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SHORT CUTS



Rare-earth metals mine eyed in U.P.

The mining industry and building trades jobs in the Upper Peninsula have traditionally gone hand in hand over the past 150 years, even as the extraction of new metals has evolved.

Building trades workers have made careers out of the starting, servicing, rehabilitating and re-opening of U.P. mines — especially those that contain iron ore. Over the past decade, the ongoing extraction of nickel and copper deposits in Big Bay's Eagle Mine have proven to be of great value.

Now, U.S. steelmaker Cleveland Cliffs CEO Lourenco Goncalves has told investors that geological surveys in Michigan, U.P. and Minnesota show great promise for the extraction of rare-earth metals, which are valuable in the manufacture of high-tech products.

"The important thing is that they are there," said Goncalves on Oct. 20. "We found them there. And we want to make it viable. We really believe that we have potential there. And that it will be good for Michigan, for the Upper Peninsula, primarily. And there's even one site in Minnesota that we would go to. It's not very friendly to us, but we will still investigate there. But we'll definitely start in Michigan, the Upper Peninsula, because we love the Upper Peninsula."

Goncalves did not reveal where the mineable rare earth minerals were found in the U.P. Cleveland Cliffs owns Michigan's only remaining iron ore mine, the Tilden Mine, located south of Ishpeming. Next door, the Empire Mine has been idled since 2016.

The Tilden has the capacity to produce 8 million tons of iron ore pellets annually, making it one of the largest producers in the world.

Rare earths are a group of not uncommon, but usually highly dispersed metals in the Earth's crust, which are vital to products such as electric vehicle motors, consumer electronics, renewable energy and military systems. They have been in the news recently because they're extracted and refined in the greatest quantities in China — and potential trade wars and having their imports cut off could be a security threat to the U.S. supply chain.

"America's industrial foundation must never depend on China or any other foreign source for essential minerals, and Cliffs intends to be part of the solution," Goncalves said.

Mineral extraction at the U.P.'s Eagle Mine started in 2014. Work leading up to that cost \$469 million and put to work some 500 unionized construction workers. The mine, which continues to operate, has brought about the creation of 480 operational jobs.

A representative for Lundin, which owns the Eagle Mine, last summer said the goal is to keep the mine open until 2027 to 2029. Additional areas at Eagle Mine are continuing to be explored for minerals.

Companies are continuing to look at other U.P. sites for mining opportunities, especially nickel. Old mine waste is also being examined for potentially valuable metals.

Quotable

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

—Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)



LOCATED ON THE SHORES of Lake Michigan in Van Buren County, the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant will be the first plant in the United States to be re-started after being decommissioned. Hundreds of building trades union workers have been on site this year rehabilitating the plant.

Photo credits: Holtec

Uranium fuel delivery marks milestone for Palisades return

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

COVERT TWP. — The progression toward splitting atoms again at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant took a leap forward on Oct. 20, with the arrival of the site's first fuel shipment.

"The Palisades Nuclear Power Plant... has received new nuclear fuel — 68 assemblies in total — achieving a major milestone on the path to restarting the plant," said a statement released by owner Holtec International. "Procuring new fuel was among the earliest long-lead activities in the project, requiring months of technical preparation and regulatory coordination."

"Palisades' historic transition from decommissioning to operations status that occurred with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's authorization in late August 2025 enabled the plant to receive new fuel at the site."

The uranium fuel, Holtec said, was fabricated domestically "by a highly respected nuclear fuel manufacturer" that has supplied Palisades and others in the nuclear industry for decades. Upon arrival and in-depth quality inspection, Holtec said the accepted batch of fuel was placed in secure storage within the site's "Spent Fuel Pool Building" where it will remain until its loading in the reactor core.

Acceptance of the fuel is

a major milestone for the plant, but is a relatively small portion of the buzz of construction activity ongoing at the nuclear plant.

Located on the Lake Michigan about five miles south of South Haven, the plant is undergoing an historic resurrection — it

will be the first U.S. nuclear plant in history to be restarted after being decommissioned.

Ongoing work at the plant, which involves the skills of building trades union workers — is being closely watched by

(Continued on Page 13)



PALISADES REACTOR engineers last month perform an inspection of new fuel assemblies before placement in the site's new fuel storage racks.

IBEW 906's Hogan now a U.P. Labor hall of famer



Tom Hogan

MARQUETTE — Congratulations to longtime IBEW Local 906 Business Manager Tom Hogan, who was inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame.

Hogan was inducted on Nov. 1 at a dinner and program along with AFSCME member/federal mediator Don Maki, with both "recognized for their lifelong dedication to improving the lives of working men and women in the Upper Peninsula," according to the Hall of Fame.

"I would ask every union member in the room who is over the age 60 to please stand," Hogan said during his acceptance speech at the Northern Michigan Uni-

versity's Northern Center. "You'll see that they are very proud folks. But very tired. We know that we have lots of younger members, and we're looking at you. And we know you're capable. So the question in Hogan's terms, is are you going to get off your ass and participate and help? Or are you going to sit there and let the old people have to do everything again?"

A Marine, Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Hogan began his IBEW apprenticeship in 1974 with the former IBEW Local 1070. During his time with Local 1070, positions he held within the union include job steward, vice president and president of the Local.

(Continued on Page 4)

New effort seeks to re-reform state's Workers' Comp law

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING — Michigan workers injured on the job have been receiving reduced benefits from the state's Workers' Compensation system since 2011 — and they have had to jump through more hoops to get money

that is available.

But the state House Labor Caucus is now making an effort to reform the state's Workers Comp system and restore some of those lost benefits and take away some hurdles for injured workers. Caucus members, all Democrats, held a press conference on Oct. 30 to in-

troduce a bill package, House Bills 5177-5191, aimed at rebalancing workers' compensation standards.

"For far too long, the workers' compensation system has failed the very people it was designed to protect," said state Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac),

(Continued on Page 2)

World War I 'Tin Derbies' used to shed raining rivets

When helmets became hard hats

From *The Electrical Worker*, a publication of the IBEW

"Helmets to Hardhats" is the name of an organization that helps transition military veterans into building trades union jobs. The origin of the term, however, dates back much further.

In 1931, it was IBEW members who first converted their helmets to hardhats and introduced a fundamental piece of safety equipment now used around the world.

In October 1931, a 25-story post office building was under construction in Boston. As the ironworkers traversed wooden planks on the upper floors, members of IBEW Local 103 began electrical work on the lower floors. In those days, it was customary for the stray bolt, nut or rivet to fall through the planks, but on this particular job the incoming barrage had become an epidemic.

In an article from the December 1931 *Electrical Worker*, Local 103 members detailed the dangerous working conditions. "Red-hot rivets have been plunging down through the web," Local 103 Business

(Continued on Page 4)



FALLING DEBRIS at a jobsite in Boston in 1931 spurred the IBEW innovation of using old World War I military helmets as head protection on construction sites.

Photo credit: IBEW

OSHA's key General Duty Clause floated for watered-down role

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is one of the few federal government agencies that specifically sets standards for the on-the-job well-being of the nation's workers.

Over the years OSHA's budgets have been reduced, its rules have been made less effective, and hiring of inspectors has fluctuated. But until now, one bulwark of OSHA has remained unaltered: the "General Duty Clause," which is a catch-all rule — albeit being difficult to enforce — that requires employers to provide a workplace "free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm."

Now, that general clause is seeing its first specific threat under a new proposal by the Trump Administration.

Trump's OSHA is scheming to not enforce the General Duty Clause at all in occupations featuring "inherently risky professional activities," as the proposal's title proclaims. The Trump DOL's proposal itself



'Inherently risky' jobs could lose agency's shield; construction next?

lists a total of 115,400 workers it would leave bare of protection: professional athletes, animal trainers, actors, dancers, musicians, singers and "all other entertainers and performers, sports and related workers."

The fear is that this is a trial balloon to apply the exemption to even more worker classifications. The proposal was published before much of the federal government, including virtually all of OSHA, shut down.

"In a nutshell, if the rule were issued, employers would have no general legal obligation to furnish workers in such occupations with a workplace that is 'free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to

(Continued on Page 3)

Labor can't grow without taking on bigger targets

By Kate Bronfenbrenner
The American Prospect

Last year, U.S. unions cautiously celebrated a turnaround in their organizing fortunes. National Labor Relations Board election win rates had reached 79 percent, and the number of workers organized for the year approached 100,000, the highest number since 2009.

Yet these gains masked a harsher reality for labor, even before the disastrous 2024 elections. For the labor movement to grow, it needs to organize millions of workers each year, not 100,000. Organizing continues to lag in fast-growing, low-density sectors such as personal services,

Viewpoint

'It won't be easy — but taking on corporate power never is'

IT, finance, and health care, while union-heavy sectors like government and manufacturing keep shedding jobs.

Many organizing victories of the last few years — including landmark wins at Amazon, Starbucks, REI and Trader Joe's — have yet to yield first contracts, as employers refuse to bargain and some go so far as to challenge the legitimacy of the NLRB.

And things have only gotten harder since Trump began his second term, dismantling the regulatory state, detaining and deporting immigrant workers, and stripping a million federal workers of collective bargaining rights.

Avoiding hard targets. Starting around the time of the first Trump Administration, many unions responded to the increasingly challenging organizing environment by shifting to campaigns for smaller bargaining units in firms and industries less central to the global economy, where unions had more leverage to restrain the employer's anti-union campaign.

The proportion of union elections has increased in customer-facing industries such as social services, education, digital media,

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Viewpoints



Open or shut, NLRB at risk

The government shutdown ended this week with nearly a quarter of the federal workforce ending its furlough. That means that more than 600,000 workers have not been performing important federal service jobs – and were not receiving a paycheck.

Still, while some federal agencies were working in limited capacity, many worker protection agencies have ceased the enforcement of our nation’s labor laws.

For example, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had ceased almost all case handling, including conducting routine union elections and investigating unfair labor practice charges. This means workers’ ability to exercise their right to form unions or hold their employers accountable for violating the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) were on hold until the government reopens. However, even as the government reopens, workers’ rights will still be under attack due to pre-shutdown actions of the Trump administration.

The NLRB is the sole agency responsible for interpreting and enforcing the NLRA for more than 100 million private-sector workers. However, Trump has attacked the agency’s independence, illegally firing Board Member Gwynne Wilcox because he did not like her decisions “disfavoring the interests of employers.”

Further, Trump issued Executive Order 14215 giving himself and the attorney general the authority to issue interpretations of the law that place independent agencies like the NLRB under their control. Congress designed the board to function as an independent quasi-judicial agency, with board members deciding cases based on the law and evidence. The NLRB’s independence is essential and supported by its legislative history and decades of jurisprudence.

Currently, the Board has only one remaining member. Trump nominated Scott Mayer, the chief labor counsel at Boeing, and James Murphy, a longtime NLRB lawyer, to be members of the Board. At a recent hearing on their nominations, they stated that, as Board members, they would “follow the law” but failed to acknowledge that Trump’s executive order essentially equates Trump’s position to “the law.”

As the government shutdown concludes and regional offices resume case handling, the absence of a quorum and concerns around the agency’s lack of independence will create obstacles for workers who are trying to exercise their rights under the NLRA. By firing Wilcox for “disfavoring the interests of employers,” Trump has created the expectation that future Board members are expected to side with employers over workers, effectively destroying the agency’s independence and robbing private-sector workers of the only forum available to them to protect their organizing and collective bargaining rights.

Despite claiming to be pro-worker, President Trump has consistently put forward policies that benefit employers over workers. If the Trump administration really cared about workers, they would sufficiently fund worker protection agencies. Instead, they have proposed decreasing the budgets of these agencies. If the Trump administration really cared about workers, they would propose regulations that strengthen and expand worker protections. Instead, they have put forward a deregulatory agenda that make workers less safe and more vulnerable to wage theft.

If the Trump administration really cared about workers, they would pass labor law reform that would ensure all workers would have the right to organize and bargain collectively. Instead, President Trump has stripped federal workers of their collective bargaining rights and Congress has failed to pass meaningful labor law reform. It is now up to Congress to defend the independence of the NLRB and to protect workers’ rights.

Margaret Poydock and Celine McNicholas
Economic Policy Institute

Hogan a U.P. Labor hall of famer

(Continued from Page 1)

Beginning in 1986, he began to serve 25 years as business manager of Local 1070, which was later merged into Upper Peninsula IBEW Local 906.

Hogan’s resume includes a list of civic and charitable activities. The executive director of the Midwest Shriners, Hogan has served on the Marquette City Commission; as a trustee on the City of Marquette Police and Fire Pension Fund, on the Bay de Noc Community College’s MTECH Hiring Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Lake

THE UPPER PENINSULA Labor Hall of Fame banquet was held Nov. 1 at the Northern Center on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

Superior Community Partnership. Maki started employment as a City of Norway police officer, then worked on the Northern Michigan University Public Safety Department. While working at NMU, Maki became a union steward and later became president of AFSCME Local 1094, where his career with the union took off.

“We need the group who tries to problem-solve, create solutions, and get this damn thing

done right... hard work, dedication, stuff like this. It’s not an 8-4 job. It’s a lifestyle. You don’t do it for the awards,” said Maki, pointing to his heart during his acceptance speech, “You do it because it’s right here.”



United we stand – on plenty of issues

By Jim Hightower

A headline on a recent news article caught my eye, for it declared, “Americans Disagree on Everything.” I said to myself: “I disagree with that!”

Indeed, the untold story of today’s America is the good news that

We the People fundamentally agree on more than what supposedly separates us.

It is true that our daily media feed does relentlessly push political negativity and discord, and it’s true that hyper-partisan



politicians grab attention by hammering their narrow views into swords of hatred. But that’s them, not the greater us.

Even hot-button issues that dominate the Internet and talk-shows are actually not all that divisive for the majority of us. For example, nearly 90 percent of Americans (including two-thirds of Republicans) oppose the right-wing attempt to whitewash our nation’s history by restricting teachers, museums, etc. from addressing such realities as slavery.

More significantly, consider the real needs of ordinary workaday families. Basics like living wages, protecting Social Security, busting-up monopolies, cleaning up pollution, providing affordable housing, funding our

parks and libraries, stopping price gouging.

Overwhelmingly, Americans in red, blue, and purple areas agree on what government ought to be doing – and disagrees with what it is doing. But the plutocratic moneyed elites that now fund and perpetuate Americas corrupt and dysfunctional government profit by promoting hatreds to pit us against each other, praying that all of us don’t focus on them.

Don’t succumb to their self-serving lies, but seek ways to unite in what we Americans do agree on – specifically our historic commitment to the democratic values of economic fairness, social justice, and equal treatment for all. Anything less is BS.

“That’s what I consider true generosity. You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.”
–Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)

“You can’t stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.”
–Winnie the Pooh, A. A. Milne (1882-1956)

The Building Tradesman welcomes your letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and to shorten them. Please sign the letter and include a way to contact you.

How to contact us –
By mail: Building Tradesman Editor
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216
e-mail: buildingtradesman@ameritech.net

“The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You don’t blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny.”
–Albert Ellis (1913-2007)

“To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.”
–Chinese Proverb

“Do not throw the arrow which will return against you.”
–Kurdish Proverb

Just joking

A naked woman enters a bar, gets stared at by everybody, and walks up to the bartender. “Gimme a shot of whiskey,” she demanded.

The bartender shrugs and pours her a shot of whiskey.

The woman gulps it down, bangs the empty shot glass onto the bar, and calls over the bartender again. “Gimme another shot of whiskey,” she said.



The bartender pours another shot, hands it to her, and she gulps that one down. She calls the bartender over again. “Gimme another shot of whiskey!”

The bartender pauses and looks her over. “What’s the matter,” she said. “You never saw a naked woman before?”

“No that’s not it,” the bartender said. “You mind telling me how you’re going to pay for those shots?”

“It is certainly desirable to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.”
–Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD)

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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Onaway steers the world HISTORY IN THE MAKING

By Marty Mulcahy



THE AMERICAN WOOD TRIM Co. plant is shown here in Onaway, date unknown, but prior to a devastating fire that ceased operations there in 1926. The plant was once the largest producer of wooden steering wheels in the world. Portions of the plant that survived the fire fell into ruins. Today the area is part of a park that has half-mile long trail winding through the property. Some of the concrete structures are still in place.

Photo credit: Atlas Obscura

Wooden steering wheels for cars? Wooden bicycle wheels? They sound like quaint relics of an earlier era of American manufacturing – and they are.

But with the science of metallurgy and the invention of plastic decades away from offering better alternatives, making those products out of wood once proved to be a popular option for bike and auto manufacturers.

Surrounded by hardwood forests, tiny Onaway in Presque Isle County became an unlikely, outsized, and for a time, an indispensable center for the production of wooden steering wheels and bike rims. Until it all ended, abruptly and tragically, at the town’s American Wood Rim Co. plant on Jan. 14, 1926. That morning the spread of a spark in the site’s sanding machine turned into a devastating fire that completely changed Onaway.

On one hand, of course, we will never know what might have happened to Onaway if the fire never happened. On the other hand, we know that wooden automobile steering wheels would have a limited life, but the company lived on, manufacturing other wooden products into the 21st Century after it relocated downstate to Alma.

The American Wood Rim Co. had intense competition from other U.S. wood products companies – but it still had an outsized influence as a supplier to the automotive and bicycle industries. In fact an April 1908 publication of the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor said the American Wood Rim Co. is “a corporation which has a practical monopoly of the output of wood rims in the United States.”

Even so, Onaway never recovered when the company decided not to rebuild there after the fire, and moved its operations 160 miles south to Alma.

“E.J. Lobdell was a manufacturer of bicycle parts, including saddles and wheels, operating out of Ohio,” said an entry in *Atlas Obscura*. “In 1901, he moved his business to Michigan to take advantage of the state’s abundant hardwood supply. Over time, and with the advent of the automobile boom, Lobdell shifted his manufacturing business away from bicycle parts. He started making steering wheels for the cars being built in Detroit, and called his new venture the American Wood Rim Co. It went on to become the world’s largest supplier of wooden steering wheels for automobiles, as well as boats, tractors, and other vehicles.”

According to the Onaway Historical Museum, “the Lobdell Emery Manufacturing co. was involved in lumbering, sawmill operations and the making of such products as dowels, banger stock.” The museum said the sister company Lobdell founded in 1901, the American Wood Rim Co., “was the world’s largest and finest producer of automobile steering wheels and bicycle rims.”

Lobdell purchased forested land in Onaway from Cheboygan timberman Merritt Chandler, who owned 40,000 acres and would only sell to lumber companies willing to move to Onaway and employ local settlers.

“The Lobdell-Emery Mfg. Co. purchased 28,000 acres of the finest standing hard rock maple forest in the southern peninsula of Michigan, and erected a very large sawmill



HOLDING A PECULIAR NICHE in the early automotive supply chain, the American Wood Trim Co. plant in Onaway, shown in an undated postcard view, manufactured wooden steering wheels for decades. The company also produced other wood products including bicycle rims. Wooden steering wheels were slowly phased out and stopped being manufactured by the late 1930s.

Image credit:

Onaway Historical Society

and woodwork manufacturing plant in Onaway in 1901,” said a history prepared by the *Onaway Outlook*. “There was an annual cut of 20 million feet of hard rock maple per annum, so as to manufacture from this timber straight-grain hard rock maple rim strips suitable for the rim work.”

With the presence of the American Wood Rim Co. and its sister company, the Lobdell Emery Manufacturing Co., Onaway experienced tremendous growth in its early years. The big industry, along with the profitable timber business made Onaway the biggest little town in northern Michigan, said the Onaway Historical Museum.

“According to one report, Onaway had two newspapers, three lawyers, four doctors, three large hotels, 17 saloons, nine churches, two bakeries, a fairgrounds, racetrack and an opera house in the pre-fire days,” the museum account says. “The figure varies, but Onaway’s population was approximately 4,000 and the two huge industries employed anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 persons.”

While Henry Ford was manufacturing wooden Model T parts, including steering wheels, from forest land he owned in the Upper Peninsula, Lobdell was making and selling wooden steering wheels and other automotive parts to a number of car manufacturers – there were hundreds of them at the time.

He sold steering wheels to Duesenberg, Packard, Cadillac, Elmore, Hudson, Oakland, Oldsmobile and Durant Motors companies, among numerous other firms. “Although it’s impossible to list all of its customers,” the Onaway Historical Museum said, “the American Wood Rim Co., which specialized in making wheels for medium- and higher-priced vehicles, supplied practically all the wheels for trucks and some tractors.”

A local Onawayan, Marshall Whitshire, coined the phrase, “Onaway Steers the World,” and he received \$5 from the local chamber of commerce for his suggestion.

The 1920s were a booming period for the company. Then came the fire.

At 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 14, 1926, a spark was apparently drawn from a shaft into the

“THE WORLD’S LARGEST steering wheel” is one of the metal sculptures on the grounds of the former site of the American Wood Rim Co. in Onaway.

Photo credit: Atlas Obscura

blowers of a sanding machine. Several pipes led from the machine which spread the fire to different parts of the room. Strong winds drove the fire through wood-working sections of the plant. Production units of the plant were consumed by fire, but not as heavily damaged were the sawmill, foundry, nickel plating department and lumber yards. Four perished in the fire.

The auto industry soon learned how critical Onaway steering wheels would be to the industry’s supply chain. Ray Young, a summer Onaway resident, recalled to the museum that he worked at the Hudson Motor Car Co. in Detroit at the time of the big Onaway fire.

“There I learned first-hand just what a crippling, crushing blow this fire caused the automobile industry,” he wrote. “After their 10-day stock of steering wheels was exhausted they had to drive the otherwise finished cars and trucks off the assembly line with monkey wrenches” to control steering.

Lobdell said it would take too long to rebuild the burned-out Onaway plant. He opted to relocate the American Wood Rim Co. A Jan. 20, 1926 report in the *Saginaw News* said no less than 60 cities were making a pitch to land the relocated company. “The plant, the largest of its kind in the world, would locate in Alma,” the article said. The company would take over the vacant Republic Motor Truck Co. Plant No. 3.

Lobdell told the paper Alma was “admirably adapted” to the needs of the relocated company and to the 700-800 workers he offered to relocate. It had “good water, good schools, ample fire protection good schools and housing conditions.” Just like that, Onaway lost half of its population, businesses closed their doors, schools emptied out, and the local major tax base dried up.

American Wood Rim Co. merged into Lobdell-Emery Manufacturing and continued as one of the largest employers in Alma, with a workforce of around 600 people making wood products. They stayed in in business until 2005.



BAC Local 2
WARREN – UPCOMING MEETINGS.

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: November Meeting – CANCELLED
HOUGHTON MEETING: November Meeting – CANCELLED
SAGINAW CHAPTER: November Meeting – CANCELLED
METRO DETROIT CHAPTER: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 at 5:30pm, 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

BRETT GIERAK CANCELLED

General Duty Clause could see lesser role

(Continued from Page 1)

cause serious physical harm,” writes Lauren McFerran for the *Regulatory Review*, a University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School publication. “The proposal depicts this new safety exemption as narrow in focus, targeting only the entertainment and sports industries, but the draft opens the door for a broader reading. Moreover, the implications of carving even narrow classifications of workers and occupations out of the general duty clause could be far more significant than the Labor Department’s ‘nothing to see here’ approach would suggest.”

Proposing to exclude professions like athletes and dancers from the OSHA General Duty Clause seems unfair – while they might be in “inherently risky” occupations, don’t employers still have an obligation to provide safe turf on a football field to help prevent catastrophic injuries to players? And for dancers, don’t employers have an obligation to provide, say, a safe stage?

And there’s a reason for the administration’s weirdly specific inclusion of “animal trainers.” In 2010 an orca trainer at Sea World in Florida died after an orca attack. McFerran said OSHA issued a citation to Sea World under the OSHA General Duty Clause. SeaWorld challenged the citation, arguing that a risk cannot constitute a “recognized hazard” for purposes of the general duty clause when the work involved is “inherently dangerous.”

OSHA’s citation against Sea World was upheld in the U.S. Court of Appeals, with a majority of the panel holding that the worker/victim’s “assumption of risk” was contrary to Congress’s clear direction in the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of unions and environmental groups, on Oct. 21 wrote a formal letter of protest to OSHA regarding the attack on the General Duty Clause. The alliance stressed that “for many workers, the general duty clause is the only legal protection.”

“In the absence of a specific OSHA rule,” the alliance said in the letter, “which takes on average seven years from introduction to implementation, the general duty clause has historically functioned as a safety net for protecting workers when no specific OSHA standard exists for a particular hazard. While this proposed rule has put forth a non-exhaustive list of industries that would be affected by this rule, there is no guarantee that this rule will not lead to additional industries being excluded from the general duty clause and even more workers losing the legal protections it offers.”

McFerran concurred: “Indeed, the *Sea World* (appeals court case) majority made just this point, noting that ‘many traditional industries can be extremely dangerous to their employees: construction, metal pouring, logging, welding, firefighting, roofing, electrical power line installation, handling explosives.’ These jobs all involve some level of risk, but most reasonable minds would agree that such risks speak to the need for more – not fewer – workplace safety protections.”

The broader threat to the General Duty Clause is real, as the Trump Administration is not only aggressively reducing the federal workforce, he has unleashed a pro-business deregulatory agenda that requires agencies to identify 10 regulations to repeal in order to enact one new regulation.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

ANN ARBOR CHAPTER:

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 at 6 pm, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter, MI 48130.

FLINT CHAPTER: December Meeting – CANCELLED
LANSING CHAPTER:

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025 at 6 pm, 3321 Remy Dr., Lansing, MI 48906

KALAMAZOO CHAPTER: Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 at 6 PM, 11847 Shaver Road, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

MARQUETTE CHAPTER: Monday, Dec. 15, 2025 at 7 PM, 119 S Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855

HOUGHTON MEETING: December Meeting - CANCELLED - Due to the U.P. Christmas Party, which is scheduled on the same day

SAVE THE DATE: BAC Local 2’s Annual Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 6! Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Rd in Livonia. Doors open at 5pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

U.P. MEMBERS – SAVE

THE DATE: BAC Local 2’s Annual U.P. Christmas Party, Thursday, Dec. 18! Vierling Restaurant Sample Room, 119 S Front St, Marquette, MI at 6pm. GOOD STANDING MEMBERS ONLY!

Our sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Brother Elio Toniolo (Bricklayer) who passed away on 11/5/2025. Brother Toniolo had been a member for over 61 years.

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

BAC LOCAL 2’S TRAINING CENTERS: Both of Local 2 Training Centers are open to our members. To make your appointment for your annual RESPIRATOR FIT TEST, or for other scheduled appointments at the Warren or Lansing Training Center, please contact Nate Nestor directly at (313) 467-5382. Go to <https://www.michiganbricklayers.org>, to view the Apprenticeship and Training website and register for future 2025 training classes.

UNION DUES: Pay 9 months, get 3 free. To receive the discount, you must be current on dues. Members will only be able to pay 2 years in advance.

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

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

These services were established and are intended to help get us through difficult life situations.

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

PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

BAC of Michigan Health & Welfare Fund – (248) 828-6000
CALL-A-DOC – (800) 835-2362

Cement Pension & Vacation Funds – (248) 645-6550

International Pension/Annuity Fund – (888) 880-8222 or (202) 638-1996 (bacbenefits.org)

Metro Detroit Bricklayers Pension – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Pension Fund (Outstate) – (248) 641-4954

Michigan BAC Vacation Fund – (248) 828-6000



Local 514 Cement Masons & Plasterers

Operative Plasterers’ and Cement Masons’ Local 514

DETROIT –The next membership meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. We will be having food and refreshments. There will also be an executive board meeting the same day at 5:30 p.m. Please make every effort to come and fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Membership Gold Cards- Congratulations!

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

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope you have a wonderful holiday filled with relaxation and joy.

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

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

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

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

Please activate your Blue Cross Blue Shield account. To activate your Blue Cross member account online go to bcbsm.com/register and select register now.

Beneficiary Reminder: Please remember to designate or update your beneficiary choice especially after a divorce on all your OPCMIA Local 514, American Income Life Accidental Benefit, Pension and Healthcare funds. The law requires that in the event of an untimely death your benefits go to your estate and may be taxable. Each individual benefit needs to have a designated beneficiary.

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

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

Attention all Apprentices, now you will need to go to the website: www.micementplasterertraining.com to enter your work hours. When you get to the website click the link “About” and then click on “Apprentice

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

The Local’s website is: www.opciami.org.

Please refer to the website for updated information.

O.P.C.M.I.A. Local 514 has a satellite office in Flint, Michigan. We welcome Member and Contractors in the Flint area to handle their business transactions at: 2630 Grand Traverse, Flint, MI 48503. Appointments may be made by contacting Business Agent Mike Stanfield at (517) 719-2316, or the Business Manager Henry Williams at (313) 215-5063.

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

Let’s work together to secure our future!!

LiUNA!

Laborers
International
Union of
North America

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

LABORERS RISING: Laborers Rising is a powerful initiative focused on building power and making a difference with our fellow sisters and brothers. Through Laborers Rising, Laborers Local 1191 will be asking its Membership to volunteer their time to support various issues that enhance the lives of working families. If you wish to join our Laborers Rising volunteer list, please call the Local Union at (313) 894-2241 M-F 8:00am – 4:00pm to provide necessary contact information.

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

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

Monthly General Membership Meetings: All General Membership Meetings are held on the first Friday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Local Union, at 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208 (except for holidays), unless the Membership receives notice of a meeting cancellation, rescheduling and/or a venue change.

The last General Membership Meeting of 2025 will be

held on Dec. 5 where the yearly celebratory Christmas dinner will be served promptly following the Membership Meeting. General Membership meetings will resume in 2026 on Jan. 9, 2025 in observance of the New Year holiday.

Monthly Retiree Council Meetings: are the last Friday of each month. The meetings are held at 11 am at the Local Union, 2161 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208. **The last monthly Retiree Council Meeting for 2025 was held on Oct. 31. The Retiree Council Meetings resume on Jan. 30, 2026.**

Union Dues For 2025: Regular monthly dues are **\$35.00 for Active Members.** Retiree monthly dues will remain the same **\$8.00.** Members can now Pay Dues online 24/7 on our website at www.laborerslocal1191.org! 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.

Local 1191
Feel the Power

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.

Referral List: Every member who is looking for work must call or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm to put their name on the Out-of-Work list. You must have an Out-of-Work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by the Local Union. **FYI: It is the Member’s responsibility to regularly notify the Local Union of any changes to his/her skillsets. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!**

Drug Test Renewal: Members are reminded to keep your Yearly Drug Test current and also your 18 safety modules. You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training schools located in Perry, Wayne, St. Joseph, or Iron Mountain by calling (517) 625-4919 or by visiting the training school website at www.mltai.org to schedule appointments for modules. You can also contact the Local Union office at (313) 894-2241 to use a Local Union computer to complete required modules.

Training: Check out the training classes available to you at no cost. Journeymen and Apprentices may still obtain training through MLTAI’s online training at <https://lms.mltai.org>. Types of training you can take include, but are not limited to: OSHA 30, Asbestos Awareness, Silica Awareness, Infectious Disease Awareness, Respirator Awareness, Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens Awareness, and Lead Awareness. The above training and certifications are all available at the training center. **By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well.** If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local Union to assist you with making arrangements to complete them.

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

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

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

Available Scholarships:

New effort seeks to re-reform Michigan Workers’ Comp law

(Continued from Page 1)

a member of the labor caucus. “I am proud to join my colleagues on this package that helps restore balance and compassion to a system that has become increasingly tilted against injured workers.”

Under former Gov. Rick Snyder and a Republican-led state Legislature, workers’ comp reforms in 2011 included the onerous “phantom jobs” clause. As part of the law, one example used was that if a worker earning \$1,200 a week is injured and is permanently disabled, but he is able to work the counter at Burger King for \$400 a week, his workers’ compensation is reduced by one-third – even if he can’t find any such job.

“The promise of our workers’ compensation system has not been upheld,” said Labor Caucus member and state Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph). “If someone is injured at work, they shouldn’t have to worry about how they are going to afford their medical bills, especially on top of losing the wages because of a workplace injury or illness. This package builds working families up and ensures people get the benefits and protections they deserve.”

Michigan first enacted a workers comp law in 1912 when industrial injuries flooded state welfare rolls. The law required employers to promptly pay injured workers a percentage of lost wages, medical, and vocational rehabilitation. In return, workers lost the right to take their employers to court for on-the-job injuries. The law has been updated many times, most recently in 2011.

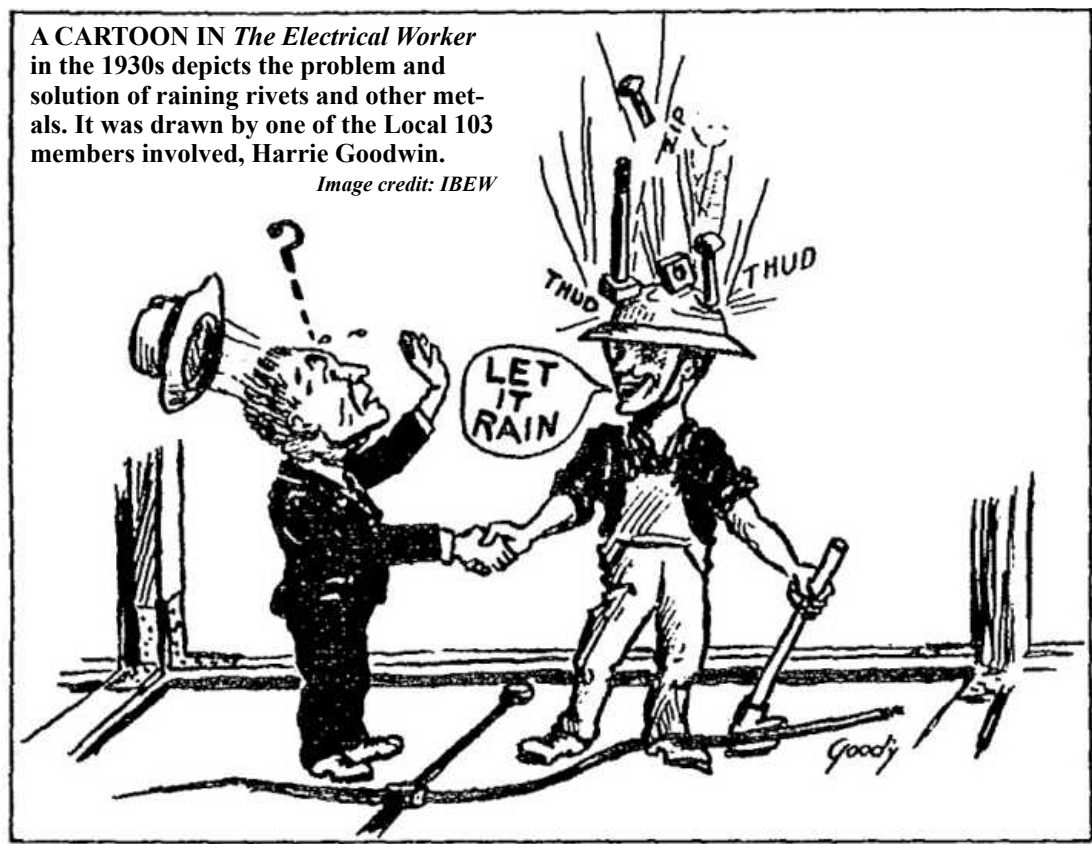
“Our workers’ comp system used to incentivize employers to bring injured workers back to work – and if not, disabled workers received modest but sustaining wage loss benefits,” said Robert MacDonald, past president of the Michigan Association for Justice, at the press conference. “Since 2011, injured workers have had their benefits slashed because of phantom wages that are not actually offered to them. We need to restore fairness to the system so that injured workers again receive prompt, certain and sustaining benefits following a work injury.”

The Michigan Association for Justice is a non-profit membership association self-described as “dedicated to advancing the needs and interests of trial lawyers in relentless pursuit of a fair and effective legal system.”

The 2011 change in the law “changed our lives dramatically,” MacDonald said. “Our clients used to get prompt, certain and sustaining benefits, let’s say \$500 a week for somebody who used to make \$800 a week. Now, our clients are told you’re only entitled to \$100 a week because there’s a phantom job out there that you’re supposed to get.”

Small Business Association of Michigan CEO Brian Calley told the news service MIRS that going back to the pre-2011 workers’ comp law would be a “major disadvantage to small businesses” who were shouldered with workers’ comp fees that were not competitive when stacked up with other companies. “The reason retaining the current system is important is that the workers’ compensation system is not meant to be a permanent replacement for work,” Calley said. “It’s a bridge that covers costs until whatever is possible in the future. That’s what makes it sustainable and affordable to operate for small businesses. It simply establishes an expectation that people return to work, even though it might be a different type of work,” he said.

The bill package has been moved to the House Committee on Economic Competitiveness, where it faces an uncertain future – at best – as the GOP has a majority in the House and likely isn’t going to look with favor on the legislation.



World War I ‘Tin Derbies’ used to shed raining rivets

(Continued from Page 1)

Manager George Capelle said in the article. “John Shannon received a fracture of the skull Tuesday while working on the third floor. Gus Chipman was treated for a head injury yesterday. And this morning Augustus Chapman was injured. All are now at Haymarket Relief Hospital.”

The electrical workers weren’t the only ones in harm’s way. Injuries were reported by the Teamsters and the Carpenters. The Ironworkers themselves “had a dispute with the contractor a few weeks ago after several men had been injured, and planking was put up, averting a strike at that time.”

Severin Co., the construction firm overseeing the project, released a statement saying “every legal and extra-legal precaution had been taken to prevent rivets from falling” and that “the present planking complies with the regulations and has no cracks for rivets to fall through.” But they did fall and the injuries kept piling up, so Capelle took action.

“Putting gray matter into operation, our energetic busi-

ness agent visited a government storehouse and returned with a purchase of discarded army helmets,” Local 103 member Harrie Goodwin said. “He ordered his gang of electricians to go into action with precaution. It seemed humorous at first, but it is one of the cleverest safety measures that has been put into practice in this locality for some time.”

The sight of “Carnegie stetsons” or “tin derbies,” as the helmets were sometimes called, did cause quite a stir. The post office job was soon swarmed by photographers and reporters from Boston’s papers, resulting in front-page news.

“The doughboy who tucked away his iron derby when he got back from overseas has found a practical use for it,” reported *The Boston Globe*. “By order of Local No. 103, electricians at work on the post office will appear with iron hats as part of their equipment. If a member has no iron hat of his own, snared from the attic, dusted off and polished, he will be rationed a hat from the supply on hand at the government storehouse.”

Soon, the other crafts on the building followed Local 103’s lead, and the push for hardhats to become mandatory spread throughout the industry. “The contractor is not legally bound to obey the Massachusetts safety requirements,” Capelle said, “but he is morally bound to do so. If the ‘tin derbies’ fail to protect my men, we might find it necessary to call them off the job.”

In the end, the helmets worked and IBEW members were protected. The moral obligation to ensure worker protection, a founding principle of the IBEW, was once again the driving force that led to an industry standard.

Though unorthodox, it was the ingenuity of IBEW members that saw a solution where no one else thought to look. As Goodwin said: “Little did the boys think when bullets were plinking against the tin helmets in the trenches, that the day would come when they would be worn as backstops for rivets. But sometimes, that is how it comes about.”

Labor can’t grow without taking on bigger targets

(Continued from Page 1)

was pro-union – he stacked the NLRB with the typical management-side lawyers every Republican president appoints. It was because unions chose easier targets. Between 2016 and 2021, employers failed to mount any campaign against the union in 13 percent of NLRB election campaigns – not one letter, leaflet or captive-audience meeting. Yet, if the elections were weighted to reflect the same types of firms unions were organizing 20 years earlier, unions would actually have faced significantly more intense employer opposition and would have won fewer elections.

Most employers continue to fight unions tooth and nail. Unions are increasingly avoiding these fights. Because union and employer campaigns respond to each other, union campaigns also declined in intensity between 2016 and 2021. Fewer than a quarter had organizing committees representative of the workplace, ran campaigns that engaged community allies, involved other unions or the media, or held rallies and job actions. Even fewer (just 5 percent) mounted global solidarity campaigns or engaged with unions at other branches of the parent company.

Most importantly, even in campaigns where they faced more aggressive employer opposition, most unions continued to pick and choose a few tactics rather than develop a more comprehensive organizing strategy. Comprehensive campaigns systematically deploy a broad range of tactics including strategic research, representative rank-and-file organizing committees, volunteer organizers drawn from the membership, a focus on issues that resonate with workers and the community, escalating actions in the workplace and beyond, the development of leverage via alliances with sympathetic politicians, community organizations, and other unions (in the U.S. and abroad), and preparation for the first contract fight during the organizing campaign.

They also provide sufficient staff and financial resources to carry them out. My past research has shown That wasn’t because Trump

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My past research has shown

that comprehensive union organizing campaigns are associated with significantly higher union win rates, even when controlling for employer opposition and the organizing environment – and this continues to be the case today.

Can’t afford to wait. It should not be surprising that unions are shifting their focus toward the kinds of companies they believe will yield the most success in organizing. Workers in smaller units in the service, retail, and nonprofit sectors need and benefit from unions no less than their counterparts in larger firms in more mobile sectors of the economy.

However, there are costs to this trend. Unions are winning fewer workers, in smaller units, and increasingly those wins are at the margins of the economy. As we have witnessed in the first year of the Trump Administration, the world’s largest and wealthiest corporations are increasingly driving our nation’s economic and social policies.

Difficult as it may be, unions must organize workers in the nation’s largest and most powerful corporations, and they cannot afford to wait for labor law reform or a more favorable administration to do so.

To build worker power during the second Trump Administration, unions will need to learn how to organize outside the NLRB process and without the benefit of federal government enforcement. And they will need to do it with the same scale and intensity that they used to win major strike victories at the Big Three automakers, hotel chains and Hollywood in 2023.

Most importantly, unions will need to leverage the power of workers and their allies, through worker- and community-centered, strategic, multifaceted, and escalating campaigns, to make the cost of fighting the union greater to employers than the cost of recognition and bargaining a fair agreement.

It won’t be easy – but taking on corporate power never is.

(The writer is the director of labor education research at Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations).

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Steve Claywell
Secretary-Treasurer

The Building Tradesman
1640 Porter St. Detroit, MI 48216
Phone: (313) 961-3800
Fax: (313) 961-2467
Union members with address changes are asked to contact their local union.

Editor/Photographer
Marty Mulcahy
E-mail:
buildingtradesman@ameritech.net
Advertising Director
Joe Hoshaw
E-mail:
btads@ameritech.net
(734) 558-6955

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Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers 169 ALLEN PARK – Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will take place on Dec. 12, 2025, 8 pm at Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall. The



MICHAEL CARD

address is 1755 Fairlane Drive, Allen Park, MI 48101. We will be providing food after the meeting. Come and break bread with your union brothers and sisters. Our monthly dues will stay at our current rate

55.85 for 2026.

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

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

Wish everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

We will have a special called meeting on Feb. 2, 2026 at 7 pm for nominations of Local Lodge officers. Nominations for delegate to the Thirty-Fifth Consolidated Convention will be held at our regular scheduled Union meeting March 13 at the Union Hall.

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

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

Any member interested in getting the Great Lakes Safety background check for Corteva please contact Business Agent, Jim Calouette at (906) 428-2880.

Any members interested in EPRI Rigging, which is required for working in the Nuclear Plants. Please contact Tony Herrera at 616-296-9131, or Jamie Ratliff at 313-584-8520. Your name will be added to the list. Once we have a full class, you will be notified when and where to attend. Per your International, any member with EPRI training will not be required to have Rigging 1 through 4 for placement on the BDS.

Retiree luncheons

Area 1 Retiree luncheon is on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 am at the White Rhino Sports Bar, 4328 Oakwood, Melvindale, MI 48122.

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

Area 3 Retirees luncheon is the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11AM. The next lunch will be Nov. 19 at The Boulevard Lounge, 316 S. Saginaw Road, Midland, MI 48640. Everyone from all areas is welcome to attend.

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

Hoodies have arrived in all sizes at the Union Hall. The cost is \$45. Payments can be made with cash or a check. If you live outside of the area and would like to order one, please call the hall. Additional shipping charges will be added. Baseball caps are also available. Varsity jackets are available by special order. Contact the Union Hall for details.

The 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 terms of the G.I. Bill. I advise all apprentices who qualify to take advantage of this well-deserved benefit.



Local 36 Elevator Constructors

Elevator Constructors Local 36 DETROIT- ALL MEMBERS ARE INFORMED; Our next regular membership meeting will be November 24, 2025, 5:30pm at 1640 Porter Street Detroit, MI 48216. Our next Executive Board meeting will be held on November 17, 2025, at 5pm at the same location. Any changes to this schedule or venue will be in the Building Trades Article or sent via email.

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

Attention All Members,

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

Results of the October Election for Delegates to the Convention are as follows:

Delegates

Russell O'Donnell
Jeffery Patti
Justin Smith
David Boyd
Alternates
Sean Walker
Myles Boyd
David Kuras Jr.

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

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

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

The International has set up The Veteran Assistance Program to help veterans navigate the VA benefits they deserve. The email is vap@iuec.org or contact Jason Gray, IUEC National Chairman @ 404-290-1012 or Ryan Donnell, EIWPf National Co-Chair @ 410-312-1474.

IUEC Local 36 has started a Veteran Assistance Committee. Scott Erison was appointed to chair the committee and will be working directly with Jason Gray, IUEC VAP National Chair. Once we get a schedule figured out, we will have monthly meetings to get information out to our veterans.

You don't have to be a veteran to be part of this committee, like me, my father is a Vietnam Vet, and I have witnessed firsthand what the veteran's benefits has done for him and I'm a big supporter of these programs and our veterans. Contact Scott Erison (586)482-0768 or email him at sanosire1973@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or have questions.

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

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

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

If you start a new job in MOD/construction, you MUST report those jobs to the hall!! If you are going to be working a 4/10 job in construction or MOD, it MUST be submitted in writing to the Local Business Representative per Article VII Par. 2A. and Article VIII(A) Par. 2A. When starting a new job please email the hall @ Local36@iuec36.org (Continued next column)



Heat and Frost Insulators Local 47

Heat and Frost Insulators 47

LANSING – The next Notified Meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., and will be held at the Local 47 Union Hall, 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906. This is a Mandatory Meeting for ALL Apprentices for the Election of Officers.

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

All Election Ballots have been mailed out. Please fill out and return your ballot before Nov. 28, 2025 to ensure your vote is counted. DO NOT wait until the last minute to mail in your ballot. Election ballots will be counted on Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

Congratulations to the following Positions that ran Unopposed in the Nov. 7, 2025 Nominations:

President: Walter Wilson
Recording Secretary: Joshua Kroell

Pension/Welfare Trustee: Joshua Scalici

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. 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 Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Please notify the Local Union Office with any phone and home address changes. We need the most current member information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International.

If you are Non-Active retiree or Surviving Spouse and would like to continue receiving the Building Tradesman please contact the Union Office to let us know. The Funds Trustees have waived the 79 hour rule for all Retirees effective July 1, 2025.

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

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671
Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefit Funds, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917-9275 (Continued next column)

Elevator Constructors 36, continued

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We would like to wish a speedy recovery for the Brothers and Sisters on our sick and injured list. Be safe and stay healthy!



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25 SOUTHFIELD – SPECIAL CALLED MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The next scheduled Membership Meeting will take place Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge Street, Southfield, MI 48033. This meeting is SPECIAL CALLED for elections. Apprentice attendance is MANDATORY.

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

MEMBERS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE US: It is with our sincere condolences that we announce the passing of retired member Edward Vedro. May he Rest in Peace.

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

Union Hall Contact Emails:

Local 47, con't

Toll Free (800) 323-8079
Email: joshkroell@insulators47.com

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, Vacation and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: 16475 Ingersoll Rd., Lansing, MI 48906.

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

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

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

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC.

JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

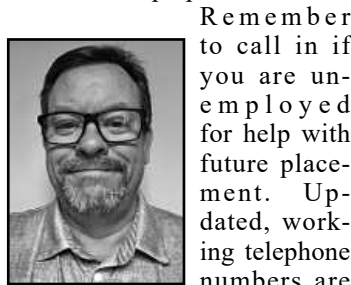
Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office, or go online to insulators47.com to fill out an Application.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the online work report for NO later than ten (10) days from the end of the current work week."



Abatement Workers Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207 TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for late fall so be prepared for work.



KEVIN MEAGHER

Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials. There looks like work out of town in Tennessee and Kentucky and Indiana, call the office for details

So be prepared with all your paperwork in order. With most state agencies working from home, filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states, you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them, call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application on our website www.local207.org.

Upcoming Training classes. ACSR Nov. 16 at the union hall. 8-4

Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled.

-All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor.

-Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register.

Next Union Meeting is a Regular Holiday meeting on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the union hall. WORK SAFE.

"Whatever is reasonable is true, and whatever is true is reasonable."

–Georg W. Hegel (1770 - 1831)

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY REPRESENTING BUILDING TRADES BROTHERS & SISTERS OVER 35 YEARS BIESKE & ASSOCIATES

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

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 55 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms 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.

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com





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

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

Contact Information:
Justin Pomerville, Business Manager (989) 799-5261 x 8513
jpmomerville@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:

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

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

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

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

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

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

Website Address: Please visit www.ualocal85.org.

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

RETIREE LUNCHEON: The next retirees' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 12 Noon at UA Local 85 Administration Office, at 3535 Bay Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603. This will be the Retirees' Christmas Luncheon and **WILL REQUIRE RSVPing** by calling Mara at (989) 799-5261 ext. 8510 no later than Nov. 18. *Fraternaly, Justin M. Pomerville Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local Union 85*



Local 190

UA Local 190

ANN ARBOR - UNION MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 8 at 6:00 p.m. at 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI. The results of the elections will be announced and normal business will follow.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 4th ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOR ALL: This year, UA Local 190 will provide 190 turkey dinners to families in need around Washtenaw Co. We need volunteers for putting together these meals and distribution to the families. There are two volunteer dates. First date is Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the UA Local 190 Training Center: 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, breakfast will be served and then we will assemble individual dinner packages.

Second date is Saturday, Nov. 22 at 9:30 a.m. will be distribution day (Karen will let you know location to report at 9:30 a.m.), we will be handing out the Thanksgiving Meal boxes to the families. We need 18 volunteers for each day, please contact Karen at 734-424-0962 ext. 210 to sign up. Let's all make this a great event!

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

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

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

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

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

For the News Year's Eve holiday, the office will be closing at Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and will be closed all day, Thursday, Jan. 1 and will be closed all day Friday, Jan. 2. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

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

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

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

MICHIGAN LICENSE RENEWAL: Plumbing license renewals are done online **ONLY!** For detailed instructions and requirements, please visit: www.michigan.gov/bcc. Feel free to stop into the Union Hall and pick up a copy of the instructions. The

Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters,
Service Technicians,
Gas Distribution

link is now on the website in the "Members Only" section under "Helpful Member Forms"

INFORMATION - FRINGE BENEFIT OFFICE:
Bernadette Maus will be available by phone Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or in person Mondays and Wednesdays at Local 190's office from 7:30 a.m. until Noon and 1-4:30 p.m., please contact her directly at (888) 390-7473 to schedule an appointment.

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

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:

Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class (48 hrs.): Journeyman members who are registered with the State of Michigan as **Apprentice Plumbers with a minimum of 3 years and 6000 hours** of documented work experience **under a Master Plumber**, can register for the Michigan 2021 Plumbing Code Class. This class will prepare members for the written code and practical sections of the State of Michigan Plumbing Test. Please contact the Training Center to reserve your spot. Dates will be **8 hours on Saturdays, Oct. 18, through Nov. 22, 2025.** There will be a refundable **\$150 deposit** to hold a spot. Deposit will be returned upon completion of the class. Members must meet all the requirements to sign up.

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

Welding Lab: Currently open welding lab is **Monday through Thursday 4pm to 8:30pm. Saturdays 7am to 3:30pm.** There is limited space and first come first served. Welding tests will be scheduled after participants are approved by welding instructors and the training coordinator.

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: **the course is to be announced later as needed.** Please register through the website: ua190.org

Special Notice: Hiring Full Time HVACR Instructor. The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC is hiring for the full-time position of HVACR instructor. The position includes teaching day and night classes year-round for apprenticeship and journeyman upgrade classes. The instructor will be responsible for HVACR curriculum development utilizing the equipment being serviced and installed by contractors in the Southeast Michigan area. The ideal candidate must be knowledgeable in all aspects of the HVACR. Strong communication, math, and computer skills (Microsoft word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and CANVAS) are required with a background in teaching.

Travel is necessary throughout the year for participation in the UA instructor training program through the UA ITF department regional training. The ideal candidate should possess the following credentials:

Journeyman status with the United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters.

10 years or more of field work experience as a HVACR Technician
(Continued next column)



UA Local 98

DETROIT – Membership of Plumbers Local 98. The officers and staff at Local 98 hope you and your family are enjoying our fall season and are excited for the upcoming holiday season! Go Lions!

New UA Membership Cards: New cards have been ordered and we anticipate on receiving them by the end of the year. Please watch our webpage and social media for updates.

Yard Cleanup Update: Thank you to Brothers Bruce Bennett, Mike Bieber, Jimmy Cools, Randy Salk, Noah Scott and Connor Socrates for helping with Brother Larry Moskal's home cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 1. We couldn't do it without the help of our membership.

Awards Banquet Recap: The annual years of recognition award banquet was held on Thursday, Oct. 30 at Club Venetian in Madison Hts. It was nice to see many of our life-long members who have inspired and mentored many of us throughout the years. We want to especially recognize life members who reached their 75 years of membership with Plumbers Local 98: Brother Richard Baranski, Brother Joseph Bradley, Brother Glen Greenleaf and Brother Eugene Stevenson.

Our next regular monthly union meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 at 6 pm

Retiree Luncheon meeting will be held at the hall on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025 from 12-2:00pm.

The next board meeting is Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 at 4:30pm. The Executive Board meetings are *generally* held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30pm and before all Union Meetings.

Annual Wrapping Party: Mark your calendars! Calling all of Santa's Elves...the annual **Wrapping Party** is on **Monday, Dec. 1 from 5-8pm** to help Santa prepare for the Local 98 annual Children's Christmas Party.

Children's Christmas Party is on **Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 5-8pm.** Watch the paper, our website, Facebook and Instagram

Local 190, con't

EPA 608 Type I, II, III (Universal) Certification.
UA (United Association) HVACR Star Mastery Certified.
Excellent knowledge of commercial HVACR systems, including installation, maintenance, and repair.

Candidate's responsibilities would include:
Obtain/possess: an Associate's Degree in Applied Science – Industrial Training
UA#1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1006 UA/WCC Instructor Certification

Obtain/possess: UA#2012 UA Foreman Instructor Certification
Obtain/possess: NITC proctor qualification
Develop and update HVACR course syllabus, daily lesson plans and instructional material
Develop practical lab activities for hands-on training

Develop test, assignments, and hands-on assessments
Maintain lab equipment with the latest industry trends and technologies

These lists are not exclusive, nor final and future classes will be required as technology and trade advancements continue.

This position will be paid at UA 190 Journeyman foreman rate with full benefits package, paid vacation, and earned sick leave. Please submit a copy of your resume, transcripts, and other certification documents to The Greater Michigan UA Local 190 JTC by December 31st, 2025, to kristyn@190jtc.com or mail to 8040 Jackson Rd. Ann Arbor, MI. 48103 All candidates will be contacted for a scheduled interview after the December deadline.

CONDOLENCES: Our lifetime member James Clauson passed away on Oct. 26. James initiated Sept. 28, 1973. To all family members and friends, we know no words can help ease the pain and the loss you are all feeling, may his soul rest in peace.

RETIREE MEETINGS – PLEASE JOIN US: Our next Spades meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be held on Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Union Hall. Come and join us for card games, pastries, and a warm cup of coffee.

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

for additional information. We look forward to seeing all of our members both nights.

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

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

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

Snowbirds: If you would like to temporarily change your address for correspondence from Local 98, and BeneSys, please call the hall to avoid delays in receiving your mail.

Expelled Members: We currently have two expelled members for the month of November 2025: Brothers Thomas Allen and Luck Peck-Truszkowski.

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

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

In Memoriam: Let us remember our family, friends and brothers and sisters who have passed or lost a loved one during the upcoming holiday season

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

Worker Assistance Program. Work Life Strategies, LLC. Are available to members and their families to provide counseling services and when needed, a referral to other professionals. Call to talk to a counselor for issues relating to grief, alcohol, drug addiction, bankruptcy depression, marital issues and family counseling.

All this is confidential and lead by our health professional C.J. Harrison, you can reach her on her cell @ 313-580-6887. If you cannot go to her office she can do phone conferences, don't wait ask for help when you feel issues are affecting your life.

Applications are now being accepted for our apprenticeship program. Learn more at www.plumbers98tc.org/apprenticeship. Additional information can be found at ualocal98.org

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 Kavalir, Business Agent (313)938-1554 jkavalir@ualocal98.org
Rob Moses, Organizer (248)763-2187 rmoses98@ualocal98.org



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

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

The Apprenticeship Application process is currently open. The application deadline for the next class is Friday, Jan. 2, 2026. Applications are submitted online. Go to our website and read all requirements for the application process. The Training Center is open for normal business 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call Ryan Lyle at 248-585-1435 ext. 122 if you have any questions.

Monthly Code Class – Next class is Nov. 19, at 4:30 pm. This is **not** a code update class. Open to any member looking to have discussions about the interpretation of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Great refresher for anyone wanting to take a state plumbing exam. **Please call Paul Baker** at the Training Center at 248-585-1435 ext. 123 **to register.**

If you are a member that has the practical portion of the state test scheduled for Feb. 3, 2026, we have an available evening to come in and practice for it, Wednesdays, Jan. 21, and January 28. **Call** the Training Center if you are interested in attending either of these sessions, or both. You will be required to bring all your supplies as you would for going to the actual test.

OPEN WELDING – is available on Wednesday evenings and the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Please call Chris Opalka 248-585-1435 ext.146 for any welding-related inquiries and to check on booth availability. For those that can't find time to get in during the weekdays, open welding will be available on the first Saturday of the month, call to get a booth.

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

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

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

ASSE Backflow Tester Recertification: Please be sure to check your expiration date, it is now required that you complete your update class prior to your expiration. This class is offered quarterly: \$100
4 hour recert class January 20 & 21 Deadline is December 19
4 hour recert class April 21 & 22 Deadline is March 20
4 hour recert class July 21 & 22 Deadline is June 19

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

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

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

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

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

Hydronic Heating and Cooling: \$100

Steam Fundamentals for the Repair Plumber: \$100

CAD/BIM: \$100

****2025 brazing and welding sessions will be scheduled on the 1st Saturday of the month.** If your brazing or welding certs are ready to expire, call to schedule an appointment. The next **Welding and Brazing sessions** will be December 6th, 2025.

****You must call to schedule your brazing OR welding tests at least 3 days prior to the test. Please note: All members must be dressed appropriately to be in the shop area.**

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

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

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



Local 370
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters
and HVAC Service

UA Local 370
FLINT – The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025** and is designated a refreshment meeting.

The Local 370 annual Service Award and Holiday Celebration is postponed until February, so we can have it in the new meeting hall. Exact date TBD.

Old Newsboys we will be on the corner of Linden and Pierson on Friday, December 5th if you would like to come out and help with this great cause. Sun up to sun down.

Retiree Breakfast will be on Monday, December 8th at 9:00 am.

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

Upcoming Night Class Schedule:

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

Med Gas January 5th thru February 26th. Mondays and Thursdays. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.

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

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

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

Committee and Board meetings are as follows:

Examining Board – Tuesday, December 9th,2025 at 4:00pm
FMR Committee – Tuesday December 9th,2025 at 4:00pm
PAC committee – Tuesday, December 9th,2025 at 5:00pm
Executive Board –Tuesday, December 9th,2025, at 5:00pm
Building Committee – Tuesday, December 9th,2025 at 6:00pm
Finance Committee -Tuesday, December 9th,2025 at 6:15pm
JATC Committee – TBD

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

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

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

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

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

MobileApp. 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 Build-
(Continued next column)



Local 357
Plumbers,
Pipe Fitters &
HVAC Service

UA Local 357
KALAMAZOO – **THE NEXT REGULAR UNION MEETING:** will be on **Tuesday, Dec. 9** at 6:30 pm. Other meetings that day will be the Finance Committee at 4:30 and the Executive Board at 5:30.

PARTY INFORMATION: There will be a Holiday Party at the Hall on **Saturday, Dec. 13**. Drinks and hor d’oeuvres start at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6 p.m. You **MUST RSVP** no later than **Dec. 1, 2025**, by calling or emailing Lori at (269) 679-3708 /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.

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

RETIREE MEETING: Retiree lunch meetings will now be **BREAKFAST** on the 1st Monday of every month. Breakfast will commence at 9 am at **The Crew**, 5200 Portage Rd, Portage, MI. The phone 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 Johnathan Morris, and family, on the birth of a daughter, Maple.

Congratulations to Carter Waybrant on his recent marriage to Elizabeth.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to the Dan Royston and family on the recent passing of his dad.

Condolences to the family of retired member, Jeff Wolfe, who passed away recently.

UA Local 370, con’t

ing Trades article, see upcoming meeting dates, or pay your dues. This is a work in progress, and we will add more content to the site as we move forward.

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

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. The sweat shirts are \$30 and the long sleeve tee shirts are \$15. Golf polo and golf wind shirts are available for \$25.



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

UA Local 636

DETROIT – **Our next regular Union meeting is November 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm at St. George Romanian Cultural Center 18405 W. Nine Mile Rd. (Southfield Service Dr.) Southfield, MI 48075**

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

Local 636 Pipefitters Wellness Clinic – Free Flu Shots & Covid-19 Boosters – Tuesday November 18, 5-7pm St. George Romanian Orthodox Church 18405 W Nine Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075.

Retirees: Thursday, November 20, 10am – 12pm Pipefitters Local 636 30100 Northwestern Highway Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

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

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

CALLING ALL RETIREES! The next meeting will be held November 20, 2025.

The Retiree Association is looking to recruit more retirees to their meetings. The meetings are a great place to catch up, find out helpful information and enjoy very informative guest speakers. The Retirees will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am at Local 636 Union Hall. **REMINDER:** Please open all correspondence with the Local Union, BeneSys, and Insurance Providers you receive in the mail.

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

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

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

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

The Ulliance Member Assistance Program is available to all members and retirees.

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

988 crisis helpline. The UA and the MCAA have made a joint investment to spread awareness on the way we approach mental health and suicide prevention. With the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services 988 Lifeline, new resources are now available.

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

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

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

The SUB Fund office will have all payments entered in the SUB System by 10am on Wednesday.

After 10am every Wednesday, BeneSys will generate the checks in the SUB System and have them printed and mailed from Troy production.

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

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

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

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

Defined Contribution Pension Plan. For those members who use the Voice Response Unit, VRU to obtain balance information and transfers funds in your Defined Contribution Pension, the number has changed. The NEW NUMBER for the VRU is **877-410-9984**. Plan provider number is 7526. You can now login to your Defined Contribution account on the Local’s Website. Just click on the “Defined Contribution login here tab” and it will take you to the BeneSys login page. The Defined Contribution *corrected* website is www.accountplanaccess.net/benesys.

Your initial login information is as follows: Username – Social Security number, without the dashes. Password – Full birth date, without the slashes, (mmddyyyy). You will be prompted to update your username and password after initial login. Upon login, the site will take you to the “My Dashboard” page.

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.

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

Training Center News. Local 636 JATC will begin accepting construction apprenticeship applications on Dec 1st 2025 through Dec 20th 2025, all applications must be completed online, see our webpage, Pipefitters636tc.org

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

Certified Brazing class Monday and Thursday Night 4 till 8.

Starting Mon. Nov 17th from 5-8pm for 5 weeks: CSD-2 with Kevin.

Mon Nov. 17th and Thur. Nov.20th from 5-8 for 5 weeks: Cert. Mitsubishi installer class with Jason

Starting Thurs. Nov.20th Hydronic piping and design with Kevin

Starting Wed. Nov. 19th from
(Continued next column)

November 14, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 7



Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & HVAC Service
Local 111

UA Local 111

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY TRAINING – LOCAL 111 WEBSITE: Visit lu111.com 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.

Local 636, con’t

5-8 for 5 weeks: Boiler Flame Safeguards with Todd and Chiller Service with Dan.

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

HDPE fusion class Sat. Dec 1st 7am for 8 hours.

Mon. and Thur. Night starting Nov. 17th from 5-8 for 5 weeks: Certified Tube bending and Trade math with Doug

MES class is available on Mon. And Thur. Nights.

Call Kim at the Training Center to sign up.

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



Local 671

UA Local 671

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

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

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

Retiree Health Care: Starting January 1st, 2026, the retiree health care will be changing networks from United Health Care to Humana. There will be information mailed out, and an educational meeting will be hosted by Retiree First on **December 18th at 12pm** at 309 Detroit Ave Monroe Michigan the Union Hall. Refreshments will be available.

Also be advised that the self-pay amounts will be increasing beginning January 1st, 2026. For information on what your new self-pay amount will be, please contact Carly at the Union Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

In Closing: You may have read or heard about the potential of building a Data Center in Monroe County. I just wanted to get you some information if it comes up in conversation. First let me say that Local 671 Plumbers and Pipefitters are in full support of building a data center.

These Data Centers are Labor-friendly and could create thousands of man hours for our Union. Some positives that come with Data Centers are job creation, a stronger tax base for the community, increased revenue for the local businesses, infrastructure improvements for the surrounding communities and environmental improvements.

Most new Data Centers use green technologies including renewable energy and water conservation methods. You may hear some negative information about Data centers and most of it is outdated or simply just not true. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly. God Bless Local 671 and all its members!

Mike Jewell: email: mike@ualocal671.com

Kirk Lavoy: email: kirk@ualocal671.com

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

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

“We cannot fail to win unless we fail to try.”
–Tom Clancy (1947 - 2013)

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Local 174

Plumbers, Pipe Fitters & Service Trades

UA Local 174
COOPERSVILLE –MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY: The monthly membership meeting and annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 at 7 pm in our Assembly Hall at 1008 O’Malley Dr in Coopersville. The front office will remain open until 6:55 p.m.

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

Retiree Breakfast: The retiree breakfast will still be held **Thursday, December 4, 2025** at 9am at New Beginnings Restaurant in Coopersville.

Office Closed: The office will be closed November 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving.

Toys for Tots: The 2025 Toys for Tots drive has begun. Please drop off any new and unwrapped toys for donation at the front office. Your gift will be greatly appreciated!

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

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

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

Contract Ratification: At the special called meeting on July 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: *We are on a recognition strike with Moore Mechanical. What does this mean? Moore Mechanical is failing to recognize LU 174 as the bargaining representative for the majority of the plumbers that want union representation. Seven of the workers walked off the job to put pressure on Moore to do the right thing and recognize. The workers spoke and we have their back!*

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

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

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

FRINGE PLAN THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR: (SOLXSYS)

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

Health Insurance Contact Info:
Active and NON-Medicare Retirees

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

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

Current Health Insurance Premiums:

Active Member/Working Retiree \$1,110.33
Non-working Pre-Medicare Retiree \$791.10
Medicare Single \$123.63
Medicare Couple \$247.26
Medicare with Pre-Medicare Spouse \$497.13
Medicare Surviving Spouse \$126.67

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lakeshore – 3rd Thursday of the month / CIO Hall 490 Western / 6pm

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

Training News: ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to Trevor Scheidel on fulfilling his apprenticeship obligations and becoming Local 174’s most recent Journeyman!

APPRENTICE MEETING: Mandatory apprentice meeting will be held at the Hall on December 9th at 6pm.

FIRST AID: First Aid/CPR/BBP class will be the second Thursday of the month (every month – unless otherwise noted), from 5:00pm-9:00pm. The next class will be held **Thursday, December 11th, 2025.**

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

OPEN WELD: Closed due to lack of participation. Look for a new schedule after the holidays.

WELD TEST: Test Events will be the second week of every month. Capabilities will be Tuesday nights with weld tests on Thursday nights. In the event of a union meeting being that Tuesday, we will move capabilities to

(Continued next column)



UA Local 704
SOUTHFIELD – The next regular business meeting will be held Wednesday December 10th, at 5:30 P.M. at the Union Hall. The Executive Board will meet the same evening at 4:30 P.M.

The hall will be closed for Thanksgiving Day Thursday Nov. 27 and Friday Nov. 28,

The Children’s Christmas party will be on December 13, 2025 at the union hall from Noon to 3PM. Please call the hall to RSVP no later than end of business on Friday December 5, 2025

Our condolences to the family of Brother Gordon McRea a 52 year member who passed on October 15, 2025

As a reminder, your dues payment is due the last day of the month. Please sign up for MDLive. There is no cost for you or your family to use this App. You will be able to download it from the Apple Store or Google Play.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A speedy recovery for all our sick and injured members.

Local 174 cont’d

a Wednesday. Next capabilities will be Tuesday, December 9th, and the test to follow Thursday, December 11th at 5pm.

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

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

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

“I still need more healthy rest in order to work at my best. My health is the main capital I have and I want to administer it intelligently.”
–Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961)

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

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”
–Anne Bradstreet (1612 - 1672)

“Concern for someone else was a good remedy for taking the mind off one’s own troubles.”

–Elizabeth Aston
“There is no security on this earth, there is only opportunity.”
–General Douglas MacArthur (1880 - 1964)

“Better be despised for too anxious apprehensions, than ruined by too confident security.”
–Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797)

“You can’t separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.”
–Malcolm X (1925 - 1965)



Plumbers & Pipe Fitters

Local 333

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

December’s union meeting will be held December 17, 2025, at the Lansing Training Center, 16180 National Parkway, Lansing, MI. 48906. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm

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

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

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

Jackson:
Monday through Thursday: 4:00pm-8:00. 3101 Allied Industrial Dr., Jackson, MI. 49201

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

Orbital Welding: Signup online, and you will be contacted.

Rigging Certification, Backflow re-certification, and Med-Gas recertification will be scheduled once we have enough members signed up.

Journeyman Prep class-Monday, September 29, 2025, 5:00-8:00pm

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

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

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

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

Retirees’ Breakfast in Jackson: Retirees meet the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at the Alpha Coney Island at 1188 Jackson Crossing, Jackson, MI. **PLEASE NOTE:** The restaurant is located at the west end of the Jackson Crossing Shopping Center.

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

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

If you or if you know of a member who has been in a branch of military service. Please have them contact the Lansing office. We are updating our “Honoring Our Military” wall.
Retirees, if you haven’t received information regarding Medicare Advantage please contact your respective hall.

“True luck consists not in holding the best of the cards at the table; luckiest is he who knows just when to rise and go home.”
–John Hay (1838 - 1905)

“You create your opportunities by asking for them.”
–Patty Hansen



Painters District Council 1M
WARREN – Dear Members,
DC1M WEBSITE: www.iupat-dc1michigan.org
DC 1M UNION CARDS*
Any questions regarding a lost, damaged Union cards, or have dues inquiries or have not received a card please contact the DC1M offices at:

Warren Office: (586)552-4474 extension 100
Freeland Office: (989) 695-6888

FTI of the GREAT LAKES/UPGRADE CLASSES
WARREN FTI APPRENTICESHIP:

Tuesday, November 11th
First Aid/CPR Part2 5pm



ROBERT GONZALEZ

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 20 Scaffold Awareness 9 am

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

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

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

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

NOTICE TO HIRE FOR THE FTI of the GREAT LAKES MICHIGAN

The FTI Apprenticeship is looking to hire full-time Instructors, please email your resume to FTI Director Shawn O’Neill. List all certifications, position and job experiences, etc.

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

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M SMART PHONE APP

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

For IPHONE go to IOS store, For ANDROID got to Google Playstore

Search for “Painters and Allied Trades” download APP

Username: your member id#
Password: painters

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

GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION!

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

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

Get involved. Work smart. Work safe.



Local 357

Glaziers & Glassworkers

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

Our next regularly meeting will be Dec. 1 at 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, at 5 pm. Please make every effort to attend.

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

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

The IUPAT has a new app that you can download. It’s called IUPAT Mobile Member Portal. You can find this in the app store, and it is a free app. Once you download this app, you will need your union member id to log in. You can find your member ID printed on your quarterly union card. Once you log into this app it’s a helpful tool to track your hours worked, and it also has a digital copy of your union card.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your

(Continued next column)

Michigan Painters

District Council



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.



Sign, Pictorial & Display Local 591

Sign Pictorial & Display 591

WARREN – The next General Membership Meeting is Tuesday Dec. 2, 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 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 Bylaws

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

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

Local 357 cont’d

benefits if you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

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

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

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



Local 292 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 292

TROY – MEETING NOTICE: There will **not** be a membership meeting in **November**. The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **Dec. 10, 2025, at 6 pm.** at **Troy Community Center 3179 Livernois, Troy 48083 1** block north of Big Beaver on the west side of Livernois. Use the Banquet Entrance. Member meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The **E-Board/Stewards meeting** will be held on **Nov. 25, 2025**, at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall.

RETIREEES NOTICE: The next Retiree Luncheon will be held on 12/4/25 at 12:30 pm at Madhouse Bar and Grill, 32787 Stephenson Hwy, Madison Hts., 48071. It's always nice catching up and staying connected. This will be the last Retiree luncheon for 2025. We will publish the dates for 2026 when they become available. Please contact the union hall via our website Please get in touch with the union hall via our website www.sheetmetal292.com, click on the "Contact Us" page if you would like to be added to the retiree email list.

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

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

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

ANNUITY FUND ACCOUNT: You can now access your Annuity account online, by phone, or by mobile app. The phone no. 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, call 833-38-6466 or 888-440-0022 for Spanish.

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

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

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

OUT OF WORK: If you become laid off, you must complete an Out of Work List Registration /SUB form. SUB forms are available at the Union Hall and through all shop stewards. This is the only way your name will be added to the Out of Work List.

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

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

SAFETY MODS AND DRUG TESTS: To access your MUST account, please go to www.mustonline.org or access it through the "links" tab at www.sheetmetal292.com. Remember that your Username is your full S.S. number and your Password is the first four numbers of your S.S. number. Members, please note that if you cannot access the MUST site to complete your safety mods you need to contact the Union Hall.

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

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

CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL: The new 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 welding process. Members who qualify will receive a shirt (one shirt for every four certifications) with the 4 Plus logo, hard hat stickers, and bragging rights. If you would like to be a "4-plus" member, contact your Local 292 Training Center at: **313-623-9390** (Dave) or Quintin at 248.495.6764.

Attention all Welders! We are looking for any members interested in a Saturday welding class on Nov. 22, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20.

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

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



Local 80 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 80

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Next executive board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18, 2025 at 5 pm. Executive Board meetings are held at the Local 80 Hall, 17100 W. 12 Mile, 2nd Floor, Southfield, MI.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS: OFFICIAL NOTICE: At the December 2025 meeting, nominations will be taken for the position of Fund Trustees. Elections will be held at the January 2026 membership meeting. You will vote on 4 positions: Health and Welfare, Pension and Annuity, Sub Fund and JATC. Trustees will serve a 3-year term from January 2026 through January 2029. Your dues must be current if you would like to be nominated.

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

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

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

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES A YEAR IN ADVANCE: Roger DuMars, Michael Frasson, Robert Turner, Ronald Grundberg, Dean Hoskey, Dennis Jacopec, Michael Felosak, Michael Henson, Raymond Cordovado, Ronald Edwards Jr., Ryan Kirby, Carl Martuscelli, Henry Slavick, Owen Vannatter, Dylan McCain, David Hartsuck, Luke Grohman, Zachary Baker & Joseph Haynes.

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.

WEEKEND WORK ASSIGNMENTS: must be reported by the steward by 3pm on 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 September 1 through September 20. If you fail to re-register, you will be removed from the list. Your name will be removed from the list fourteen (14) days after receiving an assignment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training Center News.

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

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

November 14, 2025

THE BUILDING TRADESMAN 9



Local 7 Sheet Metal Workers

Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

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

The next Statewide Meeting will be Dec. 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 1 December 10th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 2 December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 3 December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. (Freeland)

*Zone 3 December 4th at 6:00 p.m. (Traverse City)

*Zone 4 December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

*Zone 5 December 5th at 6:00 p.m.



SAM
FULLER

Please be aware that we are all required to report into the Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction in which we are traveling outside of our home Local/Zone/Area/Jurisdiction per the SMART Constitution Article 16 Section 10. Failure to report could result in charges and fines that you alone will be responsible for. Do not rely on your contractor or others to report on your behalf, it is your responsibility. Call your Business Representative if you are unsure of who to contact, they will get you the correct reporting information. Please register on our website at www.sheetmetal7.org for the most up to date information on meeting schedules for 2025. Once you are registered it must be approved in order to be able to log on. Please contact your representative if you have issues registering.

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

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

ZONE 2 Info: Work in Zone 2 remains the same with a few members off. Dues are always due prior to the first of the month and keep me informed of any phone or address changes. Please contact me if you get laid off or return to work, also make sure you contact the proper agent when working in a different zone or local. Good luck to those members in the firearm deer season, shoot straight and be safe. **In Solidarity, Mike Adams**

ZONE 3 Info: (Saginaw) The next Zone 3 meeting is our Christmas meeting which will be held at the Back Orchard Barn, at 11001 Wilkinson Rd., Freeland, Dec. 3 at 5:30 pm. If you are laid off please contact me so I can add you to the out of work list. Please make sure your dues are up to date, they are due before the first off the month. If your contact information has changed please call the Lansing office (517-882-4064). Next Retiree meeting is Dec. 2 at the Ponderosa in Bay City on Wilder Rd. Hope to see you there. **In Solidarity, Joe Dotson**

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

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

ZONE 5 Info Work in the UP has hit a little bit of a lull. Now is a good time to get your Mine Safety Training up to date. If you need a refresher please sign up for that at upconstruction.org. The Local 7 Zone 5 Christmas party will be Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 at the hall in Gwinn. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families!

– **In Solidarity, Brandon Langenfeld**

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

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

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

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

Local 7 Officers:

Samual Fuller (Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer) **517-882-4064**

Eric Farrington (Agent-Lansing/Jackson) **517-242-3223**

Vance Saunders (Agent-Battle Creek/Kalamazoo) **269-569-9200**

Mike Adams (Agent-Grand Rapids/Muskegon) **616-299-3752**

Joe Dotson (Agent-Saginaw) **989-225-0095**

John Amalfitano (Agent-Traverse City) **231-590-1112**

Scott Brotherton (Agent-Flint) **810-836-3552**

Brandon Langenfeld (Agent-Upper Peninsula) **906-372-9288**



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**IBEW
Local 445**

IBEW Local 445

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

Battle Creek Christmas Parade. Please contact Jake Westfall or Travis Arney if you are interested in participating in the parade float build and riding on the float. The Christmas Parade is on Nov. 22, 2025.

Christmas at the Hall You should be receiving your post-card with your invitation to the Christmas at the Hall on Dec. 6, 2025, 9am. Reminder, this is an RSVP event, and the cut-off date is Nov. 26. No late RSVP’s will be accepted. Please call the Hall at (269) 964-4545 ext. 5 or email to info@ibew445.com. I need your child’s name and age.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”
–Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

“A sound mind in a sound body is a short but full description of a happy state in this world.”
–John Locke (1632 - 1704)



IBEW Local 58

DETROIT – The next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025. Dinner with the brotherhood begins at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:30 pm. Parking will continue to be tight with the construction project well under way.

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

Our **Store** will be **Closed** from Dec. 17 until Jan. 5. The last day to pick up orders will be Dec. 16. Any orders not picked up will be returned to stock.

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

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

Local 58 Dues Department – The Dues department will be **closed** on Nov. 27 and Nov. 28 2025. Please look at your Dues Receipt, if the paid through date shows 03-31-2025, you have lapsed membership and need to call the hall to set up an appointment for the Executive Board to be reinstated. If your dues receipt paid through date is 06-30-2025 you owe the \$30 reinstatement fee, plus dues and will lapse at the end of the 4th quarter if your dues are not paid. You can pay on the APP/Website, send a check, or call and pay over the phone. Dues statements will be going out this week. We ask that you keep the Local up to date with your address, email, and phone number. Thank you.

IBEW Local 58 Retirees Association: We do not have a November luncheon because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Annual Christmas Party is happening on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at the Local Union Hall. Doors open at 11, lunch is served at 12:30. Tickets are \$25 per person (payable to the Retirees Association), mail your reservations and checks to IBEW #58, Attn. Retirees Association, P.O. Box 32756, Detroit MI, 48232-0756. Questions, call Elaine Crawford at 313 408-4885. All retirees are welcome!

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

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

Electrical Workers’ Joint Boards of Trustees – Any questions regarding Local 58 Pension, Annuity, Health insurance or Life insurance should be directed to the IBEW Local 58 Fund Office at 586-575-9200.

Detroit Electrical Industry Training Center – Know anyone



**IBEW
LOCAL 58**

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

Detroit Electrical Workers Benevolent Fund (DEWBF): will have their next meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Our next event will be the 23rd Annual Ken Fitzhenry party on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Local 58 Union Hall. Raffle tickets are \$20 per ticket and entrance fee is \$20 at the door. The doors will open at 4pm. Grand Prize is a 75 inch tv and theatre recliner as well as numerous other prizes.

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

Members of the Community Service Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 9 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 ask volunteers to show up at the hall at 8 a.m. Questions can be directed to Ray Kujawski at (248) 496-1916 (call, text, leave a voicemail). Contact the Union Hall (313) 963-2130 or Ray Kujawski (number above) for further information about volunteering or participating.

Members of the Entertainment Committee: The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 9 following the Community Service Committee meeting that starts at 5:30 p.m.

EWMC of Southeastern MI – The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 17 at 6pm. This will be an in-person meeting with a ZOOM option. Please make sure your cell phone no. and your email address are up to date. The meeting information will be sent out as soon as available. If you are not receiving the notices, please make sure that your information is updated here at the hall.

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

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

Thanks to all who attended the amazing Casino Night Fund-raiser for Developing K.I.D.S. It was an awesome night of fun and games, food and frolic.

We will be doing our EWMC International Day of Service project on Saturday, Nov. 15. We will be passing out coats to our targeted organizations and engaging with the community at our vendor table. Our partnership with Developing K.I.D.S. is growing and strengthening and we are proud to be at their new facility this year. The address is 24230 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, 48219.

All delegates for the 2026 Leadership Conference are expected to assist with the coat drive.

It’s time to get prepared for the 2026 Annual EWMC Leadership Conference. Please be on the look out for any emails from Kelly Lynch with Conference information and respond accordingly.

The Safety Committee meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 PM.

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

Local 58’s Women’s Committee - The next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 p.m.at the Hall and on Zoom (due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday). If you have questions, please contact Committee Chair Angela Panicucci (586-291-8014) or Co-chair Liz Gorski (586-921-3087), Email at 58womencommittee@ibewlocal58.org

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

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

(Continued next column)



**IBEW
LOCAL 948**

IBEW Local 948

FLINT – Meetings.

Membership Meeting - Our next regularly scheduled membership meeting will be December 8th, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Retiree Meetings - Retirees next meeting will be December 2nd, 2025 at 9:00am.

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

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

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

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

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

New Membership - Welcome to our latest member Maxwell Cavric. We look forward to working with you and hope to see you in the field.

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

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

Local 58, con’t

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.

In the market for a loan? Check us out at ewcu.net for our low rates! New auto as low as 5.25%/apr.

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

IBEW Pension: Congratulations to the following members who have been placed on International Pension: Paul Plunkett, Roderick Radloff, Steven Strauch and Michael Wood.

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.

Jerry Berlin, Pension member, 39 year IBEW membership; Father to JIW James “Jamie” Berlin & Jason Berlin, Project Manager at Motor City Electric; Son-in-Law to James C. Baudino, Pension member, 70 year IBEW membership; Brother-in-Law to Mark Baudino, JIW; Brother-in-Law to the late Pension member James M. Baudino; Nephew to James Baudino Sr, Pension member, 45 year IBEW membership; Uncle to JIW’s James “Joey” Baudino, Campbell Kinch & Michael Baudino; **Kenneth Gebauer**, Pension member, 43 year IBEW membership; Brother to the late Pension member George Gebauer and Uncle to JIW Patricia Weber; **Alverna Karwowski**, Widow of the late Pension member Chester Karwowski; **Michael R. Long**, Technician 1, 31 year IBEW membership; Uncle to JIW Joshua Koby; and **Linda Tucker**, Wife of Pension member John Gruchala, 46 year IBEW membership.



**IBEW
LOCAL 252**

IBEW Local 252

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

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

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

Please reach out to the hall if assistance is needed.

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

CPR/First Aid: Tuesdays, December 2, 9

Conduit Bending: Every Other Tuesday starting September 23 for 6 classes

All classes require a \$50 deposit. Call the school 734-475-1180 to add your name to the desired class ahead of time. All evening classes are held from 5-9 PM. If there’s interest in a class not listed, please call the school and request it. Once there’s enough interest in the class, it will be scheduled.

2025 UNION 4 LIFE GUN CALENDAR: Purchase your 2025 USA Union Sportsmen Calendar and enter the USA’s 2025 2-Guns-A-Week Sweepstakes for 104 chances to win a firearm in 2025! These calendars make great Christmas gifts for the hunters/gun enthusiasts in your life. Calendars are \$35.00 and can be purchased from an apprentice, the training center, or online at www.union4lifecharity.com.

MOTT KIDS/ ROCKIN’ FOR THE HUNGRY: We are once again supporting charitable drives for Food Gatherers and Mott Children’s Hospital. This is a great cause that IBEW members, NECA, and electrical contractors have been supporting for many years. Please help if you are able. We will be accepting donations at the Union Hall until December 4, 2025. Please make donations by cash or check payable to Food Gatherers or Mott Kids. Local 252 will be featured on Ann Arbor’s 107.1 FM on Friday, December 5th for our day of sponsorship.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Please join us for our annual holiday party on December 13th. The party will begin with hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The local is providing entertainment, beer, set-up and dinner. BYOB. A donation by cash or check may be made on the night of to IBEW L.U. 252 Entertainment Committee.

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.

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

DUES PAYMENTS—Please look at your dues receipt. If your dues paid through date shows 09/2025, your dues are not current. The Union Hall accepts payment by cash, check or credit card. There is a 3% discount for paying by cash



**IBEW
LOCAL 252**

or check. Dues for “A” members are \$143.25 by cash or check, or \$147.55 by credit card for fourth quarter 2025. Dues for “BA” members are \$73.80 by cash or check, or \$76.01 by credit card for fourth quarter for 2025. Please mail your check to 7920 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Fourth quarter dues (October through December) are due now. **Payments for fourth quarter dues will be accepted no later than 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025.**

UPCOMING EVENTS (more information to follow):

NOV. 27-28: BUSINESS OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

DEC. 4: ROCKIN’ FOR THE HUNGRY/ MOTT KIDS DONATION DEADLINE

DEC. 13: HOLIDAY PARTY



Local 275

IBEW 275

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

Volunteer Info: Labor Rings the Bell is just around the corner! Please call Nicole at the Union Hall to reserve your shift for the Saturday following Thanksgiving! Spots are filling up quickly! The Annual EWMC day of service is scheduled for Nov. 15, and will be starting at 8:30 am at the Midwest United Soccer Complex at 3450 36th ST SE, Grand Rapids MI, 49512.

We have a Toys for Tots donation box in the front lobby of the Union Hall. Please feel free to donate any new, unwrapped toys for this great cause! The donation box will be here until mid-December!

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

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

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

The JATC is now offering Master’s Exam Prep courses. Please reach out to the JATC for more information. wmjate@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.

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

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

Delinquent Members: At the time of this writing the following members are three months or more behind on dues: Caleb Akins, Jonathan Alviar, Steve Bond, Matthew Buikema, Nathan Dahl, David Daum, Matthew Dobb, Nathan Dyer, David Irwin, Makil Kendrick, Andrew Kruthoff, and Lamont Shaw. - Please make every effort to become current with your dues as soon as you can.



CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

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

McNichols Scrap Iron & Metal Co. 6500 E. McNichols (near Mt. Elliott) mcnicholsscrap.com (313) 365-6100	Detroit Iron & Metal Co. 8300 Dix (corner Lonyo) detroitironandmetal.com (313) 841-5100
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CASH FOR \$CRAP METAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPRENTICE - SHIP APPLICATIONS: We often get calls or emails on how and/or where to apply to Local 665's apprenticeship program. To apply, go to www.lejatc.org and navigate to the application page on the website.

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

FIRST AID/CPR: First Aid/CPR Class is scheduled for December 10th from 5 – 7pm at IBEW Local 665 Hall. Please contact LEJATC at 517-483-9688 to register.

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Our general membership meeting is 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 #359. Please look at your dues to ensure that you are current.

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

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT IBEW 665: IBEW Local 665 RENEW committee is supporting the Greater Lansing Food Bank to kick off the Holiday season! Donations of non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the Hall starting Oct. 1, 2025, until Nov. 19, 2025. Most requested food items from GLFB include child-friendly snacks, peanut butter, baby food/formula, cooking oil, boxed dinners, canned meat, canned fruits/vegetables, pasta, rice, and beans. Please help IBEW 665 RENEW committee and Greater Lansing Food Bank supporting the Lansing Community during the Holiday Season.

IBEW Local 665 is partnering with U of M Sparrow in a toy drive for this Holiday Season. You can drop off Toys at the Hall starting October 1st, 2025, until December 19th, 2025. Wish list of toys: Action Figures (Superhero), Barbie Dolls, Band-Aids (Children's fun/novelty items), Baby Dolls, Beauty Items (Hair accessories)

(Continued next column)



IBEW Local 131
KALAMAZOO – The next **General Membership** Meeting will be held on November 3rd, at 6 p.m.

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

Veteran's Committee Meeting: December 4th @ the Hall (1st Thursday of each month) **The Executive Board** meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 17th, at 5 p.m.

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

Hall Hours: Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 1230PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM

Upcoming Events:
December 17th Retirees Christmas Party @ the Radisson: Call the hall to RSVP. Lunch starts at 11AM.

Toys for Tots: Donation boxes are at the Hall now thru the 1st week of December. Please donate new toys

Work Outlook: Many members are working in neighboring locals, particularly Blue Oval Battery Plant in Marshall. Palisades Nuclear Facility is expected to have work for the foreseeable future, and likely into spring of 2026, paying \$57.78/hr. Westinghouse is expected to need manpower sometime in the near future, but so far have not placed a call. The work situation in and around Local 131 appears to be stable until spring. American Axle Manufacturing in Three Rivers announced a \$133 Million upgrade to its plant. Palisades is expected to begin construction of its new SMRs sometime in 2026. There are also tentative plans for solar farms in the jurisdiction, so 2026 may prove a very busy year for Local 131.

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

Projects to support - Fabius Township will be reviewing a special land use request for Three Lake Solar on December 9th 2025 @ 6PM

Retiree's Lunches @ 11AM at the following Locations: **November 19:** Wyman's Café 8675 Portage Road, Portage Mi. 49002

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

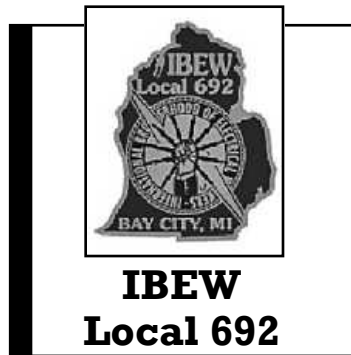
Members Three Months in Arcs or More: Deshaun Derden, Josh Cook, Clayton Northrup, Stephen S Johnson, Brady Monaghan, Jason Fairfield, Chad Arlington
Jonathan Current Business Manager

Local 665 cont'd

sories, Lotions, any self-care related items), basketball, footballs, soccer balls, board games, Art related items, gift cards (Meijer, Walmart, Amazon), puzzles, etc. Once again IBEW Local 665 is a sponsor for Silver Bells in the City and will have a float with a new design in the parade this year. Come on down and check it out. On November 21st, 2025.

IN REMEMBRANCE: In remembrance of 665 local members who have passed away.

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



IBEW Local 692
BAY CITY – Union Meeting. The next monthly membership meeting will be held at 6 P.M. on **Monday, Dec. 1, 2025.**

The next Executive Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on **Monday, Nov. 24, 2025.**

Message from the Business Manager. Good Luck to all of the hunters that are in the woods. I hope you are all safe and enjoy a very successful season. No matter what, it should be a great time for all of us to de-stress a bit and give us all a bit of a mental reprieve. I know I will be enjoying time in the woods.

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, please note the hall will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th

Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th

Visit with Santa. Santa will be visiting the 692 Hall on **Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10AM–12PM.** Bring your kids/grandkids for games, photos, and individual time with Santa. A gift will be given to children ages 10 and under. **Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 5** with names, gender and ages of children attending to Season Holdwick at sholdwick@ibew692.org or call the hall at 989-684-4510.

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

Thiel Electric and KLA Laboratories are finishing up the K wing remodel at Delta College. **Motor City Electric** continues to work on the new line at Bay City's GM Powertrain site. **Nelson Electric** and **Superior Electric** also have ongoing projects at Powertrain. **Nelson** also secured the Delta College S-Wing lighting upgrade.

AZCO continues work at Consumers Energy's Karn Solar site in Essexville. Calls have begun to come in and will continue through the fall.

Van Ert Electric has begun work at their solar project in Gladwin and more calls are expected.

Van Herweg Electric has completed the buildout of Parlor Doughnuts in Bay City.

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

Clements Electric's Work on the Midland Center for the Arts and Dow Gardens Welcome Center continues. Work at Bay County Health Facility has begun. Contracts for Oddfellows Hall in Midland, a housing development in Downtown Bay City, and Bay City Animal Control have all been signed with work to start soon. Another housing complex in Auburn is also underway. Work also continues at Mersen for Clements along with being awarded a nice project out to Michigan Sugar in Bay City

Conti Electric has projects that are ramping up inside the I-Park (Dow) and ongoing work at the Karn Generation Facility.

Escon Group is ramping up work within the I-Park.

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

Bay Valley Electric is continuing work at Bay Valley Resort.

John's Electric has work through the winter at Clear Lake and Hoeft State Parks.

Svan Electric has secured a decent project at TCE Charlton in Johannesburg. **Northern Valley** continues work at the Holcim Cement Plant and Oscoda's Air Base, as well as many smaller projects and service calls.

J. Raymond Electric has a project at Warbler's Cove Campground near Rose City.

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

In Solidarity, Ryan Charney Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Organizers' Report. Orga-

(Continued on Page 12)



IBEW Local 557
SAGINAW – UNION NEWS- The next Local 557 Union Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm. This meeting will be catered as is tradition for celebration of Christmas. Service pins will be awarded to those that have reached certain membership milestones. The December Union meeting is a great time to catch up with some old friends.

November 27th is Thanksgiving and is the next recognized holiday through the Local 557 collective bargaining agreement.

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

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BUILDING – Due to the apprenticeship program suffering a setback on September 17th when a fire broke out at our shared facility in Flint, we are currently in the process of obtaining a space to conduct classes in the short term. Short term plans will allow the flexibility to decide on the long-term plans of the program. The JATC met in October to come up with a plan for the future while more information continues to be gathered regarding the current facility and its status going forward. The investigation into the fire is still progressing. Currently, the Flint/Saginaw Apprenticeship program has pivoted to having classes as much as possible at the two Union Halls in Flint and Saginaw. Soon the program will have more information regarding where classes will be held to get the program's training back to the status it was before the fire.

SAGINAW SPIRIT GAMES – Local 557 has again sponsored the Saginaw Spirit through the Labor-Management Committee. Season tickets will continue to be given away at Union meetings for the remainder of the season. The Local has 3 more dates reserved with a large quantity of tickets that will be made available as we get closer to those games. Upcoming games with blocks of tickets and the Eagle's Nest are on January 10th, February 22nd, and March 14th.

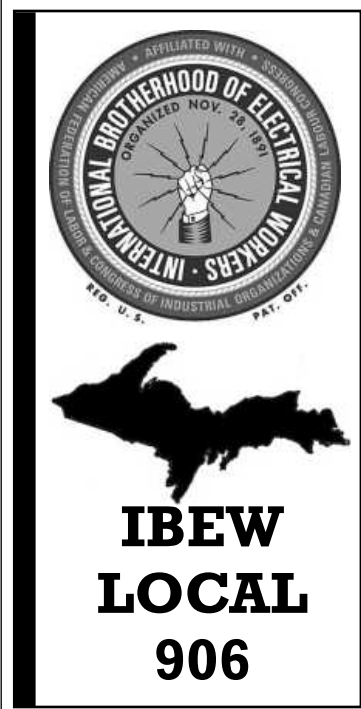
JOBSITE SAFETY - Jobsite safety is and should always be #1 on all IBEW jobs. No deadline or profit should be placed ahead of the simple fact that members need to go to work and return home in the same safe state in which they were prior to their day of work. All members should be as diligent as possible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

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 12)



IBEW Local 906
UPPER PENINSULA— MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

Work outlook is good for the fall of 2025. Currently we have a 1 man call for Code Electric in the Marquette Area, a 4 man call for MJ Electric at Renegade Solar in Rock, a 1 man short call for Pieper Power in Marquette, and a 1 man call for B&B Electric in Iron Mountain. Reminder that there is a retiree lunch the third Thursday of every month at the Vierling Restaurant in Marquette at 11:00 am EST.

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

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

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

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

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

If you have a change in address or phone number please make sure to let the hall know so we have your information up to date!

"Never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. People will take you very much at your own reckoning."

–Anthony Trollope (1815 - 1882)

"I like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing."

–Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976)

"Be honorable yourself if you wish to associate with honorable people."

–Welsh Proverb

"Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open."

–John Barrymore (1882 - 1942)

"Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air."

– John Quincy Adams (1767 - 1848)

"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult."

–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)



IBEW Local 498
TRAVERSE CITY – Meetings.

Regular E Board- The next regularly scheduled E-Board meeting is set for Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, @ 5:30pm.

Regular Meeting –The next regularly scheduled membership meeting is Scheduled for 7pm Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.

DEC 2025 Meeting Date Change – Reg Meeting change to Friday Dec 12, 2025 to help with traveling Brothers and Sisters to attend the Holiday meeting. Please Bring a dish to pass. Postcard reminders will be sent out soon.

Santa Party – Santa Party is scheduled for Saturday the 13th of December. 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 soon. Please remember to RSVP so we can plan for supplies and gifts for everyone attending.

Resale Items –The new order of Tee shirts is in, as well as Beanie Hats for resale. Proud Union Home signs are in and available at the hall. Free to members in good standing.

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

Scholarship – Past charter member Brother Bob Dost has a scholarship 'Robert Paul Dost Scholarship Endowment' for High School seniors in the 5-county area around Traverse City. To access it go to www.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 that would like to have Local 498 forward communication to them from the International, Local 498, AFL-CIO or the Building Trades, to help stay informed to current events, politics, contracts, work, etc. Please call or email your current email address to Local 498 at ibew@local498.net Thank you!

Important numbers for you to write in your address book:

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

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

(New address Michigan Pension and Health Plan)

3001 Metro Drive Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55425

NEBF 1-301-556-4300

NEAP 1-301-556-4300

IO Pension 1-202-833-7000

DUES RATES

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

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

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

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

"Don't throw away the old bucket until you know whether the new one holds water."

– Swedish Proverb

"Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside."

– Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

–Colin Powell (1937 - 2021)





IBEW
LOCAL 557

(Continued from Page 11)
IBEW in mind. Moving forward, Local 557 will be focusing hard on keeping these projects successful. The future of the Local depends on this work.

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

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

UNION HALL OPERATIONS- Normal Business Hours are Monday-Friday 7am to 12pm, **CLOSED for lunch, and re-open again from 1pm to 4:30pm.** Local 557 will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th and also November 28th.

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

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

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.

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

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

STAY CURRENT ON DUES –Please check to see if you are current. The Hall can accept credit cards. The credit card service can accept payments for dues, merchandise, apprentice book payments and other purchases.

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 692

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
BAY CITY MICHIGAN

(Continued from Page 11)
ganizers have scheduled multiple training sessions this fall. These sessions include COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training), and PALs (Politics, Activism, Livelihood). COMET/PALs hybrid classes will be held at the hall on Monday, November 17th, Monday, November 24th, Tuesday, November 25th, and Wednesday, November 25th. All classes take place from 8 A.M. to 4 PM. Any members or retirees are welcome to attend.

New Member Orientation will be scheduled this winter. All members are highly encouraged to attend these training sessions at some point, either for the first time or as a refresher course.

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

If you need help renewing your State Electrical License, please call the hall.

Please work safely and let us know if you have any questions regarding organizing or work reports around the state.

–**Brendon Baranek 989.327.4131 Kevin Klapish 252.9225**

Union Dues.

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

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

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

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

Death Benefits. The IBEW Local 692 Business Office recently received notification from a trust attorney that retired Brother David Oswald, Card Number D864371 passed away unexpectedly in August. Brother Oswald was born on February 13, 1957 (68 years old). He was initiated on March 4th, 1996. Dave resided in Lansing. A celebration of life was held in September.

Please note Brother Oswald opted out of the local death benefit fund therefore no payment is due at this time.

Retirees Lunch. The November retiree lunch is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 20th at the Boulevard Lounge located at 316 S. Saginaw Road in Midland.

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

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

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

“There are two kinds of men who never amount to much: those who cannot do what they are told and those who can do nothing else.”
–Cyrus H. Curtis (1850 - 1933)



Local 149
Roofers & Waterproofers

Roofers 149
DETROIT – **Attention.** This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

General Membership Meeting. The general membership meeting is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Dec. 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 1640 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48216

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

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

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

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Training Center, 248-543-3847.

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

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

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

Outdoor Life. If you have any hunting and fishing pictures that you would like to see in the Journeyman Roofing & Waterproofing magazine, please contact the Union Hall at 313.961.6093 ext. 0, for additional information.

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

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

The publication above is as 11/11/2025, 6:00am
In Solidarity, Brian Gregg Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofers Local No.149

“A harbor, even if it is a little harbor, is a good thing... It takes something from the world, and has something to give in return.”
– Sarah Orne Jewett (1849 - 1909)

“He who would leap high must take a long run.”
–Danish Proverb

“That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.”
–Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

“First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.”
–Epictetus (55 AD - 135 AD)

ALL BUILDING TRADESMEN

Notice of Asbestos Health Hazards in Michigan

BRICKLAYERS BOILERMAKERS ELECTRICIANS INSULATORS PIPE FITTERS

PLUMBERS SHEET METAL WORKERS

◆ Mesothelioma

◆ Lung Cancer

◆ Asbestosis

◆ Pulmonary Fibrosis

◆ Throat Cancer

◆ Colon Cancer

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

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

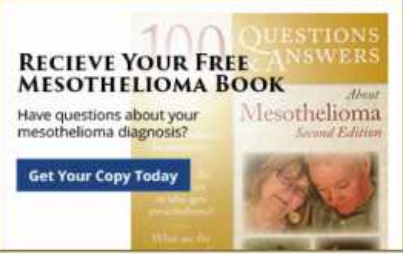
Many building tradesmen worked with or near asbestos. Some are not aware they were even exposed. Family members may be at risk of bystander exposure.

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

Contact us today:
800-799-2234
www.gpwlaw-mi.com

CONTACT GPW TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE COPY OF 100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MESOTHELIOMA!

For nearly 20 years GPW has offered this FREE resource and guide to mesothelioma victims. Call 800-799-2234 or visit www.gpwlaw-mi.com to request a FREE copy today!



\$1.8 MILLION VERDICT

GPW obtained a **\$1.8 million** verdict in a Lung Cancer claim, the **largest Asbestos Verdict in the history of Michigan Asbestos Litigation.**

Please don't delay, protect yourself and your family before it's too late. You may be entitled to claim money damages from the responsible members of the asbestos industry. Call for a FREE consultation.

Goldberg, Persky & White, P.C. One Town Sq., Suite 1835, Southfield MI, 48076

800-799-2234 www.gpwlaw-mi.com



Local 25 Iron Workers

Iron Workers 25

NOVI - The November Union Meeting will be Monday November 24th, 2025 at 7:00 pm and will be in person and zoom. All Union Halls will be open for in-person and Zoom will also be available.

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

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

Thanksgiving Holiday: all Union Halls will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025 and Friday Nov. 28th.

A HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATIVE from the Fringe Benefit Fund office will be at the Novi Union Hall on Wednesday November 26th, 2025 from 8am to 12 noon; to meet with any member(s), to address health care issues or HRA substantiation concerns Call ahead, or walk-in!

A FRINGE FUND PENSION DEPT REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE AT THE NOVI UNION HALL on Wednesday December 3, 2025 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. If you wish to book an appointment or have questions, give us a call 248-344-9494. Walk-ins are welcome also! **If you have moved recently, please be sure to update the Union Hall 248-344-9494. We will gladly advise the Fringe Benefit Fund office of your move upon request.**

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

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

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

The Iron Workers Annual Children’s Christmas Party is SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 at the Novi Union Hall, 25150 Trans X Dr. Novi MI. **Doors open at 9:30 am. We have a new Magic show starting at 11:30 - 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 and our party will end around 1:00 pm.**

The 2026 Dennis O’Dowd SCHOLARSHIP Rules & Application form is now available. All requests must be made by Friday March 6th and all Completed applications are due by March 13, 2026. Call 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.

Shout out to our Instructors & Secretarial Staff as you keep everything running efficiently at the Local 25 Training Centers in Wixom and Hudsonville!

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

Please make sure to download the TradeSchool Mobile App to submit your monthly work and school hours. These must be submitted monthly. If you have Facebook or Instagram, please give us a follow. Wixom Training Center Phone: 248-960-2130.

We take Apprentice applications year-round! Visit our website (ironworkers25.org) where you can print your application, make your application appointment & pay the application fee online; you must have an appointment to turn in an application. We take appointments Tuesday – Thursdays! No walk-in foot traffic.

24/7 CREDIT-DEBIT CARD processing for Union Dues: Pay via our APP or website www.ironworkers25.org. **The phone number is 866-635-2826. Or pay union dues with personal check or money order** and mail to: Iron Workers Local 25 – P.O. Box 965 – Novi, MI 48376-0965. Pay union dues in person at the Novi Union Hall (M-F) from 8 am to 3 pm (NO Cash).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Iron Workers’ Local 25 Novi Chapter Retirees’ Club: The Retirees’ meeting/luncheon will be Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Retirees’ Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday December 2, 2025 at 8:00 am. All are welcome.

Thank you, **Jim Easton #917243** for dropping off your surplus Halloween Candy to the Novi Hall.

The West Michigan Chapter Retirees breakfast will meet Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 9:00 am at Red Rock Grille & Café, 228 N. Ball Creek Rd, NW,

Kent City, Michigan 49330. All are welcome.

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

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

The **Downriver Chapter** next quarterly Retirees breakfast to be held 9:00 am January 16, 2026 at Mom’s Restaurant, 2691 Fort St., Trenton, Michigan, 48183. All are welcome.

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

Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan: www.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, Blue Care Network 800-482-5982 for Substance-use-disorder.

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

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

In Memory: Lifetime Finisher Samuel Edgerton #928369 passed away on September 18, 2025 at the age of 90. He was a 51-year member of Local 340/25. Lifetime IW Richard Monaghan #808674 who lived in Tennessee, passed away September 27, 2025 at the age of 82 and he was a 56-year member of Local 25. **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 10, 2025 10:00 AM E.S.T.).

“Not the power to remember, but its very opposite, the power to forget, is a necessary condition for our existence.”

– Sholem Asch (1880 - 1957)

“The world belongs to the energetic.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

“It is wise to apply the oil of refined politeness to the mechanisms of friendship.”

– Colette (1873 - 1954)

“You never know till you try to reach them how accessible men are; but you must approach each man by the right door.”

– Henry Ward Beecher (1813 - 1887)

“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.”

– Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809)

“An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.”

– Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)



TURBINE ROTOR inspection takes place at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant.

Uranium fuel delivery marks milestone for Palisades return

(Continued from Page 1)

the nuclear power community across the world.

“The esprit de corps of our tirelessly toiling worker force, over 1,800 strong boosted by the stout support of federal, state, and local government as well as our industry partners, labor, and the Southwest Michigan community, is a testament to the national consensus and our collective will to harness nuclear energy to meet the galloping demand for power in our country,” says Holtec’s CEO, Dr. Kris Singh.

The Palisades plant’s 777-megawatt pressurized water reactor began operation in 1971. It operated for more than half a century before being shutdown in May 2022 by then-owner Entergy, who said its operation was no longer commercially viable.

With the Biden Administration’s push for more green energy sources – aided by a \$1.5 billion federal loan plus state money – the shutdown didn’t last long. Holtec purchased the plant to decommission it, but instead in late 2023 opted to go through the laborious process of renovating and upgrading its works in the effort to place more than 800 megawatts of baseload power back on the grid.

Holtec said last month that ongoing work includes progress on major equipment restoration work across the plant. Reassembly of the main turbine generator is underway following more than a year of inspection, testing, and maintenance work. The plant also has recently received and installed the second (and last) fully refurbished primary coolant pump (PCP) motor, which is essential to recirculate the reactor coolant.

Another significant piece of restorative work is the chemical cleaning of the secondary side of the steam generators. This work effort follows successful completion of refurbishing of the steam generators’ tubes earlier last summer and is intended to ensure long-term reliability and efficiency of the plant.

“The above-mentioned major milestone achievements headline hundreds of activities that our dedicated personnel are tackling to deliver the project,” Holtec said last month.

Another historic “first” at the plant: the building trades will be installing a pair of “small modular reactors” (SMRs) at the site, which will add a total of 600 megawatts of power capacity.

They are expected to come online in 2030, and will be the first of their type installed in

the nation.

SMRs, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, are advanced nuclear reactors limited to 300 megawatts per unit that are physically a fraction of the size of a traditional nuclear reactor. They’re factory-assembled and modular for transport to a location for installation. So far, Holtec said to avoid disruption of ongoing restart work, on-site SMR activity has been limited to site preparation and geotechnical work on the land where the twin 300-megawatt units will be built.

When the plant will again start producing power is unknown – Holtec, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the various industry publications following the project have been silent this year on providing a date. The NRC in September issued its final

environmental assessment for the plant’s reopening and found “no significant impact,” part of a series of the agency’s approvals of licensing and regulatory actions to transition the Palisades Nuclear Plant from decommissioning status back to operations.

The notorious, former Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, which experienced a partial meltdown in 1979, will follow in the Michigan plant’s footsteps. Constellation Energy is currently working reopen that nuclear facility – renamed Crane Clean Energy Center – by 2027.

Once operational, the Palisades site will support “600 highly-skilled, permanent local jobs,” Holtec said, along with more than 1,000 contract workers during regularly scheduled refueling and maintenance outages.



A 183-TON MAIN generator rotor is removed for inspection in Turbine Building at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. To date, The Building Tradesman has been unable to get access to the plant to take photos. Photo credits: Holtec

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Outdoors



Restoring native rice to Michigan

By Andy Henion
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

Building on a longstanding partnership with Indigenous nations, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is intensifying its commitment to sowing manoomin, a native aquatic rice and staple of the Anishinaabe people.

The DNR’s Wildlife Division, working with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, has seeded thousands of pounds of manoomin in the western Upper Peninsula over the past decade and, more recently, expanded these efforts to the eastern U.P.

This year, the DNR finalized a manoomin-seeding agreement with the Brimley-based Bay Mills Indian Community and continues working toward a similar agreement with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

In addition, the Wildlife Division hosted its first-ever manoomin camp in mid-August to educate employees from the DNR and other state departments on the cultural, spiritual, ecological and economic significance of manoomin to indigenous communities. Tribal nations have been working for decades to restore manoomin, which became Michigan’s official native grain in 2023.

Fifty-eight people attended the DNR’s two-day manoomin camp at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, where tribal instructors led sessions focused on ceremony and traditional teachings that included harvesting tools, seed care and processing. The instructors represented the BMIC, KBIC, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Cree Nation and Gun Lake Tribe.

“The goal of the camp was to raise awareness of the ecological importance of manoomin on the landscape as well as the cultural and spiritual significance of wild rice,” said camp organizer Bill Scullon, a U.P.-based field operations manager for the DNR



MANOOMIN RICE grows in the Muskegon River in Roscommon County. Manoomin (species *Zizania palustris*) is a grain-producing, wild grass native to the Great Lakes region and portions of Canada.

Wildlife Division.

“We want to work with our tribal partners whenever we can,” Scullon added. “It’s important to create these types of collaborative opportunities – to tear down barriers and open doors.”

“The good berry.” Native to the Great Lakes region and parts of Canada, manoomin – which translates to “the good berry” in Ojibwe – is a grain-producing grass. It grows to 6-10 feet tall in the shallow, quiet waters of marshes, inland lakes and slowly moving streams.

Manoomin is a culturally significant plant to the Anishinaabe (Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi) and is directly linked to their migration from the northeastern U.S. coast to the Great Lakes region several hundred years ago, according to *Native News Online*, an American Indian news publication. In the Great Lakes region, manoomin plays a major role in the indigenous food sovereignty movement.

Kathleen Smith is with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, where she



MANOOMIN RICE is held in the hand of one of the participants of the wild rice camp.

serves as Genawendang Manoomin – or “She who takes care of the wild rice” – for tribes across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Smith, a member of the KBIC, gave several presentations at the DNR wild rice camp on manoomin harvesting, storage and cultural awareness and respect.

“With the continued decline of wild rice across many of our lakes and rivers, I often reflect on the teaching, ‘If we don’t use it, we lose it,’” Smith said. “That

truth echoes louder each year. Our wetlands and the manoomin that grows within them are truly important to our people.”

Power of partnerships. In 2025, the Wildlife Division sowed about 2,200 pounds of manoomin seed, continuing its annual efforts to help restore or establish wild rice within state-managed rivers, creeks and wetlands in the U.P. Once manoomin matures in early fall, the rice grains provide energy-rich food for migrating



A MEMBER of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Roger LaBine, demonstrates wild rice roasting at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ mid-August manoomin camp. LaBine is the tribal delegate of the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative.

waterfowl and are harvested by Anishinaabe communities.

The DNR obtains wild rice through formal agreements with tribal communities. Through these collaborations, tribal partners request manoomin seed from their network of vendors in Wisconsin and Minnesota, ensuring the wild rice is sourced responsibly, aligning with cultural teachings and ethics.

Scullon and John DePue, a U.P.-based wildlife biologist for the DNR, were instrumental in the department’s initial efforts to partner with KBIC to help restore manoomin.

“We recognized early in the partnership that KBIC has the cultural expertise, historic knowledge and resources to be a guiding partner in this process,” Scullon said. “KBIC, working in conjunction with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, has the technical knowledge on where, when and how to restore manoomin. They have helped us to select, evaluate, seed and monitor sites for rice restoration.”

DNR wildlife biologists Kristie Sitar, Brian Roell and David Jentoft have played key roles in expanding the partnerships with other tribal nations in the eastern U.P. Sitar helped develop a memorandum of agreement between the DNR and the Bay Mills Indian Community.

“These partnerships are critical in maintaining the quality of rice used and are helpful to us working together to select the most appropriate places and desired efforts,” Sitar said.

Sitar and Roell received a

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant in 2021 to reestablish wild rice in northern floodings along Lake Superior. The goal was to seed manoomin for three consecutive years at four locations – three in Marquette County and one in Luce County – at a rate of at least 50 pounds per acre in suitable flooding habitats. From 2022 to 2024, project staff seeded more than 2,600 pounds of rice in northern Luce County and more than 2,800 pounds in three northern floodings in Marquette County.

“We started to see success as rice seed germinated and grew and then began to self-seed in successive years,” Sitar said. “We had to adapt by dealing with some wildlife browse issues that commonly occur during this process. Wild rice can take many years to become established, and we are on our way to hopefully long-term success.”

Scullon noted that in Michigan, anyone can harvest manoomin, while in Wisconsin the practice is illegal for the general public without a permit. The Michigan Wild Rice Initiative – which consists of tribal nations, the DNR and other agencies and groups – is working to develop a cooperative framework to regulate the responsible and ethical harvest of manoomin in Michigan.

“Patience has its limits. Take it too far, and it’s cowardice.”

–George Jackson (1941 - 1971)

“Call on God, but row away from the rocks.”

–Indian Proverb

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