, though, are its takeaways of people’s power to battle the abuse of those same plutocratic corporations. Consider just three recent examples:

**Travel.** Perhaps your family plans a holiday flight to visit grandma. Flying itself has become dicey, but at least the government



is requiring airlines that cause long delays or cancellations to compensate us passengers for our loss. Uh... no, no more. Trump’s transportation secretary (who was previously a LOBBYIST for the big airlines!) is “loosening” the rules so monopolistic airlines owe nothing to abused customers.

**Job opportunities.** One of the nastiest wage suppression tactics of corporate bosses has been their collusion to make employees sign “noncompete” contracts. These amount to indentured servitude, preventing workers from quitting to take a better job with a competing firm. This corporate lockdown costs American workers some \$40 billion a year in wages they could get in an open job market.

The FTC was finally moving to ban these noncompete gimmicks — but Trump installed a corporate lackey at the FTC to snuff out this spark of workplace liberty.

**Pollution.** Corporate lobbyists and MAGA lawmakers are rigging the rules to let industrial giants escape responsibility for their massive environmental contamination. For example, the profiteering greed-heads who’ve deceptively caused tons of deadly “forever chemicals” to be spread on our land, water, communities, and families are to be let off the hook by the new, corporate-hugging EPA honcho. He says we taxpayers must pay for the toxic cleanup, not the polluters.

If you’re unclear about the meaning of “plutocracy,” there it is: Government by and for the despotic rich.

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**The Building Tradesman**  
is the Official Publication of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council  
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Secretary-Treasurer

The Building Tradesman

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**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

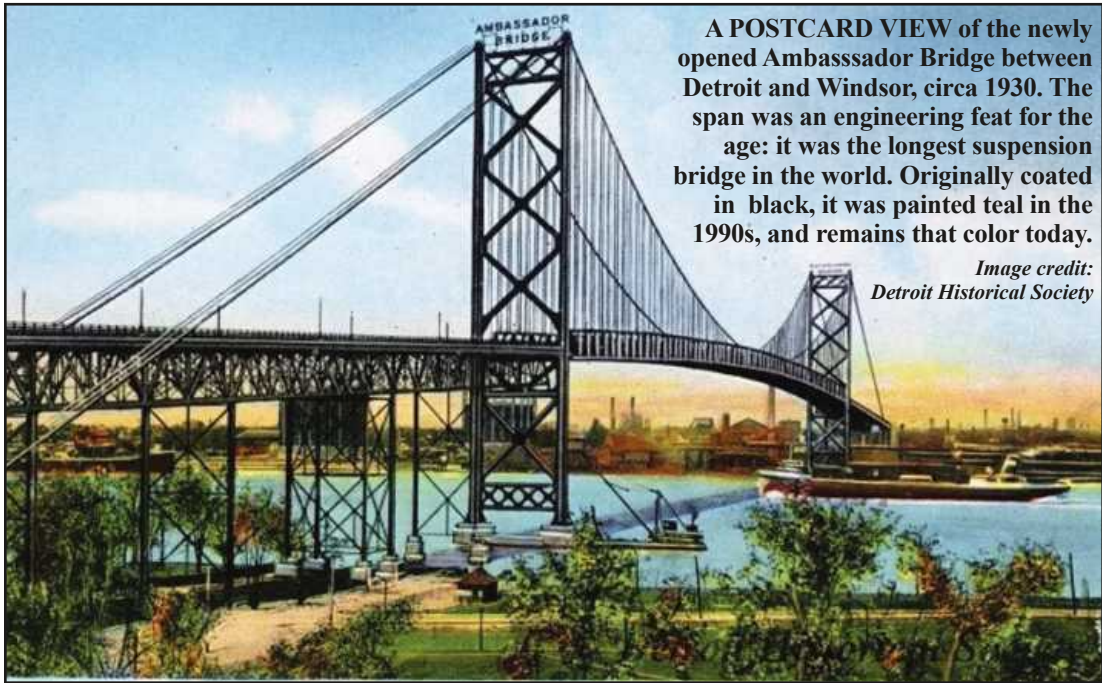
Subscription Rate \$15 annually  
(group rate for unions)

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Printed at Grand Blanc Printing,  
a union shop

# BUILDING MICHIGAN: The Ambassador Bridge opens HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



A POSTCARD VIEW of the newly opened Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, circa 1930. The span was an engineering feat for the age: it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. Originally coated in black, it was painted teal in the 1990s, and remains that color today.

Image credit: Detroit Historical Society

In early 2026 the Gordie Howe International Bridge will offer an alternative path to travel between the United States and Canada.

Of course, the new vehicular bridge will offer ample lanes to pay tolls, a new perspective over the Detroit River, six fresh concrete lanes to drive on, a dedicated path to walk or cycle, and a modern architectural structure that can't help but become an iconic fixture of the Detroit and Windsor skylines.

The opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge will be a cause for celebration in both communities, since it will create a modern, more seamless North American transportation link over the Detroit River – while creating the infrastructure that will cement the area as the busiest border crossing between the U.S. and Canada.

But we're willing to bet that when the Gordie Howe Bridge opens, there won't be the same level of excitement as there was on Nov. 11, 1929, when the Ambassador Bridge opened to the public.

"The dedication ceremonies were celebrated by about 100,000 on the American side and 50,000 on the Canadian side," says an account by *Historic Bridges* of the opening day event. "Before the formal ribbon-cutting ceremonies could take place at the terminals, however, the crowds broke through the barriers and rushed to the center of the bridge. There, a substantial steel fence and a large police force prevented both crowds from crossing the international boundary. Hundreds from the unruly throng climbed onto the catwalks that ran alongside the main suspension cables and dangled dangerously from various perches on the catwalks all the way up to the top of the towers.

"At twilight, the large, enthusiastic crowds finally moved off the newly dedicated bridge."

Nobody is going to be rushing the gates to cross the Gordie Howe Bridge when it opens, if only because the novelty has worn off: that same the Ambassador Bridge has already been providing steady, if not spectacular service between the two nations.

The 96-year-old Ambassador Bridge, privately owned by the Maroun family, is showing its age, but today is generally considered to be in good condition – good enough to support cars, trucks and other vehicles that carry about 25 percent of trade between the U.S. and Canada. On a daily basis, the bridge supports 40,000 vehicles carrying \$323 million worth of goods, according to its owner, the Detroit International Bridge Co.



IRON WORKERS, pre-OSHA, set the final girder on the Ambassador Bridge on Sept. 16, 1929. There were up to 600 construction workers on both side of the bridge when it was erected. What will become of the Ambassador Bridge now that the Gordie Howe Bridge is set to open? The Ambassador will likely remain standing for a while, as there are conflicting intentions for it between the U.S. and Canadian governments. Canada wants the old bridge demolished – one of the main reasons it wanted the new Gordie Howe span is because the Ambassador outlets unwanted truck traffic onto Windsor streets. Meanwhile, there are legal U.S. Coast Guard preservation requirements to retain the old bridge if a new span is built.

Photo credit: Detroit News Archives



BY THE LOOK OF THINGS, it's safe to assume that Detroiters and Windsorites were pretty excited about the opening of the new Ambassador Bridge, as shown here by the throng who assembled on it on Nov. 11, 1929. When the Gordie Howe International Bridge opens early next year, it's unrealistic to expect the same level of excitement.

Photo credit: Detroit News Archives

How long the Ambassador will remain in service after the Gordie Howe Bridge opens remains an open question.

"With an 1,850-foot center span, this was the largest suspension bridge in the world when it opened," says *Detroit1701*. "The bridge is 152 feet above the surface of the Detroit River allowing the largest ships to sail under it. The silicon steel twin towers rise 386 feet above the surface of the water and were built on concrete piers that reach 115 feet below the water level to sit on the bedrock that underlies this part of North America.

"The huge cables that stretch from the twin towers and support the bridge deck consist of 37 component strands. Each of those strands is made up of 218 individual strands of cold drawn galvanized steel."

Located about two miles up the Detroit River from the Gordie Howe Bridge, the Ambassador Bridge was erected in two-and-a-half years. And that includes a delay of several months when construction was halted to replace already-placed heat-treated suspension wire with cold-drawn wire, after the failure of the heated wires on a newly constructed suspension bridge in Rhode Island.

"The McClintic-Marshall Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – that would later build the Golden Gate Bridge – was chosen for the project," says *Historic Detroit*. "Construction began in May of 1927 and was completed in 1929, months ahead of schedule. Composed of Art Deco and Gothic styling, the bridge's total length is 7,490 feet. The structure is built mainly of steel (21,000 tons). At the time of its construction, the Ambassador Bridge was the largest suspension bridge in the world, only to

be surpassed two years later by the George Washington Bridge, spanning the Hudson River."

The Ambassador remains the longest international suspension bridge in the world. In fact, says *Historic Bridges*, Michigan has had the distinction of having twice built the longest suspension bridge in the world, with the Mackinac Bridge (1957) the second.

After the Civil War, it was the railroad industry that first wanted a span over the Detroit River, but bridge-building science at the time would have required multiple piers across the river to support a series of drawbridges or swing bridges. And the shipping industry loudly protested and put the kibosh on the rail bridge concept: those piers would be a navigation problem. In 1873, an astounding 27,000 marine vessels sailed on the Detroit River during the navigable months, carrying about 40 percent of the total coastal and foreign trade in the U.S.

A Grand Trunk Railroad tunnel between Sarnia and Port Huron that opened in 1889 helped ease the problem, a bit, as did completion of a rail tunnel between Detroit and Windsor that was built and opened in 1911. Then cars were becoming a thing.

"Shortly after World War I," says *Historic Detroit*, "a prominent New York civil engineer, Charles Evan Fowler, came forward with a proposal to build a bridge that would accommodate cars, trains, street cars and pedestrians. He organized two companies in the early 1920s – the Canadian Transit Co. and the American Transit Co. – and had gained the support of both Parliament and Congress for his franchise. His plans, though, were too ambitious."

By the end of the decade, it was obvious that the bridge would serve only motor vehicles and foot traffic. Five decades after the clamor for a Detroit River bridge began, advances had been made in steelmaking and bridge design in the 1920s. Most importantly the prosperous decade up until the onset of the Great Depression in October 1929 finally loosened up the money to build a privately owned bridge.

John W. Austin, an officer of the Detroit Graphite Co., wanted a bridge for his company to paint. He approached financier Joseph Bower, and convinced him to undertake the project. Bower did just that, putting up \$23.5 million. His money, and a vote by Detroiters to approve the span, overcame concerns by the Detroit mayor that the international bridge would be privately owned.

That concern over a privatized bridge continues to this day, and it was one of the reasons the government of Canada undertook the process of funding and constructing the Gordie Howe International Bridge.



MICHIGAN LEADERS and stakeholders gather to celebrate the launch of the College Credit for Apprenticeship initiative at the Michigan Workforce Development Board's third quarter meeting Oct. 21. Among those pictured are Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell, Michigan Labor and Economic Opportunity Director Sue Corbin, LEO Deputy Director Sean Egan, Operating Engineers 324 Labor Management Education Committee Executive Director Lee Graham, and Michigan Workforce Development Board Chair Jeff Donofrio.

## New state plan gives college credit for union coursework

(Continued from Page 1)  
path that will boost opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds."

The announcement lacked specifics for how much college credit will be available for apprenticeship curricula, the timing of the process for receiving academic credit, and which Michigan colleges are involved. Indeed, there are 15 building trades union apprenticeship programs, all with their own individual training, so there are going to be some details that will need to be worked out.

The American Council on Education will conduct third-party evaluations of apprenticeship curriculum, ensuring apprentices receive appropriate credit for their on-the-job learning. These evaluations come at no cost to unions or community colleges, while also protecting the integrity of a union's proprietary curriculum.

Michigan is a national leader in apprenticeships – ranking fourth in the country with more than 24,000 active apprentices enrolled in more 800 programs.

The "College Credit for

Apprenticeship Initiative" LEO said, "builds on this momentum by ensuring active apprentices and trades workers who previously completed apprenticeships can pursue additional credentials through efficient pathways without starting from scratch."

There are already individual apprenticeship programs with links to available college credits. For example, Washtenaw Community College, with its decades-long, annual hosting of United Association of Pipe Trades training program, has been a national leader in offering UA apprentices and journey workers college credit at WCC for UA course work.

"Granting college credit for apprenticeships is a major win for Michigan's skilled trades. It expands career options and allows our trades workers to continue building skills over the course of their lifetime" said Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council President Steve Claywell.

Said state LEO Deputy Director Sean Egan, a member of Muskegon IBEW Local 275: "This collaboration truly recognizes the incredible quality of Michigan's building trades programs and the students who complete them."

"Apprentices already learn through some of the most advanced, hands-on training in the country and the project ensures recognition toward college credit. It's about valuing their skills, expanding opportunity and ensuring a pathway through the trades can lead to lifelong learning and a great career. This is a win for workers, for education and for Michigan's future workforce."

"If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry."

– African Proverb

"Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are."

–Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755 - 1826), *The Physiology of Taste*, 1825

"When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time."

–Saint Francis de Sales (1567 - 1622)

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**BAC Local 2**  
WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS.  
**METRO DETROIT CHAPTER:** November Meeting – CANCELLED  
**ANNARBOR CHAPTER:** November Meeting – CANCELLED  
**FLINT CHAPTER:** Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 pm, 1701 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer, MI 48446  
**LANSING CHAPTER:** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, 6 pm, 3321 Remy Drive, Lansing, MI 48906  
**BRETT GIERAK**

**KALAM-AZOO CHAPTER:** Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 at 6 p.m., 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft.

**MARQUETTE CHAPTER:** November Meeting – CANCELLED

**HOUGHTON MEETING:** November Meeting – CANCELLED

**SAGINAW CHAPTER:** November Meeting – CANCELLED  
**SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 6!** Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Rd in Livonia. Doors open at 5 p.m. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Raymond Boettcher** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 3/29/2025. Brother Boettcher had been a member for over 72 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.**

**TEXTING PROGRAM:** Local 2 wants to use every means possible to communicate with you. Sometimes we have time sensitive information (such as job openings, picket lines, funeral arrangements and other such communications) that would be most efficiently done via text message. You must be signed up to receive these messages. You can sign up via the following: Text **2MI to 50607**. You'll receive a confirmation text asking for your member number (IU#)

Respond with your six-digit IU number and you will receive Local 2 Text Messages going forward!

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

**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 (Continued next column)



**Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514**

DETROIT – The next membership meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, at 7 p.m. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an Executive Board meeting the same day at 5:30 p.m. Please make every effort to come and share fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

**Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!**

November 2025  
Abelardo Guadiana-25 Years  
Juan Salazar Sr.-25 Years  
Leonard Walker-25 Years  
Romualdo Caporuscio-40 Years  
Charlie Edwards Jr.-40 Years

Please join us for the Local's Annual Christmas party on 12/13/2025 at the hall: 1154 E. Lincoln Ave, Madison Heights, MI, 48071 from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This is a MEMBERS ONLY Christmas party and you MUST be in GOOD STANDING to attend.

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

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

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at [www.Mustb-safe.com](http://www.Mustb-safe.com) to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to members email address.

**Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account.** To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to [bcbsm.com/register](http://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.micementplastering.com](http://www.micementplastering.com)

**BAC Local 2, con't**  
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."

## Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

terertraining.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](http://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](http://www.mustonline.org) Call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

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

**Important Notice For Plasterers and Detroit Commercial Cement Masons:** You 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](http://www.Principal.com) or by telephone, 800-547-7754.

Access and make changes to your account two easy ways:

Go online: [Principal.com](http://Principal.com)  
**If you are a first-time user, go to Principal.com/Welcome Select Get Started.**

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.

## GOP bill sponsor downplays use of immigration to fill construction jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

getting the word out that they support it.

Reflecting its potential for controversy, a press release by U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-Penn.) that explains the legislation he introduced didn't get to the main point – the immigration stuff – until the seventh paragraph.

"The legislation responds to pressing labor shortages in essential industries by creating a market-driven temporary worker program that adapts to economic conditions," Smucker's release said. "The bill creates a new H-2C nonimmigrant visa, available to employers who prove their positions have gone unfilled for three consecutive months and in areas where the unemployment rate is 7.9 percent or less."

In his press release, Smucker provided greater emphasis on a less controversial aspect of his legislation, which "would encourage charitable donations for community-based apprenticeship initiatives, career and technical education, workforce development, and K-12 educational preparedness."

This legislation was previously advanced by the Committee on Ways and Means last session.

A concurrent press release by Associated General Contractors of America's CEO Jeffrey Shoaf said the act would establish "the first-ever visa program to provide a lawful pathway for people to enter the construction industry."

"In a survey our association and NCCR (National Center for Construction Education and Research) released last month," Shoaf said, "contractors listed workforce shortages as the number one cause of delayed construction projects. In fact, 92 percent of construction firms report they are having a hard time finding enough qualified workers to hire. Congressman Smucker's legislation will provide a much needed, lawful, responsible and temporary way for firms to find workers."

"Of course, the long-term solution is for Congress and the Trump Administration to work together to reinvigorate our long-neglected career and technical education and training programs."

The anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors "applauded" the introduction of the bill. "The act establishes a targeted, nonfarm, temporary worker visa program with built-in safeguards to protect both employers and employees," an ABC statement said. "The bill ensures that jobs remain open and available to American workers first, while giving businesses a legal, reliable pathway to fill long-standing vacancies. It strengthens border security, incorporates strict oversight to prevent abuse and closes loopholes in the asylum system – all while providing flexibility for industries like construction that are struggling with severe workforce shortages."

Three Democrat House members joined the seven Republicans lawmakers who sponsored the legislation. The bill is also supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

No building trades or other labor unions have expressed any opinion on the legislation, for or against.



*Below are candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its local affiliate councils for the Tuesday, Nov. 4, election. Some councils have yet to endorse. Feel free to vote early via an absentee ballot available at your clerk's office.*

*And, as always, please take the time to research and to vote for candidates who support the health, safety and incomes of working people.*

**Following are 2025 endorsement from the Lansing-Area Building Trades**

**City of Lansing**

**Mayor:** Andy Schor

**City Council at-Large:** Jeremy Garza

**City Council at-Large:** Clara Martinez

**City Council 4th Ward:** Peter Spadafore

**City Council 2nd Ward:** Deyanira Martinez

**East Lansing**

**City Council:** Chuck Grigsby

**City Council:** Liam Richichi

**Eaton County**

**Board of Commissioners:** Rob Piercefield

**Following are 2025 endorsements by the Political Action Committee of the Greater Detroit Building and Construction Trades Council**

**City of Dearborn**

**City Council:** Mustafa Hammoud

**City of Detroit**

**Mayor:** Mary Sheffield

**City Council (at Large):** Janee Ayers

**City Council (at Large):** Coleman Young II

**City Council District 3:** Scott Benson

**City Council District 4:** Latisha Johnson

**City Council District 5:** Renata Miller

**City Council District 6:** Gabriela Santiago-Romero

**City Council District 7:** Denzel McCampbell

**Detroit Police Commission**

**District 3:** William Morrisette III (write-in)

**District 5:** Beverly Watts (write-in)

**City of Farmington Hills**

**City Council:** Charlie Starkman

**City of Ferndale**

**City Council:** Laura Mikulski, Eddie Sabatini

**City of Flat Rock**

**Mayor:** Jesse Cowell

**City of Livonia**

**City Council:** Kayleigh Kavanagh-Reid, Jennifer O'Connor

**City of Madison Heights**

**Mayor:** Quinn Wright

**City of New Baltimore**

**Mayor:** Tom Semaan

**City of Novi**

**City Council:** Aaron Martinez

**City of Oak Park**

**Mayor:** Marian Meisner-McClellan

**City of Pontiac**

**Mayor:** Mike McGuinness

**City Council (at Large):** Adrian Austin; Mikal Goodman (write-in)

**City of Royal Oak**

**Mayor:** Michael Fournier

**City Council:** Brandon Kolo, Woody Gontina, Paul Bastian

**City of Southfield**

**Mayor:** Ken Siver

**City Clerk:** Wynett Guy (write-in)

**City Council:** Dan Brightwell, Michael Mandelbaum

**City of Westland**

**Mayor:** Kevin Coleman

**City Council:** John Sullivan

**City of Sterling Heights**

**City Council:** Rick McKiddy, Michael Radtke, Henry Yanez

**City of Taylor**

**City Council:** Jill Brandana

**City of Trenton:**

**City Council:** Dora Rodriguez

**City of Troy**

**City Council:** Annalisa Bluhm

# Michigan road bill: get ready for jobs, traffic woes

(Continued from Page 1)

bill.

"This year's balanced, bipartisan budget makes a record, nearly \$2 billion annual investment to fix our state and local roads, which will make everyone's drive safer and faster. We're getting this done by ensuring every penny you pay at the pump goes towards our roads. I'm so grateful to legislators on both sides of the aisle for coming together to get this done so we can build reliable roads that last for decades while supporting tens of thousands of good-paying local jobs.

"This roads deal means more money, more freedom and more jobs. But it also means a heck of a lot more orange barrels. Now, I know you love to hate, but remember, that's a sign of progress; that's a sign of jobs and investment in our economy."

The Federal Highway Ad-

ministration offers an estimate that each \$1 billion in road funding yields 13,000 jobs, but that number includes indirect jobs from companies like suppliers and even "induced" jobs that result from greater hiring and spending by those hires. Whatever the number, clearly, a lot of new Hardhat jobs will be created. A greater concern might be finding enough workers to fill those jobs.

Motorists in Michigan, of course, are going to hate the additional lane closures and slowdowns that will be wrought from the additional road work. More hate is coming from cannabis growers and product sellers – a 24 percent tax on the industry is the primary source for the additional state revenue.

"This is the biggest roads deal in history, and it is a very big deal for Michigan's future," said

Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp. ) at the signing event. "We eliminated waste, fraud and abuse in the budget and made smart reforms to make sure the money went to our top priorities. Our plan finally ensures every penny you pay at the pump goes to road funding, something people have demanded for years. And it sends that money to the local roads and bridges in our neighborhoods, instead of just state highways. Those reforms will make our roads smoother and make life better for the people of Michigan."

The long-term road funding package includes not only \$420 million in new cannabis tax funding, but \$1 billion per fiscal year from a sales tax and motor fuel tax swap that begins on Jan. 1, 2026. It dedicates all taxes paid at the pump for state and local roads, without increas-

ing costs for motorists. The new law phases in an additional \$88 million annually from corporate income tax growth to sustain road and infrastructure investments long term.

"We see this budget as the start – not the finish – of the investment our roads and bridges deserve," said Doug Stockwell, business manager and general vice president of Operating Engineers Local 324. "It accomplishes two essential but long-overdue goals: it ensures that money collected at the pump is used as intended and establishes a sustainable, long-term funding plan. For the 15,000 members of Operating Engineers 324 who build, operate, and maintain Michigan's infrastructure every day, that commitment means stability and continued progress."

The Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association,

which includes union contractors among its membership, naturally loves the new road building funding source.

"This historic, long-term road funding agreement is a game-changer for Michigan," said MITA Executive Vice President Rob Coppermith. "After decades of short-term fixes and inaction, this budget delivers real, sustainable investment that will repair and rebuild our roads, save good-paying jobs, and strengthen Michigan's economy."

We're grateful for the leadership of Gov. Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) and House Speaker Matt Hall in getting this done. This is a major step forward, but our work isn't over. We must continue building on this momentum to ensure Michigan's roads remain safe, reliable, and well-maintained for decades to come."



## Local 169 Boilermakers

### Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **Nov. 7, 2025**, at Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. The address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, Michigan 48101.



**MICHAEL  
CARD**

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

I encourage every member to make safety your number one priority. The busy workload looks like it will continue throughout the year, so please make every effort to safeguard yourself and your brothers and sisters on the job.

As we approach the holiday season, take extra precautions while traveling. If you are a deer hunter good luck and be safe.

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](http://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 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar 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 at 4610 Airline Rd, Muskegon MI. All retirees and members from all areas are welcome to attend.

**Area 3.** Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be Nov. 19 at The Boulevard Lounge. The address is 316 S. Saginaw Rd., Midland, Michigan 48640. As always, everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45.00. 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.com](http://www.boilermakerslocal169.com) 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.

Retiree J.D. Garner passed (Continued next column)



### District Council 1M

**Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez

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

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

### Local Union 514

**Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen

**Meeting dates:** 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.

**Web site:** [www.iupat-local514.org](http://www.iupat-local514.org).

### Local Union 826

**Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman

**Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

### Local Union 845

**Business Rep** – Ed Bracamontes

**Meeting date:** 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

**Place:** 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

### Local Union 1052

**Business Rep** – Jake Fluty

**Meeting date:** The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m

**Place:** 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

### Local Union 1803

**Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle

**Meeting date:** 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

### Local Union 2352

**Business Rep:** Jeremy Haviland

**Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

### Local Union 2353

**Business Rep:** Tony Parker

**Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



### Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, at 6:00p.m. Trustees and union stewards meet at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

## Local 169, con't

away on October 21, 2025. His funeral will be at The Peace Funeral Home on November 1, 2025 at 11AM. The address is 19530 W Seven Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48219.

Retiree Robert T. Macleod passed away on October 24, 2025. There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 11AM to 4PM at the St. Clair Hunt and Fish Club located at 5486 Remer Road, China Township., MI. 48054.

Retiree Gerald (Tom) McK-inney passed away on October 25, 2025. There will be no services.

*“When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice.”*

–Marquis de la Grange (1639 - 1692)



### Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Mem-

bers,

**DC1M WEBSITE:** [www.iupatdclmichigan.org](http://www.iupatdclmichigan.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, Oct. 25 Architectural Drawings **9am**

Tuesday, October 28th Architectural Drawings **5pm**

Saturday, Nov. 1 First Aid/ CPR **9am**

Tuesday, Nov. 4 First Aid/ CPR Part 1 **5pm**

Tuesday, Nov. 11 First Aid/ CPR Part2 **5pm**

Thursday, Nov. 20 Fall Protection **5pm**

**OWOSSO FTI APPRENTICESHIP:**

Tuesday, Nov. 4 Fall Protection **5pm**

Saturday, Nov. 8 First Aid/ CPR **9am**

Thursday, Nov. 13th First Aid/CPR Part 1 **5pm**

Thursday, Nov. 20 First Aid/ CPR Part 2 **5pm**

**Please call to sign up for these classes a week before the class**

The deadline for CAS Applications is Friday Nov. 14, 2025

The deadline to register for C3 and C5 class is Friday Nov. 28, 2025

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

**NOTICE TO HIRE FOR THE FTI of the GREAT LAKES MICHIGAN.** The FTI Apprenticeship is looking to hire full-time Instructors, please email your resume to FTI Director Shawn O'Neill. List all certifications, position and job experiences, etc.

**Contact Director Shawn Oneill for more information. (517)304-4425 or email dot@iupatdclm.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.

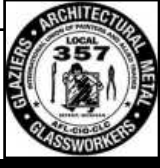
**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!**

**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.



## Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

### Glaziers & Glassworkers 357

WARREN – Apprenticeship school is back in session. Welcome back all Local 357 Glazier Apprentices.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Nov. 3, 2025, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren Mi, 48088 at 5pm. Please make every effort 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](http://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 48098-0666; 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**

*“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”*

–Galileo Galilei (1564 - 1642)

*“Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see.”*

– Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 - 1860)

*“All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income.”*

–Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902)

*“Success is really about being ready for the good opportunities that come before you. It's not to have a detailed plan of everything that you're going to do. You can't plan innovation or inspiration, but you can be ready for it, and when you see it, you can jump on it.”*

–Eric Schmidt

*“It is a common delusion that you make things better by talking about them.”*

–Dame Rose Macaulay (1881 - 1958)



## Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

### Heat & Frost Insulators 25

**SOUTHFIELD – SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033. This meeting is SPECIAL CALLED for nominations. Apprentice attendance is **MANDATORY**.

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.

**NOMINATIONS:** The following positions will be up for nomination at the Nov. 13, 2025 Membership Meeting:

**Executive Board- 2 positions,** 2-2-year terms, Incumbents: Ed Howard, Mark Grzelak

**Pension Trustee- 1 position,** 1-3-year term, Incumbents: Ed Howard

**Welfare Trustee- 1 position,** 1-3-year term, Incumbents: Mike Lassen

**S.U.B. Fund Trustee- 1 position,** 1-3-year term, Incumbents: Randy Rowell

**J.A.T.C. Trustee- 1 position,** 1-3-year term, Incumbents: Zach Hare

**Union Trustee- 1 position,** 1-3-year term, Incumbents: Constance Vincent

**Entertainment Committee- 2 positions,** 2-1-year terms, Incumbents: B.J. Claxton, Dan Stevens

**Sgt.-At-Arms- 1 position,** 1-1-year term, Incumbents: Zach Hare

Please be reminded, if a position is vacated by a member for any reason between now and nominations, nominations to fill the vacated position will be taken immediately and the open position will appear on the December election ballot.

**CONTACT UPDATE:** We are now using [admin@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:admin@heatfrostinulators25.org) as our primary contact email for all communication with the Union Hall. Please update your contact information accordingly.

**Union Hall Contact Emails:**

[bob@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:bob@heatfrostinulators25.org)

[eloany@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:eloany@heatfrostinulators25.org)

[connie@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:connie@heatfrostinulators25.org)

[marty@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:marty@heatfrostinulators25.org)

[finsec@heatfrostinulators25.org](mailto:finsec@heatfrostinulators25.org)

**PANCAKES WITH SANTA:** The Union will be hosting Pancakes with Santa at the Union Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Santa will be joining us from 9 a.m. until noon.

**The Annual Local 25 Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia from 5:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. Invitations and R.S.V.P. cards have been mailed. The only way to reserve your spot is to return the R.S.V.P. card.

**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

(Continued next column)



## Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

### Heat and Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Notified Meeting will be held on **Friday, Nov. 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.**, at the Local 47 Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices for the Nominations of 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.

This is a Notification that Nominations for Elections will take place on Friday, Nov. 7, 2025. This following Positions are up for Re-Election

**\*President**

**\*Executive Board (2 Positions)**

**\*JATC Trustee (1 Position)**

**\*Union Trustee (1 Position)**

**\*Pension/Welfare Trustee (1 Position)**

**\*Recording Secretary**

**\*Sergeant-At-Arms**

**\*Market Recovery Committee (1 Position)**

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes.

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.

Per the Rules and Procedures: Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275

Toll Free: (800) 323-8079

Email: [joshkroell@insulators47.com](mailto:joshkroell@insulators47.com)

Joshua Kroell is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office, or go online to [insulators47.com](http://insulators47.com) for 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 10 days from the end of the current work week."

**Local 25, con't**

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 St., 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.



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700 Tower Drive, Suite 300  
Troy, MI 48069



# Local 665

IBEW Local 665  
**LANSING – IBEW Local 665 100 Year Anniversary:** IBEW Local 665 will be turning 100 years old in June of 2026. Please save the date June 6, 2026 to celebrate with us that evening. Please look here and in your email for more information.

**WORK OUTLOOK:** Projected to be busy throughout the Fall and the Winter.

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Local 665 has reached a milestone. We have 852 members in the Local. Of which 200 are apprentices. With all the new faces around please remember it is a Journeymen’s job to teach first and empower the next generation to learn and grow.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING PROGRAM:** If you are interested in helping our local secure more work in the Lansing area it is critical we sign up for this training. This program is looking to be required by the federal government to work on any large-scale electric vehicle charger stations. The program is online on your blended learning platform. Please email [Dale@lejatc.org](mailto:Dale@lejatc.org) or contact the apprenticeship office with questions or how to sign up.

**HARASSMENT TRAINING** has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Please reach out to LEJATC to sign up for it. You can email [Dale@lejatc.org](mailto:Dale@lejatc.org) to receive instructions on how to complete it.

**APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS:** We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665’s apprenticeship program. To apply, go to [www.lejatc.org](http://www.lejatc.org) and navigate to the application page on the website.

Applications are accepted on the **THIRD** Monday of each month.

**FIRST AID/CPR class** : is scheduled for Dec. 10 from 5-7 pm at IBEW Local 665 Hall. Please contact LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to register.

**DRUG TEST / MUST MODS:** If you are planning on working any NMA or GM jobs this year, please make sure you are current on your 18 MUST mods or OSHA 30 certification and MUST drug test. Contact the hall if you need your annual drug test or your 18 must mods.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** are on the third Monday of each month and start at 6:30 pm at the Hall.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS:** are on the second and third Monday of each month starting at 5:00 p.m.

**DUES AND DEATH BENEFITS:** Quarterly dues are due. We are on death benefit #358. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

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

**HOLIDAY EVENTS AT IBEW 665:** IBEW Local 665 RENEW committee is supporting the Greater Lansing Food Bank to kick off the Holiday season! Donations of non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the Hall until Nov. 19. Most requested food items from GLFB include child-friendly snacks, peanut butter, baby food/formula, cooking oil, boxed dinners, canned meat, canned fruits/vegetables, pasta, rice, and beans.

Please help IBEW 665 RENEW committee and Greater Lansing Food Bank supporting the Lansing Community during the Holiday Season.

IBEW Local 665 is partnering with U of M Sparrow in a toy drive for this Holiday Season. You can drop off Toys at the Hall until Dec. 19. Wish list of toys: Action Figures (Superhero), Barbie Dolls, Band-Aids (Children’s fun/novelty ones), Baby Dolls, Beauty Items (Hair accessories, Lotions, any self-care related items), basketball, footballs, soccer balls, board games, Art related items, gift cards (Meijer, Walmart, Amazon), puzzles, etc. Once again IBEW Local 665  
(Continued next column)



# Local 445

IBEW Local 445  
**BATTLE CREEK – There will be a Benefit’s Workshop** on Nov. 18, 2025, at 5pm. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.

**Battle Creek Christmas Parade.** Please contact Jake Westfall or Travis Arney if you are interested in participating in the parade float build and riding on the float. The Christmas Parade is on Nov. 22.

**Paying dues late** If you pay your Monthly/Quarterly Union Dues late, you will be assessed a \$10 assessment for each month late. If you do not pay for the Late Fee Assessment, it will be added to your account as a delinquent amount due. If you are unsure if you have an amount due on your account, please call Wanda at the Hall to verify your status.

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

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

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

**2025 dues structure.** The Delegates of the 40th IBEW International Convention approved several amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution.

As of **Jan. 1, 2026**, the following due’s structure:

*JIWs:*  
Monthly \$61.00  
Quarterly \$183.00  
*Apprentices:*  
Monthly \$50.00  
Quarterly \$150.00

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

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

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

**2025 Personal information** Please keep your address, phone number and email address up to date at the Hall. Also, contact the Hall with marriages, births of children and divorces. You have a limited time frame to add/remove dependents. Beneficiary cards and forms are also available at the Hall when you need to update them.

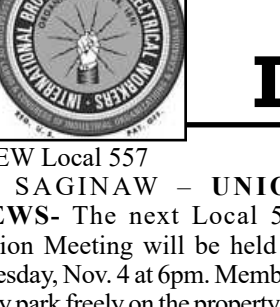
**Executive Board** E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully Submitted,  
*Wanda Secrest*  
*Recording Secretary*

## IBEW 665, con’t

is a sponsor for Silver Bells in the City and will have a float with a new design in the parade this year. Come on down and check it out on Nov. 21.

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** In remembrance of Local 665 members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal.

Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon “Bill” Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25, Raul Torres 10/19/24, Ronald Oberlin 12/16/24, Dale Battley 11/14/24, Stephen Bear 09/16/24, Jackie “Jack” Heart 04/21/24, Stanley McLellan 04/17/24, Arthur “Dave” Benzinger 03/28/24, James McDonald 2/22/24, Roger Carroll 12/13/23, Harry Baker 11/26/23, Mark McCrackin 10/02/23.



# Local 557

IBEW Local 557  
**SAGINAW – UNION NEWS-** The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6pm. Members may park freely on the property directly to the west of the Union Hall as the acquisition of the property has been completed 100%.

**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BUILDING** – Due to the apprenticeship program suffering a setback on Sept. 17 when a fire broke out at our shared facility in Flint, we are currently in the process of obtaining a space to conduct classes in the short term. Short term plans will allow the flexibility to decide on the long-term plans of the program.

The JATC met earlier in October to come up with a plan for the future while more information continues to be gathered regarding the current facility and its status going forward. The investigation into the fire is still progressing. Currently, the Flint/Saginaw Apprenticeship program has pivoted to having classes as much as possible at the two Union Halls in Flint and Saginaw. Soon the program will have more information regarding where classes will be held to get the program’s training back to the status it was before the fire.

**SAGINAW TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOND** – Saginaw Township Schools will be asking voters to “Vote Yes” on Nov. 4 for a \$169 million bond. The bond will go towards important infrastructure upgrades to all the facilities. Some of the upgrades have been badly needed for a very long time. Local 557 has been involved in helping this pass and will continue to help with the fight and get the word out. We need as much help as we can get.

If you are a township resident, please remember to vote and reach out to other voters. More community support will be vital to get the bond to pass. The work created from this important bond initiative should be great work for IBEW members.

**SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES ARE BACK** – 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. The Local has 3 more dates reserved with a large quantity of tickets that will be made available as we get closer to those games. Upcoming games with blocks of tickets and the Eagle’s Nest are on Jan. 10, Feb. 22, and March 14.

**JOBSITE SAFETY** - is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work. All members should be as diligent as possible when it comes to making sure work is completed in a safe manner.

**EARNED SICK TIME ACT-** Michigan’s new law requiring employers to pay their employees Earned Sick Time (ESTA) is in full effect. All members working in the State of Michigan have rights to utilize this law. Members should look to utilize this benefit as intended. Members should see something tracking these hours and start using their hours should be eligible to do so. If you are experiencing any issues regarding this matter, please visit the Local’s website and follow the link to the State of Michigan’s site to file a complaint or contact the Union Hall for help.

**LOCAL 557 NEW PROPERTY & PARKING** – Local 557 has purchased the property directly to the west of the Union Hall. The Local now has 100% ownership of the property. This is an exciting time for the Local. With the expansion, we’ll be looking for volunteers to help oversee the expansion. If you are interested, please reach out. Planning for the future of the property and the building will be in the works soon.

**LOCAL 557 ORGANIZING-** With work being very solid in Local 557 (and throughout the State), organizing is as important as ever. Local contractors are continuing to do the traditional work in the area on top of the Mega Projects. These projects are extremely important to the Local and we need to do everything we can to keep manning that work. Whether working in the Hemlock area continues for a prolonged period or not, it is vitally important to keep all other work of the IBEW in mind. Moving forward, Local 557 will be focusing hard

## IBEW LOCAL 557

on keeping these projects successful. The future of the Local depends on this work.

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

**PROJECT PHOENIX-** Work on the Mega Project remains steady but is beginning to slow. Manpower numbers continue to decrease as the project winds down. Stay current on monitoring work in Local 557 by looking on the Job Line website or calling the dispatch telephone option. This is updated throughout the day to provide the latest information regarding calls when they are being filled. If you are on Book 2, please reach out to the Local through the jobline@ibew557.org email address and you will receive a reply as soon as possible. Through the jobline email address, you can receive updates as to your spot on the out of work list.

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

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

**WORK OUTLOOK-** Members of other Locals can sign Book 2 by contacting their Hall for a simple email to be sent on your behalf, if in good standing. Project Phoenix is ramping down at this point. Breckenridge Solar for J. Ranck is nearly manned-up. Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, and other various jobs.

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

**WEX APP-** You will need to download the WEX app for your phone. Search for “MI IBEW Special Fund” in the Google or Apple store. After doing this step, it will work the same as the old app, only more efficiently.

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

**STAY CURRENT ON DUES** –Please check to see if you are current. The Hall can accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases. There is a convenience fee for the service. You can pay for these purchases over the phone if you wish.

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

*“Enquire not what boils in another’s pot.”*  
– Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)



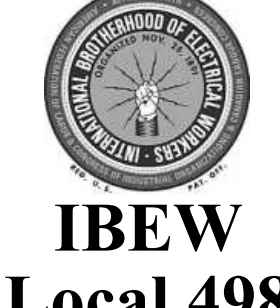
# Local 948

IBEW Local 948  
**FLINT – Meetings.**  
**Membership Meeting** - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be Nov. 10th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

**Retiree Meetings** - Retirees next meeting will be Nov. 4th, 2025 at 9:00am.

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

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



# Local 498

*“Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949”*

IBEW Local 498  
**TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.**

**Regular E Board-**The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Monday, Nov. 10, 2025, @ 5:30pm.

**Regular Meeting** –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Monday, Nov. 10, 2025.

**Resale Items** –The new order of tee shirts is in, as well as Beanie Hats 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.grtcf.org/scholarships/](http://www.grtcf.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 the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at [ibew@local498.net](mailto:ibew@local498.net) Thank you!

**Important numbers for you to write in your address book:**

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

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

**(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan) 3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425**

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

**DUES RATES**

July 1, 2025 – Dues increase to \$164.10/Quarter.

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

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

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

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

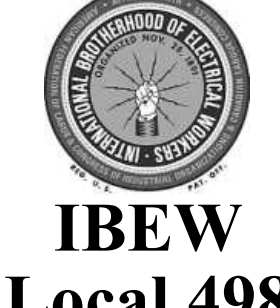
**Seeking New Membership** - As always, we are actively seeking to organize new membership. For any questions, concerns, or interest please contact Organizer Eric Crites.

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

**New Membership** - Welcome to our latest members, Jared Arsenault, Steven Martin Jr, David Murany and All Our New 1<sup>st</sup> Year Apprentices. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

**Retirees** - Congratulations to Larry Richter on your pension application. The membership would like to wish you a healthy and relaxing retirement.

**Draping of the Charter** - Our condolences to the family of David Markee, Phillip Rozier, Robert Shourd. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brother in our hearts.



# Local 906

*“Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949”*



# Local 906

*“Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949”*

IBEW LOCAL 906  
**UPPER PENINSULA—MEETINGS**

Marquette- November 4th 7:00 PM 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855

Escanaba- November 12th 7:00 PM 1219 1st Ave South, Escanaba, MI 49829

Iron Mountain- November 11th 7:00 PM 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Brothers and Sisters, Happy Fall! For the month of November there will be normal unit union meetings.

Merchandise is available for pick up at the hall or delivered to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the app/website.

Work outlook is good for the fall of 2025. Currently we have a 1 man call for Code Electric in the Marquette Area, a 5 man call for MJ Electric at Renegade Solar in Rock, a 2 man short call for Pieper Power in Marquette, and a 1 man call for B&B Electric in Iron Mountain. Reminder that there is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

We have a new website and mobile app. Please reference those new tools for any new announcements and updates within the local. The website can be found at [ibew906.org](http://ibew906.org) and the app can be found under IBEW 906. Dues payments can also be made through the app and website. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the app please call the hall.

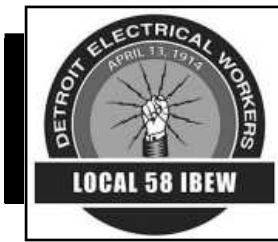
There is a RENEW (Reach out and Engage Next Generation Electrical Workers) zoom meeting held the first Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm est. To get the zoom link please reference the calendar section of the app or website.

A friendly reminder that monthly dues increased \$1.00 effective July 1, 2025 bringing the monthly dues total to \$49.00 per month. Please keep this in mind if you are mailing a check for dues payment.

IBEW Local 906 will be hosting their 3rd annual Christmas Party at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, MI on January 2, 2026. Please call the hall to sign up.

Congratulations to Local 906’s newest Journeymen Justin Malmstead, Matthew Wright, and Jackson Bower!

*“What’s the difference between a boyfriend and a husband? About 30 pounds.”*  
–Cindy Gardner



## IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

**DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting** will be held on Tuesday, Nov.18, 2025. 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 both Inside & Limited Energy. If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

**The 988 Suicide & Crisis 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 Donation per Brick. To purchase or for questions about the brick pavers contact Stacy at the Union Hall 313-963-2130, ext. 3015.

**Local 58 Dues Department** – Please look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid through date shows 03-31-2025, you have lapsed membership and need to call the hall to set up an appointment for the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt paid through date is 06-30-2025 you owe the \$30.00 reinstatement fee, plus dues and will lapse at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter if your dues are not paid. 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. Thank you.

**IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association:** Our next board meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Meetings take place at the Local Union Hall in the main conference room. The meeting starts at 10. All are welcome. We do not have a November Luncheon because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Annual Christmas Party is happening on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at the Local Union Hall. 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 313 408-4885. All retirees are welcome!

Syl Ludwic is working on the Florida Luncheon that happens in February 2026. He would appreciate input from you Florida folks, with attendance low this past February, he is considering a venue change, his two possible places are Melanie's Seafood Co., 120 E. Park Ave., Lake Wales, FL 33853 or Harborside, 2435 7<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Winter Haven, FL 33880.

Please check out their menus, Send Syl Suggestions, ([sludwic@gmail.com](mailto:sludwic@gmail.com) or 352-250-1178). He would appreciate thoughts about whether to continue the luncheon, and these potential venues.

Tuesday, Nov. 4 is election day in lots of communities in our jurisdiction. Get out and vote, it's one of the most important jobs American's have, GO VOTE!

**Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF):** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Our next event will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 8, 2026. Raffle tickets are \$20 per ticket and entrance fee is \$20 per person for food & beverages while enjoying the game on the Big Screens. If anyone is looking for appliances or electronics, please contact our friend Ryan Heinrich at ABC Warehouse (734) 981-7780. Let him know we referred you.

**Members of the Community Service Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 11 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. 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 or participating.

**Members of the Entertainment Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 11, 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, Nov. 17 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available.

Thank you for showing up and supporting IBEW at events. After all of our volunteer hours, it was nice to attend the unveiling of the Historical Marker at the Malcolm X House. Thanks to all who made it happen.

We had a great time at the Trunk or Treat with the children and we sold plenty of raffle tickets. The evening Brew & View event was fun for all who attended. Congratulations to the Cauldron of Cheer winner Voncaira Williams. Thank you to everyone who helped sell those tickets.

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.

If you want to order one of the EWMC “What Up Doe?” jackets, time is running out. We need to order soon to make sure that we can get them back before the conference. Please, reach out to Sister Felicia Wiseman to submit your information.

The EWMC International Day of Service project will be on Saturday, Nov. 22. We will be passing out coats to our targeted organizations and engaging with the community at our vendor table.

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. All delegate nominee names have been submitted. Please be on the look out for an email from Kelly Lynch with conference information sometime soon.

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, Nov. 10 at 5:30 PM.

**The Veterans Committee** - will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm.

**Local 58's Women's Committee** - The next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom (due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday). 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](mailto:58womenscommittee@ibewlocal58.org)

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

**The RENEW Committee:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hall and on Zoom.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings** take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

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

Exciting things are on the way... NEW SYSTEM UPGRADE! Our office will be closed 11/3/25. No Shared Branch Services 11/1/25-11/3/25. No ATM/Debit Card services the evening of 10/31/25-11/3/25. You will notice several changes including: Account Numbers-Your existing base account number(s) will remain unaffected by our system upgrade. Checks-Your MICR line will change to a  
(Continued next column)



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW 692

**BAY CITY – The next monthly membership meeting** will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Nov. 3, 2025.**

**The next Executive Board Meeting** will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Nov. 17, 2025.**

**Message from the Business Manager.** Good Luck to all of our fellow Bowhunters. Please be safe, especially those that are in a tree.

**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:

**Thiel Electric and KLA Laboratories** are finishing up the K wing remodel at Delta College. **Motor City Electric** continues to 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. Calls have begun to come in and will continue through the fall.

**Van Ert Electric** has begun work at their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected. **Van Herweg Electric** has completed the buildout of Parlor Doughnuts in Bay City.

**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. Work at Bay County Health Facility has begun. 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.

**Ted's Electric** has work in Mt. Pleasant and Clare Schools.

**Bay Valley Electric** has 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 Johannesburg. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda's Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls.

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

## IBEW 58, con't

14-digit format (currently 8) You can continue to use your current checks. New checks will have the updated MICR. ATM/Debit Card and pins-Your existing cards and pins will continue to work after our system upgrade. Please note: System will be down for conversion beginning the evening of 10/31/25-11/3/25.

**YOUR CARDS WILL NOT WORK UNTIL 11/4/25.** Starting 11/4/25 members will be required to re-enroll in our new online banking. Visit our website at [ewcu.net](http://ewcu.net) and click on the Online Banking button.

**Be sure to keep the Union Hall** updated with any changes to your phone number, address, email and beneficiaries.

**IBEW Pension:** Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Scott Allen, Michael Hoops, William Jung, Michael Koliouopoulos and Joseph Konopka.

**Members that have Passed Away:** Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of our fallen Brothers and Sisters. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families on their loss.

**Michael Baker,** Pension member, 36 year IBEW member-ship;

**Lucien Beaupre,** Pension member, 61 year IBEW member-ship and

**Louis Pinter,** Pension member, 61 year IBEW membership.

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.** Organizers are looking to schedule multiple training sessions this fall. These sessions include COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training), PALs (Politics, Activism, Livelihood), and New Member Orientation. Please be on the lookout for announcements regarding these training sessions. New members will receive direct invitations, and attendance will be required. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course.

Any 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.

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**

**Effective July 1, 2025, dues increased to \$49.20 per month.** This increase was approved by the delegates of the 40<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention held in May of 2022.

**If you have automatic bill pay from your bank or credit union, please make sure to notify them of the increase.**

Dues can be paid via phone, on-line, by mail or automatic withdrawal from your bank account. *Please note when using a credit card for payments there will be a 2% charge applied.*

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

**Retirees Lunch.** The November retiree lunch is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Thursday, Nov. 20 at the Boulevard Lounge , at 316 S. Saginaw Road in Midland.

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

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

**Important links & numbers**

**Health Plan & Pension Fund**  
855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE  
[www.michiganelectrical.org](http://www.michiganelectrical.org)  
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300  
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

*“Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.”*

– Laurens Van der Post,

*“Next to trying and winning, the best thing is trying and failing.”*

– L. M. Montgomery (1874 - 1942)

*“A boy can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty, and the importance of turning around three times before lying down.”*

– Robert Benchley (1889 - 1945)

*“You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.”*

–Jack London (1876 - 1916)

*“The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a snowball - the further I am rolled, the more I gain.”*

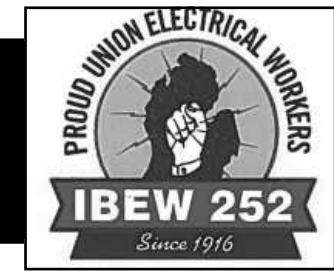
–Susan B. Anthony (1820 -

*“Look at all the sentences which seem true and question them.”*

–David Reisman

October 31, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



## IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

**ANN ARBOR – 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](http://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 PM CPR/First Aid:** Tuesdays, December 2, 9

**Conduit Bending:** Every Other Tuesday starting Sept. 23 for 6 classes 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. If there's interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there's enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.

**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.

**MOTT KIDS/ ROCKIN' FOR THE HUNGRY:** We are once again supporting charitable drives for Food Gatherers and Mott Children's Hospital. This is a great cause that IBEW members, NECA, and electrical contractors have been supporting for many years. Please help if you are able. We will be accepting donations at the Union Hall until Dec. 4. Please make donations by cash or check payable to Food Gatherers or Mott Kids. Local 252 will be featured on Ann Arbor's 107.1 FM on Friday, Dec. 5 for our day of sponsorship.

**RETIREE'S 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.

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

**CONDOLENCES:** The Local sends our sincere condolences to Robert Laraway and his family for the passing of his father on October 13, 2025.

**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. **DUES PAYMENTS** – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 09/2025, 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 for fourth quarter 2025. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card for fourth quarter for 2025. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your fourth quarter dues (October through December) are due now. **Payments for fourth quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS** (more information to follow):  
NOV. 27-28: Business office closed for Thanksgiving.  
DEC. 4: Rockin' for the Hungry/ Mott Kids Donation Deadline  
DECEMBER 13: Holiday party

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

### REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES

### BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS

## BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





IBEW Local 131

**KALAMAZOO** – The next **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Nov. 3, at 6 p.m.

The next **Renew & EWMC** meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at **CJ's at 5 p.m.**

**The Executive Board** meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 17th, at 5 p.m.

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

**Hall Hours:** Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM

**Upcoming Events:**

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup> City Commission Election** - Local 131 has endorsed **Jacqueline Slaby and Drew Duncan for Kalamazoo City Commission**. Having passed a strong responsible bidder ordinance at the county, we hope to continue the trend at Kalamazoo City. Drew and Jacqueline will be great allies in this effort.

**WMU Season Tickets** – Local 131 has sponsored WMU Athletics and purchased 50 season football tickets for our members. You can sign up for games at ibew131.com. Login to the site to find the link at the bottom of the menu. You can sign up for as many games as you wish to attend. Tickets that are not spoken for prior to the game will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis at our anticipated tailgating location in the parking lot of Lawson Ice Arena. Tailgating location is Lot 64, east of Lawson Arena

**Upcoming Dates:**

Saturday, Nov. 1 vs. Central Michigan (tickets are sold out, but all are welcome to tailgate)

Tuesday, Nov. 11 vs. Ohio.

**Dec. 17 Retirees Christmas Party @ the Radisson:** Call the hall to RSVP. Lunch starts at 11 a.m.

**Work Outlook:** Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to go until at least December, and likely into spring of 2026, paying \$57.78. Westinghouse is expected to need manpower sometime in the near future.

**Work in the Kalamazoo area appears to be slow for the fall and winter.** Blue Oval is expected to begin scaling back for some contractors, while Pfizer remains slow. The work outlook at Zoetis appears steady. GPI and USG do not expect large projects for the fall and winter. While winter appears slow in 131, Local 153 will continue to have very heavy demand for their data center and battery plant. Local 305 Fort Wayne also has a data center with high demand for Wiremen. If you have any information about work outlook, please let me know. You can email, text, or call me.

**Earned Sick Time:** Local 131 members are entitled to earn 1 hour of sick time for every 30 worked for up to 72 hours a year. This is enforceable by the State of Michigan but is not under the terms of the 131 Inside Wireman Agreement. Please contact me if you are denied this benefit, jcurrent@ibew131.com. You can find a link to the Michigan Earned Sick Time Complaint form at ibew131.com as well.

**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.

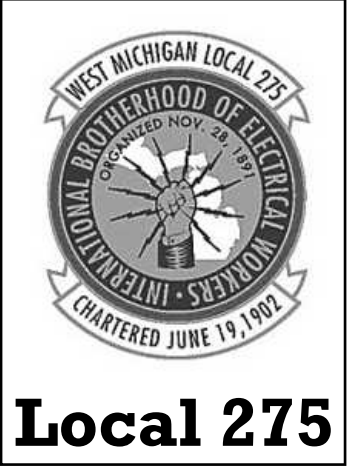
**Retirees' Lunches @ 11AM** at the following locations:

**Nov. 19:** Wymans Café 8675 Portage Road, Portage Mi. 49002

Every Tuesday, a group of Retirees meets at The Crew, 5200 Portage Road, Portage @ 10 a.m. On the last Friday of each month, a group of retirees and others, meet at Jac's Cokola's Pizze, 3112 South Ninth St., Kalamazoo, MI. 49009 @11:30.

**Members Three Months in Areas or More:** Joshua Cook, DeShaun Darden, Jason Fairfield, Stephen Johnson, Clayton Northrup, Richard Peebles, Sebastian York.

**Jonathan Current Business Manager**



**Local 275**

IBEW 275

**COOPERSVILLE** – **Work Outlook:** Work in the jurisdiction remains steady for journeymen with calls on the job recorder regularly. Please continue to call the job line if you are seeking work in Local 275.

**Celebration of Life:** The family of Mark Fletcher would like to extend their thanks to the Brothers and Sisters who attended the celebration of life, the family are very grateful for the outpouring of support they received.

**Volunteer Info:** For any apprentices looking to get community service credits, keep your eyes and ears open for Labor Rings the Bell, as that is just around the corner. The Annual EWMC day of service is scheduled for November 15, 2025, and will count toward community service as well.

**West Michigan RENEW/ EWMC:** Meetings will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available on Local 275 Members Only Facebook group as well as on the Local 275 Mobile app.

**Veteran's Committee:** Meeting will be held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6pm at Muskegon Community College Tech Center in downtown Muskegon. (388 W Clay Ave.) Room 125.

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

The JATC is now offering Master's Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjecatc@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Monthly dues will be increasing by \$1 in July of 2025. Please adjust any automatic payments to reflect the new monthly dues amount of \$50.90.

**Delinquent Members:** At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Jonathen Alviar, Matthew Buikema, David Daum, Nathan Dyer, Shaun Frantz, and Kevin Koon. - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.

*"True happiness... arises, in the first place, from the enjoyment of one's self."*

—Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719)

*"Never get angry. Never make a threat. Reason with people."*

—Mario Puzo (1920 - 1999), 'The Godfather'

*"People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use."*

—Soren Kierkegaard (1813 - 1855)

*"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand."*

—Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)

*"If thou art a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, sometimes deaf."*

—Thomas Fuller (1608 - 1661)



**Local 25**

**Iron Workers Local 25**

**NOVI** – **The November Union Meeting will be Monday Nov. 24, 2025, at 7 pm** 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).

There will not be any Steward meetings held in November 2025.

**A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday November 5, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12 noon.** If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also!

**A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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!

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

**December vacation check schedule:** The last day to call to have your Dec. vacation check pulled for in-person pick up is Tuesday December 2, 2025 at Noon. Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday Dec. 4 after 2:00 pm. All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday Dec. 2. **All members that receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be on deposit Friday, Dec. 5, 2025.** All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025.

The ClickSafety program allows ironworker members to meet a myriad of training requirements, offering over 100 online courses in English and Spanish that include many OSHA-authorized courses. Simply log in: https://sms.copperrange.com/impact/sms/login/

The username is the member's book # and the password is the FIRST 4 digits of your SSN

**Apprentices:** located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org) to view the 2025 Block Schedule, Roster and Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the Trade-School 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).**

**BENEFIT FOR LIFE CHANGE:** Any member experiencing a divorce or a new spouse **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office within 31 days; otherwise wait until the open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

**BENEFIT FOR NEW CHILD:** Any member who has a new born child, or a new dependent child through marriage **MUST NOTIFY the Fringe Benefit Office of your new dependent within 31 days; otherwise wait until the open-enrollment period (April 1-April 30).**

## Local 25 Iron Workers

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

If any member is having problems with the HRA substantiation letters please call Dennis Aguirre.

Check your HRA/Benny Card Balance: my.wexhealthcard.com (where you can create a login)

Check you online benefit information: ourbenefitoffice.com/iw25/benefits/

**HRA/Benny Card Audit is continuously under way via US Mail – please respond if you have been contacted. You need to save your receipts for three (3) years.**

**The Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club:** The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 8:00 am. The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet (correction date) Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The **Northern Michigan Chapter** Retiree luncheon (to be determined).

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** will January 15, 2026; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw MI 48604 at 12:00 pm. All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9am January 16, 2026 at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

**The IRONWORKER Magazine** To subscribe to the digital edition please use the following link: <https://www.ironworkers.org/s/ironworker-digital-sign-up>

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.bcbasm.com/behavioral-mental-health/** Resources on the home page including In-Person Crisis Care options in many locations throughout the state. BCBS Michigan 877-627-1041, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

**When the World feels Heavy: FindTreatment.gov is where you can search by zip code/city. Or call SAMHSA 800-662-4357. MentalHealth.gov provides information & programs about mental health. Dial 988 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) For help 24/7 in a Time of Crisis.** Call or text 988 if you or someone you know is in danger of suicide or experiencing a mental health crisis. You can also Chat at 988lifeline.org/chat (English & Spanish). Whatever you are struggling with, help is available – its free & confidential.

**Suicide Prevention Resources on IMPACT:** <http://www.impact-net.org/safety/suicide-prevention-resources>. US Crisis Text Line: Text **HOME** to 741741 from anywhere in the United States, anytime, about any type of crisis. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from our secure online platform. A volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

**In Memory:** Lifetime IW Steven Agnew #875881 passed away October 1, 2025 at the age of 73. He was a 53-year member of Local 25, survived by his wife Karen and many friends in the ironworking industry. Lifetime IW Terry Kidder #1098476 passed away October 16, 2025 at the age of 75 and a 41-year member of Local 340/25. He is survived by his wife Jane and brothers Darrell Kidder #952707 & Donny Kidder #1131982. He is from a large family of dedicated ironworkers. His dad Jack was an ironworker who has since passed away as well as his two uncles Bob Smock and Arlie Smock #592622. Terry's activism and integrity in his Union will be sadly missed. Lifetime Rigger Dale Vasilko #975513 passed away October 15, 2025 at the age of 67. He was a 48-year member (Continued next column)



**Local 36**

**Elevator Constructors**

**Elevator Constructors Local 36**

**DETROIT** – **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED;** Our next regular membership meeting will be **November 24, 2025, 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on **November 17, 2025, at 5pm** at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

**Attention All Members,**

After 14 months of emails, articles in the Tradesman, journal, social media post and announced at the union meetings, the enrollment for the IUEC VIP short term, long term, life and AD&D insurance has closed. I spoke to Dan Tovrog from Union 1, and he informed me that the next enrollment will be late summer, early fall of 2026. This enrollment will be open for 2 months and then will be a yearly enrollment going forward. If you have any questions, contact IUEC Service Center: (224)487-5030 or visit [www.IUECVIP.com](http://www.IUECVIP.com).

We will be mailing out 2026 wage raises, zone sheets and dues card increases within the next week. If you don't receive it, contact the hall.

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

The **Picnic assessment** will be \$45 per member and 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](mailto:vap@iuec.org) or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWP National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison was appointed to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans. You don't have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran's benefits has done for him and I'm a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at [sanosire1973@gmail.com](mailto:sanosire1973@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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

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

The IUEC would like all active members and Probationary Apprentices to sign up for Safety alerts. The only thing you will receive are safety alerts, nothing political, just safety alerts. **Text**

## Local 36 Elevator Constructors

**(855) 957-1801 and sign up to receive Safety alerts via text and email.**

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you **MUST** report those jobs to the hall! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it **MUST** be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A.

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

**Attention All Mechanics,** just a reminder to Mechanics that passed the Mechanic's Exam on or after July 9, 2022, starting January 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP.

NEIEP will monitor compliance for all participants and upon successful completion will pay the participants' Mechanic rate for their home local (excluding benefit contributions). **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.**

**Attention All Apprentices, fall classes have started, if you have any questions, contact your teacher or the hall.** If you are scheduled to sit for the Mechanic's exam, you must fill out your OJT's till you get your passing results. Kenny and I would like to thank all of you for keeping up on your OJT's, schooling, and commitment to your future. Check your **NEIEP** emails frequently. OJT forms need to be filled out COMPLETELY by the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. **There is NO excuse for these to be late!!!**

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

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

**If you are NOT receiving my emails, contact the Hall so I can put you on the email list.**

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

Be safe and stay healthy!

*"Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch; nay, you may kick it about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening."*

—Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809 - 1894)

*"My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life."*

—Miles Davis (1926 - 1991)

*"It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him."*

—Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

*"What some call health, if purchased by perpetual anxiety about diet, isn't much better than tedious disease."*

—George Dennison Prentice

*"Don't discuss yourself, for you are bound to lose; if you belittle yourself, you are believed; if you praise yourself, you are disbelieved."*

—Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592)

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As you simplify your life, the laws of the universe will be simpler."*

—Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

## Local 25 cont'd

of Local 25. He is survived by his wife Linda and many friends in the ironworking industry.

Lifetime Sheeter Chester "Chet" Gorski #852648 passed away October 19, 2025 at the age of 84 and was a 55-year member. He is survived by his wife ChiChi and his sons Chet Gorski #1290258 and Adam Gorski #1252796. He was predeceased by his brother Gerald Gorski #653874. Lifetime IW Billy Jones #644158 passed away October 14, 2025 at the age of 88. He was a 65-year member of Local 25 and is survived by his wife Juanita, son William Jones #1115067 and many friends in the ironworking industry. **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 (Oct 27, 2025 10:00 AM E.S.T.).



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 Dec. 11, 2025, at 6 p.m.  
\*Zone 1 December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
\*Zone 2 December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

- \*Zone 3 December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)
- \*Zone 3 December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)
- \*Zone 4 December 2<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- \*Zone 5 December 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.labeliscanireport.com](http://www.labeliscanireport.com) and download the official app by texting “SMART” to 90975.

**ZONE 1 Info.** Work in the Zone 1 area continues to be busy and will remain this way through the end of the year. 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 Journeypeople 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). **In Solidarity, Eric Farrington and Vance Saunders**

**ZONE 2 Info:** Work in Zone 2 remains the same, with a few members off, if your employment status changes please let me know and apprentice’s also let Tanner know as well. Please keep me informed of any phone number or address changes so that we can get them changed with TIC and the Lansing office. When traveling to another zone or a different local always remember to call in to the agent in that area or local. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month on which you are paying for. November is fast approaching. Make sure your guns are sighted in for firearms deer season on the 15th. Good luck and shoot straight.

**As always, work safe and Thank You, Mike Adams**  
**ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw)** The next Zone 3 meeting is our Christmas meeting which will be held at the Back Orchard Barn on December 3rd at 5:30 pm. If you are laid off please contact me so I can add you to the out of work list. Please make sure your dues are up to date, they are due before the first off the month. If your contact information has changed please call the Lansing office (517-882-4064) \* Next Retiree meeting is December 2nd at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd. Hope to see you there. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

**ZONE 3 Info: (Traverse City)** Work in our area is still slow with many laid off right now. Per our Agreement, all members must register on the out of work list within 48 hours of layoff, even if it is temporary. Your SASMI benefits may be affected if you do not register. If anyone needs any help on unemployment or insurance bank hours, my number is (231) 590-1112. The new SASMI boot program, along with our own insurance program, requires a yearly physical so please schedule it soon. Our Christmas party will be on December 4 at the Mill Pond Center at 6:00 pm, hope to see everyone there! **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

**ZONE 4 Info:** Local 7 Zone 4 is starting to slow down a little bit. I have a few guys laid off and a few guys still out of town working. Don’t forget to come to the Christmas party on December 2<sup>nd</sup> lots of good food, good prizes and good camaraderie. **Your brother Scott Brotherton**

**ZONE 5 Info** Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at [upconstruction.org](http://upconstruction.org). The Local 7 Zone 5 Christmas party will be December 5th at 6:00 at the hall in Gwinn. Hope to see everyone there. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**.

Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at

The next Retiree Breakfast will be at Summer Place in Republic on October 8th at 10 am. **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**MAKING 45s -**  
**Brett Abbruzzese** of Sheet-metal Workers Local 7 joins together duct elbows while working at the Lansing Public Safety building project.



Local 292  
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: There will not be a membership meeting in November. The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, at 6 p.m. 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The E-Board/Stewards meeting will be held on Nov. 25, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall.

**RETIREEES NOTICE:** The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 12/4/25 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It’s always nice catching up and staying connected. This will be the last Retiree Luncheon for 2025. We will publish the dates for 2026 when they become available. Please contact the union hall via our website Please get in touch with the union hall via our website [www.sheet-metal292.com](http://www.sheet-metal292.com), click on the “Contact Us” page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Local 292 Children’s Christmas Party will be held on 12/6/25 at The Troy Community Center. All children aged 15 and under, whose parent or guardian is a member of Local 292, are invited. Please call the Union Hall by 11/21/25 for reservations.

**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.

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

**MEMBER ASSISTANCE:** Please remember, Local 292 partners with Ulliance, an Employee Assistance Program designed to assist members and their eligible family members who may be struggling with emotional, domestic, or substance abuse issues, as well as legal and financial referrals. If you and/or a family member feel this may benefit you, contact Ulliance at 1-800-448-8326 or [www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com](http://www.LifeAdvisorEAP.com) for completely confidential assistance.

**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.

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

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

**TEXT BLAST NOTIFICATION:** If you haven’t been receiving texts and would like to be added or wish to opt out of text blast, please get in touch with the Union Hall and we will make the change.

**TRUHEARING:** This benefit of premium hearing aids is available to active eligible participants, dependents, and Pre-Medicare retirees. To get started, contact TruHearing at 1-833-898-1255 for an appointment.

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

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

**Attention all Welders!** We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, & Nov. 22.

These classes would be for members ready to obtain an AWS welding certification, learn how to weld, or need to practice welding.

Note: Anyone who signs up for a class must pay a \$40.00 registration fee that will be refunded on the completion of the class. These deposits are NON-Refundable if you do not show up for the classes. You can drop off the deposit between the hours of 7:00 and 3:00 at the Apprentice School.

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



Local 80  
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next General Membership Meeting scheduled for November 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48076.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:** Next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Southfield, MI.

**TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: OFFICIAL NOTICE:** At the December 2025 meeting, nominations will be taken for the position of Fund Trustees. Elections will be held at the January 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. Your dues must be current if you would like to be nominated.

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

**RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE:** 2025 Retiree Meetings: Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. All membership meetings start at 12:30 pm, held at the Local 80 hall. Please enter the hall through the ramp entrance. Any questions regarding joining the Retirees Association please contact Steve Murzen at 248-652-0593. Retiree lapel pins with the SMWIA logo are available to all members of the Local 80 retirees’ association. They will be available to all retiree association members at our general membership meetings. Please see the general membership-meeting schedule above.

**BENESYS AT THE UNION HALL:** Lashone will be in Monday to 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:** Cameron Fraser, David Caron, Bradley Darnell, Steven Sly, John Mastalinski, Justin Brotherton, Gregory Bourdon, Kyle Trombley, Matthew Deluca, Tom Barrett & William Opalewski.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Training Center News.** Entrance Exam Information. The Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 80 Apprenticeship Entrance Exam is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 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 January 19th and enrollment starts Monday, December 1, 2025. To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to [https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading\\_Class\\_Schedule](https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule). To enroll in a class, call the training center starting at 7:30am on Monday, December 1, 2025 - 586-979-5190.

**CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL**

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

|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>McNichols</b><br>Scrap Iron & Metal Co.<br>6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott)<br><a href="http://mcnicholsscrap.com">mcnicholsscrap.com</a><br><b>(313) 365-6100</b> | <b>Detroit</b><br>Iron & Metal Co.<br>8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)<br><a href="http://detroitironandmetal.com">detroitironandmetal.com</a><br><b>(313) 841-5100</b> |
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**Local 85**  
Plumbers &  
Steam Fitters

UA Local 85  
SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held **Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025**, at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Rd. at 7 PM.

**NEW DATE:** The next Northern Union Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, at 7 PM at the Grayling Eagles.

**Contact Information:**  
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513 [jpomerville@ualocal85.org](mailto:jpomerville@ualocal85.org)  
Tim Danielak, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8514 [tdanielak@ualocal85.org](mailto:tdanielak@ualocal85.org)  
Clint Steele, Business Agent (231) 499-7330 [csteele@ualocal85.org](mailto:csteele@ualocal85.org)  
Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 [aalexander@ualocal85.org](mailto:aalexander@ualocal85.org)  
Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 [rjanderson@ualocal85.org](mailto:rjanderson@ualocal85.org)  
Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 [ktuthill@ualocal85.org](mailto:ktuthill@ualocal85.org)

Please check the [ualocal85.org](http://ualocal85.org) or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org). Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card No. If you have difficulties logging in, please call Kristin at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8511.

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

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

**SUB Fund: Print Unemployment Payment History** located underneath the Certification Tab when logged into your MiWAM account. Deadline for submittals is Noon on Thursday in order to receive a check that Friday. Checks will be mailed out on Friday. No in-person pickups allowed. If a holiday falls on a Friday, checks will be issued on Thursday and deadline will be moved up to Wednesday by noon.

**Where to submit documents:** Address: UA Local Union 85 SUB, 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 Fax: (989) 791-3468 Email: [SUB@ualocal85.org](mailto:SUB@ualocal85.org)

**SUB Application for Benefits:** Must be on file in order to receive SUB Check. Available at the Hall.

**90 Day Rule:** The weeks you are claiming must be submitted within 90 days of the first Monday following the week in which you are eligible to receive a State benefit per the Plan Documents.

**Taxes:** There are no taxes taken out of SUB Fund Checks, however they are taxable wages and you will receive a W-2 at the end of the year. If you want taxes withheld from your SUB Fund Check, please indicate the dollar amount for Federal and State on each SUB submittal.

**NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS: Address & Phone Update:** Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes, (989) 799-5261.

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

**Website Address:** Please visit [www.ualocal85.org](http://www.ualocal85.org).

**Insurance:** When you are working out of Another Local's jurisdiction, it may take up to 90 days for your Insurance and Pension to be reciprocated back to Local 85, which may cause problems with your Health Insurance. **ALWAYS SAVE YOUR CHECKSTUBS** and fax them in to the hall at 989-791-3468 with the local you are working out of indicated.

**RETIREE LUNCHEON:** The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, 3535 Bay Road Saginaw, MI 48603.

**Condolences:** Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Robert Schneider who passed away on Oct. 22, 2025.

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



**Local 370**  
Plumbers,  
Pipe Fitters  
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370  
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025**.

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Brother Donald J Heron. Brother Heron passed away at 90 years old on Oct. 17, 2025. He retired Dec. 1, 2000 and had 68 years in the union.

**Retiree Breakfast** will be on Monday, Nov. 10 at 9:00 am.

The **Ulliance Member Assistance Program** is now available to all members and retirees as of March 1. 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 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:**  
**Nov. Welding** Nov. 3 thru Nov. 19. Mondays and Wednesdays. 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](mailto: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, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00pm  
FMR Committee – Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00pm  
PAC committee – Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00pm  
Executive Board – Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:00pm  
Building Committee – Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00pm  
Finance Committee -Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 MUSTSAFE.com website and complete all 18 safety modules. Members will not be eligible to work at any job site requiring them until all 18 modules are complete and are current on their drug test. If your drug test is expired, you must take one before you can be dispatched to any GM work. Drug tests are only valid for 1 year. Call The hall and we will print you a drug test authorization form

**Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.**  
**Sub/Sick checks will be processed 8:00am – 11:30 am and 1:30pm – 4:15pm daily.**  
**Attendance award** drawing for membership meeting information. 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.

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

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

We are now able to accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express for window dues. If you want to take advantage (Continued next column)



**Local 190**

UA Local 190  
ANN ARBOR – **SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING NOV. 3rd–**  
**NOMINATIONS** of all elected officials for Local 190's upcoming election will be held at a Special Called Union meeting, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025 starting at 6:00 p.m., the meeting will be held at Local 190's Union Hall, at 7920 Jackson Rd. in Ann Arbor, MI.

The following Offices will be filled: President (1), Vice President (1), Business Manager/ Financial Secretary (1), Business Representative – Building Trades Construction (1), Business Representative – Gas Distribution (1), Recording Secretary (1), Inside Guard (1), Fringe Benefit Trustees (3), Executive Board (4), Finance Committee (3), Gas Distribution Examining Board (3), Building Trades Examining Board (3), Delegates to the 2026 UA Convention (15)

If you will not be able to attend the Nomination meeting Nov. 3, 2025 and you want to run for one of the positions listed above you must have a signed letter of acceptance that includes your UA card number submitted for the office you are nominated for prior to the meeting.

**Attention:** Please make sure the Union Hall has your current address, ballots will be mailed Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOR ALL:** This year, UA Local 190 will provide 190 turkey dinners to families in need around Washtenaw Co. We need volunteers for putting together these meals and distribution to the families. There are two volunteer dates. First date is Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the UA Local 190 Training Center: 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, breakfast will be served and then we will assemble individual dinner packages. Second date is Saturday, Nov. 22 at 9:30 a.m. will be distribution day (Karen will let you know location to report at 9:30 a.m.), we will be handing out the Thanksgiving Meal boxes to the families. We need 18 volunteers for each day, please contact Karen at 734-424-0962 ext. 210 to sign up. Let's all make this a great event!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** This wonderful event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6. The party will be held at the Washtenaw Community College (Morris J. Lawrence Building) from 1-5 P.M. All RSVPs should be mailed to the Local 190, 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. **The committee must receive your notification if you are planning on attending, no later than Nov. 25.**

**UNION HALL CLOSED FOR AN UP COMING HOLIDAYS:** For the Thanksgiving holiday the office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

For the Christmas holiday the office will be closing at Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and will be closed all day, Thursday, Dec. 25 and will be closed all day, Friday, Dec. 26.

For the News Year's Eve holiday, the office will be closing at Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 31

**UA Local 370, con't**  
tage 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 by-laws. Dues will be accepted up to 6:45 on union meeting nights.

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

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

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

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



**SPRINKLER FITTERS**  
**704**  
**DETROIT**

UA Local 704  
SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday Nov. 12, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

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

Results of the Special Election held on October 17, 2025.  
**Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer:** Joe Troutt  
**Executive Board Member:** Jason Johnson  
**Finance Committee Member:** Kevin Ryal  
**Examining Board Member:** Adam Novak  
**Michigan Building Trades Delegate:** Al McCreddie. Congratulations on the newly elected Officers.

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 (2) members. Any member violating this By-Law shall be brought before the Executive Board for a trial and be subject to a fine.

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

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

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

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

A reminder to 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.

**UA Local 190, con't**  
man members who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be **8 hours on Saturdays through Nov. 22**. There will be a refundable **\$150 deposit** to hold a spot. Deposit will be returned upon completion of the class. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

**Welding Fundamentals (40 hrs):** This class is designed for apprentices & journeymen who have little to no welding experience and want to learn the 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:** Currently open welding lab is **Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm.** There is limited space and first come first served.

**RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US:** Our next Spades meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and be held on Thursday, November 6th at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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



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

UA Local 111  
UPPER PENINSULA – **UNION MEETING:** There will be no meeting in November. The next Union Meeting will be held in Marquette on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 PM.

**VALVE TECH CLASS:** The December Valve Tech class has been moved up to Dec. 8-12. Registration deadline is Nov. 14.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WELDERS AND CERTIFICATIONS:** UA Welder Qualification Continuity Report forms are available on our website under Training or at the Hall. Certifications expire every six months, and it is YOUR responsibility to ensure forms are turned in on time. Please also update all Non-UA Certifications (Plumbing License, MUST, OSHA-30, MSHA, etc.) by sending a copy to the Union Hall.

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

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

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

*"Nobody has things just as he would like them. The thing to do is to make a success with what material I have. It is a sheer waste of time and soulpower to imagine what I would do if things were different. They are not different."*  
–Dr. Frank Crane

*"It is best to do things systematically, since we are only human, and disorder is our worst enemy."*  
– Hesiod (~800 BC)

*"We should manage our fortunes as we do our health - enjoy it when good, be patient when it is bad, and never apply violent remedies except in an extreme necessity."*  
–Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

*"I might repeat to myself slowly and soothingly, a list of quotations beautiful from minds profound – if I can remember any of the damn things."*  
– Dorothy Parker (1893 - 1967)

**BUILDERS LICENSE TRAINING MIDDLETON**  
Real Estate Training Inc.  
901 Tower Drive, Suite 120  
Troy, MI 48068  
[www.middletontraining.com](http://www.middletontraining.com)  
**248-885-8311**



# Local 636

Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters,  
Refrigeration &  
Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636  
DETROIT – Our next regular Union meeting is Nov. 18, 2025 at 7 pm at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075.

A special called meeting for the final reading and vote on the amendments of two By-Laws, will be at the November regular membership meeting 11/18/2025.

Toys for Tots Collection Drive will be at 2 locations; The Union Hall 30100 Northwestern Hwy Farmington Hills, MI 48334 and The Training Center 636 Executive Dr. Troy, MI 48083. We will have a box at the Union meeting if anyone wants to bring a toy to donate.

December’s regular Union Meeting is a special called meeting for our Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for Dec. 16, 2025 at PENNAS OF STERLING 38400 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights, MI 48312. Doors open at 6:30 pm with awards and dinner to follow. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Office Hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.  
CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held Nov. 20, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall.

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

Congratulations to Luis & Hailley Nunez on their first-born daughter Lydia Nunez Oct. 23, 2025.

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!**

May 2025; Brian Dyer June 2025; Robert Desandre, Stanley McClure, David Yuhn July 2025; Robert Buchanan, John Dozbush, Tanya Holland, David Jarzab, David Machcinski, Michael Polio, Ted Richardson.

Our Condolences to Retiree Sam Volpe on the passing of his wife Doreen, mother of member/retiree Kevin Volpe on Oct. 15, 2025; Our condolences to Donald Emunson on the passing of his wife Judy on October 15, 2025.

Get Well Wishes to; Jeff Selph, George Podlaski, Matthew Burt, Duane Barton, Dung Phan, John G. Skiver; James Davis, Marty Sosnowski, Larry Cirillo, Ed & Noreen Nys, Rashad Dooley, Chris Fye, David Hochstein, Thomas L. Williams Jr, Justin Morgan, Zen Adams, Gregory Firth, Robert Fraser, Alan George, Paul Graham, David Hatch, Jason Howe, Jacob Humpert, James Juracek, Ronald Karstens, John Lilly, David Marcy, Daniel Mosey, Christopher Orosco, James Robinson, Aaron Schley, Matthew Tusset-Myers, Eric Willey.

DUES – 4th Quarter Dues are due now. Your dues receipt will now be emailed to you; this will help us save on the cost of mailing receipts. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. Local 636 has set up an auto-pay system for your dues so you will never miss a payment. Please contact Kim Kavanaugh at the union hall, she will be more than happy to help you with payment made by credit or debit card.

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. Go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

New 988 crisis helpline. 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.

S.U.B. -NEW- Direct Deposit is NOW AVAILABLE for SUBPAY. Participants should continue to send all applications and weekly proof to the SUB Fund office for review and processing by emailing subpay@pipefitters636.org.

The SUB Fund office will no longer be able to cut checks for walk-ins, only process SUB request.

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday. After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

Direct Deposit is now available, members choosing direct deposit will have the payments deposited into their accounts on Fridays. That is the reason for processing being done on Wednesdays.

Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement forms for SUBPAY were mailed by BeneSys and can be found on our website or you can call the Local for one.

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions. 888-646-8920.

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. It is 877-410-9984. Plan provider number is 7526. The Defined Contribution corrected website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys.

Considering Retirement?

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

Are you “Work Ready”? Have any of your safety modules expired? Is your Drug Test current? Check your report card at mustbSafe.org and if it is time for renewal call the Training Center 248-585-0636 and they will register you. Be “ready” when the calls come in. Safety modules and drug tests are paid for by the Contractors Association.

WHEN YOU STAY CURRENT WITH YOUR SAFETY MODULES, DRUG TEST AND FIRST AID, from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.

Training Center News.

Local 636 JATC will begin accepting construction apprenticeship applications Dec. 1-20, 2025, all applications must be completed online, see our webpage, Pipefitters636tc.org

Regular night welding runs through Fall/Winter Monday and Thursday nights from 4pm till 8pm.

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8.

Starting Mon. Nov 17th from 5-8pm for 5 weeks:

CSD-2 with Kevin.

Mon Nov. 17th and Thur. Nov.20th from 5-8 for 5 weeks:

Cert. Mitsubishi installer class with Jason

Starting Thurs. Nov.20th Fuel gas piping and design with Kevin Starting Wed. Nov. 19th from 5-8 for 5 weeks:

Boiler Flame Safeguards with Todd and Chiller Service with Dan.

Starting Thur. Nov 20th from 5-8 for 10 weeks: Revit 2 and Trimble 2 classes with Eric and Alex.

HDPE fusion class Sat. Nov 8th 7am for 8 hours.

Mon. and Thur. Night starting Nov. 17th from 5-8 for 5 weeks:

Certified Tube bending and Trade math with Doug MES class is available on Mon. And Thur. Nights.

Call Kim at the Training Center to sign up.

Orbital class, GMAW and Downhill classes in Nov, call Mike to sign up.



# Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333

UA Local 333  
LANSING – November’s union meeting will be cancelled due to opening day of firearms deer season. Happy Hunting to all Local 333 members.

December’s union meeting will be held Dec. 17, 2025, at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Dinner is served at 6 pm

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.

Weld classes, 10 weeks starting Sept. 8, 2025, for all three Regions.

Lansing: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 4:00-8:00pm. 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906

Jackson: Monday through Thursday: 4-8 pm, 3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI. 49201

Battle Creek: Mondays and Thursdays: 4:30-8:30pm (KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037.

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 Jan. 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. Ultimately it is the member’s responsibility to make sure their certifications are current.

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

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

Retirees’ Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 am 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.

If you or if you know of a member who has been in a branch of military service. Please have them contact the Lansing office. We are updating our “Honoring Our Military” wall.

Virtual physical therapy will be available in the near future. Mailers will be sent to you regarding this service.

Attention Retirees: All members and their spouses who are or will be eligible for Medicare, Local 333 will be having a meeting to discuss upcoming coverage to Medicare Advantage changes and examine alternate options. The meeting will be held at: UA Local 333, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI. 48911 Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, 10:00am.

Get well wishes and a speedy recovery to Tom Andreas who is having heart surgery on Nov. 14.



WE ASKED THIS GROUP of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333 members to pause what they were doing to be in this photo while working at the Lansing Public Safety building project. They include (l-r) Brandon Bongard, Austin Lee and Tom Nelson. They’re employed by Precision Piping.



# Local 174

## Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174

COOPERSVILLE –MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY: The monthly membership meeting and annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O’Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

The retiree breakfast will still be held Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

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

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee’s recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows:

1st year \$4.20/ 2nd year \$3.30/ 3rd year \$3.30 \$10.80 over 3 years.

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

Section 10.2 - Health care will be on hours paid not hours worked. \*The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Organizing Update: As most of you know there is a campaign with GR Moore Mechanical.

We are picketing at different times at the Grand Rapids office and at the Muskegon Shaw Walker project. If you’re interested in volunteering, please reach out to me. This is an informational picket where we want to inform the public, and we have a majority of the plumbers that want LU 174 to represent them, but Moore Mechanical refuses to sit down and bargain in good faith. Brothers and sisters lets continue to fight for the worker!

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

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)

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

Health Insurance Contact Info: Active and NONMedicare Retirees

Aetna: (855) 878-4101 EAP: (888) 238-6232

Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108

Medicare Retirees

Retiree First: (616) 345 0788

Current Health Insurance

Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33

Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10

Medicare Single \$123.63

Medicare Couple \$247.26

Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13

Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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

Autopay for Window

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

Dispatch: We have split up the dispatch responsibilities between the Business Agent and the Assistant Business Manager positions. Each person will be on dispatch for 2 weeks. There is a dispatch email of: dispatch@ua174.org which both offices have access to.

Metal Trades, Helpers, and

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

Labor Councils: - Kent Ionia - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month / 5:00pm / Contact Nathan for location Lakeshore – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 West-

ern / 6pm

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

Training News: ANNOUNCEMENT: The Training Center is proud to announce the addition of Nicole Hines as our new Building Trades Instructor. Nicole brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with a deep commitment to preparing the next generation of skilled trades professionals. Her dedication to helping students develop the practical skills needed for success in today’s workforce makes her a valuable addition to our Program.

Please join us in welcoming Nicole Hines to the Training Center! We’re thrilled to have her on the training team and look forward to the positive impact she’ll have on our apprentices and the Program as a whole.

Congratulations to Dominic Decker on fulfilling his apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174’s most recent Journeyman!

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next class will be held Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

ORBITAL WELDING: Scheduled to begin Monday, December 15, 2025 @ 5:00pm. The class dates are as follows: Dec. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 29, 30, Jan. 5, 7, 19, 20 and 21 @ 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Test will be done on Wed., January 21.

OPEN WELD: Weekly on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:00pm. Watch the Facebook ‘Local Union 174 Members’ group page for any updates.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, November 11th, and the test to follow Thursday, Nov. 13 at 5pm.

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

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

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

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# Plumbers Local 98

**Plumbers Local 98**  
DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98.

**New UA Membership Cards:** Please ensure you have the correct spelling of your name and current address on file with Local 98 as our new UA membership cards will be printed in November for the period of 2026-2028. Any changes need to be submitted to the UA by mid-October for the printing of the new membership cards.

**YARD CLEANUP:** Brother Bruce Bennett II is organizing a Fall Yard Cleanup at Brother Larry Moskal's home on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Only need work clothes! For additional information, please call Bruce directly at (734)775-8361.

**Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 at 6 pm and it is TURKEY night!**

**Retiree Luncheon** meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025 from 12:00-2:00pm.

**The Executive Board** meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings. **The next board meeting is Thursday, Nov. 6, at 4:30 pm.**

**Upcoming Meetings:** Regular Monthly Meetings - We will wrap up the year on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6 pm with our last meeting of 2025!

**Halloween Trunk or Treat/ Fall Food Drive:** Thank you to the members and their families who came out on Saturday, Oct. 18 for our annual Trunk or Treat. It was a great turnout and a fun day for everyone! Many of the children had spooktacular costumes and made the contest hard to choose just one. Congratulations to Fausto Perez's daughter, Amelia (as a witch), and the Kavalar family's friend, Jackson Windgate (as Captain America). Best family vehicle goes to the Paul Smith/Derik Schultz/Hailey Jent/Kyle Jent family. Check out the photos on our website.

**Fall Food Drive:** Local 98 is off to a good start for on the donations we have received thus far. We are still accepting donations thru our next membership meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13. No donation is too big or too small. Cash or checks will also be accepted and will be used to purchase additional food for the donation. Food and donations can also be dropped off at the hall during regular business hours. All donations will be delivered to a local food pantry to help those in need. Please contact Jimmy Cools or Dan Nixon if you have any questions.

**Annual Wrapping Party and Children's Christmas Party:** Mark your calendars!!! Calling all of Santa's Elves... the annual wrapping party is on Monday, Dec. 1 to help Santa prepare for the Local 98 annual Children's Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 2. Watch the paper, our website and Facebook for the times. We look forward to seeing all of our members both nights.

**Retiree Meetings Winter Schedule:** The retirees will meet on Wednesday, Nov.12, noon-2pm and Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Noon-2pm with lunch being provided. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no January and February 2026 monthly luncheons. Monthly luncheons will resume in March 2026. Please watch the Tradesman article, check the Local 98 website and Facebook page. Any question, please contact retiree Dave Schroeder.

**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.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at [www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship](http://www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship).

**Expelled Members:** We have four expelled members for the month of October 2025: Kevin Dulapa, Kendall Grayer, Damone Huff and Brian E. Whitmore.

**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](mailto: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 looking for Industrial, Residential and Service Plumbers. If you know anyone working Non-Union, have them call our Organizer Rob Moses.

**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.

**Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC.** Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. **Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling. All this is confidential and lead by our health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot get to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.**

**In Memoriam.** Our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of deceased Frederick Burgin, he was initiated on 2-23-1961, and was a 64-year member; Brother Dennis Whitson, he was initiated on 10-09-1986, and was a 39-year member; and Brother Leon Moskovitz, he was initiated on 10-23-1954, and was a 71-year member. May they rest in eternal peace.

Additional information can be found at [ualocal98.org](http://ualocal98.org)

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

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

Dan Nixon, FST (248) 752-3702 [dnixon98@ualocal98.org](mailto:dnixon98@ualocal98.org)  
Rufus Hamilton, Business Agent (313)542-2758 [rhamilton98@ualocal98.org](mailto:rhamilton98@ualocal98.org)

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

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

Jeff Kavalar, Business Agent (313)938-1554 [jkavalar@ualocal98.org](mailto:jkavalar@ualocal98.org)

Rob Moses, Organizer (248)763-2187 [rmoses98@ualocal98.org](mailto:rmoses98@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](http://www.Plumbers98tc.org)

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Applications are submitted online. 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 Nov. 19, 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.

**First Aid Classes.** Please call the Training Center to register for any of the following first aid classes.

**November 12, 13**  
(Continued next column)



# Local 671 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

**UA Local 671**  
MONROE – The next meeting will be held **Nov. 20, 2025, at 7 pm.** The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **Nov. 20, 2025, at 5 pm.** If anyone would like to come to the E-Board, please contact the Union Hall.

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

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

**Congratulations:** UA Local 671 Congratulates Brother Jerry Salenbien and his wife Megan on the birth of their son Dominic James Salenbien Sept. 21, 2025. We wish the whole family health and happiness.

**Retiree Health Care:** Starting Jan. 1, 2026, the retiree health care will be changing networks from United Health Care to Humana. There will be information mailed out and also an educational meeting will be scheduled in December for anyone that has questions or concerns.

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

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

The next weld test will be Nov. 6 at 5 pm. You must sign up ahead of time for the test. Please contact Justin.

If you are not receiving the Push Notifications from the App, please contact Mike!

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

**In Closing:** I would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Halloween. I hope that it is spent with family and friends and that you all can enjoy the fall with all that it has to offer.

Mike Jewell: [mike@ualocal671.com](mailto:mike@ualocal671.com)  
Kirk Lavoy: [kirk@ualocal671.com](mailto:kirk@ualocal671.com)  
Carly Neely: (734) 241-6180; [carly@ualocal671.com](mailto:carly@ualocal671.com)

## Local 98 cont'd

**OPEN WELDING – Open welding is available on Wednesday evenings and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**4 hour recert class** January 20 & 21 Deadline is December 19  
**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

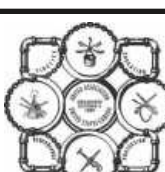
**ICRA and Water Quality: \*\*\* Prerequisite: Must Have OSHA 10 or 30 -** \$200

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

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

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

**CAD/BIM:** \$100



# Local 357

**UA Local 357**  
KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be **Tuesday, Nov. 11** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

**PARTY INFORMATION:** There will be a Holiday Party at the Hall **Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025.** Drinks and hors d'oeuvres start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6. You **MUST RSVP** no later than **Dec. 1, 2025,** by calling or emailing Lori at (269) 679-3708 / [lhathfield@ualocal357.com](mailto:lhathfield@ualocal357.com). You can also go online to Eventbrite.com and search for Local 357. Note: There is a limit on the number of attendees allowed so please RSVP early.

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

**RETIREE MEETING:** Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew** located at 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone number for the location is (269) 337-9800.

**CHANGE OF STATUS:** If you have a change of status (Ex: 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 Andrew Miller on his recent marriage to Chloe.

Congratulations to Shannon Chella, and family, on the birth of a daughter, Elliana.

**\*\*2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Nov. 1, 2025. **\*\*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](http://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](http://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.



# Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofers

**Roofers Local 149**

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

**General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

**Executive Board Meeting.** The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

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

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

**Detroit Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

**Mid-Michigan Training Center Information.** Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-

Michigan LU 149 members. Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

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

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

**Outdoor Life.** If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

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

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

The publication above is as 10/27/2025, 1:00pm

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



**SETTING STORM DRAIN pipe while working at the Lansing Public Safety building project is third-year apprentice Shay Hiemstra of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 333. He's employed by Johnson and Wood.**

*"I am certain there is too much certainty in the world."*  
– Michael Crichton (1942 - 2008),  
*"The conception of two people living together for twenty-five years without having a cross word suggests a lack of spirit only to be admired in sheep."*  
–Alan Patrick Herbert  
  
*"Mothers may still want their sons to grow up to be President, but according to a famous Gallup poll of some years ago, some 73 percent do not want them to become politicians in the process."*  
–John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)



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Laborers Local 1191 (2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

DETROIT – Get Out to Vote in the 2025 Municipal General Election (November 4, 2025). **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!**

Methods and requirements for voter registration depend on the following deadlines: If there are 15+ days before an election, voters can register online, by mail, or in person. Within 14 days of an election, and on Election Day, voters may only register by visiting their local clerk's office to register in person with proof of residency documentation. Voters can check their voter registration status and look up their local clerk information at <https://www.michigan.gov/vote>.

**Vote in-person on Election Day (Nov. 4, 2025):** At your local polling location. Please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/vote> to find your local polling location.

**In order to vote in person, voters will need to either bring photo ID (or an alternate acceptable ID) or sign an affidavit verifying their identity and stating they are not in possession of picture ID at the polling site. Affidavits can be challenged if there is a reason to disbelieve a voter's attestation. If someone is found to have lied on such an affidavit, their vote is thrown out. It is illegal to lie on such an affidavit, and the voter will also face legal consequences.**

**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 volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

**Regular Membership Updates:** Please check out our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)

org and the "Laborers' Local 1191" Facebook page for important information about your 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 next General Membership Meeting will be held on Nov. 7, 2025. The December General Membership Meeting will be held on Dec. 5, 2025 where the yearly celebratory Christmas dinner will be served promptly following the Membership Meeting.**

**Monthly Retiree Council Meetings:** Retiree Council meetings are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The last monthly Retiree Council Meeting for 2025 will be held on Oct. 31. The Retiree Council Meetings resume beginning in January 2026, on Jan. 30, 2026.**

**Union Dues For 2025:** Regular monthly dues are \$35.00 for Active Members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$8.00. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at [www.laborerslocal1191.org](http://www.laborerslocal1191.org)!!! To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

the Local accepts in-person Cash, Credit and Debit payments.

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

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

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member's responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!**

**Roll Call:** All members on the out-of-work list must re-register every quarter within the first (1<sup>st</sup>) five (5) days of the following months: March, June, September and December. Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list. \*Example: If your name is on the list in April and/or May and you don't re-register by June 5<sup>th</sup> your name will be removed from the list.

**Drug Test Renewal:** Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules.



## Gordie Howe Bridge snapshots

THE WINDSOR-DETROIT Bridge Authority and Bridging North America released a number of photos this month of construction progress on the bridge. We wish we had space for more.



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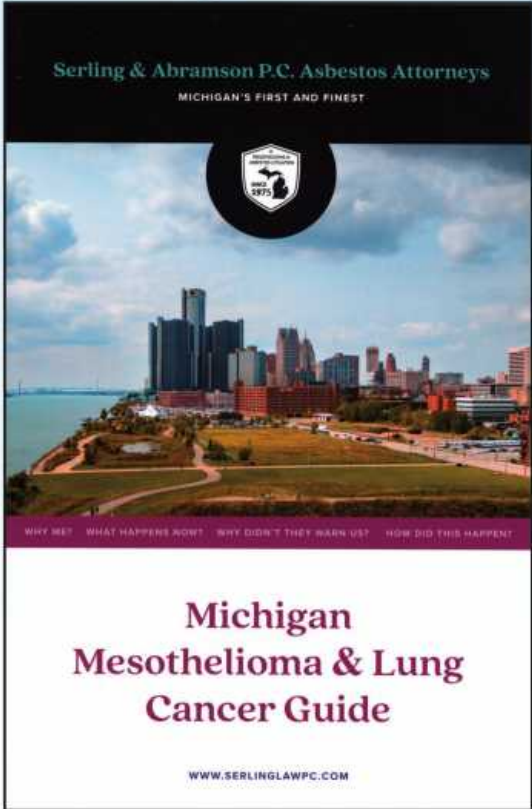
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Outdoors

U.P. moose a danger to drivers



**By Andy Henion**  
**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

Sixty moose have been killed in vehicle collisions over the past four years in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, with most of the crashes occurring on stretches of highway in the western U.P.

The fall and summer months, when moose are particularly active, are the most common times for collisions. About a third of all moose deaths from vehicle collisions occur in September and October, according to statistics compiled by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

On June 17, a female moose raising twin calves was killed by a vehicle at one of the hotspots – U.S. 141 in northern Iron County – likely removing three moose from the population because calves are dependent on their mother.

Over the past decade, the moose population in Michigan’s core range (Baraga, Marquette and Iron counties) has remained between 300 and 500 animals, and DNR wildlife biologists are researching the reasons behind why the population has remained relatively stagnant.

There have been no known human deaths from moose-vehicle collisions, but the potential is always there when a car traveling 55-65 mph or more meets a 1,000-pound animal, said Tyler Petroelje, the DNR’s northern Michigan wildlife research specialist.

“In a sense, Michigan has been very lucky,” Petroelje said. “But at the same time, I think that’s one of those things that is a reality – it could happen at any point.”

**Moose-vehicle collision hotspots.** Since 1984, at least 266 moose have been hit by vehicles, and at least 251 of those have been killed, with about 80 percent of those crashes occurring on the western side of the U.P.

The last four years have



A BULL MOOSE photographed on a trail camera is shown from the core Michigan moose range in the western Upper Peninsula.

been particularly deadly, with 60 moose dying in vehicle collisions since the start of 2022. The most moose fatalities by vehicle in a single year was 20 in 2022. Six moose have died in vehicle collisions so far in 2025.

One likely reason for the increase in collisions is the core moose herd in the western U.P. has shifted south over the past 10-15 years as the animals seek available habitat.

Most of the moose-vehicle crashes have occurred on a handful of relatively short stretches of state or federal highways in an area bordered by southern Baraga County, eastern Iron County and southwest Marquette County.

**“Unique crash hazard.”**

The DNR has worked closely with MDOT over the years to get moose-crossing signs installed or replaced on U.P. highways. The signs previously had an image of a moose, but those were frequently stolen, so the current signs say, simply, “Moose Crossing.” There are currently half a dozen moose-crossing signs in place along U.S. Highway 41, M-95 and U.S. 141.

But research has shown that such warning signs can lose their effectiveness over time as drivers become accustomed to seeing them on a regular basis.



A MOOSE CROSSING SIGN is shown along M-95 north of Republic in Marquette County, one of the moose vehicle crash hotspots in the Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning advises motorists to stay alert, heed animal-crossing signs, slow down in those stretches of roadway and use high-beam headlights and additional driving lights to see the road better.

“Moose pose a unique crash hazard in the Upper Peninsula that isn’t seen in lower Michigan,” said Alicia Sledge, OHSP director. “Residents and tourists driving in the Upper Peninsula should exercise caution when traveling in moose country.”

September is the most active month for moose deaths by vehicle, accounting for 21 percent of all collisions since 1984, followed by June (19 percent) and October

(12 percent).

Petroelje noted that the moose rut, or mating season, occurs in September and October, when male moose (bulls), are highly active in pursuing female moose (cows). Moose-vehicle crashes drop off drastically from November through March as the animals retreat to their winter ranges and become less active to conserve energy.

Moose-vehicle collisions pick back up in April as the animals move to their summer ranges, with a significant spike in June. That may be because the moose are trying to get away from bugs by seeking out open spaces along highways.

Not surprisingly, most

moose-vehicle collisions have occurred at night, particularly between 9 p.m. and midnight. The fewest moose-vehicle collisions occur between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Stagnant moose population.** Moose were reintroduced to Michigan in the mid-1980s, with a goal of reaching 1,000 moose by the year 2000. But the population has been relatively stagnant over the past decade, and the DNR and its partners are studying potential factors, including predation, disease, habitat, vehicle collisions and moose accidents or trauma suffered beyond vehicle collisions.

“We could have as many as 5 percent of our moose population hit and killed by vehicles in a given year,” Petroelje said. “In that sense, it’s fairly significant when we’re thinking about factors that could limit moose population growth.”

The cow killed on June 17 was wearing a GPS collar as part of the DNR’s moose research project. The collision was not reported to authorities. The calves were not collared.

The DNR collects moose-vehicle collision data from official crash reports, calls from citizens and law enforcement officers, and GPS collar mortality signals. DNR biologists confirm all reports of moose fatalities and, when possible, collect internal organs, a femur and the head for disease testing and health monitoring as part of moose mortality research.

Other states with populations of moose, such as Alaska and Maine, have hundreds of moose-vehicle collisions every year, with some resulting in human fatalities. But those states also have much larger moose populations. Alaska has about 175,000 moose, while Maine has about 60,000.

In Michigan, experts from MDOT and the DNR are analyzing moose crossings as part of another study looking at wildlife crossing hotspots around the state. The study, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation and state matching funds, aims to identify the most problematic wildlife crossings posing a risk for motorist safety on state trunklines.

Michigan typically ranks fourth-highest in the nation for

deer-vehicle crashes, with an average of 55,000 deer-vehicle crashes per year, resulting in \$130 million in damages.

While the number of vehicle crashes with other large species, including moose, is not as high, the risk and damage are detrimental and increase the risk for these species.

In response to the high number of moose-vehicle collisions, DNR and MDOT officials have discussed the possibilities of installing fencing along U.P. highways or even wildlife overpasses. But these types of projects can be cost-prohibitive and complicated due to legal issues, including rights-of-way and land ownership.

**What to do after a crash.**

If you hit a moose (or any large animal), turn on your emergency flashers, stay buckled and move your vehicle to the shoulder of the road. If the vehicle is inoperable and still in the line of traffic, carefully exit and stand well off the road. Call the police to report the crash.

In addition, call the DNR’s 24/7 Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 800-292-7800 as soon as possible so conservation officers can attempt to salvage hundreds of pounds of meat, said Sgt. Calvin Smith.

Smith, a veteran conservation officer based in Newberry, said the DNR works with area meat processors to grind the moose meat into burger, and donates it to help feed the hungry.

But conservation officers must move quickly after a moose-vehicle collision, usually within a few hours.

“When it’s warm, you’re fighting against the clock to salvage that meat,” Smith said. “Plus, they’re a big animal and take longer to field dress. They’re not something you can just pick up by yourself and throw in the back of the truck.”

Moose are one of Michigan’s most iconic wildlife species that many people would love to see. Slowing down to help prevent moose crashes, especially in the hotspot areas, also improves chances of motorists spotting a moose along highways in the Upper Peninsula.

It’s a win for researchers, conservationists, the motor-ing public and our Michigan moose.

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