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THE BUILDING TRADESMAN

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SHORT CUTS

Tradesman switching to monthly in 2027

The Building Tradesman will transition to a once-a-month publication schedule starting in January 2027.

The paper will continue to be a strong voice informing and supporting the unionized construction trades in Michigan.

Originally a weekly publication when it was founded in 1952, the newspaper has been publishing on an every-other-week schedule since 1992. The paper has had one of the largest print circulations in the state, mailing nearly 50,000 copies to members of our subscribing local unions.

Each edition of *The Building Tradesman* will also continue to be available for reading online at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org.

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Individual building trades union members who don't wish to receive a printed, mailed copy of *The Building Tradesman* – who may instead choose to read it online – are invited to contact their local union to have their name and address removed from the subscription list.

Current and past editions of the paper have been, and will continue to be, available to view online at www.michiganbuildingtrades.org.

It will remain the decision of officers at local unions whether or not to remove members' names from the mailing list. Many local unions are required by their bylaws to use *The Building Tradesman* as their official publication, by including meeting notices, insurance and pension reminders, local union election information, and contract updates in their articles.

Data centers, power work lead industry

U.S. construction spending dipped 1.9 percent in September, and 2.7 percent from 12 months prior, according to the latest government data released Nov. 2.

"Surging demand for data centers and power projects is masking cutbacks in other investments while adding to the strains on construction supply chains and costs caused by high tariffs and international conflicts," said Ken Simonson, the Associated General Contractors' chief economist.

The AGC issued a new bulletin detailing how higher costs, supply-chain problems and a tight labor market are adding to the risk of further declines.

U.S. construction spending totaled $2.19 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in September.

A category that's broadly helping to bolster the industry is "private nonresidential construction," where spending increased 1.1 percent in September and 2.3 percent compared with September 2025. Two project types specifically accounted for the gains, the AGC said: data centers and electric power. Spending on data center construction soared 8.6 percent for the month and 90 percent year-over-year.

Meanwhile, private electric power investment climbed 1.3 percent from August and 14 percent from September 2025.

Quotable

"I love the autumn– that melancholy season that suits memories so well. When the trees have lost their leaves, when the sky at sunset still preserves the russet hue that fills with gold the withered grass, it is sweet to watch the final fading of the fires that until recently burnt within you."

–Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880)



WORKING AMID THE MAZE of conduit that will be buried under the Leinweber Center at Michigan State University is Cruz Rodriguez of IBEW Local 665. He's employed by Shaw Electric. More photos are on Page 12.

New Leinweber Center fits right in central MSU campus

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

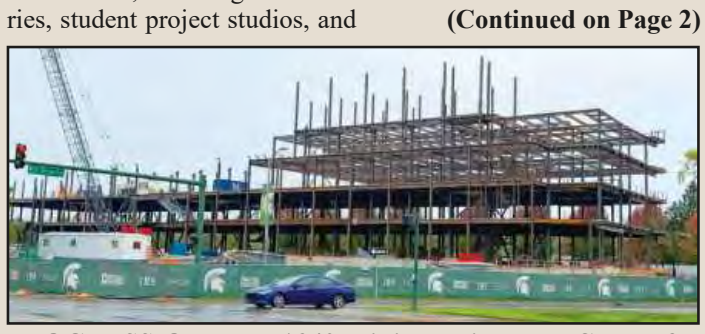
EAST LANSING – Michigan State University's central campus is a bit more congested these days, with the ongoing construction of the 265,000-square-foot Leinweber Center for Engineering and Digital Innovation.

The four-level building, plus a mechanical penthouse, is being erected at Red Cedar and West Shaw Lane, on a busy section of campus with the College of Engineering building, STEM Teaching and Learning Facility and even Spartan Stadium within an easy walk.

Barton Malow is managing the construction. "It's really going to re-shape the campus," said Senior Project Manager Michael O'Rourke. "There are a lot of people excited about this project; it's one of the largest projects Michigan State has undertaken in recent years."

The Leinweber Center is envisioned to comprise two components. One will be "dedicated to digital learning with active classrooms, teaching laboratories, student project studios, and e-sports," MSU says. The other part will be "dedicated to laboratories supporting experimental and computational research, core facilities, clean rooms, and flexible modular research units; and vibrant community spaces to support informal gathering and collaboration."

(Continued on Page 2)



PROGRESS ON THE $340 million Leinweber Center for Engineering and Digital Innovation is shown in early October.



LABORER Devin Bigos works in a conduit utility trench at the site of the Michigan State University Leinweber Center. The Local 1191 member is employed by Medina Resources.

Working class voters' efforts put union label on midterms

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

2026 General Election

'This blue wave was union-made. The billionaires had the money in this election, but working people had the power'

–AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National "wave" elections come along every now and then, wherein voters toss aside candidates of an existing party in favor of the party which they hope will change the direction of the country. They usually happen in midterm elections, two years into the sitting president's term – and here we are.

One of the more significant wave elections in decades took place on Nov. 3, with Democrat candidates riding a wave of general discontent. Ongoing higher consumer prices and the conflict in Iran showing no signs of a resolution are among the electorate's major beefs. The nation's working-class voters have had their share of additional grievances, with the tax cuts for the rich, the constant catering to top income earners, the Trump Administration's open hostility to labor unions, and the active support of the big business mantra of profits over people.

"This blue wave was union-made. The billionaires had the money in this election, but working people had the power," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. Elon Musk alone spent an astounding $450 million on Republican candidates this election.

"The people who make this country run issued a clear mandate," Shuler continued. "Speaking with a unified voice, workers demanded that their elected leaders fight to raise their wages and lower costs, expand access to health care and unions, hold billionaire CEOs accountable, and check the Trump Administration's attacks on their freedoms.

(Continued on Page 4)

Michigan voters ride the blue wave, keep state union-friendly

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

2026 General Election

LANSING – Michigan won't have to worry about losing its hard-fought prevailing wage law, nor will it see a re-introduction of a statewide right-to-work law any time soon.

The results of the Nov. 3 statewide general election that brought a four-year term for Jocelyn Benson as Michigan governor, and a state House and Senate that both will be led by majority, labor-friendly Democrats creates a trifecta and puts a virtual lock on keeping the pro-labor gains won by the building trades and other unions over the past decade.

"Michigan's labor movement went to the mat for Michigan's working class – and we look forward to every single pro-worker candidate that won today doing the same when they take office," said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. "I'm incredibly proud of every single union in this state for leaving nothing on the table and delivering a victory for working Michiganders. Michigan's labor-endorsed winners know what needs to be done to give Michiganders a shot at a chance at having a decent life."

Michigan's election results went right along with the national "wave" election that saw Democrats win positions that not only won control of both houses of Congress, but in numerous statewide offices. Abdul El Sayed (D) won the state's open U.S. Senate seat with 52. 8 percent of the vote. Among Michigan's 13 U.S. House races, Dems won nine seats; the GOP won four, with Dems flipping three seats.

Democrats enjoyed relatively easy victories in races for statewide offices: Benson for governor (54.5 percent of the vote); Eli Savat for attorney general (52.5 percent), and for secretary of state, Garlin Gilchrist (53.2 percent).

All were endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council.

In the Michigan Senate, Democrats are expected to increase their current slim majority to a 23-15 advantage – the largest margin they have had in decades. In Michigan's 110-seat House of Representatives, Republican lawmakers have held a 58-52 majority. With the results of the Nov. 3 election, Dems will enjoy a majority of at least 60-50.

Citing the CNN Voter Poll

(Continued on Page 4)

On tap: U-M study says water system upgrades are sorely lacking in Michigan

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

Fix the damn roads? How about we fix the damn waterworks?

A newly released University of Michigan study – titled Michigan's Water Infrastructure Funding Gap: A Statewide Needs Assessment – warns that Michigan municipalities need to spend nearly $40 billion in water infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years. And that's on top of the $860 million they spend annually in ongoing costs.

Conducted by Public Sector Consultants and the University of Michigan Water Center and funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the report said that with spreading our state's water infrastructure needs over 20 years, plus ongoing costs, Michigan needs to spend an additional $2.8 billion a year. Michigan communities have historically invested about $1.14 billion a year, less than half that amount.

(Continued on Page 3)

New jobless benefits portal is now online

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) is in its first week of transition to a new jobless tax and benefits system.

The system has been given a new acronym/handle "MiUI" (short for "Michigan Unemployment Insurance," or "MyUI," get it?) and its benefits function joined its tax function in becoming live, effective Nov. 9.

The former troubled "MiWAM" system of handling jobless benefits went offline permanently on Nov. 2, and a planned week-long dark period for the system ensued. MiWAM and its claims-processing system MiDAS experienced years of criticism for slow benefits payments and false accusations of user fraud, resulting in numerous lawsuits and some awful financial problems for those falsely accused claimants).

Now, says the state jobless agency: "The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) will launch a new, user-friendly online platform called MiUI on Nov. 9, for workers and employers who use the state's unemployment system. The modern, integrated platform will replace the current Michigan Web Account

(Continued on Page 3)

New mission at Selfridge starts with longer runway

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

HARRISON TWP. – Dignitaries broke out the silver shovels and held a ceremonial dirt-moving ceremony on Oct. 28 to mark the start of construction of a runway extension at Selfridge Air National Guard Base – a significant milestone for the site in preparing for the arrival of 21 F-15EX Eagle II fighter jets and KC-46 Pegasus tanker aircraft.

The $152 million project will realign and extend the base's 9,000-foot-long runway an additional 1,000 feet to the north, allowing it to accommodate operations for the incoming aircraft. Lansing-based Christman Construction will manage the project. Additional base improvements related to the new aircraft will involve a total expenditure of about $1 billion.

"Breaking ground on this project represents a significant investment in the future of Selfridge and the military readiness it provides to our state and nation," said U.S. Army Major General Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. "Through strong partnerships among state, federal and local leaders, we are advancing the critical infrastructure needed to support the F-15EX Eagle II and KC-46 Pegasus missions and ensure Selfridge remains a vital part of our nation's defense."

The runway improvements will bring a critical upgrade to Selfridge, which is currently home to 20 A-10 "Warthogs," a 40-year-old aircraft that will be retired next September. The announcement by federal military officials to retire the Warthog

(Continued on Page 3)



A VIEW OF SELFRIDGE'S RUNWAY is shown during a 2024 repair project. The portable "X" marker indicates the runway is closed. The runway will now be lengthened by 1,000 feet, part of about $1 billion in pendng work at the base. ***Photo credit: Munnaf H. Joarder/U.S. Air National Guard***

Viewpoints

Top vs. bottom election

The great sleeping giant of America has awakened, taken a hard look at what's become of the nation, and roared a thunderous "NO!"

What occurred on Election Day was not – as some are saying – the inevitable mid-term swing of the pendulum against the party in power. Texas hasn't elected a Democratic senator since 1988. The last time Kansas elected a Democratic senator was 1932. Nor was it just the economy. Americans are unhappy with inflation, but the country is not in a depression or recession. Unemployment remains quite low.

Nor, finally, was it all due to Trump. Despite Trump's repeated efforts to get voters to "pretend" he was on the ballot, he was not. Most Republican candidates barely mentioned him and many Democratic candidates stressed local or statewide issues rather than fixate on him.

Something much larger is responsible for what occurred: anti-establishment populism. It's burst forth against the mammoth corporations that have scored record profits while most Americans have had to pay more. Against the mega-donors and super PACs that have flooded American politics with more campaign money – legalized bribes – than ever before. And against the Big Tech billionaires who have become the most powerful force in the American economy and society – as well as Trump's and the Republican Party's most visible backers.

The irony is that anti-establishment anger propelled Trump into the presidency in 2016 and again in 2024. Many Americans had found his politically-incorrect rants and "America first" nativism to reflect their own anger at being disrespected or left behind.

But during his second term, Trump has morphed into the very establishment he had railed against. He's given tax cuts and subsidies to tech billionaires in exchange for their help making him and his family billionaires, too. He's promoted their AI, pushed their data centers, put Elon Musk in charge of "DOGE," advocated their crypto, and went to war in the Middle East – not only causing gas prices to soar but making Big Oil billions (or, as Trump bafflingly boasts, "we're making an absolute fortune in our country") and enriching Big Tech weapons makers and investors, including his family.

Many who voted for Trump in 2016 and 2024 have now abandoned him because of this blatant corruption, crony capitalism, and eagerness to be on the gilded side of America's new Gilded Age. According to CNBC's late October poll, corruption was the top issue on voters' minds. Meanwhile, anti-establishment populism has finally taken firm hold in the Democratic Party. "The biggest divide in this country is not left versus right," said the newly elected Texas Senate candidate James Talarico. "It's top versus bottom."

Sherrod Brown regained his Senate seat from Ohio largely due to voter anger at data centers and the Big Tech billionaires behind them. Abdul El-Sayed never tired on the campaign trail of reminding Michigan voters that his opponent, Mike Rogers, was backed by big corporations and mega-donors.

The real question to my mind is whether, come January when they control Congress, Democrats will take advantage of the new populism to enact measures most Americans need, such as Medicare for All, and reforms most Americans want, such as tougher anti-monopoly laws and limits on campaign contributions (even if this requires a constitutional amendment).

Trump is likely to veto any such initiatives, of course, but at least they'll lay down markers for the 2028 presidential election – which, judging from what we've seen in the midterms, is likely to be a populist doozie. Meanwhile, thanks to all of you who have worked so damned hard to help bring about today's extraordinary victory. Our democracy worked. It held.

Robert Reich
Former U.S. Secretary of Labor

MSU Leinweber Center fits right in

(Continued from Page 1)

Razed to make room for the new building was the Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture Building, and a massive old water reservoir was removed from the site.

"With all that underground, there's a lot of risk not knowing what we're getting into, but the foundation work went surprisingly well," O'Rourke said.

Last month the structural steel erection was ongoing, as was plumbing and mechanical rough-in work.

Construction of the $340 million project began in February. O'Rourke said about 70 tradespeople were on site last month, a number which would ramp up to 250 at peak employment.

"We're doing great, the trades have been just phenomenal," O'Rourke said. "The Lansing area has a great group of trades."

There's will be a lot going on at the Leinweber Center when it opens. According to MSU, its location in the central academic district will help "support an increase in enrollment of new undergraduate students in computational sciences and digital literacy disciplines and in graduate related programs; prepare MSU graduates with skills in computational sciences and digital literacy necessary for postgraduate success; and become MSU's center for excellence in advanced manufacturing, materials science, ultrafast science, and quantum computing including heterogeneous microelectronic technologies."

Work on the building, which is named for software entrepreneur, philanthropist and MSU graduate Larry Leinweber, began in February and is expected to wrap up in August 2028.



PLANNING UNDERGROUND piping installations at the Leinweber Center project at Michigan State University in East Lansing are (l-r) Ryan Vought (UA Local 333) Jeremy Raap (UA Local 174) and Terry O'Connell (UA Local 333). They're employed by Andy J. Egan.

Billionaires, go save humanity somewhere else

By Jim Hightower



We're being told that an earth-shaking, transformative age of "generative artificial intelligence" is already upon us.

We're told not to worry though, just accept it, because an elite clique of über-smart, über-rich tech barons have our backs. These Big Thinking Visionaries, we're told, are already devising plans to shape humanity's new future.

But wait – who's telling us all this? Why the barons themselves! Yes, the same self-enriching Silicon Valley hucksters who have unleashed this invasive digital force on our world, now say they are planning to "save humanity." How? By remaking our economy, laws, social systems, etc. to fit their new AI structure World Order.

Excuse me, but have any of those barons asked if you want to go there? I've not been consulted by them, have you?

When did We The People elect such egomaniacal, anti-social, profiteering billionaires as Musk, Bezos, Zuckerberg, Altman, and Huang to decide humanity's future? If you want to see their idea of a technocratic social order, visit one of Bezos' hellish Amazon warehouses that has made him so royally rich. Or ask locals how Elon rampages autocratically over their communities, resources, homes, and rights.

No need to imagine what autocracy they might impose over us – just note that the trillion-dollar tech empires they already run routinely assert corporate property rights over all human rights, and how their lobbyists routinely rush to outlaw any public interference with the rapid spread of AI's economic, environmental, and social greed.

These billionaire geniuses don't want to save us from AI dominance, they're trying to stampede us into their "kakistocracy." What's that? Government by the very worst people in society.

Just joking

My friend claims he "accidentally" glued himself to his autobiography. I don't believe him, but that's his story, and he's sticking to it.

•••

I saw an ad online for an vintage radio for sale. It said it worked great, but the volume knob broke, and is stuck on full.



I thought to myself, "I can't turn that down...."

•••

There was a study released that said mustard and ketchup are the worst condiments for human consumption. It was put out by the Mayo Clinic.

•••

A man walks into a restaurant, looks over the dinner menu, and asks the waiter, "excuse me, but it says here you have a 'bitten burger?' What's that?"

"Yes, it comes with a bite taken out of it," the waiter responds.

"And the steak, it also says it's a 'bitten steak?'

"Yes, the steak also comes with a bite taken out of it."

"But I see here that the salmon doesn't have bitten written next to it?"

"No, but it does come with bitten potatoes."

"Why?"

"Well, our chef doesn't care for seafood."

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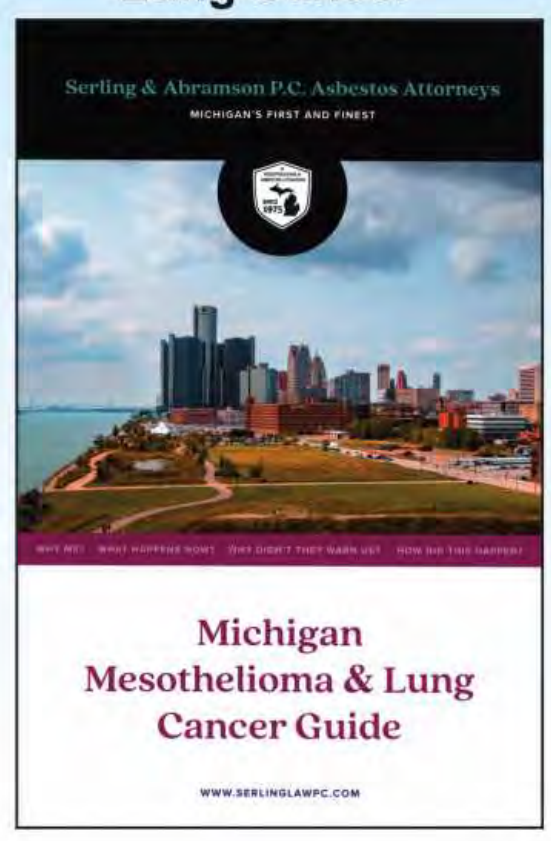
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Building Michigan:
The Whitefish Point Lighthouse
History in the making

By Marty Mulcahy



THE OLDEST LIGHTHOUSE on Lake Superior is the 76-foot-tall Whitefish Point Lighthouse. This cast-iron tower was completed in 1862, replacing an earlier masonry structure that was first lit in 1849. The center iron tube of the lighthouse, which contains a circular access staircase, is supported by four hollow iron legs that have provided stability to the tower over the decades against the gales of an unforgiving Lake Superior. To the left is the former keeper's quarters, to the right is the former foghorn station. The structures and grounds are open to visitors, as is the on-site Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. The museum has the 200-lb. ship's bell recovered by divers from the freighter Edmund Fitzgerald, which sank near Whitefish Point on Nov. 10, 1975. ***Photo credit: Wikipedia Commons UserTCP04***

"Does anyone know where the love of God goes
When the waves turn the minutes to hours?
The searchers all say they'd have made Whitefish Bay
If they'd put 15 more miles behind her."

-Gordon Lightfoot, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,* 1976.

Almost surrounded on three sides by Lake Superior and its wicked gales of November (and the gales of the other 11 months), it was a no-brainer that the narrowing spit of land with Whitefish Point at its tip should be among the first sites in the Upper Peninsula to get a lighthouse.

And indeed it was the first site on the shores of the U.P. to get a beacon: Congress appropriated $5,000 to build a lighthouse at Lake Superior's Whitefish Point in 1847.

"Whitefish Point is a critical turning point for all ship traffic entering and leaving Lake Superior, wrote Dawn Carlson in *Lighthouse Travel Guide.* "The area is known as Lake Superior's 'Shipwreck Coast.' Forty percent of the 550 major shipwrecks in Lake Superior are in the vicinity of Whitefish Point. The need for a lighthouse at this point was well known."

Wrote Bruce Lynn for *Lighthouse Digest:* "The need for a lighthouse was obvious, but shipping did not really pick up steam until after the 1847 discovery of commercially exploitable copper and iron ore along the western sections of Lake Superior."

Lynn wrote that on April 3, 1847, 115.5 acres were set aside to build a lighthouse on Whitefish Point by President James K. Polk. The board said it was to be "constructed of split stone or hard bricks and laid in good lime mortar." The tower was directed to be "65 feet high from the surface to the ground, the diameter of the base to be 25 feet and that of the top 12 feet...on top of the tower is to be an iron lantern of an octagon form...to be fitted up with 13 patent lamps with 14-inch reflectors."

This first tower at the site was completed in 1849 and painted black. But Mother Nature took its toll on the structure, and a decade later, a newer, taller tower made of iron with a brighter light was approved by Congress to help guide mariners. Construction began on the pre-fabricated cast iron tower in 1861, and that newer tower – which is still in place today – was placed in service in late 1862, even as the American Civil War raged.

The light atop the 76-foot-tall tower was given an improved Third Order Fresnel lens, which could be seen about 20 miles into Lake Superior.

The tower's "Iron Pyle" design was a 19th Century lighthouse construction method that used long rods or piles anchored deeply into the earth to stabilize the structure where there was unstable land and/or mud.



THE WHITEFISH POINT Lighthouse, in 1890. Located about 10 miles north of Paradise on land that juts into Lake Superior, the site today also includes an excellent museum and a beach with a sweeping vista of Lake Superior. ***Credit: Lighthouses and Lifesaving on the Great Lakes***

Unlike tapered conical lighthouse towers that came along later, Whitefish Point's design also used an open, pyramid-like framework attached to the tower to help stabilize it. Four iron tubular legs were bolted to a foundation to support the center cylinder. The iron components could be mass-manufactured offsite, test-assembled, and then shipped to the remote lighthouse sites for installation.

The tower is topped with a cast iron watch room and the lantern accessed by an interior cylindrical staircase. It was a design preferred at the time by the U.S. Lighthouse Board and was employed in the construction of two identical sister towers built about the same time: Manitou Island on Lake Superior and DeTour Point on Lake Huron.

In 1863, a lens-turning clockwork mechanism was placed in the tower. "The mechanism itself was not considered 'lighthouse keeper-friendly,' for it required winding every hour!" said *Lighthouse Digest.* "This did not sit well with then-Keeper Joseph Kemp, who demanded an assistant. After a series of letters to the Lighthouse Board, Kemp finally got his assistant." The original two-story Keeper's Quarters at the site was made into a duplex in 1895.

The Lighthouse Board wrote of the paramount importance for having a lighthouse on Whitefish Point in its annual report of 1870: "This is one of the most important lights on the lakes owing to the point upon which it is placed, being projected well into the lake, with deep water close to it. Vessels bound either up or down the lake run for this light, and in foggy weather without an efficient fog signal, both delay and risk are encountered."

A fog signal was the next upgrade – Whitefish Point was notorious for its thick fog which brought about numerous ship collisions. By 1875, a fog signal house, consisting of two ten-inch steam whistles and a coal-fueled boiler system, was in place. A brick fog signal building was erected in 1937.

The Whitefish Point Light Station, according to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, was operated exclusively by the U.S. Lighthouse Service from 1849 until 1923, when the U.S. Coast Guard established a Lifeboat Rescue Station there.

The Lighthouse Service merged with the Coast Guard in 1939; the Coast Guard closed the Lifeboat Station in 1951, and took all personnel from the site in 1970. The light was automated a year later.

Inextricably tied to the light station is the sad fate of 729-foot-long iron ore carrier, *Edmund Fitzgerald.* Hauling taconite pellets from Superior, Wis. to Detroit, the *Fitzgerald* sank in a Lake Superior storm that produced waves up to 35 feet on Nov. 9, 1975. The tragedy claimed the lives of 29 crew members. At full speed, the ship was only about an hour from the shelter of Whitefish Bay. The Fitzgerald crew via radio inquired about the lighthouse at Whitefish Bay, which was operable that night but difficult to see in the storm.

The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society leased the station in 1983, and was awarded full ownership in 1996. "The site is now a top quality lighthouse and shipwreck museum," said the *Lighthouse Travel Guide.*

•••

Following are the oldest lighthouses in Michigan:

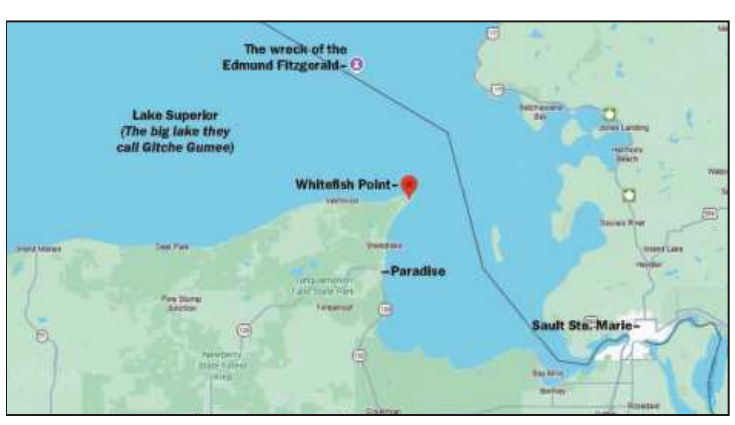
1. Fort Gratiot Light (1829). Located in Port Huron where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River, it is Michigan's oldest surviving and active lighthouse. The original 1825 tower collapsed during a severe storm, and the current 82-foot brick structure was rebuilt in 1829.

2. Old Presque Isle Light (1840). Constructed out of stone and brick on the Lake Huron shoreline, the Old Presque Isle Lighthouse was deactivated in 1871 when a taller coastal light was built nearby. It operates today between Rogers City and Alpena.

3. Pointe aux Barques Light (1848). It is situated in Port Hope at the literal "tip of the Thumb." The original 1848 keeper's quarters still stand, though the tower itself was rebuilt in 1857 to accommodate a larger third-order Fresnel lens.

4. Whitefish Point Light (1849).

5. Beaver Island Harbor Light (1856). This station sits at the northern entrance to Paradise Bay on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan. It replaced a poorly constructed 1851 tower and continues to serve as an active aid to navigation northwest of Petoskey.



New mission at Selfridge starts with longer runway

(Continued from Page 1)

and the phasing out of the base's collection of KC 135 Stratotankers led to significant angst in Macomb County and state governments, where officials sought to land a new "mission" with new military aircraft for Selfridge to host, in order to avoid the base's closure.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer released a timeline, which dates to December 2019, detailing her ongoing pitches and appeals to President Trump to OK a new mission for Selfridge. With Michigan's Legislature approving incremental funding for the Selfridge runway extension in the ensuring years, Trump announced the new F-15EX placement at Selfridge in April 2025. The federal government will spend about $800 million to fund new aircraft hangars and base upgrades at Selfridge, which was established in 1917.

"Selfridge is essential to our national defense, our economy, and the communities that surround it," said Whitmer. "This groundbreaking marks another important step in preparing the base for its next generation of missions. I'm proud to have worked with leaders at every level to support the men and women who serve, strengthen Michigan's role in our nation's defense, and secure Selfridge's future. Let's continue working together to solve big problems and keep Selfridge strong."

Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall (R- Richland Twp.) also spoke at the groundbreaking. "I was with President Trump a couple days ago and he was just glowing about this," Hall said. "He was so pleased to hear that we're on track to build the runway, the progress we're making. We're going to get this done during his term. We're going to get those first four fighters here on the base in 2028 while he's still president."

The state said Selfridge contributes an estimated $850 million to Michigan's economy, supporting 30,000 jobs statewide and more than 5,000 members of the Air and Army National Guard and Reserve. It is home to units from every U.S. Armed Service except Space Force, as well as homeland security operations by Customs and Border Protection.

On tap: study says water system upgrades are sorely lacking in state

(Continued from Page 1)

Just like finding the money to fix the state's roads proved elusive for decades – until the state Legislature finally allocated an additional $2 billion per year a year ago – funding the repair money for upgrading aging water systems is equally an easy thing for local and state lawmakers to put off.

"This report," says the report, "reaches the conclusion that Michigan is not on pace to close the gap for three reasons: the size of Michigan's documented need already dwarfs what the state and local communities have historically spent; the state's response, even in categories where the state has invested significant resources, has not kept pace with capital investment needs or ongoing costs; and the true number is larger than $39.6 billion, because whole categories of Michigan's water infrastructure do not have assessment data or published funding needs attached to them."

The report was conducted at the behest of Michigan state Sen. Sarah Anthony, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. To fund the research, she approached the Mott Foundation, whose Flint hometown knows a few things about the importance of water quality.

"At Mott, we've learned that you can't solve a problem until you understand its full dimensions," said Mott CEO and Executive Director Ridgway White. "So we turned to researchers at the University of Michigan Water Center and Public Sector Consultants and asked them to help document the price tag for addressing Michigan's water challenges. "We hope this information helps spark an earnest and necessary conversation about how our state can and must address water infrastructure needs."

The category of "drinking water" improvements easily top the list of infrastructure needs in Michigan, with fixes including a $16.2 billion price tag. Next is "wastewater and clean water" at $9.1 billion, with "stormwater" third and $6 billion in work required. Other categories with lesser needs (under $2.5 billion each) include "wetland restoration, "septic system replacement," "lead service lines" and "dams."

But what's not included in the above estimates is jarring:

•The state has an estimated 245,236 lead service lines that, if replaced, would cost an estimated $1.96 billion.

•The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team estimates it would cost $600 million to test all private wells for the toxin.

•Restoring 500,000 acres of wetlands, the state of Michigan's goal, would cost roughly $2.5 billion – at the low end of published per-acre costs.

Michigan, the report said, has an "unusually fragmented" system of water delivery infrastructure, with more than 1,300 public water systems, hundreds of local wastewater utilities, dozens of county drain commissioners, and a patchwork of regional authorities that each set their own rates and capital plans. Beyond that, more than 1 million households rely on their own wells or septic systems, and no single statewide inventory or assessment connects them.

"Because of the lack of data and the fact that much of this infrastructure is underground or underwater, it is difficult to assemble a holistic understanding of the condition of Michigan's water infrastructure and the funding needs associated with it," the report said. "Research and history tell us that proactive investment in maintenance and upkeep is almost always less costly than waiting until the infrastructure has deteriorated past the point of repair.

"But Michigan has taken for granted the abundant resources that surround us, and our failure to protect the resource, and the infrastructure that safeguards our health and homes and drives much of our economy, is now coming at a steep price. This report puts a spotlight on the immediate and long-term investments our state needs to make to steward our communities, families, and economy."

"Pick battles big enough to matter, small enough to win."
–Jonathan Kozol (1936-)

New jobless benefits portal is now online in Michigan

(Continued from Page 1)

Manager (MiWAM). The integrated MiUI system will make it easier for workers and employers to complete routine unemployment responsibilities using a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer and features improved accessibility, enhanced user control, and robust anti-fraud capabilities."

The Unemployment Agency said with the expanded digital access of MiUI, several phone-based services will be discontinued, including the Michigan Automated Response Voice Interactive Network (MARVIN) for certification and calling UIA to file a new claim by phone.

"More tools available online and on mobile devices means users will be able to complete their unemployment tasks more quickly and conveniently. UIA will continue to offer many other public-focused resources, such as walk-in visits to local offices with self-serve kiosks, language assistance, and customer service phone staff who can help with issues that need focused attention," the UIA said.

For more information visit www.michigan.gov/UIA and follow the links.

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Steve Claywell, **Secretary-Treasurer** — Greg Herman, **President**

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

Visit our website: www.michiganbuildingtrades.org

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BUILDING MICHIGAN UNION

Elevator Constructors Local 36

Elevator Constructors Local 36

DETROIT– **ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED:** our next regular membership meeting will be **Nov. 23, 2026, at 5:30pm** at 1640 Porter St.,Detroit, MI 48216. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Attention All Members,

Upcoming meetings:

Nov. 16 – Executive Board Meeting at 5pm.

Nov. 23 – General Membership meeting at 5:30pm.

Dec. 7 – Probationary Meeting at 5pm.

Dec. 21 – Executive Board Meeting 5pm.

Dec. 28 – General Membership Meeting 5:30pm.

At the Oct. 26, 2026, meeting, a motion was made to amend Article XIV, Dues and Assessments, Section 1 of the Local Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed amendment would establish a flat rate for **probationary fees** until the probationary apprentice is initiation as a member. The first reading took place at the October meeting. The second reading is scheduled for Nov. 23, 2026, and the third reading, discussion, and vote are scheduled for Dec. 28, 2026, at 5:30.

The 2027 wage rates and zone pay will be mailed out at the end of this month or early next month. I will also email it to everyone. If you are not getting my emails, please contact the hall.

The Picnic assessment will be $58 per member and will be assessed with the 4th quarter dues.

The General Executive Board established the "International Union of Elevator Constructors Death Benefit Trust Fund" and the IUEC Death Benefit Fund Policy at the 2022 Fall meeting of the IUEC General Executive Board as authorized by the delegates to the 32nd International Convention. At the 2026 Fall meeting of the IUEC General Executive Board, the Board has approved the following in accordance with the IUEC Death Benefit Fund Policy:

All active members shall be assessed $25.00 on Dec. 1, 2026. This funding will allow the fund to increase the IUEC Death Benefit amount to $300.000, continue to invest in a responsible manner and allow for timely payment to beneficiaries. **This assessment will be assessed with 4th quarter dues.**

I want to remind everyone that we **DO NOT** provide personal identification as a condition of entering or working on a job. Please refer to the CBA Article XXII Par. 6, when your company tells you to give your license to enter a job or call the hall.

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWPF National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474. Locally contact Scott Erison (Local 36 VAP Chair) (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com or Ricky Azzopardi (Local 36 Co-Chair) (586)719-7465 or email him at rickypardi@yahoo.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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

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

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

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

Attention All Mechanics, just a reminder to Mechanic's that passed the Mechanic's Exam **on or after July 9, 2022**, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and each calendar year thereafter, each mechanic shall be required to successfully complete at least eight hours of online continuing education from the curriculum published annually by NEIEP. **Required Mechanics (including assistant mechanics) that do not comply with the continuing education requirements shall not receive the wage rate increase until completion of the required continuing education curriculum.**

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

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

Attention All Retirees, if you request 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 wish a speedy recovery

"It's better to be a pirate than to join the Navy."
– Steve Jobs (1955 - 2011)

Working class voters' efforts put union label on midterms

(Continued from Page 1)

The labor movement is ready to work with these newly elected members of Congress, governors and state legislators on a bold agenda to deliver real change for the working class."

Equally astounding was the total amount of money spent on the midterms: Just before the election, Open Secrets estimated that conservative groups outspent liberal groups $2.03 billion to $1.67 billion. The total spend was easily a record – but the results show that money alone does not win elections. Motivated voters have the final say.

"Union voters," the AFL-CIO said, "mobilized in historic numbers to secure sweeping landmark victories up and down the ballot across the country, including a record number of union member candidates elected to office. The organizing was driven by the AFL-CIO's largest-ever midterm mobilization, with a singular focus on the pocketbook issues voters said were their top priority."

Said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey: "Despite all the political noise, hardworking Americans from every corner of this country sent a resounding message to Washington and elected leaders at every level: the American middle class has been hollowed out, and working families want leaders focused on restoring economic security, expanding opportunity, and creating real pathways to prosperity, not political gamesmanship and distractions.

"Unions helped build America's middle class, and the building trades have been and will continue to be central to rebuilding it. North America's Building Trades Unions stand ready to work with leaders of both parties who are serious about strengthening American industry, investing in American workers, and advancing policies that deliver lasting economic opportunity for working families. Now it's time to get to work."

At the 30th AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in June, the nation's largest labor federation set a goal of turning out at least 2 million more union voters in this election than in 2022. The federation said to reach that, AFL-CIO turned out tens of thousands of volunteers, who reached more than 16 million union voters. The program made a concerted effort by reaching out to several million disengaged voters, many of whom lived in a union member's household but had never previously been contacted by a union volunteer.

"As a direct result of this work, union voters turned out in historic numbers," the AFL-CIO said, "exit polls showed union households voted 21 points more for Democrats than Republicans nationwide, shaping results that were decisive for control of Congress."

The Associated Press reported that six in 10 Americans did not approve of the job performance of President Trump, and voters took it out on him and GOP lawmakers in the Nov. 3 election. In the U.S. Senate, Dems flipped control from holding 47 seats to what will be at least a 54-seat majority in January. Dems made gains in a number of red states that would have been unthinkable pickups a year ago, among them winning a U.S. Senate race and the governorship in Texas, and Senate seats in Kansas, Ohio, South Carolina and Iowa.

In the U.S. House, Dems also flipped control: they went from a three-seat minority to what will be at least a 240-147 majority.

Democrat trifectas were won in Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and they took back the statehouses in North Carolina and Georgia. Union voters helped break seven legislative GOP supermajorities in legislatures in Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio and South Carolina.

While the Democrat majorities in Congress probably won't have an immediate effect on organized labor, they will have the power to push union-friendly legislation and put it on the president's desk. Labor's top priority is the PRO Act, which would ease organizing for unions. Other priority bills includes ending the misclassification of employees as independent contractors and stopping companies from dodging joint-employer responsibilities. Having Dems control Congress would provide more worker-friendly oversight of OSHA and the National Labor Relations Board.

"Since Labor Day," the AFL-CIO said, "union volunteers have reached 14.9 million voters at the door, on the phone and in the worksite to solidify support for a pro-worker Congress. Every conversation had unique value, given the high degree of trust union families have with union members, who research shows are among the most credible messengers in the country. Union voters also were among the most enthusiastic in the nation to go to the polls: 83 percent of union members reported being 'very motivated' to vote, a 10-point increase from 2022."

Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on **Dec. 11, 2026 at the Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall, 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park. We will have food and drinks after the meeting.**



MICHAEL CARD

We wish Happy Thanksgiving to all are members, enjoy your time with family and friends.

If you are a deer hunter good luck and be safe.

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

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com- for more information

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent Scott Ivey at (989)662-6491.

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.

Retiree luncheons:

Area 1 is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar, 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI.

Area 2 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 luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be on Nov. 18 at The Green Spot Pub, 808 N. Mission Street, Mount Pleasant, MI. 48858. Everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

Area 4 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 in all sizes will be arriving at the Union Hall soon. The cost is $50 XL and smaller $55 for 2XL, $60 for 3XL and $70 for 4XL. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order.

The upcoming MSHA training schedule is available at www.boilermakerslocal169 or on our Facebook page.

The cost of your T.W.I.C. card is reimbursable from the M.O.R.E. Fund. Contact the Union Hall for reimbursement.

Any 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 G.I. Bill.

Michigan voters ride the blue wave, keep state union-friendly

(Continued from Page 1)

conducted by SSRS, the Michigan made up an estimated 22 percent of Michigan voters. And across Michigan's Senate and governor races, voters in union households were 20 percent more likely, on average, to support the Democratic candidate than voters outside union households.

"Michigan's labor movement was on the frontlines, implementing its most robust midterm "Get Out the Vote" and "Member to Member" programs," the state federation said. "In addition to supporting candidates committed to putting workers first, the Michigan AFL-CIO Labor Foundation trained and deployed hundreds of volunteers to protect the election before, during and after."

In Michigan and nationwide, unlike the unproven voter fraud assertions made during the 2020 election, there were virtually zero claims of voter shenanigans in this general election.

"The right to vote is sacred in this country, and we trained and deployed hundreds of volunteers to help protect it," said Kate Mason, executive director of the Michigan AFL-CIO Labor Foundation. "Congratulations to the election administrators for ensuring a safe, fair and free election. And thank you to our allied groups and partners across the state."

Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25

SOUTHFIELD – **SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The next Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, December 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, located at 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033. This will be a **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING** for elections. Apprentice attendance is **MANDATORY.**

NOMINATION RESULTS: Nomination results will be published in the next edition of the newspaper.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: Members wishing to vote by absentee ballot must submit a written request to the Union Hall. All written requests must include the members' printed name, signature, registration number, and must be received no later than 10 days prior to the election. Members should contact the Union Hall for instructions on completing and submitting an absentee ballot request.

PANCAKES WITH SANTA: The Union will be hosting Pancakes with Santa at the Union Hall on Saturday, December 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Santa will be joining us from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mark your calendars for the Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. This year's celebration will be held at **The Henry**, located at **300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan, 48126**. Invites have been mailed. Please RSVP using the QR code on the invitation.

WEBSITE: Visit our updated website at **www.heatfrostinsulators.org** to access helpful links and additional member resources.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25 is pleased to introduce a new text messaging service to improve communication with our active and retired members. An introductory text message was recently sent to members and retirees to announce this new method of communication. If you did not receive the message, please contact the Union Hall to update your contact information to ensure you receive future communications and important updates.

REPORTING JOBS: A reward will be provided to any member that reports non-union or union mechanical installing insulation under our scope of work. Members with valid leads should contact Eloany Rodriguez at (248) 750-4992 and you will receive a $50 gift card.

JOB STARTS: As stated in Local 25's Constitution & Bylaws Article III Section 5, failure to report a job start will automatically result in a fine of $50.00. Future failures to report a job start will result in the amount of the fine being levied left to the discretion of the President. **PLEASE** report all job starts promptly so we can avoid having to fine members. Reporting is now easier with our **QR code** --- simply scan, fill out and submit your jobs. Visit our Facebook page for additional information and access to the QR code.

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

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes including hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall within forty-eight hours. This includes employment changes for members, retirees, and travelers. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out-of-work list, and your employment records remain current and correct. Failure to report will result in an automatic $50.00 fine.

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

"We are more ready to try the untried when what we do is inconsequential. Hence the fact that many inventions had their birth as toys."
–Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983)

Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Notified Meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Local 47's Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. Please note: This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices. The purpose of this meeting is for the Elections of Officers.



PATRICK WELCH

Please make sure to call or text all starts and layoffs to the Union Office. Be sure to leave your name, the contractor name, and the start or layoff date.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees continue receiving Robo Calls, please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. Several members currently have this number blocked and therefore are not receiving important notifications. These calls are only used for important notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and funeral notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Union Office so we can verify your phone number and ensure the number has not been blocked. Please notify the Local Union Office of any phone number or home address changes.

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.

ATTENTION RETIREES: Effective Oct. 1, 2026 the 79-Hour rule will be waived thru January 2027. Retirees are able to work to work as much as they want without being penalized.

Notice: Election of Officers will take place during the Notified Meeting on Friday, Dec. 11, 2026. All ballots have been mailed out. Once you receive your ballot, please be sure to fill it out and send it back in right away. All ballots need to be received by Dec. 11, 2026, anything received after this date will be invalid. In order to ensure your ballot is received in a timely manner please be sure to mail your ballot in no later than Nov. 27, 2026.

If you have not received your ballot, please call the Union Office and we will mail a new one out to you.

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

Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
(800) 323-8079 • (517) 321-7502
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell is available by phone to answer questions regarding Pension, Welfare, Vacation Funds, and Special Benefits.

To all Active Members: if you have not submitted your Coordination of Benefits Form, Spousal Form, or Birth Certificates for your children to TIC, no one will be covered under our insurance plan until these items are received. Please contact TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and submit the required documentation as soon as possible. Coverage will be reinstated retroactively once the information has been received.

Members with questions regarding Pension and Welfare Funds may contact TIC International at the numbers listed above or visit http://www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org. Please also remember to complete and return all Working Spousal Forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Mitchell Carpenter (616) 375-0538.

Applications are now open for the Apprenticeship Program. Please call the Union Office or visit insulators47.com to complete 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 no later than 10 days from the end of the current work week."

Plumbers Local 98

UA Local 98

DETROIT – *Membership of Plumbers Local 98.*

As we approach the holiday season, on behalf of the Local 98 Officers, we extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Plumbers Local 98. Your hard work, resilience, and dedication this year have truly made a difference. Wishing you and your family a restful and Happy Thanksgiving!

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026 at 6 pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Jan. 7, 2027 at 4:30pm. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

The next retiree luncheon is **Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Noon** at the Plumbers 98 hall. Please contact Dave Schroeder or Dominic Fanto if you have any questions, or call the hall.

Yard Cleanup: Brother Jimmy Cools is organizing a Fall Yard Cleanup at Brother Larry Moskal's home on Saturday, Nov. 21. Only need work clothes! For additional information, please call Jimmy Cools at 248-762-9221. Apprentices welcome to help.

Fall Food Drive: Local 98 is organizing a fall food drive during the month of November. Non-perishable food items are being accepted at the hall as well as cash/checks/gift cards to be used to purchase additional food for families in need. Donations will be accepted through Thanksgiving and delivered to a local food pantry to help those in need this holiday season. Please see Jimmy Cools or Dan Nixon if you have questions.

Annual Wrapping Party: Mark your calendar! Calling all of Santa's Elves and helpers… the annual **Wrapping Party** is on **Monday, Nov. 30 from 5-8** to help Santa prepare for the Local 98 annual Children's Christmas Party.

Children's Christmas Party is on **Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 5-8pm.** Watch the trades paper, website, Facebook and Instagram for additional information. We look forward to seeing all of our members and their families both nights.

Ready To Work: It's that time of year to submit your "Ready to Work" form again. All forms must be submitted by Dec. 31. To be eligible for payment under the program, you must have remained current for the entire 2026 calendar year. The Ready to Work Program form can be found on our website under the resources tab.

Our first two Marathon Health Clinics (Sterling Hts. & Novi) are now open. For more information, please see their website at my.marathon.health or call 866-434-3255. Participants enrolled in the Fund's Medicare Advantage program are unable to utilize Marathon Health. *Two additional locations will be opening in Pontiac and Taylor first quarter 2027.* Contact an officer with questions.

Open Enrollment Health Care Updates/Changes: The 2027 open enrollment packets will be sent to active and retired members' homes within the next few weeks. Please watch for them in the mail. Any questions on changes or coverage, call the BeneSys direct line, 248-641-4988.

NOMI is part of our health care benefits which started Aug. 1, 2026. The NOMI Health Network is an additional power network to make your healthcare experience more accessible, affordable and tailored to your unique needs. Information has been mailed to our active membership, under 65 and do not have retiree Humana health care. Any questions, please call BeneSys for additional information.

Benefit Update: To better serve you, Local 98 has changed record keepers for our Defined Contribution plan from BeneSys to Empower. Empower can be reached at (833) 569-2433. We have also changed our HRA tracking portal. Any questions on setting up your new accounts please call an officer.

In addition, the monthly status reports will only include the past hours and contributions reported since the previous statement. To check your balances please go to fundoffice.lh1ondemand.com The username is your first initial last name and last four of social security number. For additional information please call the hall or BeneSys.

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

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. This also includes notifying the hall for jury duty, bereavement, short term disability and worker's compensation. *We have a dedicated email to send your unemployment certifications and/or backup documents to receive SUB pay. Please email correspondence to:* **sub@ualocal98.org by Thursdays at 3 pm** ***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.

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have passed or lost a loved one recently. Brother Frank Fath, was 71-year member and initiated on 8-9-1955; Brother David Walinske, was a 69-year member and initiated on 1-10-1957; Brother Charles McCarrick, was a 40-year member and initiated on 2-27-1986; Brother David Glomski, was a 69-year member and initiated on 4-11-1957; and Brother Frank Talaki, was a 65-year member and initiated on 5-11-1961. Brother Talaki is also the father of the late Brother Frank V. Talaki who passed in December 2017. May they rest in eternal peace.

Expelled Members: We currently have one member expelled for November 2026: Vincent Montalto.

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, (248)641-4988 or (866)646-8919.**

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

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98TC.org/apprenticeship.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Hall Operating Hours 8am to 4pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, Dec. 18, 2026. Applications are submitted online only. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call the Training Center at 248-585-1435 if you have any questions.

Ready to Work Program - Ready to Work payouts can be achieved in 3 tiers, all of which can be earned separately. This program is for Journeymen, and the certifications must be current through the entire year. The link to the form can be found on the Local 98 website, ualocal98.org and also on the MCA Detroit website, mcadetroit.org

Tier 1 (12 Hours):
State of Michigan Plumber's License
Completed Drug Test (Recorded by MUST)
First Aide Certification (Submitted by Issuing Company)
MUST Modules (Recorded by MUST)

Tier 2 (3 Hours):
ASSE 5110 Backflow Prevention Certification

Tier 3 (3 Hours):
ASSE 6010 NFPA99 Medical Gas Installer Certification

FIRST AID classes are 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Training Center. The dates for the remaining class is: **Wednesday Nov. 18**. **Please call** the Training Center to reserve a spot.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is **pending**. 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** the Training Center to register.

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Feb. 2, 2027, we have two available evenings to come in and practice for it, Wednesday Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. ***Call*** the Training Center if you are interested in attending. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

CALL THE TRAINING CENTER TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2027. *All classes are register and prepay by check or money order only.* ***All Spring classes will begin the week of March 1 with a deadline to register by Friday, Feb. 12.***

All Fall classes will begin the week of Sept. 6 with a deadline to register by Friday, Aug.13.

ASSE Backflow Tester Re-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

8 hour recert class Jan. 19 & 20 Deadline is Dec. 24, 2026.

8 hour recert class April 20 & 21 Deadline is March 26, 2027

8 hour recert class July 20 & 21 Deadline is June 25, 2027

8 hour recert class October 19 & 20 Deadline is Sept. 24.

ASSE Backflow Tester (Full 40 hour): $200

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

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

Medical Gas Installer (Full 40 hour): $200

Hydronic Heating and Cooling: $100

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: $100

CAD/BIM: $100

Welding Classes.

Orbital Class: $100 *Prerequisite: Must already have a welding certification*. Tuesdays 4:30-8 p.m. Jan. 12 – Feb. 2. Max of 6 people per class. Deadline to register is Dec. 29, 2026.

Downhill Class: $100 Tuesdays 4:30-8 p.m. Feb. 9 – March 23. Max of 8 people per class. Deadline to register is Jan. 26.

2026 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month. If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be Dec. 5, 2026. You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.

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

OSHA Training - OSHA 10 ($59), and OSHA 30 ($159) available as an online class at www.careersafeonline.com . These OSHA classes are not affiliated with the UA or our Training Center. OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Training is also offered online through the MUST website. Go to www.mustonline.org. **Be sure to take the Construction Safety courses; not the General Industry courses.

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

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters, Service Technicians, Gas Distribution Local 190

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR – **SPECIAL CALLED UNION MEETING:** is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18th at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. All members are urged to attend and take an active part in the proceedings.

CONGRATULATIONS: We all congratulate Brother Randall Whitaker on his appointment to the United Association as an International Representative, assigned to represent both Michigan and Ohio. This is a well-deserved achievement and we are confident that your leadership, knowledge, and commitment to our members will serve the UA exceptionally well. We wish you great success in your new role and know that you will make us proud. Congratulations Randall!

UNION HALL CLOSED: For the Thanksgiving holiday the office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27. Wishing you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

For the Christmas holiday the office will be closing at noon on Thursday, Dec. 24 and closed all day Friday, Dec. 25. Merry Christmas to all of you and your family members.

For the News Year's Eve holiday, the office will be closing at Noon on Thursday, Dec. 31 and closed all day Friday, Jan. 1. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: UA Local 190 extends a special thank you to Mykhailo Zabrodin, a member of UA Local 798, for his very generous donation to our Thanksgiving for All. Your kindness and generosity will help make a difference for families in need this Thanksgiving season. We are truly grateful for your support and commitment to helping others. Thank you Mykhailo for your generosity. It is sincerely appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 5th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOR ALL: This year, UA Local 190 will provide 250 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. 14 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. 21 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!

REQUALIFICATION WELDING TEST FOR CONSUMERS ENERGY, DTE AND SEMCO ENGERY: on the following dates for Consumers Energy, DTE and Semco Energy at Local 190's Training Center located at 8040 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor MI.

Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 4.

Monday, Dec. 7 through Friday, Dec. 11.

Be aware there is a policy change with Consumers Energy and Semco. Welders must not exceed two calendar years between performing initial qualification requirements for all qualifications held. Please contact Ralph Booth at (734) 369-1432 to schedule your test date, first come first serve!

GAS DISTRIBUTION APPRENTICES DOWN HILL WELDING TRAINING, HELPER AND FUSER TRAINING: Will begin Monday, Jan. 4 and run for 2½ months. This class will be held at the training center Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In order to take the journeyman gas distribution weld test, you must attend this training as a prerequisite. Please note that 4th and 5th year gas apprentices have preference to sign up for this welding training.

Limited space is available so please contact Pat Duffy 734-368-4423, Roy Musgrove 734-646-8838 or Ralph Booth at 734-369-1432.

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

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS - LAID OFF OR BACK TO WORK: ***please immediately contact Karen (734) 424-0962 Ext. #210.*** *Please report the last day in which you worked. When calling to report back to work please let Karen know the contactor and the date you reported back to work.*

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

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

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE: ANNUAL PHYSICALS 2027: Annual physicals need to be completed by Oct. 31, 2027. Please remember to bring in the 2027 Annual Physical Verification Form and email the completed form to Bernadette Maus bmaus@ua190.org. This form is on our Local 190 website UA190.org and also the Benefits website UA190benefits.org.

2026 HEALTH COSTS: Just a reminder to all members if you have paid 2026 health costs personally, you must submit information to the Union Hall 7920 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to the attention of Bernadette by Feb. 15, 2027. If you have questions, contact Bernadette at 734-424-0962 EXT 3

Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

The Training Center is open to members wishing to update any certifications, licenses, or qualifications. Office hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8am. to 5 pm. Friday 8am. to 4 pm. We close for lunch from Noon to 1pm.

Please give Kristyn a call with any questions regarding certifications and training schedules or visit us on UA190.org members only section under training to register for classes online.

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

Available Journeyman classes:

Lead/Asbestos/Bloodborne Pathogens Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule - Mondays – Feb. 15, April 19, July 19, and Sept. 27, 2027**. Each class will start at 5 pm.

First Aid/CPR Training (4 hrs): Please register through the website: ua190.org 2026 **Schedule – Mondays – Feb. 22, April 26, July 26, and Oct. 4, 2027.** Each class will start at 5 pm.

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

Welding Lab: is Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday & Thursday nights from 4pm to 8:30pm. closed for the holidays. There is limited space and first come first served. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

ASSE Backflow Certification: This is a 40-hour class, to become an ASSE Certified Backflow Tester (5110). **2027 Schedule:** First course starts on **Jan 5**. The second course starts **Sept 7**. Courses run on **Tuesdays** and **Thursday** for 5 weeks and are limited to 8 participants. Call the Training Center to secure your spot or register through the website: ua190.org ***Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.***

ASSE Backflow Re-Certification (8hrs): **ASSE PRICE INCREASE** ASSE has increased the retesting fee to $85 for this recertification. Re-certification for the ASSE Backflow Tester (5110). **2027 Schedule**: First course starts **Feb 9**. The second course starts **May 4**. The third course starts **Oct 12.** Courses are on Tue and Thurs and start at 5 pm. Each course is limited to 8. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org ***Must have a current State of Michigan Plumbing License to certify with ASSE.***

Med Gas Installer and Brazer Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class to be Med Gas certified. Must have a minimum of 4 years, documented experience in the plumbing and/or piping industry. **2027 Schedule:** First course starts **Feb. 23**. The second course starts **Sept. 1**. Courses will run for 5 weeks, Tue and Thur. These courses are limited to 16 participants. Call the Training Center to sign up for one of these courses or register through the website: ua190.org.

Med Gas Installer Up-Date (8hrs): This is a two-day course. **2027 Schedule:** First course starts **April 28**. Second course starts **Oct. 6**. Courses will be on Tue and Thu and are limited to 24 participants, per course. Call the Training Center to be put on the list for the next class or register through the website: ua190.org

ASSE 12010 ICRA Certification for Infection Control and Risk Assessment for Construction Workers (16hrs): This is a four-day course. **2027 schedule:** course to be announced later.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Certification (40hrs): This is a 40-hour class, to become Certified in Rigging and Crane Signaling. Must have 5 years of experience or have gone through Rigging Technologies (Apprenticeship Rigging). Next class will be **Winter/Spring 2027**. Class size is limited to 8. Please register through the website: ua190.org.

EPRI Rigging and Signal Person Re-certification (8hrs): This rigging re-certification will now include the EPRI Signal person certification. Classes are scheduled for the following dates: **2027 course to be announced.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.): **Journeyman members** who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers** with a **minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2024 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be announced when the class roster is full. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: The next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Union Hall.

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.

"The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to the idealised past."

–Robertson Davies (1913-

"Traditions are group efforts to keep the unexpected from happening.'

–Barbara Tober

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



Lou Wasik
Realtor
Longtime member of Heat & Frost Insulators Local 25

Local 85

UA Local 85

SAGINAW – The next **Union Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2026,** at the Union Hall, 3535 Bay Road at 7:00 PM and will service as our Christmas Party and Election Results.

The next Zone 2 Union Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 2, 2026**, at the Grayling Eagles Lodge located at 602 Huron St., Grayling, MI 49738. This will be our Zone 2 Christmas Party.

Contact Information:

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

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

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

Andre Alexander, Business Agent (989) 799-5261 x 8515 aalexander@ualocal85.org

Bobby Anderson, Organizer (989) 799-5261 x 8512 rjanderson@ualocal85.org

Kristin Tuthill, Office Professional (989) 799-5261 x 8511 ktuthill@ualocal85.org

Please check the ualocal85.org or our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

The **new website** is up and running. Please check out www.ualocal85.org. Click on Local 85 Members to access members only information. Login information is username: first initial with full last name. Password is 00 with your UA Card Number. If you should have any 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 at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8519.

GOD BLESS ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT!

SUB Fund:

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEM-

(Continued next column)

"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever."

–Margaret Cho

"Everything we do really is just a little marker on the long road to death. And sometimes that's overwhelmingly depressing to me, and sometimes it makes me feel kinship and forgiveness. We've all got the same ending to the story. The way we make that story more elaborate, I got to respect."

–Joss Whedon

Local 357

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service

UA Local 357

KALAMAZOO – **UNION MEETING:** The next regular Union Meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 8th** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 6:00.

TOYS FOR TOTS: The Union has a box in the front entrance for Toys for Tots donations. Presents must be new and unwrapped. This box will remain at the Hall until mid-December for anyone that would like to donate.

PARTY INFORMATION: There will be a Holiday Party at the Hall on **Saturday, December 12th, 2026.** Drinks and hor d'oeuvres start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:00. You **MUST RSVP** no later than **November 30th, 2026,** by calling (269) 679-2570 or emailing Lori at lhatfield@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. Late RSVP's will not be accepted.

UNION DUES REMINDERS: Phone call reminders to pay your dues will not be made. Cash is accepted at the Union Hall for any payments. You also have the option to pay your union dues through the Local 357 website @ www.ualocal357.com. Note that you must add a 4% fee for using this site…. so, if you are paying a month of dues at $34.00… you need to pay $35.36.

Other ways to pay include sending a check, stopping by the Union Hall, dropping off a payment in the drop box outside the front door or calling Lori at (269) 679-3708 and paying with a credit card.

RETIREE MEETINGS: On the first Monday of every month, retired members can meet for Breakfast that will commence at 9:00 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 for example: married, divorced, re-married, birth, death, workers comp, address change, etc., please call Lori at the Union Hall. It is very important that we keep all our records up to date and you only have 30 days from the date of the event to make the change.

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

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Jacob DuCharme and family on the birth of a daughter, Natalie.

Local 85, con't

BERS:

Address & Phone Update: Please call the Union Hall to update any address or phone number changes at (989) 799-5261.

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be the Christmas Party and will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 12:00 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office located at 3535 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603. RSVP's are required as this is a catered event. The deadline to rsvp is November 20th.

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, Dec. 8, 2026, at 7 p.m.** This meeting has been designated as a **Special Called Meeting** for the purpose of accepting nominations to fill recently vacated positions through special election.

The following positions are up for election for the remainder of the current term until next general election.

(1) Executive Board
(1) Examining Board
(1) FMR Fund Committee

Retiree Breakfast will be Monday, Jan.11th at 9 a.m. (No December Breakfast due to due to service award banquet)

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026 Local 370 will host our annual Service Award banquet and Holiday celebration. The location will be at our hall at 2151 W. Thompson Rd. Fenton, MI. Cocktail hour will begin at 5 pm. The service award ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner following. Please call Karla or Kyara at the hall to reserve your spot for a night of dinner, dancing and celebrating members' years of service and the Christmas holiday.

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 on legal and financial matters. There is a great discount program for goods and services as well as free identity theft protection. To find out more, go to lifeadvisor.com or call 800-448-8326.

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

November Welding: Nov. 2 thru Nov. 25. Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

December Welding: Nov. 30 thru Dec. 23, Mondays and Wednesdays. 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

Med Gas: Jan. 4th thru Feb. 25, Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m.

All classes and test days can be signed up with the Training Center at 810-720-5243 Ext 15 or at training@ualocal370.org

2021 Plumbing Code Books now available. Cost is $85. Check, money order or credit card.

Per our **By-Laws Article XV**, The Building Tradesman is hereby adopted and subscribed to as our Labor paper for all members of local 370. Said paper to be used for all official notification of membership.

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 4:00pm

FMR Committee – Tuesday December 8th,2026 at 4:00pm

PAC committee – Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 5:00pm

Executive Board –Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 5:00pm

Building Committee – Tuesday, Dec. 8th,2026 at 6:00pm

Finance Committee -Tuesday, December 8th,2026 at 6:15pm

JATC Committee – TBD

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

Local 370 office hours 7:30am – 4:30pm.

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

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

Attention All Active Members in good standing. The Joint Apprentice and Training Committee voted to reimburse any active member of Local 370 who 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.

(Continued next column)

Local 671

UA Local 671

MONROE – The **next Union meeting will be held on November 19th, 2026, at 7pm**. The Executive Board will also have a meeting on **November 19, 2026, at 5pm**. If anyone would like to come in front of 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.

To All Members: We are currently taking sealed bids at the Union Hall for the 2019 Chevy truck. Starting bid is $16500. This was the trade-in offer for the vehicle. All bids must be received before noon on November 19th. We will open the bids during executive session that evening.

Training: Open weld nights are continuing during the school season on Thursday nights. The next weld test is on December 10th at 5pm. You must sign up ahead of time with Justin.

Health & Welfare: If you have any issues or concerns with your Health Care feel free to contact me (Mike) or Carly at the Union Hall.

Local 671 App: To keep up with the latest information, make sure you download Local 671 App. If you have questions or issues getting logged on contact Mike at the Union Hall. There will be a new platform for the app coming soon. Stay informed about what's going on in the Local by using the app.

In Closing: Opening Gun season is almost here. Please take with you when you go to the woods the important safety habits you practice on the job. I wish everyone who hunts a safe and successful hunt.

Success can be measured in many ways. It's not just the harvest of an animal; it's also the time spent in nature and with family and friends. I wish you all much success.

"A hunt based only on the trophies taken falls far short of what the ultimate goal should be." –Fred Bear

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: Kirk@ualocal671.com

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

Local 370, con't

Members will be reimbursed after successful completion and verification of the cost. Lost wages will not be covered by the JATC. Plumbing license renewal is still the responsibility of the member. If you have any questions, please contact local 370 JATC.

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

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

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

Remember to keep your dues current. Any member failing to pay for 3 months shall stand suspended, unable to vote for a period of 1 year or run for office for a period of 2 years and subject to a $50.00 reinstatement fee. Dues must be paid in 3-month increments according to our 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 each. Hooded sweat shirts and long sleeve pocket tee shirts are available.

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

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. 1, 2026 at 7:00pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O'Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55pm.

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

Retiree Breakfast: will be held **Thursday, Dec. 3** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Office Closures: The office will be closed for the following days as the holiday season approaches.

• November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving • December 24 & 25 - Christmas • December 31 & January 1 – New Years

The 2026 Toys for Tots drive has begun. Please drop off any new and unwrapped toys for donation at the front office by Dec. 1. Your gift will be greatly appreciated!

Health Plan Open House: Local #174 Board of Trustees will host an open house with our health fund professionals on Thursday Nov. 12 from 6-8pm to discuss the upcoming transition to Priority Health. Members and spouses are invited; drinks and snacks will be provided.

Hiring New Organizer: The Michigan Pipe Trades is currently accepting resumes for an organizer. Any UA journeyman member from Michigan can apply. If you have any questions or are interested in applying, please contact Ryan Bennett.

Operation United: As we begin planning for next year's event supporting West Michigan Veterans, we are currently working to identify veteran Union members in need of assistance with yard work and minor exterior home projects next spring. If you know a veteran Union member who could benefit from help, please reach out so we can begin building our project list for 2027.

Local 174 Peer Support Group: Sometimes talking with people who understand makes all the difference. Join fellow Local 174 members for an **anonymous, judgment-free, Peer Support Group** at **6 PM the Tuesday after each Union Meeting.** Come talk, listen, share, or just be there. There is **strength in numbers** – the more members who participate, the more experiences, perspectives, and support we bring to the room. **No pressure. No judgment. Members supporting members.** Reach out to Chirs Phillips or Josh Herrick with any questions.

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 1st, the members voted to accept the bargaining committee's recommendation and ratify the new three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new agreement is as follows: 1st year $4.20/ 2nd year $3.30/ 3rd year $3.30/ $10.80 over 3 years.

Language changes:

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

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

*The contractors will now be administering the ESTA benefit.

Organizing Update: *After our last meeting I had a conversation with one of our members, he was explaining how he was working right next to a nonunion company. It was refreshing to listen to how he has been just talking to this worker, nothing pressured, just having a conversation. Half the battle is just having a conversation with these workers. Remember what they are told about unions; all negative because they don't want to lose them to us! Remember we have more in common with the nonunion worker than what divides us. It is a battle, sometimes we over think strategies and the most effective thing we can do is just have a conversation. I appreciate everyone's support and as always, thank you!* ***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 NON-Medicare Retirees Aetna: (855) 878-4101
EAP: (888) 238-6232
Save-Rx: (800) 228-3108
Medicare Retirees: Retiree First: (616) 345-0788
*New rates reflected below effective 9/1/26.
Current Health Insurance Premiums:
Active Member/Working Retiree $1,300
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree $926.00 with Non-Medicare Spouse/Dependents
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree $582.00 with Medicare Spouse/DependentsMedcare Single $123.63 Medicare Couple $247.26 Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse $497.13 Medicare Surviving Spouse $126.67

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

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

Helpers: Please remember that if you are working as a Helper, 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.**

Training News:

Attention: Members must notify the Training Office when licenses are renewed so records can be updated. Failure to report renewals may affect dispatch.

First Aid: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5-9 pm**.** The next class will be held Thursday, Nov. 12.

Weld Test: Capability demonstration will be Wednesday, Nov. 10 and the test event to follow Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5pm**.**

Open Weld: Available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month; Watch the Facebook 'Local Union 174 Members' group page for any updates**.**

Industrial Rigging and Signaling: We will be announcing a class that will begin this February, look for the announcement of dates in January.

Training Opportunities: If there is any training you would like to see made available, please let us know. We appreciate your suggestions and feedback so we can look into making those training opportunities available.

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 Megan Colborn if you have questions. Call the Training Office @ (616)837-0222 x16 (Chris) / Megan @ (616)837-0222 x30. Or via text Chris (906)322-1592 / Megan (231)288-8329.

Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 333

UA Local 333

LANSING – **November's union meeting will be held Nov. 18, 2026, at the Lansing Hall, 5405 S. Martin Luther King Jr, Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48911 at 6:30pm.**

December's union meeting will be held Dec. 16, 2026, at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm

Dues: Effective Nov. 1, 2026, dues receipts will be emailed to you for your convenience. Please contact your regional office to update your email address if necessary.

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

Weld classes continue through the last week in November.

Lansing: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday 4:30pm – 8:30pm, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI 48906

Jackson: Monday and Wednesday 4:30pm – 8:30pm Tuesday and Thursday will open only if Mon/Wed class fills. Limit 8 people

3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI 49201

Battle Creek: Monday and Thursday 4:30pm – 8:30pm Limit 12 people

(KCC) RMTC, 405 Hill Brady Rd. Battle Creek, MI. 49037

Backflow: ASSE BACKFLOW – NEW CERT – JANUARY 2027 DATES TBD 4:30-8:30 PM

Must have a Journeyman plumber license and 5 years of piping experience or be in the 5th year of apprenticeship.

ASSE BACKFLOW - RENEWAL – JANARY 2027 DATES TBD 4:30-8:30PM

** ASSE Backflow certification classes will be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Medical Gas:

Asse backflow – new cert – january 2027 dates tbd 4:30-8:30 pm **must have a journeyman plumber license and 5 years of piping experience or be in the 5th year of apprenticeship.

Asse backflow - renewal – janary 2027 dates tbd 4:30-8:30pm

** asse backflow certification classes will be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Medical gas:

Medical gas installer – new cert – january 2027 dates tbd 5-8:00pm

Medical gas installer – renewal – january 2027 date tbd 5:00 – 8:00pm

** med gas certification classes will only be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

Tube bending: tube bending class – January 2027

**must have 6 people to hold class

Blueprint interpretation Reading: into to bluebeam – january 2027 date tbd

**limit of 6 people per class Basic first aid:

Basic first aid – 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min. 6 people have signed up

CPR: – 1 night 4 hour class – will schedule when a min of 6 people have signed up

Please note for all certifications: 2 weeks before class begins, you will be notified of class details.

Please note moving forward, classes will be held quarterly. Please plan accordingly.

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

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

Battle Creek Retiree's Breakfasts are held on the fourth

(Continued next column)

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 Escanaba on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 pm.

2026-2027 CERTIFICATION/UPGRADE CLASS SCHEDULE is now available on the lu111.com website. Please contact Training Coordinator John Antoncew for registration or questions.

ONLINE REFERRAL PROGRAM will go into effect on **June 1, 2026.**

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

WORK OPPORTUNITIES: Members interested in 1-day shutdowns should contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft in the Escanaba Office. Call the Escanaba or Marquette Office for updates: Layoff Line – Extension #7. All job calls will be posted via our new **online referral program.** The user guide, along with mobile app and desktop login instructions, are available on the website at **lu111.com**. If you have any questions, please contact Business Agent/Dispatcher Scott Pendergraft.

MRA FUND: Members are reminded that the Local 111 Health & Welfare Fund's Medical Reimbursement Account covers **eligible expenses** such as copays, deductibles, coinsurance, eligible self-pay medical costs, non-covered dental and vision services, non-covered medical services and prescriptions, and durable medical equipment. The MRA **does not** cover home exercise equipment, sporting equipment, hot tubs, saunas, mattresses or bedding, beauty products, recurring memberships, fitness trackers, vitamins, vacations, or other expenses that are primarily for general health and wellness.

Please refer to the Summary of Material Modifications (SMM) for complete details or **contact the Fund Office at (866) 823-4730 with any questions.**

MRA cards can no longer be used for purchases through the online FSA Store or other vendors that use the same merchant category codes. Eligible items may still be purchased from these websites using another form of payment and submitted for reimbursement according to plan rules.

This change helps ensure compliance with plan guidelines and prevent ineligible purchases. Your MRA card may continue to be used for eligible expenses at approved providers and merchants.

For any questions or assistance, please contact the Fund Office at **866-823-4730**.

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.

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

NEW HEARING HEALTH BENEFIT: UA members have access to an exclusive hearing healthcare program through Amplifon Hearing Health Care. The program includes discounted hearing aids, a free hearing exam, a 60-day risk-free trial, warranty coverage, and follow-up care. To learn more about this valuable member benefit, check out page 45 of the UA Journal magazine or contact Amplifon at 866-488-3873

MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM(MAP): Our Health & Welfare Plan offers a confidential, no-cost benefit through Ulliance for members and covered dependents. Support is available 24/7 for personal and work-related challenges, including stress, relationships, substance abuse, and financial or legal concerns. Services include short-term counseling, coaching, and referrals.

Call 1-800-448-8326 or visit www.lifeadvisor.com to access services.

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 and click Safety Links to complete your online safety training. Members must complete training for each site; trainings are valid for one year.

MSHA TRAINING: Registration and cancellations are handled online at upconstruction.org under the MSHA Calendar.

"Never promise more than you can perform."

–Publilius Syrus (~100 BC)

"About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age."

–Gloria Pitzer

"There will be little rubs and disappointments everywhere, and we are all apt to expect too much; but then, if one scheme of happiness fails, human nature turns to another; if the first calculation is wrong, we make a second better: we find comfort somewhere."

– Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

"There is nothing worse than aggressive stupidity."

–Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)

"That's the way things come clear. All of a sudden. And then you realize how obvious they've been all along."

– Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)

"Treat the other man's faith gently; it is all he has to believe with. His mind was created for his own thoughts, not yours or mine."

–Henry S. Haskins

"I can think of nothing less pleasurable than a life devoted to pleasure."

– John D. Rockefeller (1839 - 1937)

Local 333, con't

Thursday of every month at Lux Café. 2587 Capital Ave, Battle Creek, MI. at 9 am.

Retirees' Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10 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*

UA Local 333 Christmas Party, Friday, January 8, 2027 5-9pm, FireKeepers Casino Hotel 11177 E. Michigan Ave. Battle Creek, MI.

Call your Regional Office to RSVP. Reservations must be made by Dec. 15, 2026, and not to exceed 6 people per family. We want to make sure Santa brings enough for everyone to enjoy. Hotel rooms can be reserved by calling 877-352-8777, mention group code 010827pipe. Please note reservations must be made by 10:00pm on Dec. 24, 2026, to receive the discounted rate.

UA Local 333 Officers and Staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing membership. Truly a time to be thankful.

Local 636 Pipe Fitters, Steam Fitters, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service

UA Local 636

DETROIT – **IMPORTANT FUND CHANGE INFORMATION; EFFECTIVE 01/01/2027 ALL ACTIVE AND PRE-MEDICARE RETIREES ARE MOVING FROM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD AND/OR AETNA TO NOMI/HAP. THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO THE HUMANA INSURANCE FOR MEDICARE RETIREES. PLEASE OPEN ALL MAIL FOR NEW IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND IMPORTANT FUND INFORMATION.**

Our **next Regular Meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 17, 2026** at **St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Drive) Southfield, MI 48075.**

REMINDER This year's Annual Years of Service Awards Banquet / Union Meeting will be held on December 15, 2026 at Penna's of Sterling 38400 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights MI 48312. Doors open at 6:30 meeting will be called to order at 7:00 pm.

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

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

Get Well Wishes to; Douglas Detomaso, Robert Filar, Jacob Giacobbi, Ryan Hartmann, Nick Mendez, Dennis Shrewsberry.

Congratulations to Anthony and Ericka Marsack on the birth of their son Michael Joseph November 3, 2026.

DUES – 4th Quarter Dues are due now. Please call the Local to update your email and phone numbers. As a reminder AUTO PAY is available.

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

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

636 Retiree Association! The next meeting will be held November 19, 2026. Informing all retirees and their significant others to attend our meetings at the Local Union Office in Farmington Hills, every third Thursday of every month at 11:00 am, excluding December. The meetings present speakers which are very helpful with regard to your retirement and officers are there to answer any questions, you are also brought up to date on the activities of Local 636. Lunch is served for $7.00 with refreshments and desserts. Secretary Michael N. Sylvester

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

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

BeneSys has set up a dedicated phone line for Pipefitters 636 needs and questions, when

(Continued next column)

Local 704 Sprinkler Fitters

UA Local 704

SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

Congratulations to Dylan Rose and his wife Paige on Oct. 24, 2026

The annual 704 kids' Christmas party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12 noon to 3 pm at the union hall.

Any member interested in playing in the UA hockey tournament taking place in Hamilton ONT in May 2027. Please contact Mark Micolo at 248-841-5233

Our condolences to the Williams family on the passing of brother Charles R. Williams, a 54-year member.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A reminder to update any change of address or phone number changes with the Local

Local 636, con't

calling BeneSys, please call **888-646-8920.**

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. The customer service number for Empower is **833-569-2433.** For account information please create log in at **empowermyretirement.com** or download the Empower mobile app.

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 January 1 – December 31 you will be eligible for your ready to work payment.**

LiUNA! Feel the Power Local 1191

Laborers Local 1191
(2161 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48208)

DETROIT – **LABORERS RISING** is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 Mon-Fri 8 AM – 4 PM to provide necessary contact information.

Regular Membership Updates: Please check out our website at **www.laborerslocal1191.org** and the **"Laborers' Local 1191"** Facebook page for important information about your Local Union.

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at 7 PM at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change.

The General Membership Meeting for December 2026 will be Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 PM (Note: At the Dec. 4, Membership Meeting there will be a holiday meal served to all Members in Good Standing in attendance). ***The January 2027 General Membership meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8 at 7 PM in observance of New Year's Day.***

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: are held on the last Friday of each month at 11 AM at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. ***The Retiree Council's next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will take place on Jan. 29, 2027***.

Union Dues For 2026: Regular monthly dues are **$35.00 for Active Members**. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same at **$8.00**. Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at **www.laborerslocal1191.org!** To make online dues payments, click the "Pay Dues" tab in upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions.

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

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

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Local 80
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next General Membership Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5:30 pm. Meetings are held at the union hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 5:00 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield.

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

THANKSGIVING UNION HALL HOURS: The union hall will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27. Please plan accordingly if you need to make a dues payment.


JASON GRUNENWALD

RETIREE NEWS & MEETING SCHEDULE: 2026 Retiree Meetings: December 21st. 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.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the December 2026 meeting, nominations will be taken for the position of Fund Trustees. Elections will be held at the January 2027 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 2027 through January 2030. Your dues must be current if you would like to be nominated.

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Ayden Kaufmann, Daniel Whitsett, Brian McDonald, Andrew Neece, Jason Grunenwald, Scott Hosea, Jake Stier, Emil Ketelhut, Tom Barrett, Robert Moore, Abigail Cattey, Matt Navarro, Chris Steer, William Opalewski, Alex Golden, Joseph Halliday, Michael Gwisdalla, Greg Kahn, Martin Tibbs, Joseph Haynes, Cody Ertman, Ed Guirey, Collin Truba, Jacob Dilla, Thomas Davey, Chris Ratzel, Carl Fornell & Dean Dupuis.

READY TO WORK: As you are aware, Local 80 and SMACNA Detroit have partnered to develop the Ready to Work Program and stipend effective December 1, 2015, for the Building Trades Construction, Residential and Service journeyperson classifications. Stipend checks are scheduled to be distributed November-December 2026 to Local 80 journeyperson members who have completed all requirements. Stipend payment is determined by eight (8) hours June 1, 2026, JOURNEYPERSON base wages.

DEADLINE FOR 2026 STIPEND IS DECEMBER 31, 2026. 2026 Ready to Work stipend requirements: Current MUST Drug Test – no lapse, current MUST 18 Safety Modules – no lapse, first aid certification – classroom training, OSHA 30 – official certification required. **NO ADDITIONAL QUIZ or MODULES FOR 2026!** To view your credentials in the Ready to Work database go to: https://smd80.copperrange.com/

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

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

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

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

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

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: must be reported by the steward by 3 pm Friday and signed forms returned on Monday to 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 Sept. 1 through Sept. 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.

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

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

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

SHORT WORK WEEK SUB PAY: If you miss work due to weather, and you are not laid off, the company must provide written documentation confirming the loss of hours was weather-related. If you work 16 hours or less in a week, you may be eligible to collect SUB, but only if the hours worked are at the beginning or end of a layoff. To apply: Complete the SUB application at the hall; Provide a pay stub for the week. The hall will submit your information to the fund office. Make sure to follow these steps to ensure your eligibility.

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

TRAINING CENTER NEWS. Winter 2027 Upgrading Classes Enrollment opens at 7:30am on Monday, Nov. 30, 2026. To enroll, call the training center at 586-979-5190. Classes begin the week of January 18, 2027. To view the most up-to-date schedule, go to **https://www.smw80jac.org/Upgrading_Class_Schedule.**

Apprenticeship Entrance Exam. The Entrance Exam for the next **Sheet Metal Workers' Local 80 Building Trades Apprenticeship** class is scheduled for Wednesday January 27, 2027. Applications will be accepted until all available testing spots are filled. Requirements include a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and applicants must be 18 years old by April 5, 2027. Applications must be submitted in person by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call the Local 80 Training Center @ (586) 979-5190.

Local 292
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **December 9, 2026, at Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083.** Use the Banquet Entrance.

The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. The regular meeting schedule will resume in December.

RETIREES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be on 12/3/26 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Heights, 48071. It's always nice to catch up and stay connected. Please contact the union hall via our website, www.sheetmetal292.com. Click the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.


PAUL GUALDONI

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Children's Christmas party will be held Sunday, Dec. 6, 2026, from 11 am to 3 pm at Troy Community Center. All members of SMART Local 292 are invited. Children aged 15 and under whose parent or guardian is a member of Local 292 will receive a gift from Santa. RSVP by Nov. 20, 2026, by calling the Union Hall at 248-589-2502

SHEET METAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. Applications are being accepted for the Sheet Metal Scholarship program, beginning Sept 1, 2026. Applications must be received by Feb 15, 2027. 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.

BENEFIT INCREASES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026: The Board of Trustees of Sheet Metal Workers Local 292 Supplemental Unemployment Fund is pleased to announce the following benefit improvements effective June 1, 2026.

Journeyman/Apprentice: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $225 to $275.

Classified A/B: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $102 to $124

Classified C: The Benefit payable under this Plan will increase from $30 to $37

Please note that all existing credits will also be increased.

HRA BENNY CARD APP: We want to share an important update regarding your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and your Benny Card. Effective June 8, 2026, your HRA will move to a new platform designed to make managing your benefits easier, faster, and more convenient. To access the Mobile App, search for the **BeneSys Member Reimbursement** app in your app store. Our Member Services team is still here for you. If you have questions or need help during the transition, please don't hesitate to contact the Fund Office at 248-641-4992

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

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT ACCESS: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone number to reach John Hancock is 833-388-6466. To create an online profile and a PIN, visit johnhancock.com/myplan 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: Local 292 has a new partner for Member Assistance.

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

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.

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

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

WEBSITE / FACEBOOK: Be sure to check our website – www.sheetmetal292.com; 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.

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

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

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

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The latest Constitution and Ritual of the 3rd SMART General Convention is now available online. Go to www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the Constitution/Ritual tab located at the top of the home page. The Union Hall now has hard copies if anyone is interested in having one.

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

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

THE 4 PLUS MEMBER PROGRAM: The "4-plus" member program is for any Local 292 member who has achieved four (or more) welding certifications. These certifications can be in any weld-

(Continued next column)

Local 7
Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be held in Lansing, MI at 4931 Contec Drive at 6:00 p.m. will be held on December 10, 2026.

Regular Area MEETINGS are as follows:

Zone 1 – (Dec. 9, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at 1612 Brooks Drive/Marshall

Zone 2 – (Dec. 8, 2026) – 6 p.m. at VFW 5209 Grand Haven Rd Norton Shores

Zone 3/Sag – (Dec. 2, 2026) – 6 p.m. held at Xmas mgt Back Orchard Barn 11001 Wilkinson Rd Freeland


SAM FULLER

Zone 4 – (December 1, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at 4070 Dolan Drive/Flint

Zone 5 – (December 4, 2026) – 10:00 a.m. held at 511 Avenue D Gwinn

Zone 3/TC - (December 3, 2026) – 6:00 p.m. held at 406 Hyde St Kalkaska Traverse City

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

Please register on our website at **www.sheetmetal7.org** for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2026. Once you are registered it must be approved to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

ZONE 1 Info: Work in Zone 1 has slowed down a bit as we head into fall but still looks to remain strong. If you become unemployed, please update your status with Eric and Vance (Apprentices please notify Ryan as well). If you are experiencing any difficulties with Unemployment, ESTA, Insurance, or Pensions, please contact Eric or Vance for assistance. Any Journeypersons interested in any upgrade classes, please contact Ryan at the Zone 1 Training Center for additional information (269) 781-7183 (class availability depends on the number of individuals interested.)

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

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same with just a few members off. If you become unemployed please be sure to reach out to me. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month, also keep me informed on any address or phone number changes. Our next union meeting is December 8th, 6:00 pm at VFW Post 3195. I hope to see you there. Firearms deer season is fast approaching, good luck to all the hunters out there and be safe when you're out in the woods. . **Work Safe and Thank you, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: Work in the area remains steady. Make sure to contact me if you are out of work, there is travel work available. Be sure to check your dues receipt to make sure you are current; dues are due before the first of every month.

Please contact the Lansing office if your address or phone numbers have changed.

The next Zone 3 membership meeting is December 2 at the Back Orchard Barn at 6pm located at 11001 Wilkinson Rd Freeland.

The next Zone 3 Retiree meeting is December 1st at the Ponderosa on Wilder Road in Bay City. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

(Traverse City Info). Work in the area is steady. Mark your calendar as our Christmas meeting will be December 3rd at 530 pm. Please note that MSHA training is to be paid for by the contractor, not on your own time. Contact me if you get laid off as there will be work available in the southern areas of the state. Good luck in the woods and on the waters. **In Solidarity, John Amalfitano**

ZONE 4 Info: Work in Zone 4 is starting to slow down a bit, there is talk of some work coming to get us through the winter. I want to let everybody know that we recently closed on the new building in Clio The Mac we are super excited about that we're going to have a new training center next year. Also don't forget to get with the training center regarding upgrade classes for this winter. Fall is now upon us, I hope everybody is having good success in the woods. **Thanks Scott Brotherton**

ZONE 5 Info: Work in the UP is holding steady. Don't forget to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at upconstruction.org. If you have a change of address please call me or the Lansing hall to get that update. Good luck to all the hunters out there this year. Just a reminder, our Christmas party is on December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the hall in Gwinn. - **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

NEWS: Local 7 – **Union Hoodies/ T-Shirts** will be available soon through the Lansing office

Dues Department: Dues of all members of local unions shall be paid monthly or quarterly, but always in advance. To better serve our membership we would like to announce that we are now accepting 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.

CONTACT US: 4931 Contec Drive/Lansing, MI 48910– **517-882-4064** or visit us online at www.smwlu7.org.

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) **517-882-4064**
Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson**) 517-242-3223**
Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-569-9200**
Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-299-3752**
Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw**) 989-225-0095**
John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) **231-590-1112**
Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) **810-836-3552**
Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**

Local 292 cont'd

ing process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member, contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390** (Dave) or Quintin at 248-495-6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on November 14, November 21, December 5, December 12 & December 19.

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 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. Drop off the deposit between 7 and 3 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 are scheduled for the class.

IBEW LOCAL 906

IBEW Local 906

UPPER PENINSULA – **Meetings.** There will be normal unit meetings for the month of December, 2026.

Marquette – Dec. 1, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855

Iron Mountain – December 8, 2026 @ 7:00pm CST. Located at 1800 N Stephenson Ave, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Escanaba – Dec. 9, 2026 @ 7:00pm EST. Located at 1219 1st Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829

Work Outlook- Work is holding steady. Upcoming projects include: Veterans home in Marquette, Republic Solar, Brimley Solar.

We currently have a 1 man foreman call for MJ Electric, a 4 man call for J. Ranck Electric in Sault Ste. Marie, a 1 man call for Northern Power, a 1 man foreman call for Pieper Electric and a 1 man call for Code Electric in the Marquette area. Please call the hall 906-226-7497 if you're interested in any of these calls.

IBEW Local 906 accepts book 2 signing via email. Please email cfleuryibew906@gmail.com for all book 2 signings.

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

Upcoming Events-

IBEW Local 906 Christmas Party, January 8th @ the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, MI Please call the hall to sign up

Merchandise- To all members interested, we have merchandise at the hall. It can be picked up or coordinated to be brought to a union meeting. Payment can be done in person, over the phone, or on the website/app under the Merchandise order form page. All products are available for viewing on the website/app. We have new baseball caps and new broadcast tee shirts.

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

There is a retiree breakfast the first Saturday of every month at Hardees in Iron Mountain at 8:00am CST.

There is a retiree breakfast the fourth Thursday of every month at Burger King in Houghton at 10:00am EST.

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

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

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

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

New Journeyman- Jim Bleau. Congratulations brother Bleau!

Retirements- None

Members that have passed away- Our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends our of fallen Brothers and Sisters.

Labor History- IBEW Local 906 is looking for labor history in the Upper Peninsula for our local/union. If you have any information that you'd like to submit or meet up for an interview please call the hall.

IBEW Local 131

Serving Southwest Michigan Since 1916

IBEW Local 131

KALAMAZOO – **Local 131 General Membership Meeting:** Tuesday Dec. 8 6PM @ The Hall.

RENEW Meeting: Tuesday Nov. 17th 6PM @ The Hall

Veteran's Committee Meeting: Thursday Jan. 7 @ 5PM, South Haven American Legion

Executive Board: Monday Nov. 16, 2026, 5PM @ the Hall

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

Toys for Tots Donations will be accepted at the Hall until December 2nd!

FREE WMU Broncos Football Season Tickets – Local 131 has once again partnered with WMU athletics, which includes 50 season tickets to see the Broncos @ Waldo Stadium all season long! Any member can go to every game if they choose (so long as tickets are available). Please call the hall to reserve your tickets!

Upcoming Games:

Tuesday Nov. 17: WMU vs Eastern Michigan University Free Tickets Available

Tuesday Nov. 24: WMU vs Miami OH Free Tickets Available

Parties and Events:

Retiree Holiday Lunch will be at the Fieldstone Grill on December 16th @ 11AM

Facebook Open Enrollment! Local 131's Facebook group is normally hidden and private, but we are temporarily making it visible so new members can request access.

Media Photos: If you are able to take photos or videos at work, please send them our way! You can upload your videos and photos to our Google drive folder.

IBEW Local 131 App: Local 131 has launched its new app, which can be found on Apple Store and Google Play Store by searching "IBEW 131."

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

Work Outlook: At the time of this writing, there are 98 Book I JIW on the out of work list. There are also several apprentices out of work and awaiting assignment. The work outlook for winter remains slow in Local 131, relative to the last 5 years, while neighboring jurisdictions continue to have unprecedented demand for electricians. Those able to travel 1-2 hours for work are picking up call in Ann Arbor, Lansing, South Bend, and throughout Indiana and Illinois. Local 58 is also hiring into Book II. The Palisades restart is ongoing, and work there will remain slow until then. There is no news on the project for the two new reactors expected there.

Remember if you are working anywhere, you should not be on any other local's Book II. Please call those locals and remove yourself if you are working.

Retiree's lunches at the following locations:

November 18: Marjo's West, 325 N Grand St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

December 16: Fieldstone Grill, 3970 W Centre Avenue, Portage, MI 49024

January 20: Main Street Pub, 5462 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

February 17: Louie's Trophy House, 629 Walbridge Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Death of Members: Retiree Gordon Zwart passed away on October 15th. He was a 61-Year member and father to Brother Mark Zwart

Delinquent Members: Scott Alton, Dave Baker, Samuel Bronkema, Christian Buckhold, Bryan Chai, Jason Fairfield, Jason Fitch, Nathan Jones, Richard Peebles, Joseph Pineda, Scott Van Raden

Jonathan Current
Business Manager
IBEW Local 131

"The keenest sorrow is to recognize ourselves as the sole cause of all our adversities."

–Sophocles (496 BC - 406 BC)

IBEW Local 498

"Powering Northern Michigan Since 1949"

IBEW Local 498

TRAVERSE CITY – **Meetings.**

The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Friday, Dec 11, 2026 @ 5:30pm.

The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is scheduled for 7pm Friday, Dec 11, 2026.

First Aid/CPR- Classes are scheduled for: Nov 30th at 12:00 pm • Nov 30th at 5:00 pm. Please contact the JATC to get signed up for the class 231-943-4193.

Office Closings: Closed All Day Thursday, Nov 26, 2026

Closed All Day Friday, Nov 27, 2026.

DEC 2026 Meeting Date Change – Reg. Meeting change to Friday, Dec 11, 2026 to help with traveling Brothers and Sisters to attend the Christmas Party after the General meeting. Please Bring a dish to pass. Postcard reminders will be sent out soon

The Santa Party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. Please bring your kids! We need your kids here to meet Santa and submit their Christmas wish lists. Food and snacks provided. Postcards will be sent out in November to RSVP. Please remember to RSVP so we can plan for supplies and gifts for everyone attending.

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

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.gtrcf.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 who 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, ibew@local498.net

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

MEEHP (Health) 1-855-633-4584 Website: www.michiganelectrical.org

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

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

NEBF 1-301-556-4300
NEAP 1-301-556-4300
IO Pension 1-202-833-7000
DUES RATES
Jan 1, 2027 $164.10/Quarter.
Dues increase July 1, 2027 $170.10/Quarter.

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

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

IBEW Local 445

IBEW Local 445

BATTLE CREEK – **Pension Benefits Workshop** will be on November 12, 2026, at 5pm. Please RSVP for this event.

Battle Creek Christmas Parade will be held on November 21, 2026, at 5:45pm. Parade float build dates will be announced soon.

The date for Christmas at the Hall is Dec. 12, 2026, at 9 am. You will be seeing postcards for the event in November. Please RSVP for this event.

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.

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

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

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

IBEW Local 445 App/ Website 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**. Make sure you check out **the Benefits Tab** for important related websites.

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

Executive Board E-Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Secrest/
Recording Secretary

"With coarse rice to eat, with water to drink, and my bended arm for a pillow – I have still joy in the midst of these things. Riches and honors acquired by unrighteousness are to me as a floating cloud."

–Confucius (551 BC - 479 BC)

IBEW LOCAL 557

IBEW 557

SAGINAW – **NEXT UNION MEETING IS THE CHRISTMAS MEETING -** The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 5:30pm. We will be celebrating the Christmas Holiday at this meeting with a catered meal and special gift for the membership as well. Please join us for this annual tradition. Service Pins will also be awarded for members that have reached certain milestones.

2026 SERVICE PIN AWARDS – The following members will receive some of the prestigious Service Pin Awards for their time in the Local. **25 Year pins –** Evan Allardyce, Keith Gross, Matt Hamilton, and Ron Miner. **30 Year pins –** Russ Combs, Mark Fini, Duane Hamling, Kent Krauseneck, and Scott Sova. **35 Year pin –** John Delestowicz. **40 Year pins –** Dave Luth & James Wesolek. **50 Year pins –** Michael Drake, Robert Orr, Richard Rebischke, and Edward Silva. **55 Year pins –** John Hill & Fred Schmunk. **60 Year pins –** Louis Dupuis & Robert Gage. 65 Year pin – Donald Loiselle. **70 Year pins –** Gil Foster & Richard Parent. We hope to see as many of the milestone recipients as possible.

2026 MID TERM ELECTIONS – The elections across the State and the Nation were very favorable to the IBEW. Now that the election is over, it is time to get to work. IBEW Leadership will work hard with the new legislators to get things accomplished that will benefit the membership. Strengthening prevailing wage laws, reversing anti-PLA laws, refining laws for Data Centers and others will be at the top of the list.

RENEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS – These meetings occur immediately following each Monthly Union Meeting.

JOBSITE SAFETY – 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.

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

UNION HALL OPERATIONS – Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 12pm, CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm. The next observed holiday through the Local's CBA is Thanksgiving. The Union Hall will be closed both Thursday and Friday of that week, Nov. 26 & 27.

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

WORK OUTLOOK- Local contractors continue to work on various projects at schools, hospitals, auto plants, wastewater plants, and other various jobs. The Saginaw Twp. schools' re-light project is in full swing. Calls have slowed but are still trickling in for Battery Energy Storage System (B.E.S.S.) projects in multiple locations within the Local's jurisdiction. Locations include Alma, Merrill and Fairgrove. New contractor W.S.G. has informed us the Freemont Solar project will begin around April. The Ingersol Twp. Solar Farm has been delayed with no clear resolution in sight. Conti has started to pick up work around Hemlock Semi Conductor and the Wafer Plant again. Master Electric will begin to ramp up manpower at the CMU College of Medicine project this spring. This project is the largest piece of the Medical Diamond projects.

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

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

WEX APP – To download the WEX app on your smartphone, search for "MI IBEW Special Fund" in the Google or Apple store. The app allows you to monitor your special fund balance and other great features.

JOB CALLS – Please stay vigilant checking the Job Line if you are seeking work. All work calls for the day will be available on the Job Line after 4:30 pm. IF YOU ARE SEEKING WORK don't forget to CALL 989-781-0516, option 3. You can also view job calls for the day through the Local 557 website and the accompanying smartphone app as well. 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 – Paying dues can now happen through the Local's new website & app.

CONTACT NUMBERS – Michigan Electrical Employee Pension fund and Michigan Health Plan (855) 633-4584. Website is: www.michiganelectrical.org

In Solidarity,
Evan Allardyce, Business Manager



IBEW LOCAL 58

IBEW Local 58

DETROIT - **The next General Membership meeting:** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm.

UPDATE – Sub Pay is NOT available at this time. **If you have any questions, please contact the Local 58 Union Hall 313-963-2130.** If you have any questions regarding the Port Huron office, please contact Business Agent Paul Ledsworth at 313-802-4970.

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

IBEW Local 58 Brick Pavers- are available for purchase. $100.00 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 check your dues receipt. If your dues receipt has a paid-through date of 06-30-2026 you owe the $30.00 reinstatement fee, and dues. You will lapse your membership at the end of the 4th quarter, (Dec. 31, 2026), if your dues are not paid. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. The dues office is closed on Nov. 26 , Dec. 18 at 12 pm, Dec. 24-25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. If paying dues on APP/Website they need to be paid by Dec. 23. If you pay your dues by phone/in person, they must be paid by 4 p.m. Dec. 30. Please plan accordingly to make your dues payment. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: There is no luncheon in November because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Christmas Party that happens on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the local union hall. We are working on some enhancements to the party, including a TV give way and other prizes. We will also be enjoying live music. Doors open at 11 and lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are $25 per person, (checks payable to the Retirees Association), please send your checks and reservations to IBEW #58, Attention Retirees, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885 for more information.

Dues ($8 per person, $8 for your spouse) expire on 12/31/2026, there is a renewal form in the November Newsletter. On the renewal form we are asking a question about future luncheons and would appreciate your input. If you are not a member, but would like to be, call the local 313 963-2130 ext. 3013, for an application. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-5885.

The 2027 September Annual Bus Trip has been put in place. Traveling to Savannah, Jekyll Island and Beaufort, SC. Travel dates: Sunday, Sept. 12 through Saturday, Sept. 18. The trip is $975 per person based on double occupancy. $75 holds your spot. Questions: Contact Dave Riley at 586 206-8075.

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

Retirement: The NEBF pension applications are no longer available at the Local 58 union hall. They are available either by contacting NEBF directly at 301-556-4300 ext. 557 or through your online account at NEBF.com. Standard processing time for NEBF pension applications has been 90 days. Please allow at least 3 months prior to your retirement date to submit your application to NEBF directly for processing. The IBEW PBF (International Pension Benefit Fund) applications can still be obtained at the Local 58 union hall. For questions regarding the NEBF or IBEW PBF pensions, please call Rebecca at 313-963-2130 ext. 3013. Questions regarding the Local 58 Pension or Annuity should be directed to the Local 58 Benefits Office at 586-575-9200.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center - Know anyone interested in learning the Electrical Trade? Please inquire with the Training Center at www.detroiteitc.org for information on Apprenticeship and training opportunities.

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): Next meeting will be Tuesday Dec. 1 at 5:30 pm. The 24th Annual Ken Fitzhenry Super Bowl Sunday Fundraising Dinner will be on Feb. 14; Doors open at 4 pm. Bring your Sweetie and come enjoy the game on big screen tv's while enjoying food & beverages provided by volunteers of DEWBF and Local 58. $20 entrance fee and Raffle tickets for a chance to win various prizes. Raffle tickets are $20 each. Electronic payment options available – Venmo: @BELLY58BF or CASHAPP: $BELLY58BF.

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 5:30p.m. The Wobbly Kitchen (Sundays in the Park) will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, starting at the union hall and then traveling to Cass Park. We are asking volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. to help with food prep, organization, and loading. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

The next Entertainment Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m. The annual Children's Christmas Holiday Party is on Dec. 6at 11 AM.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone number and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.

We appreciate being able to give back to the community and will continue to support efforts that make a difference in the lives of the children and families that we engage with. It's that time of year again so get ready to be involved in our annual Kids Coat Give-Away and the Adopt-A-Child Christmas Program. If you are interested in adopting a child or two for the holidays, please reach out to Sister Felicia Wiseman.

The Grassroots Committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 P.M. at the Local 58 Union Hall. Food will be provided and a Zoom meeting option will be available.

Mission Statement: Our continuing mission is to educate, include and involve members from every aspect of our Local into learning, engaging in and becoming more active members. To improve and promote solidarity and unionism. To share stories and experiences that share and provide insights to our union history and that allow us to see the direction we are headed in.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, December 14, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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

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

The next Local 58's Women's Committee meeting – will be Thursday, Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Milam (586-291-8014) Email at 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

(Continued next column)

IBEW LOCAL 252

IBEW Local 252

ANN ARBOR – **ESTA MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER:** Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America have filed a new federal lawsuit regarding ESTA. We continue to get favorable decisions from Michigan Wage and Hour Division, but those decisions are currently on hold due to the new lawsuit. If you are requesting ESTA payment from your employer, we are asking you to email those requests to your employer. If denied ESTA pay, please file a complaint to the State of Michigan Wage and Hour Division at http://www.michigan.gov/wageclaim. The act references substantial fines and penalties for failure to comply, but you must file your complaint with the State.

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE- All active and retired members will be receiving a mailing from American Income Life (AIL) in the next few weeks. AIL provides an accidental death and dismemberment policy at no cost. They also offer many other programs including a no cost will kit, no cost child safe kit, and many other useful programs. You do not need to fill out the beneficiary form you receive in the mail to receive accidental and dismemberment benefits. If you do fill the form out you will be contacted by AIL to discuss other options that AIL offers. Please contact the hall if there are any issues with AIL.

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 2026: ALL CLASSES START AT 5:00 PM

1. First Aid/ CPR- Dec 1, Dec 8
2. NICET PREP- Every Wednesday except Union meeting night, starting Oct 28 and ending Dec 23 (book purchase required, call the training center for more information)
3. Transformers with grounding and bonding- Jan 4, 11, 12, 25, Feb 1 and 8

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

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

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS ONLINE: We can now accept payments for union dues online. Visit our website www.ibew252.org and click on "Pay Dues". Follow the instructions to create your account through the payment portal. Your dues receipt will be mailed to you.

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE: We are looking for veterans to join our veteran's committee. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Hall. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact John Gilbert at (517) 920-1422.

EWMC WARM CLOTHES DRIVE: Help keep our community warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves and other winter essentials. Donations can be dropped off at the school or hall through Dec. 5. Donations will benefit Dawn Farm. Contact Yohance Jennings at (313) 283-3294 if you have questions.

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

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

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

DUES PAYMENTS – Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 9/2026, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash or check. Dues for "A" members are $143.25 by cash or check, or $147.55 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Dues for "BA" members are $73.80 by cash or check, or $76.01 by credit card per quarter for 2026. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Your 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, 2026.**

IMPORTANT DATES:
November 26-27, 2026: Hall closed for Thanksgiving
December 12, 2026: Holiday Party

IBEW 58, continued

5:30 pm. If you have questions or concerns or would like to attend a PAC meeting, you can reach out to our registrars at registrar1@ibew58.org.

The RENEW Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.at the Hall and on Zoom.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings take place every Wednesday at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall, (1358 Abbott St, Detroit, MI 48226), starting at 6:00 pm. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. All trades welcome.

Electrical Workers Credit Union: Our website is http://WWW.EWCU.NET (313) 963-6060. Electrical Workers Credit Union is offering ***New Auto loans*** starting at **3.99%** and ***Used Auto loans*** starting at **4.99%** Give the Credit Union a call to see if you qualify! 313-963-6060. Credit Union hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Closed Friday between 11:30 am – 12:30 pm for lunch). You may now apply for membership online. Go to ewcu.net.

Dormant accounts! Please call the credit union to see the options to make your account active.

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: David Linenger and Jeffrey Patricca. We wish you all the best as you begin your new journey. Thank you for your years of service with the IBEW.

Members who 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 Denby,*** Pension member, 51 year IBEW membership; ***Cindy Gorncy***, Mother to Kyle Gorncy, Journeyman Inside Wireman; ***Audrey Jongste***, Mother of Steven Jongste, Pension member, 40 year IBEW membership; Widow of the late Pension member William Jongste; ***Harry Kraemer,*** Journeyman Inside Wireman; ***Elandra Milburn***, Widow of the late Pension member Carl Milburn; ***Paul Ouellette,*** Pension member, 62 year IBEW membership; ***Terry Rosen,*** Pension member, 62 year IBEW membership; ***David Rowe***, Pension member, 74 year IBEW membership; ***Robert Schuchard,*** Pension member, 59 year IBEW membership; and ***Wayneth Weddle,*** Pension member, 47 year IBEW membership.

Local 275

IBEW 275

COOPERSVILLE – **Work Outlook:** Work has slowed down a bit, but calls are still coming for the battery storage project as well as other calls. The compressor station in Six Lakes was delayed due to drawing being incorrect and is expected to start in January.

Healthcare coverage: At the April 2026 allocation meeting the body voted to add vision coverage as an additional benefit. Benefits will be in effect as of Aug. 1 and we are being told by the administrators that there will not be an additional card but would be the same information as your delta dental cards. They also have an app that we will work on distributing. Some members have reached out about their special fund cards expiring. Please keep an eye on your mail for new cards coming, your current card will remain working until the end of the month.

Building Corp: On Monday Nov. 2, Local 275 finalized buying the building at 3355 Walker Ave and will be working in the coming months to get the HVAC repairs as well as some cosmetic work done.

Volunteer Info: Nicole will soon be looking for volunteers for Labor rings the bell. This is a friendly competition that we participate in with other trades for possession of the red kettle trophy. If you are interested in signing up for a spot, please email or call Nicole at the hall.

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

RENEW: continues to meet monthly and discuss future events. Please join us for our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 10.

Training: Apprentices- Please pay attention to Trade-school for updates to schedules for classes for the 26/27 year.

The JATC is now offering master's Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjatc@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 are working on a project in our jurisdiction and are told that you were selected for a random, DO NOT take it, call the Hall first. Randoms are part of the MUST program that was agreed to by NECA and the IBEW in our contract. We've been seeing our contractors who are subs being told by the G.C. that one of our members were selected for a random through their program. We are not signatory to B&V, Barton-Malow or any other G.C., therefore we are NOT subject to their drug testing.

We've had a few instances of inappropriate comments on the job site. We have adopted a Zero Tolerance approach to these behaviors and NO ONE - black, white, brown, gay, straight, male or female should have to endure that treatment from anybody. If you are the victim of this behavior, let your Business Manager, Jonas Talbott know and it will be dealt with.

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 office will be open from 8am-12:30pm, 1pm-4:30pm and is closed from 12:30-1pm for lunch.

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

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Damien Keglovitz, Alan Kimball, Joe Rich, and Jaden Thomas. Please make every effort to get caught up.

Local 665

IBEW 665

LANSING – **WORK OUTLOOK:** Local 665 continues to be busy for the rest of 2026 and next year in 2027. Notable jobs include the LG Battery Plant, various jobs on campus at MSU, and an upcoming GM LGR extended shutdown.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Oct. 1, 2026, is the start of IBEW Local 665 Annual Food drive and goes until Nov. 20, 2026. Please drop your donation off at the hall.

EVITP TRAINING PROGRAM: If you are interested in completing the online Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program, please contact the LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to register.

HARASSMENT TRAINING: Harassment training has been adopted as part of our contract. It is required for all our members to complete it. Contact LEJATC to register, 517-483-9688.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS: To apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program, go to 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: The next First Aid / CPR Class is scheduled for December 10, 2026. Contact the LEJATC to register at 517-483-9688.

CONDUIT BENDING CLASSES: We are offering a Conduit Bending Class this fall starting next month. This will be at LCC West Campus starting promptly at 4:30 pm

Class Schedule is as follows:
Day 1- Monday, November 9
Day 2- Monday, November 23
Day 3 Monday, November 30
Day 4- Monday, December 7
Day 5- Monday, December 14
Day 6- Monday, December 28
Day 7- Monday, January 4
Contact LEJATC to register at 517-483-9688

DRUG TEST / MUST MODS: If you are planning on doing 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, 18 MUST Mods or OSHA 30.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: The Executive Board meets 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 #370. Please look at your dues receipt 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.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away. May their memory be eternal.
Eric Bullen 11/01/26, Brian Thompson 05/26/26, Charles Vanhorn 05/09/26, Ronald Bullen 04/09/2026, Steven Goodine 03/17/2026, James Foster Jr. 02/28/2026, Joseph Perkins 02/20/2026, Bruce Pettinger 12/01/2025, Charlie Fabiano 12/21/2025, Richard Dunlap 12/11/2025, Darold English 11/28/25, Michael Quintieri 11/15/25, Douglas Maki 09/17/25, Randolph Dehate 07/01/25, Glendon "Bill" Toaz 06/10/25, David McLellan 05/28/25.

"An intellectual is a man who takes more words than necessary to tell more than he knows."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890 - 1969)

"Nothing can be so amusingly arrogant as a young man who has just discovered an old idea and thinks it is his own."

–Sidney J. Harris

"An ounce of action is worth a ton of theory." –Friedrich Engels (1820 - 1895)

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SETTING UP CONDUIT under what will be the Leinweber Center on the MSU campus in East Lansing is Sam Weaver of IBEW Local 665. He's employed by Shaw Electric.

IBEW LOCAL 692
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS — BAY CITY MICHIGAN

IBEW Local 692

BAY CITY – **The next monthly membership meeting** will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, December 7th, 2026.**

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Dec. 21, 2026.**

Message from the Business Manager. In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the hall will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27.

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

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

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

VISIT WITH SANTA – Santa's annual visit to the hall is taking place on **Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9:30-11:30AM.** Snacks and a kid's craft project will be provided. Photos and individual time with Santa will also be available. A gift will be given to children ages 10 and under. **Please RSVP by Friday, Nov. 27** with names, gender and ages of children attending to Season Holdwick at sholdwick@ibew692.org or call the hall at (989) 684-4510.

Big Buck Contest – Once again, the local is holding its annual Big Buck Contest running from Nov. 15-30. The cost to enter is $10 per member. All participants are entered into raffle featuring $500 in prizes. Those who bag a buck receive additional raffle entries and a chance at the grand prize. Registration for the event ends Friday, Nov. 13 at 4pm. For rules or more information please contact Kevin Klapish or Brendon Baranek. Good luck to the game chasers this hunting season and be safe.

Work Report – The work report in our jurisdiction remains decent. We have had open calls recently in Zones 1 & 2.

ABI out of Indiana has a decent IsoPhase project at Karn in Essexville, 6-10's for two months.

Clements Electric continues work at Midland's Center for the Arts, as work at the Bay County Health Department is wrapping up. Work on a mixed-use development in Downtown Bay City, Water Street Lofts, continues. Bay City Animal Control, Bay City Community Center pool, and Bay County Road Commission projects continue. Clements was also awarded a few projects out to Michigan Sugar, in addition to a handful of other local projects. Their residential division is busy.

Conti Electric has ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility and MCV.

Countyline Power continues work at Midland Waste Water, has upcoming work on the Tittabawassee dams, and secured a high voltage termination project at Michigan Sugar.

Escon Group has some work in Midland's I-Park and McLaren's Bay City West campus and Bangor Schools.

John's Electric has some work at Alpena Airport, a decent project in Clear Lake, and plenty of residential work.

J. Ranck Electric will be adding a battery storage facility on the Mission Road Solar project in Rosebush this fall. J. Ranck will have calls in West Branch for an Enbridge switchgear replacement.

Nelson Electric continues work in Bay City Powertrain.

Northern Valley's residential division has been busy.

Northern Power has secured upcoming work at Cheboygan Hospital.

S&G and **Hardies Electric** are keeping their crews busy on various projects. Hardies will have a fair amount of work open up in Indian River over the next couple months.

Van Ert Electric is wrapping up work on their solar project in Gladwin.

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

If you are looking for work, please do not hesitate to contact the Union Hall. Please note when calling the job line to use ext. #1.

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney, Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers' Report. Job calls are now posted on our website, www.ibew692.net. The out-of-work list has been updated with additional information such as ding detail, a job log, and a list of recently rolled members. Please note initial sign of the out-of-work list should be in person at the hall. Re-signs after rolling can be done in person or by emailing, texting, or calling Business Manager Ryan Charney.

-Brendon "Deon" Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 989.252.9225

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

Death of Members. We regret to inform you of the death of retired Brother James Hollenback, Card No. D304930, who passed away on Oct. 24, 2026. Brother Hollenback was born on Jan. 15, 1958 (68 years old). He was initiated on September 21st, 1979. Jim resided in Alpena.

We regret to inform you of the death of retired Brother Robert Baker, Card No. C89848, who passed away on Oct. 30, 2026. Brother Baker was born on Feb. 3, 1932 (94 years old). He was initiated on Feb. 19, 1953. Robert resided in Midland.

#362 (Hollenback) and #363 (Baker). Local death fund assessment **$10.00 each** (due within 30 days) payable to: IBEW Local 692, 1300 W. Thomas, Bay City, MI 48706

Retirees Lunch. The November retiree lunch is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Thursday, Nov. 19th at Beer and Brats, 4562 Eastman Road in Midland.

American Income Life Accidental Death Benefit. The first mailing has gone out recently regarding the $3,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit available through a partnership with the IBEW and American Income Life. All active and retired members are eligible for this benefit.

The letter states that you need

(Continued next column)

I.B.E.W. 948 FLINT, MI

IBEW LOCAL 948

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – **Meetings.**

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be December 14th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be December 1st, 2026 at 9:00am.

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

Work Outlook - Our work outlook is steady. For further details on job information please ensure the hall has your email address for our job calls and re-signs.

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

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

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

Retirees - Congratulations to Douglas Roth and Arnold Shangle 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 Christopher Clark. We are tremendously sorry for your losses and will continue to keep our Brothers in our hearts.

Local 692, con't

to return the enclosed yellow card in order to qualify and name your beneficiary. Please note you are **NOT REQUIRED to return this card** in order to name your beneficiary; the beneficiaries you have on file at the hall are sufficient. The $3,000 benefit would be paid to your named beneficiary, not to your estate.

American Income Life does offer other policies and services. If you are interested in having a representative contact you to discuss available options, you may return the yellow card in the postage paid envelope provided.

If you have any questions, please contact the hall at 989-684-4510.

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

Important links & numbers.
Health Plan & Pension Fund
855.633.4584 – ASK FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
www.michiganelectrical.org
NEBF/ NEAP: 301.556.4300
IO Pension: 202.833.7000

Michigan Painters District Council 1M

Painters DC 1M

WARREN – Dear Members,

DC1M WEBSITE: **www.iupat-dc1michigan.org**

DC 1M UNION CARDS*

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



ROBERT GONZALEZ

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 ext. 100

Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI UPGRADE CLASSES

Warren FTI School-

•Nov. 17- First Aid/CPR Part 2# : 5pm

•Nov. 21- First Aid/CPR : 9am

Owosso FTI School-

•Nov. 14- First Aid CPR: 9am

•Nov. 19- First Aid/CPR Part 2#: 5pm

•Nov. 20- CAS Applications Due

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

ONE UNION; ONE FAMILY; ONE FIGHT

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.

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.

Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

Glaziers & Glassworkers Local 357

WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be on Monday, December 7th at 5 p.m. We will suspend business, and get right into eating, drinking, and getting everyone attending some swag.

Please make it a priority to attend.

Our CBA expires on June 1,2027. We will begin negotiations with the GCA in early spring. Start thinking about what you are looking for in this new contract, if you haven't already.

There are upgrade classes offered weekly now between the Warren, and Owosso locations. Please get your certifications, and stay up to date.

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.

Apprenticeship School is back in session. If you have a question about your schedule please reach out to Frank Tate, the apprenticeship coordinator.

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

Iupatpension.org

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It's called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

– Business Rep.Don Stepp

Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1, at 6 p.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

"It is unbecoming for young men to utter maxims."
Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

"I base my fashion taste on what doesn't itch."
–Gilda Radner (1946 - 1989)

"Americans detest all lies except lies spoken in public or printed lies."
–Edgar Watson Howe (1853 - 1937)

"The wisest mind has something yet to learn."
–George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

District Council 1M
Business Manager: Robert Gonzalez
Meeting date: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.
Place: 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

Local Union 514
Business Rep: Scott Mikulen
Meeting dates: 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.
Place: 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.
Web site: www.iupat-local514.org.

Local Union 826
Business Rep: Rocky Ackerman
Meeting date: 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

Local Union 845
Business Rep – Ed Bracamontes
Meeting date: 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.
Place: 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Local Union 1052
Business Rep – Jake Fluty
Meeting date: The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m
Place: 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

Local Union 1803
Business Rep: Josh Ovalle
Meeting date: 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
Place: 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Local Union 2352
Business Rep: Jeremy Haviland
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.

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need."
–Kahlil Gibran (1883 - 1931)

"The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it."
–Terry Pratchett

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 themself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

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

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

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

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

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• OUR FEE PAID AFTER YOU WIN

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(313) 365-6100

Detroit Iron & Metal Co.
8300 Dix (corner Lonyo)
detroitironandmetal.com
(313) 841-5100

Local 25
Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI – **The November Union Meeting is Monday Nov. 30, 2026 at 7 pm** and **will be in person & zoom will also be available**. All Union Halls will be open. We encourage members to come in person to the November meeting for solidarity & fellowship!

We continue to communicate through the **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS for alerts & emails.** You can download our APP for android on google play or for iphone at the APP store just search "Iron Workers Local 25" Martinez web shop. Or sign up via our website (www.ironworkers25.org).

The Flint Steward meeting will be Nov. 18 at 6:30 pm. The Lansing Steward meeting will be Monday, Nov. 30 at 6 pm. All are welcome. The Saginaw Steward meeting will be cancelled for November due to hunting season.

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT AND HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday Dec. 2 from 8 am to 2 pm - NEW TIME. If you have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome!

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

December vacation check schedule: The last day to call to have your December vacation check pulled for in-person pick up is Monday, Nov. 30 at Noon. Pulled checks will be available at the Novi Hall Thursday Dec. 3, 2026 after 2:00 pm. All other checks will be mailed to you by the end of business day on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026. ***All members that a receive ACH deposits, your vacation check will be on deposit Friday, December 4, 2026.*** All Vacation checks will be dated Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026.

The Iron Workers Annual Children's Christmas Party is *Saturday, Dec. 12* at the Novi Union Hall, 25150 Trans X Dr. Novi MI. **Doors open at 10 am. We have a new Magic show starting at 11:45 - PLEASE arrive BEFORE the show starts.** In addition to the show, the kids will enjoy face-painting & crafts; pictures, hot dogs, pop & chips, cotton candy, popcorn, raffles, and of course Santa Claus. **We will have gifts for kids to age 10.**

The 2027 Dennis O'Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is now available. *All requests must be made by **Monday, Feb. 15, 2027** and all completed applications are due by Monday, **March 1, 2027**.* Call Mary at the Novi Union Hall 248-344-9494 to get one mailed to you. These are for sons/daughters of full dues paying **active/working members** of Ironworkers Local 25 who are in their senior year of High School. The member must have a minimum of five years continuous membership to be eligible.

Apprentice applications accepted electronically. Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can apply online, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

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

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

Apprentices: located under the Apprenticeship Tab you will find "Make-Up Days" & "Welding Test Certifications" where you can electronically schedule your make-up days and welding tests. To view classes at the Local 25 Apprenticeship School, please go to our website (ironworkers25.org); to view the 2026 Block Schedule, Roster or Raising Gang Schedule. Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our **APP** or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone no. is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall **(M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).**

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 log-in)

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 years.

The **Iron Workers' Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees' Club.** The Retirees' meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday Nov. 17 at 10 am. The Retirees' Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday Dec. 1, at 8 am. All are welcome.

The **West Michigan Chapter** Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 9 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW, Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

The next quarterly meeting for the **Bay City Chapter** expected to be Jan. 21, 2027; at the Iron Workers Local 25 Saginaw Union Hall, 11 Bridgeview S. Saginaw Mi 48604 at 12 pm. All are welcome.

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast will be January 22, 2027 at 9:00 am, at Mom's Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, MI. All are welcome.

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

In Memory: Shirley Parsons passed away Oct. 1, 2026 at the age of 85. She was the beloved wife & survived by IW Ronald K. Parsons #746531. Jerry Voyce Jr #1313390 passed away Oct. 25, 2026 at the age of 69. He was a member of Local 340/25 for 24 years; he will be remembered by his many friends and family in the Ironworking Industry. Lifetime IW Hank Johnson #596318 passed away Oct. 23, 2026 at the age of 88. He was a 70-year member of Local 25. His beloved wife Elaine predeceased him in 2010. Lifetime IW Roger Foco #807531 passed away Oct. 20, 2026 at the age of 82. He was a member for 57-years. He is survived by his wife Jan and many friends in the ironworking industry. Donald McKernan #864769 passed away Sept. 30, 2026 at the age of 85. He was a 55-year member of Local 25. His beloved wife Barbara predeceased him. James Newman #807549 passed away Oct. 25, 2026 at the age of 82. He was a 57-year member of Local 25. He is survived by his beloved wife Shirley. Kurt Rozengard #1353555 passed away November 5, 2026 at the age of 57. He was a 20-year member survived by his son Logan and his brother Mike Rozengard #1306246 and good friend Bo Morley #1306245. John McKinnon #1070498 passed Oct.1, 2026 at the age of 66, he was a 45-year member, and survived by his brother Mike McKinnon #935242. He was predeceased by his brother Andy McKinnon #699206.

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 (Nov 9, 2026 9 am E.S.T.).-

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"The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution."

–Bertrand Russell (1872 -

"Do not listen to those who weep and complain, for their disease is contagious."

–*Og M*andino (1923 - 1996)

"What does reason demand of a man? A very easy thing--to live in accord with his nature."

– Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149

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

The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues, Dec. 1, 2026, at 7 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues, Dec. 1, 2026, at 6 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

The Mid-Michigan meeting is scheduled for Tues., Apr. 13, 2027, at 6 pm. at 810 Tacoma Ct. Clio MI, 48420.

Condolences. It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of the following Brother. Brother Steve Chrcek was 81 years old and a 57-year member. Brother Chrcek passed on 9/26/2026. Rest in Peace Brother, thank you for your years of service.

Mark your calendar, the annual Commencement Ceremony and the Retiree's Christmas and Holiday luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19, 2026. The luncheon will take place at the IBEW Local 58 Union Hall on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10 am through 3 pm.

The IBEW Local No. 58 is at 1366 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48226. One block east of our Union Hall. An invitation will be sent to the Brothers and Sister regarding the 2025 Commencement Ceremony luncheon to those receiving their 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65 years of service.

Retirees' and those receiving their pins need to RSVP. Calling us will give our Hall a count of the food we will need for the catered lunch. Additionally, please let us know if your spouse or a date will be joining us.

Retirees' Association. Mark your calendar, the annual Retirees' Christmas and Holiday luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19, 2026. See the details above.

Being part of this association, you will be eligible to participate in several different events. Including but not limited to, our annual Christmas party, fall picnic outing, card games, and the camaraderie of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood, to name a few. The Association members are constantly seeking new and exciting things to do.

Being part of this association, it is required for you to pay a yearly fee. The yearly dues will cost you $40.00/yr., in addition to your monthly Union dues. The Association does not require the surviving spouse of a member to pay the yearly dues. The Members of the Retirees Association vote to set the amount of the yearly dues.

Will you be joining us? Calling us will give our Hall a count of the food we will need for the catered lunch. Additionally, please let us know if your spouse or a date will be joining us.

The Retirees Association has a Chain of Command and every 3 years the association will vote on a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Trustees, etc.

If you are a retired 149 member and you would like to receive any additional information about the Association or would like to join, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0.

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 Thomas Jaranowski at the Training Center, 248-206-7620, or TJaranowski@DetroitRoofers.org to make arrangements.

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.

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

Michigan State University Leinweber Center snapshots



SETTING UP TEMPORARY POWER at the Leinweber Center project at Michigan State University in East Lansing are Joseph Wilkins and Blake Hengesbach of IBEW Local 665. They're employed by Shaw Electric.



WE ASKED THIS GROUP of Michigan Regional Carpenters Council members to pause for a photo as they were headed home after a day's work at the Leinweber Center project at Michigan State University in East Lansing. They include (l-r) Kyle Lefke (Local 1004), Jon Branham (Local 525) and Juan Villa (Local 1004). They're employed by Granger Construction.



SETTING UP SWITCHGEAR FOR temporary power to the MSU Leinweber Center for Engineering and Digital Innovation are Braeden Riggs and Clayton Abfalter. The IBEW Local 665 members are employed by Shaw Electric.



DIGGING IN THE DIRT with a Takeuchi TB370 mini-excavator at the Leinweber Center project at Michigan State University is Mike Pfau of Operating Engineers Local 324. He's employed by Medina Resources.



Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

BAC Local 2

WARREN – **UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: November meeting - CANCELLED

SAGINAW CHAPTER: November meeting - CANCELLED

DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 2026, at 5:30 PM, at 21031 Ryan Rd, Warren MI 48091

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER: Tuesday, Dec. 1st, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd, Dexter, MI 48130

FLINT CHAPTER: Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, 2026, at 7:30 PM, 1701 W Genesee St, Lapeer, MI 48446 – *Apprentice meeting starts at 7:00 PM*



BRETT GIERAK

LANSING CHAPTER: Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2026, at 6 PM, 3321 Remy Dr, Lansing, MI 48906

GRAND RAPIDS: Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 233 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, Dec. 10th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 11847 Shaver Rd, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

HOUGHTON CHAPTER: Thursday, Dec. 10th, 2026, at 7:00 PM, 37737 Highway 26, Trivola, MI 49965

SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 5! Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Rd in Livonia. Doors open at 5 pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

KALAMAZOO MEMBERS – SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual Kalamazoo Christmas Party, Thursday, Dec. 17! 11847 Shaver Rd., Schoolcraft, MI 49087at 6 pm. Food & drink will be provided. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

U.P. MEMBERS – SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2's Annual U.P. Christmas Party, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2026! Vierling Restaurant Sample Room, 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI 49855 at 6:00pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Edward Graves** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 10/07/2026. Brother Graves had been a member for over 60 years.

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of **Brother Graham Sadler** (Bricklayer) who passed away on 10/31/2026. Brother Sadler had been a member for over 47 years.

APPRENTICE HOURS PORTAL: We have moved the Apprentice Hours Portal to a new platform called WorkHands. You should have received an email or text message with an invitation to join the platform.

All monthly hours must now be submitted through the WorkHands app. After you submit your hours, they will be reviewed by your foreman or superintendent, who will complete an evaluation of your progress before forwarding them to the Training Center.

Submitting your hours monthly through WorkHands is a requirement of your apprenticeship and is necessary to stay on track for your scheduled raises. All submissions must be completed online and include detailed information about the work you performed during the month. For more information please see the video announcement that was sent out in WorkHands on the updated evaluation process.

If you need assistance accessing the portal or help submitting your hours, resources are available online at: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org/resources

You may also contact Nate Nestor at (313) 467-5382 for additional support.

For more information about the Training Centers, please visit: https://www.michiganbricklayers.org

BAC LOCAL 2'S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members**.** To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST, or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to https://www.michiganbricklayers.org, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website, and register for future 2025 training classes.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. **Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.**

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

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

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

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

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

Local 514
Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 514

DETROIT – **December membership meeting is canceled due to the Christmas party.**

Membership Gold Cards-Congratulations!
November & December 2026
Boyd Pennington, Jr.-25 Years
Gerardo Guerra-25 years
Hector Leon-25 Years
Arthur Patino-25 Years
Roman Guzman-30 Years
Dino Ricciuti-30 Years
Jasen Thompson-30 Years
Raymond Redmond-40 Years

Happy Thanksgiving from OPCMIA Local 514! As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, Local 514 would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members, retirees, and their families.

We are truly thankful for the hard work, dedication, and loyalty of our members, both past and present. Your commitment and contributions have helped build the strong union family we are proud to be part of today.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with love, laughter, gratitude, and cherished moments with those who mean the most.From all of us at Local 514, we wish you and your families a safe, blessed, and Happy Thanksgiving!

We are pleased to announce that Patrick Tejkl is our new Outstate Business Agent for the Flint area. Members with any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Patrick directly at 517-719-2316. Please join us in welcoming Patrick to his new role!

We are pleased to announce that Membership Gold Cards will be distributed to our members at this year's Christmas Party. We encourage all members to make every effort to attend this special event and receive their Gold Card in person.

LOCAL 514 CHRISTMAS PARTY. We are pleased to announce that our Annual Local 514 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12! Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Location: Local 514 1154 E. Lincoln Avenue, Madison Hts. 48071 MEMBERS ONLY MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING TO ATTEND! Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of great food, fun, fellowship, and prizes! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our members!

We hope to see everyone there! Wishing all our members and their families a joyous holiday season!

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

Please contact the local office at 248-548-0800 or email your updated information to aajrouche@opcmiami.org. Please send your updated information promptly.

MUST Safety Awareness Training: Please check the MUST website at www.Mustbsafe.com to see how many modules you have. You must create a new username and password. We will send ALL MUST drug authorization forms to the members' email addresses.

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online, go to bcbsm.com/register and select Register Now.

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice, especially after a divorce, on all your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension, and Healthcare funds. The law requires that, in the event of an untimely death, your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

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

Attention, all Apprentices: you will now need to go to the website www.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website, click the link "About" and then click on "Apprentice.

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

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

Please refer to the website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Members and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Pat Tejkl at (517) 719-2316 or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

Members working for non-signatory commercial contractors are negatively impacting our market share. This year's work forecast looks better than last year's. Members working non-union will be brought up on charges and fined. Let's work together to secure our future!!

Please make sure your modules and drug test are up to date; some plant jobs require the MUST modules. You can go online at www.mustonline.org or call the Local if you need a drug form sent out.

Please make sure we have all of your current contact information, address, and phone number so we can keep the fund offices updated on your health care and pension, and whether you are having your vacation checks mailed out. If you have moved, please get in touch with the Local, and we will update your address with all fund offices.

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

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Outdoors

Fighting to save Michigan's bats

By Andy Henion
Michigan DNR



LITTLE BROWN BATS spending the winter in the Little Carp Mine in the Porcupine Mountains in Ontonagon County. *MDNR photo*

Think bats are spooky? Let's dispel some myths right off the, uh, bat.

Bats do not want to touch human hair. They are not blind. Less than 1 percent of bats carry rabies. And, no, bats do not suck blood (at least the bats living in Michigan).

Here's the real scary part about bats: Their numbers were decimated by a fungal disease called white-nose syndrome more than a decade ago and, despite researchers' ongoing efforts, have not yet recovered.

That's frightening because bats play an important role in our world. An average bat eats more than 3,000 bugs a night – from mosquitoes to moths to soft-shelled beetles, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

By consuming massive amounts of crop pests, bats save farmers as much as $23 billion annually in crop damage and pesticide expenses, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates. Bats also benefit the lumber industry by killing destructive forest pests, while nectar-feeding bats play a vital role as plant and crop pollinators.

A 2024 study published in *Science* found that, when bats die, farmers use more pesticides and infant deaths rise. According to the University of Chicago-led study, when bat populations crashed due to white-nose syndrome, farmers compensated by increasing insecticide use by 31 percent. This change corresponded with a nearly 8 percent rise in infant mortality rates in affected U.S. counties.

"We can't overestimate the importance of bats to our ecosystem," said John DePue, a wildlife biologist and bat specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "But due to white-nose syndrome, we've lost about 90 percent of our bats since it was first discovered in 2014."

White-nose syndrome, which ranks among the most devastating wildlife diseases in recent history, is caused by a fungus in hibernating bats that leaves a white growth on their muzzles, ears and wings. Infected bats prematurely awaken from hibernation, rapidly deplete their fat reserves and are unable to survive winter. They often exhibit unusual behavior, such as flying during daylight or gathering outside caves, in cold weather.

DePue has created a report documenting the efforts by the DNR and its research partners to monitor Michigan's bat population and combat white-nose syndrome over the past year. The report comes as bats take center stage during Halloween time and Bat Week (Oct. 24-31), an international celebration to raise awareness about the need for bat conservation.

Fungal disease takes its toll.

In October, swarms of bats descend into abandoned mines in the Upper Peninsula to hibernate for the winter. But those swarms are only a fraction of what they used to be.

Before white-nose syndrome hit, DePue and his fellow researchers would venture into the caves every year and document an average of nearly 2,000 hibernating bats per site, with some caves housing tens of thousands of bats. But since 2015, researchers have documented fewer than 800 bats per cave annually. During the 2025-26 winter season, they surveyed 24 sites and documented 510 bats per cave, according to the new report.

"Before the disease caused such big declines, we'd have individual sites with 50,000 bats," DePue said. "Now, the upper end is more like 1,000, 2,000, maybe 3,000 bats. We don't have those big sites anymore."

Michigan has nine species of bats, including four that hibernate in abandoned mines across the U.P. Of those four hibernating species, two of them – the little brown bat and the northern long-eared bat – were hit the hardest by white-nose syndrome.

Little brown bats, North America's most abundant bat species, experienced a population decline of about 85 percent due to the disease. DePue said it appears the little brown bat population is finally stabilizing, albeit at very low levels, and even ticking up in some site surveys.

That's not the case for the northern long-eared bat. While it used to account for about 15 percent of Michigan's bats, the species now accounts for less than 1 percent of the state's bat population. The deadly effects of white-nose syndrome literally put the once-thriving northern long-eared bat on the federal endangered species list.

"I do have a real concern for northern long-eared bats, as their populations do not appear to be recovering," DePue said. His team documented only one northern long-eared bat during the 2025-26 cave survey.

And then there's the mystery of Tippy Dam in the Lower Peninsula's Manistee County. Somehow, a huge colony of bats – mostly little brown bats – has hibernated on the concrete walls inside the hydroelectric dam for more than a decade without succumbing to white-nose syndrome.

An Eastern Michigan University survey of Tippy Dam in early 2026 documented a vibrant population of about 26,500 bats. EMU researchers have confirmed the fungus exists in Tippy Dam and are attempting to determine why the bats are faring better than their U.P. counterparts. The researchers are studying factors including temperature, humidity, genetics and the makeup of the dam itself.

The answers could ultimately help in the larger effort to save bats from the deadly fungus that causes white-nose syndrome.

Fighting for bats.

The DNR is teaming with universities, federal agencies, tribal groups, mine owners and conservation organizations on multiple efforts to mitigate further loss to the bat population.

Projects range from the installation of gates at mines to keep people from disturbing hibernating bats to the use of ultraviolet light in hopes of killing the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome.

DePue is leading a research project with Michigan Technological University to ventilate the abandoned Carp Lake Mine in the Porcupine Mountains to lower the mine's temperature by a few degrees. A cooler mine means less fungus and possibly better bat survival rates.

The project, which began in 2019 and is funded by federal and private grants, is showing signs of success. Researchers have effectively lowered the mine's temperature with venting and propane-powered fans, and bats are hibernating in the artificially cooled area.

But can the project improve bats' long-term survival rate? DePue believes it can.

"I am optimistic that if we cool it, they will come," he said.

On the flip side, DePue and his team a couple years ago decided to insulate another abandoned mine with heavy-duty foam to block the freezing wind and hopefully attract the first hibernating bats. Getting the hibernating temperature just right is tricky: too warm and the bats can get fungal disease; too cold and frostbite can set in.

The insulated cave seems to be working. Two years ago, DePue spotted the first two bats – both big brown bats – hibernating in the mine. Last year, there were five big brown bats hibernating. "It will be interesting to see if little brown bats show up too," DePue said. "They just need to find it."

Big brown bats are very abundant in Michigan, particularly in the southern part of the state and in urban and suburban areas. And while big brown bats can get white-nose syndrome, these larger bats are surviving the disease at much higher rates than little brown bats and northern long-eared bats.

Be a bat ambassador.

So, what can you do to help bats survive and thrive? Stay out of caves and mines where bats are hibernating in winter. If a bat is disturbed during hibernation, it may become active and use up its fat reserves, leading to starvation.

On your own property, you can create a bat garden free of pesticides and herbicides, according to Bat Conservation International. Planting native vegetation creates roosting habitat and gives diverse insects a place to grow into the perfect meal for bats.

You can also give bats a helping hand by putting up a bat house. Bat houses are a bit complicated and frustrating to get right, but good construction and placement will allow you to observe bats and grow your understanding of these fascinating animals.

Another option is helping out with bat monitoring efforts. In 2025, the DNR and Michigan Natural Features Inventory introduced the Michigan Bat Roost Monitoring Program to help bridge gaps in our understanding of bats.

In the first year, community scientists reported nearly 150 summer bat roosts or emergence counts. Emergence counts involve sitting near a roost in the evening and counting the number of bats as they emerge. This allows researchers to estimate the number of bats using a roost and help them to understand fluctuations in bat populations over time. "We had a successful first year with the Bat Roost Monitoring Program and look forward to even more participation from community scientists in the years to come," DePue said.

Finally, we can simply educate ourselves and our neighbors about bats to build a better understanding and acceptance of these misunderstood animals. For many of us, that means overcoming a fear of bats based on those pesky old myths.

That bat flying crazily over your head in the evening? It sees just fine and is perfectly capable of avoiding your hair. Instead of freaking out, you could thank the bat for preventing another mosquito bite.

Aren't bats just flying mice? Nope. Bats belong to a completely different order than mice, sharing closer evolutionary ties with mammals. Unlike mice, which can produce 100 babies or more per year, most bats give birth to single pups only once a year.

But bats want to suck my blood! Out of the 1,400-plus bat species, only three species of vampire bats feed on blood. Those bats opt for livestock, wild animals and birds, not humans. Oh, and they're restricted to tropical climates, far, far away from Michigan.

"Bats get a bad rap, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says, "and we need your help to dispel bat myths and help people learn the truth about these fascinating and beneficial animals."

Learn more about Michigan's bats at Michigan.gov/Bats.

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